

# South America Wildlife

## **This trip Has it all!!**

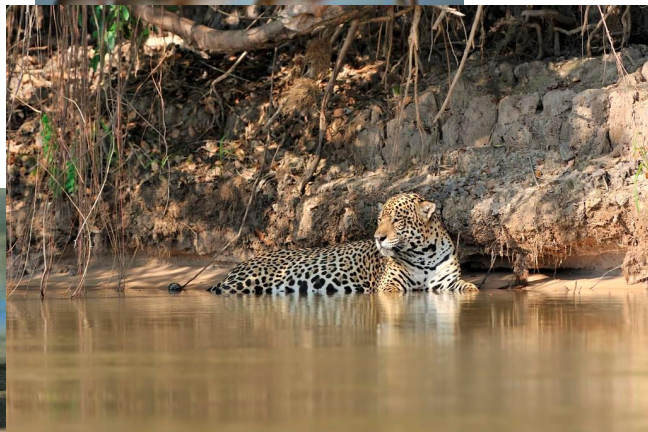
**Ecuador** - 8 day Galapagos Cruise, Tandapaya Bird Lodge

**Peru**- Amazon Tambopata Wildlife Reserve

**Brazil** - Pantanal wildlife , Manaus , Amazon River Cruise

**25 Days**

**Departures:** 24 July 2014 NZ\$14295  
30 July 2015



**Latin Link Adventure** – Ph:0800 528465 03 4435036

PO Box 352 Wanaka 9343 Tel: Fax: 03 4431846 Email: [info@latinlink.co.nz](mailto:info@latinlink.co.nz)

[www.latinlink.co.nz](http://www.latinlink.co.nz) Bonded Member of Travel Agents Assoc. of NZ

## **Information Sheet: South America Wildlife**

### **3 Countries: Ecuador - Peru . Brazil**

This kaleidoscope of South America is unbeatable for value, offering you the very best of this diverse continent. Travelling with LAN you will begin your adventure of discovery in Quito.

Visit Tandayapa, an Andean cloud forest lodge designed for nature lovers where you can see 10-20 different species of hummingbirds on any day plus numerous other species

Then the unique Galapagos Islands, justifiably one of the world's great wildlife destinations. As it had been free of humans and predators for almost all of its history, the islands have developed some of the most unique life forms on the planet. We explore the islands for 8 days on our comfortable small motor cruiser.

Fly to remote Puerto Maldonado on the Rio Madre de Dios- a tributary of the Amazon - still unspoiled, where animal and bird spotting is among the best in South America. The Tambopata National Reserve is a 275,000 hectare conservation unit created by the Peruvian government in 1990 to protect the watersheds of the Tambopata and Candamo rivers. It is adjacent to the huge 1 million hectare Bahuaja Sonene National Park. Visit the unique Macaw Parrot Lick, and observe local communities.

We then travel into the heart of South America . Brazil's Pantanal. The Pantanal is the world's largest wetland of any kind. It lies mostly within the Brazilian state of Mato Grosso do Sul but extends into Mato Grosso as well as into portions of Bolivia and Paraguay, sprawling over an area estimated at between 140,000-195,000sq.km. The Pantanal eco system is thought to be home to 1000 bird species, 400 fish species, 300 mammal species, 480 reptile species and over 9000 different subspecies of invertebrates. We stay in the best locations in all the Pantanal to see the two top predators of the Pantanal--the **Jaguar** and the **Giant Otter**.

The Amazon represents over half of the planet's remaining rainforests, and it comprises the largest and most species-rich tract of tropical rainforest in the world. We travel into the heart of the Amazon . Manaus and explore the region with its flora and fauna, aboard our comfortable small motor cruiser.

