



Bolivian Jungle and Pampas

TRIP LENGTH: Seven days
STARTS AND ENDS: Rurrenabaque, Bolivia

There's more to the Amazon than jungle! This nature-lovers' trip takes us to two completely different ecosystems – the pampas (grasslands) of the Rio Yacuma, and the rainforest lowlands of Madidi National Park.

Travelling mainly by boat and on foot, we'll have ample opportunities to spot reptiles, birds and mammals in the wild.

Day 1 Welcome to the wetlands!

We'll pick you up anywhere in Rurrenabaque at 9am this morning and take the three-hour car trip to Caracoles ecolodge on the shores of the Rio Yacuma, which feeds into the mighty Amazon. You'll have plenty of time to relax and settle into your thatch-roofed accommodation before our first boat ride. Alligators, turtles, capybaras, monkeys and colorful birds – any of these might show themselves in the wild, depending on the season.

Accommodation: Caracoles Ecolodge

Meals: Lunch and dinner included

Day 2 Piranhas by day, caimanes by night

What do anacondas do when they get angry? They throw hissy fits! Angering anacondas isn't on our itinerary, but we hope to spot them this morning as we hike through the pampas in search of alligators and black caimans. The wildlife watching continues after lunch when we hop aboard a boat and head upriver to fish for piranhas. If we're lucky, we'll encounter a pod of pink dolphins, charming creatures that might even join you for a swim in the river. And just when the wetland region is starting to feel familiar, we'll head out on a night-time boat ride for a whole new perspective. Those aren't floating candles, they're the eyes of caimans by torchlight!

Accommodation: Caracoles Ecolodge

Meals: All meals included

Day 3 From pampas to jungle

Today we say farewell to the pampas wetland, but not before one last morning boat ride. The region's four types of monkeys, the quirky hoatzin bird and the stately jabiru are just a few of the species we might spot.

Then we'll begin our journey, driving three hours back to Rurrenabaque, where we'll board a boat for the three-hour trip to Madidi National Park, one of the most biologically diverse parks in the world - even compared to other parts of the Amazon Basin, it's bursting with extraordinary and iconic creatures. Enjoy your dinner at the lodge and rest up, for tomorrow we venture into the Amazon jungle.

Accommodation: Tacuarales Ecolodge

Meals: All meals included

Day 4 Walk, fish, and lie in a hammock

This morning we head into the rainforest on foot, listening out for monkeys, peccaries, capybaras and birds. After lunch there's plenty of time for chilling in a hammock under the trees, and then we're off to the Rio Tuichi to try to catch dinner.

Are you handy with a rod and reel? Even the most impatient sports fisher will enjoy an afternoon on the sandy banks, which happen to be an ideal bird watching spot. A nighttime walk highlights the incredible sounds of the rainforest after dark - for many, this raucous soundtrack is a highlight of the Amazon.

Accommodation: Tacuarales Ecolodge

Meals: All meals included

Day 5 Clay lick and local culture

Think of the most colorful spectacle you've ever seen, then pump up the vibrance in Photoshop and multiply it by a thousand: that's our morning. A short boat ride takes us to Caquiawara, a cliff that attracts crowds of parrots, macaws and other colorful birds who feed on the nutrients in the clay.

The rainforest has even more secrets in store this afternoon. The Indigenous peoples of the area have practised traditional medicine using plants for untold generations, and we'll learn about the use of leaves, roots and seeds for pain relief and other medicinal purposes. We'll also collect plant materials to use for making handicrafts back at the lodge.

Accommodation: Tacuarales Ecolodge

Meals: All meals included

Day 6 Share a sweet treat with the locals

This morning we head by boat to the riverside Indigenous community of Carmen Florida. Sugar cane is a staple crop here, and we'll learn the traditional method of grinding the cane to make sugar. Enjoy a lunch of local dishes along with a glass of cane juice – sweet!

We'll have you back in Rurrenabaque at around 5pm.

Accommodation: Three-star hotel in Rurrenabaque

Meals: Breakfast and lunch included

Day 7 Goodbye Rurrenabaque

We'll get you to Rurrenabaque's tiny Amazon airport in time to check in for your flight.

You'll have enjoyed your time in the wilds of the Bolivian Amazon with us. See you next time!

Meals: Breakfast included

What's included

- All accommodation (*based on twin-share. Single supplement may be available, please enquire*)
- All transportation, including airport transfers at start and end of trip
- All attractions and activities specified in itinerary
- Dedicated guide
- Meals as specified in the itinerary
- Clean, safe drinking water from dispensers at the lodges

What's not included

- Alcoholic beverages
- Laundry and room service
- Tips for guides, boatmen and drivers

Accommodations

In the pampas and the jungle, we stay in airy bungalows at a remote jungle lodge. Accommodations here are rustic and conditions are comfortable but not luxurious. Feeling connected to nature is what we're here for! On that note, there's no internet coverage here in the Amazon - switch off and enjoy the serenity!

In Rurrenabaque we stay in a three-star level hotel with a pool.