

Discovering the Amazon: A Nature Cruise

Cruise into the heart of the Amazon and experience both the Rio Negro and Amazon Rivers.



You will see the “meeting of the waters,” spectacular birds, river wildlife, and experience the river culture and people who live here.

The Amazon rainforest is the largest tropical rainforest in the world with over half of the world’s species. Indulge your spirit of adventure — and enjoy the top-notch service, comfort, and amenities of an “All-Inclusive” stay aboard the five-star Iberostar Grand Amazon!

Upon departing Manaus, you will have the opportunity to see indigenous plants, trees, animals and a variety of local river communities. Small boat excursions into a variety of river and rainforest ecosystems take you even closer to the exotic flora and fauna that make this an explorer’s paradise. Daily treks and boat excursions, focusing on different themes including birding, caiman spotting and fishing are conducted by our English-speaking expedition team. Walks are over fairly even ground and are no more than one hour or one mile long.

You will be treated to daily lectures onboard the ship covering the Amazon’s natural history and culture. There is also

a small library on board featuring books about the Amazon as well as general reading selections. A variety of activities on the boat, including a rooftop pool, will fill your leisure time and you will also enjoy the theme parties in the evening.

At the end of the cruise, journey to Rio de Janeiro for a wonderful adventure in this cultural mecca. Your hotel is adjacent to the famous Copacabana Beach, the perfect launching point for a walking tour of the city center which ends up with cocktails atop Sugar Loaf Mountain for a view of the entire city.

Trip Activity Level: This is a very easy trip. There will be short walks on level ground on field excursions, but overall no physically taxing activity. Most wildlife viewing will take place from boat excursions.

**Escorted by Mary Duncan,
Staff Pathologist, Saint Louis Zoo**

ITINERARY

Discovering the Amazon: A Nature Cruise

May 1 – 11, 2010

**\$6,155 per person double occupancy
for land and air from St. Louis**

**\$7,295 per person single occupancy
for land and air from St. Louis**

- › **Saturday, May 1**
St. Louis departure for Brazil
- › **Sunday, May 2**
Arrive in Manaus, Brazil
- › **Monday, May 3 – Saturday, May 8**
Amazon Cruise on Rio Negro
and Amazon Rivers
- › **Sunday, May 9**
Manaus to Rio de Janeiro
- › **Monday, May 10**
Rio de Janeiro
- › **Tuesday, May 11**
Rio de Janeiro to St. Louis

For more information, contact Altair Travel at (314) 968-9600.

 **Saint Louis Zoo**
Animals Always®

SATURDAY, MAY 1

St. Louis to Manaus, Brazil

Depart St. Louis for your international flight to Brazil via Atlanta.

SUNDAY, MAY 2

Manaus – Iberostar Grand Amazon

Upon arrival early this morning at Manaus International Airport you will be met by an English speaking tour representative. The group will be transferred to the docks area for check-in on the Iberostar Grand Amazon, 5 star luxury cruise ship. You will have time to explore the ship before you depart at 6 p.m. and begin your cruise up the Rio Negro. You will also enjoy a Captain's welcome cocktail party including presentation of the officers and crew. Your orientation will include the ship's amenities and safety lecture and demonstration. Enjoy your first dinner on board the ship this evening. **D**

MONDAY, MAY 3

Amazon Cruise

This morning you will arrive at the native village of Novo Airao. After breakfast you will be taken by tenders (small boats) to shore, where you will be trekking in the Jaraqui Igarapé area. Here you will view palms and a high canopy of trees that are very important for the local villages – some are used in the manufacture of houses and others have great medicinal value. You will also be able to experience a wide variety of seasonal flowers and fruit before returning to the ship for lunch.

You will enjoy a boat ride among the islands of the Tres Bocas area this afternoon. Tres Bocas is part of the second largest fresh water river archipelago in the world. The vegetation of the islands reflects in the dark waters, creating a surreal and charming scenario, ideal for fantastic photos. In the margin of the channels, we can see orchids, bromeliads, toucans and macaws before returning to the ship for dinner. This evening you will board a boat for caiman spotting and listen to the unusual night sounds of the Tres Bocas region. **B, L, D**



TUESDAY, MAY 4

Amazon Cruise

After breakfast you will again hike through a local village, this time in the area of Trincheira Igarapé. You will see the similarities and differences of villages close to each other, and the day-to-day lives of local people. You will also visit with the Tucuxi Dolphins in Novo Airão. This close encounter is not to be missed!