### **South America Wildlife NZ\$14295**

2015 costs subject to change

Inclusions:

ALL travel as per itinerary between Quito & Sao Paulo . buses, boats, flights, transfers, and taxis

ALL transfers as per itinerary

ALL accommodation twin/double share with private facilities in comfortable 3 star hotels

ALL entrance fees and sightseeing as detailed in the itinerary

Breakfasts daily, all meals in Tandapaya Lodge, Galapagos , Tambopata Reserve, Pantanal and on Amazon Cruise

Services of Latin Link Tour Manager (subject to a minimum of 6 people travelling) from Lima onwards

Services of Naturalist Guide on Galapagos Cruise

Services of local English speaking guides

All applicable taxes on airlines tickets

## **NOTE ON FLIGHTS**

**\*\*International flights on LAN Airlines Auckland –Quito & Sao Paulo – Auckland are in addition to costs stated above. At present the cost of these flights is between \$1850-\$2500 plus taxes \$120. We will quote you the best airfares at the time of booking and keep you informed on any seasonal specials between time of booking and departure**

All flights are booked by Latin Link Adventure and all LAN flights are eligible for Qantas Frequent Flyer Points.

### **Notes:**

1. Visas are not necessary for New Zealand passport holders
2. Yellow Certificate required / Malarials required

All costs are subject to airline increases and currency fluctuations.

## Itinerary

July 2014

### Day 1 Thurs 24 Auckland - Quito

Depart late afternoon on LAN Airlines direct overnight flight to Santiago, arrive same day. Then a connecting flight on LAN to Quito

On arrival you will be met and transferred to your hotel

### Day 2 Fri 25 Quito-Tandapaya (B,L,D)

Depart this morning to the Yanacocha Reserve and then drive along the Old Nono. Mindo Road to get to the Lodge. The reserve was established to protect Black-breasted Puffleg, one of the rarest hummingbirds in the world. Usually there are around 15-20 different species of hummingbirds that can be seen at the lodge. You can also see Golden-breasted and Sapphire-vented Pufflegs, Sword-billed Hummingbird, Great Sapphirewing, and Buff-winged Starfrontlet among others.

Accommodation: Tandayapa Bird Lodge.

<http://tandayapabirdlodge.com>

*Tandayapa Bird Lodge surrounded by forest and is a bird-watcher's paradise, with highlights such as the Andean cock-of-the-rock, scaled fruiteater and golden-headed and crested quetzals*

### Day 3: Sat 26 Tandapaya –Quito (B,L)

An early morning visit to the forest blind may provide you with superb views of Scaled Antpitta, White-throated Quail-Dove, Immaculate Antbird, Chestnut-capped Brush-Finch, and Russet-crowned Warbler. Other antpittas and Rufous-breasted Anthrush are sometimes seen from the hide. A ten-minute walk down to the village could add White-capped Dipper and Ecuadorian Thrush to your list, and continuing along the old Nono. Mindo road in either direction will give you a chance of more tanager flocks, Andean Cock-of-the-Rock, Beautiful Jay, and open-country birds such as seedeaters, grassquits, Olive-crowned Yellowthroat, and Black-winged Saltator

Full day birding in the Tandayapa Valley or enjoy hiking on a number of different trails. You can have lunch at the lodge or take a packed lunch. This afternoon return to Quito

### Day 4 Sun 27 Quito – Galapagos (B,L,D)

You will be transferred to the airport your flight to Galapagos

Please note there is a US\$10 immigration fee payable on arrival

One of the world's greatest treasures of natural history lies in the bewitching Galapagos Islands, famed for its fearless and unique wildlife, and is the highlight of most trips to Ecuador.

The Galapagos Islands have been named after the giant Galapagos Tortoises. The archipelago, 1000 Km. (600 miles) off Ecuador's Pacific Coast originated from undersea volcanic activity, six million years ago. The archipelago's 13 major islands, 6 smaller ones, and scores of islets are all part of Ecuador's National Park system. In 1835, the English naturalist Charles Darwin visited the islands and discovered this "living laboratory" which inspired his writings on the Theory of Evolution. Many of the animals on the Galapagos Islands have developed into different species from their continental relatives, and because they have never experienced man as a predator, they show no fear of humans. The world's most wondrous group of islands is yours for unhurried exploration. Follow the nature trails; enjoy the amazing sights, wade and even dive among the animals of land and sea.

