THE MIGHTY AMAZON & INCAN EMPIRE

SEP. 27 – OCT. 8, 2023
FROM $9,695 PER PERSON

The Peruvian Amazon is a cornucopia of biodiversity that blends the dense, mystical jungle concealing hundreds of plant and animal species with a rich culture sown by one of the largest and most powerful empires in history. Home to the highest number of bird species in the world and 63% of all mammal species, there are surprises at every bend of the river. From the iconic piranhas and squirrel monkeys to more elusive jaguar and freshwater dolphins, there is no shortage of wildlife to be discovered. The jungle’s bountiful flora reveals incredible communities embracing their historic traditions thriving in this extremely remote region. As the wildlife takes front stage during the day, the vast sky above steals the show at night.

The substantial diversity in this terrain has been rightfully nicknamed “the lungs of the world”. Come breathe in the adventure and mystery that is the mighty Amazon.

Why Eureka?

eu-ре-ka: a cry of joy or satisfaction when one finds or discovers something.

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ITINERARY

DAY 1 | SEP. 27
Your journey begins as you board your flight to Lima. Upon arrival, you will be met and escorted to your hotel, AC Hotel Lima Miraflores. Enjoy your afternoon and evening at leisure. The surrounding neighborhood provides easy access to popular attractions, indigenous markets, and beautiful coastline walks. Rest and relax at the hotel bar and rooftop restaurant with the best ocean views in the city.

DAY 2 | SEP. 28
Today, explore Lima, Peru’s ancient capital city on a guided tour. Visit the main square, Plaza de Armas, with the government and archbishop palaces. This UNESCO World Heritage Site is full of magnificent colonial and republican-style buildings. Continue to San Francisco Monastery known for its cloister featuring mosaic tiles from Seville, Spain and for its catacombs, which served as Lima’s cemetery through the colonial period.

Enjoy a curated walk to the Larco Museum ending for lunch at Cafe del Museo which offers a nice selection of Peruvian and continental food. Founded in 1926, the museum possesses more than 45,000 pre-Columbian pieces and provides an incomparable opportunity to discover the mysteries of the pre-Inca world.

Finish the day with a traditional Peruvian dinner at La Huaca Pucllana restaurant which is located in one of the pre-Columbian temples in this 6-hectare archaeological site. Today, Restaurante La Huaca Pucllana is a warm and cozy restaurant with a spectacular view of the illuminated surrounding ruins. (B, L, D)

DAY 3 | SEP. 29
This morning, board a flight to Iquitos taking you from the urban jungle to the rainforest and your first look at the Amazon. Upon arrival you are escorted to the dock to board a speed boat for a twenty-five-mile journey down the Amazon River to Ceiba Tops Lodge.

In the afternoon, hike in the beautiful primary rainforest reserve surrounding the hotel that includes huge trees festooned with epiphytes. After dinner, take a short guided walk to a small lake where caiman can be spotted at night as well as some of the insects and frogs that produce the cacophony of sounds that begin after dark. (B, L, D)

DAY 4 | SEP. 30
This morning, take a guided boat ride to a small village of Yagua Native Americans to learn the Yagua culture. There will be an opportunity to see some of the local crafts and for a demonstration of the blowgun which some of the Yagua elders still use for hunting.

In the afternoon, enjoy a boating excursion along the Amazon in search of the pink and gray freshwater dolphins found in the river. There will also be an opportunity for fishing to see some of the incredible diversity of fish in the Amazon River, including piranha. Those who catch fish will be able to try them for dinner. (B, L, D)

DAY 5 | OCT. 1
Wake up early and board the skiffs at sunrise for a full-day of adventure. Travel along the Amazon and Napo Rivers to the Amazon Rainforest Reserve and ExplorNapo Lodge,
arriving just in time for breakfast. After breakfast, enjoy a short 45-minute hike in pristine forest to the Canopy Walkway, a suspended bridge spanning over one-third of a mile, connected by tree platforms and reaching a height of over 115 feet above the ground.

Have lunch at ExplorNapo and then visit the ReNuPeRu Ethnobotanical Garden where over 240 species of medicinal and useful plants are tended by a shaman and his assistants. Return to the hotel just in time to enjoy the pool or hammocks before dinner. (B, L, D)

DAY 6 | OCT. 2
Take a morning boat excursion to a rural village to see the daily life of the locals. Farmers and fisherman in these villages live day to day on the resources they are provided from the surrounding forest.

