

River Cruising in the Amazon
My Detailed Itinerary Day-by-Day

Day 1 - Arrive on the Amatista mid-afternoon/evening, take a night excursion to see birds, bats, and sardines jumping from the movement of your skiff (smaller boat).



Day 2 - Visit a local rum distillery, go to a butterfly garden and see large rodents kept by the village people called "majas".





Visited another village and gave kids dried apples to try (I had assumed none of them had probably ever tasted apples before being in the tropics!). Needless to say their reactions were priceless, some crunched their faces up at the sourness and some asked for more.



In the evening the crew of the boat played instruments and sang for us.

Day 3 - In the morning took a short hike to see the giant water lilies. In the afternoon, walked through a market and had free time in Nauta to explore the Plaza de Armas, where I helped a woman in my group who didn't know Spanish to buy a Coke at a convenience store.



Rode a "tuc tuc" to see turtles and giant fish, fed them bread, went to a roadside pool (these seemed to be really common in this area) and had a beer overlooking the pool and where the river would have been if the water weren't so low, took tuc tuc back to the Amatista.



Took a two hour jungle hike, saw an anaconda, a tarantula, a poison frog, and more in the wild.



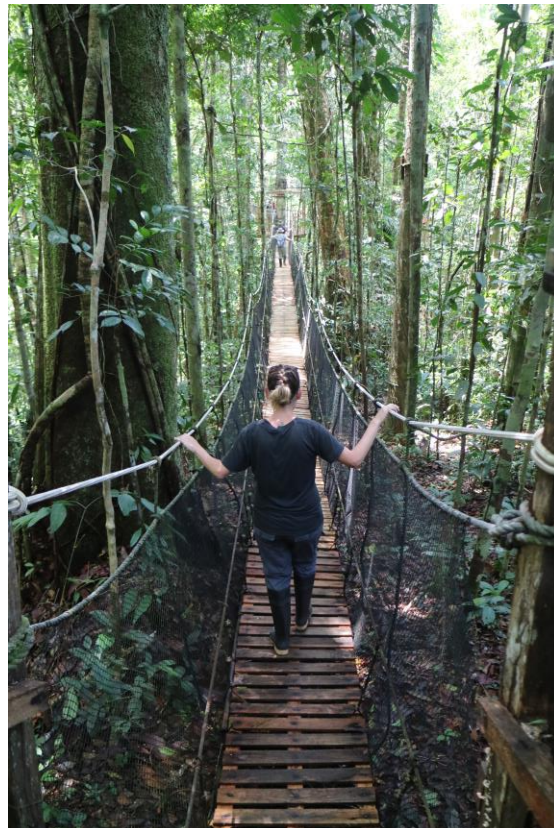
Went on a night boat ride to see lots of bats and a caiman.

Day 4 - Went on long boat ride, saw monkeys, lots of birds, a toucan, pink dolphins (I couldn't get a good video or picture of the dolphins because they are so fast), and more. Had a very nice picnic breakfast in boat with sandwiches, coffee, juice, crackers, etc.

Went piranha fishing, swimming in Amazon (not me, I'm a wimp!), visit to a village shaman, planted trees, went back to the boat and watched a video on life in the rainforest.



Day 5 - Took a jungle walk to tree canopy bridges and a catamaran/canoe ride.





Ulber (one of our naturalist guides from G Adventures) talked to us about his past. He left his village with a banana salesman when he was only 13 and he could not get into the army because he was too skinny so he went into the Navy. He learned English on his own. Hearing how he got where he is today was very moving.

Went to village called Solterito and gave kids school supplies. They sang to us in Coca Camelia language (I can't find the correct spelling for this). Got to see a very nice sunset this evening.



Day 6 - Morning boat ride. Skiff left without my brother and I; we waved and they came back. Stopped and saw fish a family was catching and collecting in their boat.

Had a bon fire and champagne on the beach with a beautiful sunset and moon rise at same time. This was one of the moments where the mosquitoes were not so nice to us!



Went back to boat and had dinner, then the crew was introduced to us and we got a "graduation" certificate for finishing the cruise.



Paid bar tabs and had beers with Kathryn, Sandy and his wife (the fun Scottish couple), and Jan the herbalist.

Day 7 - Woke up very early had breakfast, then disembarked in Nauta and took a bus to a manatee rescue center. Went to Iquitos and walked around huge market with herb section and food, etc.

THE END