**AIDA MARIA - GALÁPAGOS**

**DESCRIPTION**



The sixteen passengers Aida Maria offers a great combination of comfort, style and economy for tours in the Galapagos. Each of the eight cabins has a private bath and hot shower, air conditioning and an ample external deck to enjoy sunny Galapagos days. Started operating in the Galapagos in 1997 offering cruises around the islands as a charter yacht as well as for individual travelers.

Its design is based in efficiency and comfort with ample social areas and 8 cabins 2 in main deck, 2 in upper deck and 2 in solarium providing optimum comfort for your experience exploring the Galapagos. All meals and shore excursions are included. Accommodation in 2 berth cabins. Please note that the Galapagos National park fee of USD100 is to be paid in cash on joining the cruise.

On arrival you will be met by our Naturalist Guide and transferred to the Aida Maria for lunch. After lunch we will go to the interpretation center, the local branch of the Galapagos National park service where your guide will explain to you about the formation of the islands, how the flora and fauna arrived and got established in Galapagos as well as visiting the corrals where we have several species of giant tortoises under the care of the National park service. Night navigation to our next destination.

#### **Day 5: Mon 28 SANTA FE - PLAZAS (B,L,D)**

After breakfast on the yacht, we continue to Santa Fe Island, upon arrival to the island, we will be treated to a noisy welcome by the local sealion colony. Following our naturalist guide on the island paths we will come to Santa Fe's main attraction, a towering forest of giant cacti. Scattered around the cacti trees you will see a number of the island's indigenous sun-seekers: marine and land iguanas, the rainbow-streaked lava lizards and, if you are lucky, land tortoises - the namesakes of the islands. After our walk we will plunge into the salty sea and snorkel in the company of sealions, lion fish and sea turtles. Finally, we will return to the yacht for lunch.

After lunch we will navigate to Plazas Island, where a large colony of sea lions lounges daily in the equatorial sun. Soon you will notice their subtly diabolic grins and wonder what they find so humorous; you only hope the joke isn't on you! Plaza also boasts excellent examples of typical Galapaganean flora such as the towering cacti "trees" that form the principal diet for both the land iguanas and the cactus finch. Other birds that may flutter by include lava gulls, yellow warblers and red-billed tropicbirds with their elaborate tails.

#### **Day 6 : Tues 29 SANTA CRUZ - DARWIN CENTER - EL CHATO (Highlands) (B,L,D)**

Here we can find itty bitty tortoises, hand-sized between the ages of one and five, and marvel at how they achieve such a large size as adults (500 lbs. or more!). Galapagos tortoises are believed to have a lifespan of over 100 years, so the young ones have a long life ahead of them as long as they receive the protection they need. Aside from the Station headquarters, Santa Cruz boasts the largest town and economic center of the Galapagos, Puerto Ayora. In this port-side town we can buy souvenirs of the islands (postcards, t-shirts, books, etc.). Check-out the uniquely Galapaganean ceramic shop near the entrance of the Charles Darwin Station. After shopping in Puerto Ayora and lunch on the boat (guests may dine in town if they desire), we will explore the upper region ('parte alta') of the island, a moisture-rich area with fertile volcanic soils. We will learn about the vegetation and animal life of this zone, often strikingly different than that found at lower elevations. This area in the highlands is called EL CHATO which is a giant tortoises reserve, one of the few places open to visitors where giant tortoises are found in their natural habitat interacting with the rest of the Galapagos life.

#### **DAY 7: Wed 30 ISABELA ISLAND - PUERTO VILLAMIL - HUMEDALES - MURO DE LAS LAGRIMAS - CENTRO DE CRIANZA (B,L,D)**

Our first visit in the morning will take place in Puerto Villamil, one of the smallest towns in Galapagos, located right in front of a white sand beach is one of the most beautiful locations in the islands, after a dry landing we will go to visit the humedales which is a mangrove area with small brackish water lagoons that create the perfect environment for a small type of shrimp which serves as food for flamingos making it easy to find them in this site.