In the afternoon, transfer to Iquitos and enjoy a panoramic tour of this unique rainforest city, the farthest inland port that serves ocean vessels in the world. Relax in an air-conditioned bus ride through the bustling streets where much of the city’s historical flavor can be seen inrickshaws, colorful tuk-tuks, and 19th century mansions financed by the rubber boom, including Casa de Fierro.

Return to the Double Tree by Hilton for a relaxing evening. (B, L, D)

DAY 7 | OCT. 3
After breakfast, depart for Nauta port to board the Delfin III. As the ship departs downriver, take in the dramatic scenery of the town’s waterfront as vestiges of industrialization quickly give way to native thatched houses along the shore. On the top observation deck, the guides will conduct a brief orientation, outlining details of the cruise including places and wildlife that will be seen as well as a summary of the history and geography of the Amazon basin.

The evening is free to absorb the beauty of the world’s largest rainforest. Sunsets are a special time in Amazonia as they can provide an unbelievable myriad of colors. Later, the dark Amazon sky becomes nature’s own planetarium with its open expanse of brilliant stars, providing hours of delight to look for the Southern Cross, shooting stars, and the band of the Milky Way as the ship continues down the Amazon River. (B, L, D)

DAY 8 | OCT. 4
This morning, walk the Fundo Casual jungle trail taking you deep into the rainforest on “Terra Firma” (non-flooded forest). Your naturalist guide will explain the layers of the jungle; almost every plant has a use as a cure for something and scientific research is starting to discover many truths to these ancient remedies. This is also your chance to spot species of monkeys, birds, and iguana not seen anywhere else.

After emerging from the depths of the forest and returning to the ship, you will be treated to a world-class lunch with an Amazonian flair while continuing upstream towards your next destination. After, you will start cruising through the Yanayacu and Pucate Rivers, peeking into different creeks and lagoons. You will even have the opportunity to swim in the jungle river along with the famous pink dolphins!

Arrive in the village of Yachay, a flyspeck that receives few outside visitors and is home to Carola; the “White Shaman”, a healer and spiritual leader among the jungle commu-
ITINERARY, CONTINUED

As night approaches your guide will take you on a night safari in search of caiman alligators and night birds and enjoy the musical sounds of the jungle. (B, L, D)

DAY 9 | OCT. 5
Start your day with a nature walk uncovering the incredible diversity within the forest. Continue along to the Palm Forest at the very heart of the Pacaya Samiria National Reserve, Peru’s largest protected area and by far the largest protected wetland reserve in the world. Filled with lakes, palm swamps, and streams, the reserve becomes a flooded forest in the rainy season and is sure to be one of the most beautiful places you will ever visit. You will also have the chance to explore one of the pristine Amazon lagoons in this wonderful region. (B, L, D)

DAY 10 | OCT. 6
This morning, board a skiff and navigate the black waters of the Samiria River towards the Pacaya-Samiria Reserve to have an unforgettable encounter with gray and pink river dolphins. This area explodes with avian brilliance exemplified by the multi-colored plumage of its many tropical birds.

In the afternoon, board skiffs to visit the community of San Francisco. Meet local villagers who have called this remote region of Amazonia their home for generations. Learn about their culture, traditions, and folklore before stopping by an arts and craft market lead by women of the community.

Head down into the Marañon River to a location known as Piraña Caño. You have the option to explore the creek either by kayak or by skiff. This lovely creek provides an abundance of wildlife encounters and engulfs you in the sights and sounds of the forest. (B, L, D)

DAY 11 | OCT. 7
This morning, on your way from Nauta back to Iquitos airport, you will visit the Rescue & Rehabilitation Center of River Mammals where you will have the chance to meet baby manatees and learn about these wonderful and docile creatures. Continue to Iquitos and upon arrival, enjoy a day room at Costa Ramada Wyndham. Tonight, depending on your flight, transfer to the airport for your overnight flight back to your departure city. If continuing on for the post-tour extension, settle in for an evening in Lima. (B)

DAY 12 | OCT. 8
Arrive back home after experiencing a unique world, one that combines the thrill of ancient civilizations and amazing natural history.