Return to your ship for lunch and continue your journey to visit a native community on the Cuieiras River. You will visit the school, health center, flour house (production of the manioc flour, a diet staple), inhabitants' houses and gardens. There will also be an opportunity to purchase local craftwork before returning to the ship for dinner. **B, L, D**

WEDNESDAY, MAY 5

Amazon Cruise

After a very early breakfast, enjoy a sunrise boat ride in the area of Ariaú River, where you can see unusual birds and a beautiful landscape enlightened by the early morning sun. Don't forget your camera as this is a great time of day for photography. You will continue your boat ride with piranha fishing in the area of Praia Grande/Ariaú River. You can fish or just observe, either way it is an amazing experience.

After lunch on the ship, you will boat to Igarapés and the lakes of the Tarumamzinho area. This is a very beautiful area where, in the drought period, you can watch the formation of beaches with fine white sand. You may stop for diving in the Negro River. While the name Rio Negro means Black River, its waters aren't exactly black; they are similar in color to strong tea. The dark color comes from humic acid from incomplete breakdown of vegetation from sandy clearings. The river's name arises from the fact that it looks black from afar. After dinner, everyone is treated to a folkloric show that highlights the culture and traditions of the area. **B, L, D**

THURSDAY, MAY 6

Amazon Cruise

This morning you encounter the Meeting of the Waters. This tour will take you to where the Negro and Solimões Rivers come together. Because of differences in density, velocity and temperature, they flow together side by side for many miles before finally merging and forming the mighty Amazon. As the waters of the Rio Negro appear black and those of the Solimões clay colored, it is easy to see and to photograph this amazing phenomenon. Today is a free day to relax and enjoy the ship, the views and wildlife. This evening the ship departs for Manacapuru. **B, L, D**



FRIDAY, MAY 7

Amazon Cruise

After breakfast you will boat to Igarapés and Igapós of Manacapuru River. We meet the local inhabitants including the local fisherman and learn about their lifestyle. This afternoon the group will take a boat ride in Manaquiri Region or Jacaré Lake for an opportunity to view the local fauna and flora. Tonight you will have another exciting opportunity for caiman spotting and to listen to the night sounds of the Manaquiri area. **B, L, D**

SATURDAY, MAY 8

Amazon Cruise

You will arise before dawn to enjoy an early morning boat ride on Janauaca Lake for birding and the beautiful landscape enhanced by the sunrise. Today you will also visit a Caboclo's (half native peasant) house in the Janauaca Lake area and get to know the lifestyle and habits of the local population. After lunch on the ship, you will return to the same area for further photo opportunities and a chance to purchase local hand-made crafts in the afternoon. Your farewell to the Amazon dinner will be tonight. **B, L, D**

SUNDAY, MAY 9

Manaus to Rio De Janeiro

This morning you will once again wake up to the Meeting of the Waters. After breakfast, check out and disembark at Manaus. You then transfer to the Manaus airport for your

flight to Rio. On arrival you will be met and transferred to the Excelsior Copacabana hotel, overlooking Copacabana beach, where you will spend the next two nights. **B**

MONDAY, MAY 10

Rio De Janeiro

After breakfast you will begin a fantastic cultural city tour. This unusual walking tour gives the visitor a feeling for the legends and stories woven around the narrow streets and old historical buildings of downtown Rio. The walk includes a visit to many interesting points, such as the São Bento Monastery, Candelaria (the candle-makers), Praça XV, the "Travessa do Mercado", Imperial Palace (Paço Imperial), the cultural center located in the beautifully-restored Banco do Brasil, the Casa França-Brasil, Ouvidor (the listeners) Street and Gonçalves Dias Street with the traditional Colombo Coffee Shop. The walk continues on down Uruguaiana Street, Carioca Square up to the Metropolitan Cathedral where you will be transported back to your hotel.

This evening you will relish a memorable event at the end of your city tour, including a cable car ride in two stages to the top of Sugar Loaf Mountain, followed by a Brazilian cocktail party in the gardens of Urca Hill 600 feet above Botafogo Harbor. The indescribable 360° view of one of the most scenic harbors in the world is bound to be a trip highlight. Then on to dinner at Estrela do Sul BBQ Restaurant followed by a Plataforma Samba Show. At the Plataforma guests are surrounded by the contagious rhythms of the percussion instruments unique to Brazil. The show, featuring lavishly and colorfully costumed dancers and musicians, presents the richness of Brazil's musical and cultural heritage. The grand finale displays some of the dazzling costumes used in the Carnival parade. **B, D**

TUESDAY, MAY 11

International Flight to St. Louis

After breakfast, your guide will transfer you by coach to Rio de Janeiro International Airport for your departure flight back to St. Louis. As you fly over the Amazon on your way home, memories of the people, wildlife, and the rainforest will beckon you back. **B**