Following this visit we will be transported to El Muro de las Lagrimas or the wall of tears, when the Ecuadorian government took possession of the islands their main purpose was to harbor Ecuadorian prisoners, since there wasn't much for them to do they were forced to carry rocks to a far location and build a wall which nowadays is known as the wall of tears.

After this visit we return to the beach for relaxation before lunch on the boat.

In the afternoon we will visit the local branch of the Galapagos park service which main purpose is to take care of the many species of giant tortoises that inhabit Isabela Island so we can see the efforts made by the national park service to protect and increase the decaying population of giant tortoises in this island.

Back on board and night navigation to our next visitors site.

#### **DAY 8: Thurs 31 PUNTA MORENO - ELIZABETH BAY (B,L,D)**

After a whole night navigation we arrive to Punta Moreno on the west coast of Isabela, a dry landing on a lava field. The vegetation found in the area is small and concentrated mainly in the mangrove area and around the lakes. It should be noted that the three kinds of cacti are found here.

The main attractions at Punta Moreno are coastal lagoons amid black lava flows where there are several species of birds. It has a panoramic view of three volcanoes, the most active of the Galapagos that are Sierra Negra, Cerro Azul of Isabela Island and La Cumbre of Fernandina Island.

After lunch on board we continue on our way to Elizabeth Bay, Located on Isabela Island's west shore, this is extremely interesting for observing marine life. You can motor past a few islands where you usually see Galapagos penguins. One of the best areas to take their photos. A colony of these magnificent birds inhabit a rocky islet at the entrance to Elizabeth Bay.

We let our boat drift through a small passage lined with mangroves you emerge into an enclosed cove. We will turn the motor off and look in the sheltered waters for marine turtles, rays, flightless cormorants, sea lions, and, circling overhead, Galapagos hawks.

### **August**

#### **DAY 9: Fri 1 ISABELA CALETA TAGUS - FERNANDINA PUNTA ESPINOZA – ISABELA PUNTA VICENTE ROCA (B,L,D)**

The visitors site of Tagus Cove is located west of Darwin Volcano on Isabela Island. The route of the trail is about 1800 meters. This was a favorite spot for pirates and whalers, a tradition is still observed that has continued since that time: the inscription of the names of boats. At the start of the walk, going up and passing the staircase, is a small cave where we find inscriptions dating to the 1800s. Its name originated from a British warship that went through the islands in 1814 looking for Galapagos Tortoise for food.

The road, mostly gravel, leads into the interior, along Darwin Lake. During the walk, you can see various land birds; we can identify the characteristic vegetation of the arid zone. Finally, we observe the lava fields of Darwin Volcano.

Back on board for lunch and short navigation to Elizabeth Bay on Fernandina Island

Punta Espinoza is a narrow ledge of lava and sand that extends from the base of the volcano to the sea. There is a vivid description given by Captain Benjamin Morrell that from its anchorage at Bay Banks witnessed and recorded an eruption of Fernandina in the decade of the 1820s that probably gave rise to the Point. In 1975, there was an uprising, about 90 cm, which is why the pier built for landing can only be used during high tide.

Punta Espinoza is a place famous for its large colonies of marine iguanas and as the habitat of unique species like the flightless cormorant, Galapagos penguin, Galapagos hawk, Galapagos snake, among others. It is an ideal place to observe the lava cactus (*Brachycereus nesioticus*), which grow on young lava and survive with little water.

After visiting FGerandina we will start our navigation to the central part of the Galapagos and on the way we will see from the Boat Punta Vicente Roca, a part of a mostly eroded and destroyed volcano which now is a great site for seeing blue footed boobies, frigate birds and other marine birds from the boat.