Meals included as listed above: B=Breakfast; L=Lunch; D=Dinner

Pricing
$9,695 per person, double occupancy
$12,890 per person, single occupancy

**limited room upgrades on Delfin III available upon request**

Registration
Reserve your place now at:
alumni.berkeley.edu/mightyamazon
Optional Post-trip Extension: Cusco & Machu Picchu

**DAY 11 | OCT. 7**
This morning, disembark in Nauta and head to Iquitos airport for the flight back to Lima and arrive at **Costa Ramada Wyndham**. Tonight, after dinner, bid farewell to the rest of the group returning to the USA and prepare for your next adventure. (B)

**DAY 12 | OCT. 8**
In the morning, fly to Cusco where upon arrival a short bus ride winds through the vital Inca road, up the canyon, and enters the Urubamba Valley at Pisac. Explore the incredible stonework and panoramas of these vast and terraced ruins. Visit the Sun temple, Pisac's Inca citadel, ancient burial sites, and many unexcavated ruins along the high crevices and rocky overhangs. Continue down to the colorful market with artifacts and handcrafted jewelry, leather, alpaca products, and more.

The late afternoon and evening are at leisure to enjoy the fabulous facilities at the hotel **Aranwa Valley Hotel & Wellness** or to sightsee in the local area. (B, L)

**DAY 13 | OCT. 9**
The first stop today will be Chinchero, a small Andean Indian village located high up on the windswept plains of Anta. Here the group will have the opportunity to receive a private weaving demonstration from one of the world's top weavers, Ms. Nilda Callañaupa. A child of Chinchero, Nilda has been involved in weaving with the natural fibers of the Andean highlands since she was five years old. Nilda is now a master Andean weaver and is dedicated to preserving the textile heritage of her ancestors.

Enjoy lunch at the highly-acclaimed Tunupa Restaurant before heading to Ollantaytambo; a major Inca fortress and one of the few places where the Spaniards lost a major battle during the conquest. Explore this massive citadel which served as both a temple and a fortress. Return to the hotel for dinner at leisure. (B, L)

**DAY 14 | OCT. 10**
Today depart for Machu Picchu on one of the most scenic rail trips from Ollanta Station. Bask in the breathtaking sights en route to the mountain-top sanctuary of the Incas. Enjoy the day at leisure exploring the ruins. Spend time at the charming village of Aguas Calientes, wander the temples and houses, take photos, and be consumed by the mystery and beauty of the site.

The hotel, **Inkaterra Machu Picchu Hotel**, resides in the jungle and has spectacular surroundings to explore. Venture down the orchid trail to find 372 species of native orchids as well as hundreds of species of birds, butterflies, trees, and even two types of bears. (B, L, D)

**DAY 15 | OCT. 11**
The morning is free to return to Machu Picchu one last time or relax at the hotel. In the afternoon, return to Cusco via rail and bus. Check-in to the **Aranwa Cusco Boutique Hotel**, the evening is at leisure. (B, L)
Post-trip Extension Itinerary, Continued

DAY 16 | OCT. 12
This morning, enjoy a guided tour of Cusco. Visit the impressive Colonial Cathedral in Cusco that contains over 400 paintings from the Cusqueña School, beautiful cedar wood carvings such as the choir and the Pulpit, as well as some objects made of silver. Continue to Korikancha (Sun Temple), known today as Santo Domingo Church. During the Incas period, the stones of this temple were covered with gold.

The city tour ends at the gigantic Inca fortress of Sacsayhuamán. Learn of the mythology surrounding the creation of the magnificent grounds and the city of Cusco. Sacsayhuamán was once capable of accommodating 5,000 fighters and believed to be even larger, higher, and with massive towers. Enjoy the afternoon at leisure exploring Cusco before the farewell dinner. (B, D)

DAY 17 | OCT. 13
Return to Lima by air where a dayroom is provided at the Costa Ramada Wyndham. Tonight, depending on your flight, transfer to the airport for your overnight flight back to your departure city. (B)

DAY 18 | OCT. 14
Arrive back home after an incredibly unique journey through ancient civilizations and amazing natural heritage.

Meals included as listed above: B=Breakfast; L=Lunch; D=Dinner

Post-Tour Pricing
$3,295 per person, double occupancy
$4,690 per person, single occupancy

Registration
Reserve your place now at:
alumni.berkeley.edu/mightyamazon