Inclusions in above prices:

- Superior Class (4-5 Star) hotel and ship accommodation as per itinerary based on twin share
- All International and Domestic Airfare
- All transfers and transportation by private, luxury airconditioned coach with driver/guide
- Arrival Meet & Greet guide assistance, Departure guide assistance
- Sightseeing and admissions as per the itinerary
- Local taxes on accommodation and sightseeing tours
- Meals as indicated on itinerary (B-full breakfast, L-lunch, D-dinner)
- Hotel portorage
- Travel bags and neck pillows
- Trip insurance including trip cancellation for accident or medical and Trip Interruption. Provided by Travelex insurance company

Exclusions in above prices:

- All departure taxes
- Personal items
- Meals unless listed in itinerary
- Tips & Gratuities
- Early check-in & late check out of rooms (standard check-in time is 2pm and check out 10am)
- Brazil Visa/Passport handling fees



Discovering the Amazon: A Nature Cruise

May 1 – May 11, 2010

Our Saint Louis Zoo Travel adventures fill quickly. To be assured of space prior to sending in your reservation form, please call: (314) 968-9600. This form with deposit should be sent to:

Altair Travel and Cruises
2025 South Brentwood Blvd
St. Louis, MO 63144
(314) 968-9600

PERSONAL INFORMATION - Please fill out one reservation form for each traveler.

Full Name (as it appears on your passport)

Mr./Mrs./Ms. _____

Mailing Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Date of Birth _____ Cell Phone (_____) _____

Evening Telephone (_____) _____ Day Telephone (_____) _____

E-Mail _____

Please note: A valid passport with an expiration of a minimum of 6 months after return travel date (November 11, 2010) is required.

Please include a photocopy of your passport photo page, with your registration form.

Passport Number _____

Date of Expiration (Day/Month/Year) _____ Birthplace _____

You will also need a Brazilian Visa for this trip. Please note that as of August 09, the fee for a Brazilian Visa was \$234.00.

This is subject to change and at the discretion of the consulate. Altair Travel and Cruises will be happy to assist you with this process. Brazilian Visas must be issued within 90 days of departure; Altair Travel will be in contact to make appointments for this service.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Double-Rooming with _____

Please match with roommate if possible (if not I understand I will pay an additional single supplement)

Single Accommodations (limited availability)

I am a smoker Non-smoker

EMERGENCY CONTACT

Name: _____ Phone: (_____) _____

Cell Phone: (_____) _____ Relationship: _____

OTHER INFORMATION

Dietary preference: Regular Vegetarian Other _____

Physical Concerns/Limitations _____

Additional travelers in your group: _____

PAYMENT

Package price is \$6155.00 per person based on double occupancy.

Package price is \$7295.00 per person based on single occupancy.

Air taxes and fuel supplements are not included in the package price. As of August 09 air taxes were \$234.70 these are not included and subject to change.

A deposit of \$1500.00 per person payable by credit card or check, payable to Altair Travel and Cruises is required to hold space on this departure.

Altair Travel and Cruises
2025 South Brentwood Blvd
St. Louis, MO 63144
(314) 968-9600

Your final payment will be due February 15, 2010.

Inclusions in above prices:

- Superior Class (4 Star) hotel accommodation as per itinerary based on twin share
- All International and Domestic Airfare
- All transfers and transportation by private, luxury air-conditioned coach with driver/guide
- Arrival Meet & Greet guide assistance, Departure guide assistance
- Sightseeing and admissions as per the itinerary
- Local taxes on accommodation and sightseeing tours
- Meals as indicated on itinerary (B-full breakfast, L-lunch, D-dinner)
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Exclusions in above prices:

- All departure taxes
- Personal items
- Meals unless listed in itinerary
- Tips & Gratuities
- Early check-in & late check out of rooms (standard check-in time is 2pm and check out 10am)
- Brazil Visa/Passport handling fees

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

The Saint Louis Zoo, Altair Travel and Cruises, Goway Travel Inc. and our cooperating agents make every effort to select reliable suppliers and contractors to provide aid and other transportation services, hotels, guides and other travel related corrections equated with such services. Each traveler agrees not to hold The Saint Louis Zoo, Altair Travel and Cruises, Goway Travel Inc its owners, employees, agents, sponsoring organization and/or damage which results directly or indirectly from any act of omission of any person or firm which is to or does provide goods or services in connection with the trip or with any available option

The Saint Louis Zoo, Altair Travel and Cruises, Goway Travel Inc its cooperating agents and sponsoring organization shall not be liable for circumstances arising as a result of Acts of God, weather, detention, annoyance, delays and expenses arising from quarantine, strikes, theft, pilferage, acts of nature, military, political or terrorist action, civil disturbances, government restrictions or regulations, failure of any means of conveyance to arrive or depart as scheduled, discrepancies or changes in transit over which they have no control.