**DAY 10: Sat 2 JAMES BAY - RABIDA ISLAND (B,L,D)**

James Bay is a black sand beach located on the west side of James Bay and northwest of Santiago Island. South of the beach is Sugarloaf Volcano, which has deposits of volcanic tuff, the same that has favored the formation of the black sand beach. El Cráter is just north of this site, it has a saltwater lagoon, which during the summer dry season becomes a salt mine. Between 1928 and 1930, there was the first exploitation of salt; there were no major achievement. Then in 1964 a new attempt was made that lasted for some time.

After lunch on board we navigate to our next destination, Rabida

Rábida Island, consists of a red sand beach, a coastal lagoon behind the beach, and a loop trail. The approximate distance of the trail is 1.1 kilometers.

The color of the rocks and sand on the beach is due to the very porous volcanic material, which with the help of environmental factors (rain, salt water and sea breeze, has acted as an oxidizing agent. The main attraction of the place is the red sand beach, scenery, aside from the vegetation of the arid zone and the presence of native and endemic species.

**Day 11 : Sun 3 NORTH SEYMOUR ISLAND AND SANTA FE ISLAND – Quito-Lima (B)**

After an early breakfast we will disembark at North Seymour Island. Here we will see frigatebirds, the clownish blue-footed booby, and of course the ubiquitous sea lions. With luck we will witness the striking courtship display of the male frigatebird, in which he inflates a red balloon-like sac below his throat and struts his stuff for all of the young females. Seymour North, Plaza Sur and Plaza Norte, Baltra, northeastern Santa Cruz, Santa Fe and part of Española, were formed by uprisings of underwater volcanic lavas. They were part of a volcanic lava table deposited in sheet form along cracks located on the ocean floor. The uprisings occurred sporadically and lasted more than a million years to reach its current level. All marine fossils found in the archipelago are found in these islands and the best example is the North Channel side of Baltra. The fossils date from the Pleistocene, and specifically in the case of Baltra, one can say that these volcanic tables were close to the surface about a million years ago.

Return to the boat & sail to Baltra Island to catch our plane back to the mainland. On arrival in Quito connect on LAN flight to Lima

On arrival transfer to our hotel near the airport

**Day 12 Mon 4 Lima – Puerto Maldonado-Tambopata (B,L,D)**

Transfer to the airport for your flight to Puerto Maldonado.

You will be met by your naturalist guide and transferred to a dugout canoe for the trip up the Tambopata River to the lodge. On the journey the vegetation changes from colonized deforested areas to virgin rain forest. A box-lunch is provided on board. On arrival you'll have a welcome drink and meet the rest of the staff. After dinner a night walk to find nocturnal animals or insects by the eye-shine a specialization for increasing the light and see better, about 50% of the animals are nocturnal in the rainforest. We will be out at the river's edge at night, scanning the shores with headlamps and flashlights to catch the red gleams of reflection from caiman eyes

Accommodation: Refugio Amazonas Lodge

*Refugio Amazonas is built on a 200 hectare private reserve on the buffer zone of the Tambopata National Reserve. It is becoming integrated to the communities of Brazil nut extractors that surround it, attempting to extend the benefits of ecotourism to the families that commit to the sustainable use of the forest within this buffer zone. It is located ten minutes walking from the river.*

**Day 13 Tues 5 Refugio Amazonas –Tambopata Research Centre (B,L,D)**

Before breakfast, a thirty minute walk from Refugio Amazonas leads to the 25 meter canopy tower.. The tower has been built upon high ground, therefore increasing your horizon of the continuous primary forest extending out towards the Tambopata National Reserve. From here views of mixed species canopy flocks as well as toucans, macaws and raptors are likely. After breakfast a few minutes hike from the lodge is a beautiful old growth patch of Brazil Nut forest that has been harvested for decades (if not centuries) where



the precarious remains of a camp used two months a year by Brazil Nut gatherers can still be experienced. We will be demonstrating the whole process of the rain forest's only sustainably harvested product from collection through transportation to drying. Then a 4½ hour journey by boat from Refugio Amazonas, in the pristine heart of the reserve, lies the Tambopata Research Centre. One and half hours into our boat journey, as we cross the confluence with the Malinowski River, we will leave the final traces of human habitation behind. Within the 700,000 hectare uninhabited nucleus of the reserve, sightings of capybara, caiman, geese, macaws and other large species will become more frequent. A 3-5km hike will lead us to overlooks commanding magnificent views of the Tambopata winding its way into the lowlands. The forest on this trail, regenerating on old bamboo forest, is good for Howler Monkey and Dusky Titi Monkey. After dinner attend a lecture providing a in depth look at the biology of macaws, their feeding habits, the theories for clay lick use, their breeding and feeding ecology, population fluctuations and the threats to their conservation

*Tambopata Research Center is built using a combination of traditional native materials (wood, palm fronds, wild cane and clay) and architecture and modern day eco-lodge technology. The lodge consists of one wing of 18 rooms connected by raised boardwalks to eight shared bathrooms, the research quarters and a dining room. The dining room is an open building that doubles as a bar.*

*Rooms are small and hold two beds. The walls dividing each room are built using cane, and extend from the floor to about 2.5 meters height making each room private. The side that looks out to the forest does not have a wall or screening of any kind, acting as a large window facing the forest. The reason we have been able to incorporate this "luxurious" design into our lodge is because mosquitoes are not really a problem around the lodge clearing and the open section allows for an intimate contact with the rain forest.. Doors are replaced with drapes. Rooms are not soundproof. Each room has beds, mosquito nets, bedside tables and a rack of clothes hangers. Bathroom are shared, and have no hot water. The research quarters is a two story building usually full of scientists and their assistants from the macaw project*

#### **Day 14 Wed 6 Tambopata Research Centre (B,L,D)**

On most clear mornings of the year dozens of large macaws and hundreds of parrots congregate on this large river bank in a raucous and colorful spectacle which inspired a National Geographic cover story. Discretely located fifty meters from the cliff, we will observe Green-winged, Scarlet and Blue-and-gold Macaws and several species of smaller parrots descend to ingest clay. Outings are at dawn when the lick is most active. They arrive in search of minerals and salts and the digestive properties of the clay particles themselves. On average several hundred Macaws and smaller parrots visit the clay-lick daily, including Scarlet, Blue and Yellow, Red and Green, Chestnut-fronted and Blue-headed parrots, among others. This clay-lick is considered one of the largest in the world. Following a late morning hike in the trail system in search of some of the nine species of monkeys present in the area, including Spider monkeys, Squirrel monkeys and Dusky titi monkeys as well as the elusive large mammals like Tapir, White-lipped peccaries and Jaguar. After lunch visit the **Pond Platform**-10 minutes upriver from the lodge is a tiny pond with a platform in the middle. It is a great place to spot waterfowl such as Muscovy duck, sunbittern and hoatzin along with the woodpeckers, oropendolas, flycatchers and parakeets that call this pond their home. After dinner you will have the option of hiking out at night, when most of the mammals are active but rarely seen. Much easier to find are frogs with shapes and sounds as bizarre as their natural histories

#### **Day 15 Thurs 7 Tambopata Research Centre (B,L,D)**

Another outing at dawn when the macaw lick is most active.

After breakfast hike the Terra Firme Trail An entirely different habitat characterized by smaller, thinner trees atop hills and slopes is covered by this five kilometer trail. Saddleback tamarins are frequently found here. As we walk near the limits of the swamp we will also keep our eyes open for rare tapir tracks.

After lunch enjoy a hike on the Palm Swamp Trail. Growing on the remains of an oxbow lake and providing both arboreal as well as terrestrial mammals with fruits throughout the year, the aguaje palms are one of the most important food sources in the rainforest. Demand for these fruits and great conditions for planting rice, makes the palm swamp also one of the most threatened habitats.

#### **Day 16 Fri 8 Tambopata -Puerto Maldonado – Rio Branco (B)**

A dawn start is required for the canoe trip back to Puerto Maldonado giving memorable views of the sun rise over the river. Look out for the early morning wildlife which is particularly active at this time. Howler monkeys are frequently heard, as they stakeout their territories.