On advancement of a deposit, the traveler agrees to be bound by the terms and conditions set forth above.

REFUND AND CANCELLATION POLICY

All cancellations must be in writing.

AIRLINES - As per airline rules, once tickets have been issued, any cancellations will incur penalties as per the group contract received upon confirmation of group.

Delta Airlines Deposit Penalties

90 days or more prior to departure – No penalty

89 days or less prior to departure – 100% penalty of deposit

TAM Airlines Deposit Penalties

- 90 days or more prior to departure – No penalty
- 60 – 89 days or less prior to departure – 50% penalty of deposit
- 59 days or less prior to departure – 100% penalty of deposit

B) LAND ARRANGEMENTS

Goway Travel Air / Land Penalties

- More than 70 days prior to departure – loss of non-refundable deposits
- Between 69-31 days prior to departure – 75% of net tour price
- Less than 31 days prior – 100% non-refundable

CURRENCY AND PRICING FLUCTUATIONS

Should there be considerable currency fluctuations, we reserve the right to adjust our costings accordingly. In calculating the attached quotation, we have used the current exchange rate(s), valid on the date (Aug 09) of this quotation. The exchange rate(s) will be monitored closely prior to departure of the tour. We will advise your agency of any increases, in writing.

Should there be any additional fuel surcharges by the Land Suppliers we reserve the right to add this to the cost of the land package.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Goway Travel Ltd. and/or its agents act only as agents for the client in all matters pertaining to travel. They assume no responsibility nor liability in connection with the service of any train, vessel, carriage, aircraft, motor or other conveyances which may be used, either wholly or in part, in the performance of its duty to the passenger; neither will it be responsible for any act, error, or omission, or any injury, loss, accident, delay or irregularity which may be occasioned by reason of any defect in any vehicle or through the neglect or default of any company or person engaged in carrying out the purpose for which tickets or coupons are issued. In the event that it becomes necessary or advisable for the comfort or well being of the passengers, or for any reason whatsoever, to alter the itinerary or arrangements, such alterations may be made without penalty to the operators. Additional expenses, if any, shall be borne by the passengers, conversely refund will be made to the passengers if any saving is effected thereby. The airlines concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission, or event, during the time passengers are not on board their planes or conveyance. The passage contract in use by the airlines concerned, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the airlines and the purchaser of these tours and/or passenger. The right is reserved to withdraw any or all tours should conditions warrant, also to decline to accept or retain any passengers as members of the tours. Goway Travel Ltd or agent can assume no responsibility for lost tickets or coupons.

We understand how disappointing it is for travelers in the event they are forced to cancel their adventure, especially one that they have been looking forward to for a long time. But we, too, plan for these adventures for quite a long period prior to departure and must continuously send non-refundable payments to hotels and suppliers of transportation. Therefore, we must strictly adhere to our Refund Policy for all travelers.

I understand that by signing below I am acting for myself and for everyone in my party in acknowledging that I have read and accepted the Terms and Conditions, Payment, Refund and Cancellation Policy sections on both sides of this reservation form. I also assume all risks involved with regard to this trip and agree that the Saint Louis Zoo, Goway Travel Inc, and its affiliates will in no way be responsible for any injury or damage to me or other members of my party.

Signature _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian _____

Credit card information

Credit card number _____

Exp Date _____

Security Code _____

Please make a copy of this entire form for your records.

ADULT HEALTH/EMERGENCY INFORMATION FORM

Please return this form with your registration

Last Name

First Name

Address (Street and Apt. #)

City

Zip Code

Birth Date

Home Telephone Number

Blood Type (if known)

A. Health/Special Needs Information

1. Do you have any health conditions (e.g. allergies, chronic conditions) or special circumstances (e.g. religious convictions or legal arrangements) which may affect program participation or that we should know about prior to emergency treatment?

2. Do you have a special physical needs (e.g. visually or hearing impaired, wheelchair bound, unable to climb stairs without assistance) for which you will require special attention or specific accommodations? If yes, please explain, listing your needs.

B. Medications

1. Please list any medications you are currently taking: _____

C. Emergency Information

Who should we notify in case of an accident or medical emergency?
(Please list an individual other than your traveling companion.)

Name _____ Relationship _____

Address _____ Telephone Number _____

2. Please give us the name of your health/accident insurance carrier(s) and appropriate policy certification number(s):

Name of Carrier _____ Policy Number _____

Name of Carrier _____ Policy Number _____

Signature