**You have survived a foray into the mighty Amazon Jungle!!! An experience you will never forget!**

Travel from Puerto Maldonado by comfortable bus through to the city of Rio Branco in Brazil. Rio Branco was the home of union leader and environmentalist Chico Mendes

Accommodation: Pinheiro Palace Hotel

**Day 17 Sat 9 Rio Branco –Pantanal (B,L,D)**

We depart early morning for a flight to Cuiaba. On arrival depart to the Pantanal, driving for 90 min before reaching the famous Transpantaneira Road. This raised dirt and gravel road is one of the best wildlife viewing areas in the world. Here you can admire the flora and fauna along the Transpantaneira and make several stops on the way to film or take photographs. SouthWild Pantanal was once called Fazenda Santa Tereza, which was a traditional cattle ranch. Today, it is an eco lodge on 1,500 hectares of flooded lands situated on the banks of the wildlife rich Pixaim River. Here you are deep in the Pantanal and from our boats on the river and in walks in our riverine forest, you can see three species of monkeys, up to 400 bird species, Capybaras, caimans, and Giant Otters. You can also explore the marked trails through the forest surrounding the SouthWild Pantanal. Two wildlife observation towers are strategically located at the Jabiru Stork nest and in the riverine forest.

**Day 18 Sun 10 Pantanal (B,L,D)**

Early departure in open Safari Truck or van to end of road at Porto Jofre. Stops along Transpantaneira timed to allow the viewing of birds and animals. Then connect by boat to the SouthWild Jaguar Flotel. From the floating hotel excursions are made to spot for jaguar

*The Jaguar Flotel is anchored 2.5 km downstream from the mouth of the Three Brothers River, thus permitting our special scout boat system to produce an average of 1.5 Jaguar sightings per day. Built in 2010, the SouthWild Jaguar Flotel is an air-conditioned, floating hotel with 10 double-occupancy rooms with split air conditioners and en suite bathrooms with flush toilets and hot showers. The Flotel's large, air-conditioned dining room/lounge has picture windows that look out over the wild Pantanal on the mighty Cuiaba River. Additionally, guests can relax in hammocks, sunbathe, or enjoy breakfast, lunch, or after-dinner drinks on the Flotel's expansive, partially-roofed top deck. The Flotel is run by generators. During the night the generator will be floated away from the Flotel to be less audible.*





**Day 19 Mon 11 : SouthWild Jaguar Flotel (B,L,D)**

Our aim today is to view wild jaguars, one of the most elusive and charismatic wildlife species on earth, and observing and photographing them in wild Brazilian rivers churning with piranha

Two 4 hour boat outings per day to search for & observe Jaguars and Giant Otters on some or all of the following rivers and their connecting channels: Three Brothers, Cuiaba, and Piquiri.

**Day 20 Tues 12 Pantanal- Cuiaba –Manaus (B,L)**

Return by boat to Porto Jofre and along the Transpantaneira to Pocone where we stop for lunch before returning to Cuiaba airport. Connect on our flight to Manaus. Transfer to our hotel

Accommodation: Tropical Hotel

*Manaus, capital of Amazonas, is located in the middle of the Amazon forest. In the early years of the 20th century the city of Manaus, became very wealthy and the most important cultural centre in the Northern Region of Brazil. The old rubber barons dreamed of transforming it into a European style city and called it "the Paris of the Tropics"*



**Amazonas Opera House**

*A reflection of this period of opulence is to be found in the mansions and monuments of Manaus, such as the Opera House opened in 1896. Built with the aid of materials and artists brought from*

*Europe, its central area, in the shape of a harp, can seat 640 people in the stalls. In 1965 it was declared part of the Brazilian National Heritage and was reopened in 1996*

#### **Day 21 Wed 13 Manaus – Amazon Cruise (B,D)**

Guided walking tour by Rua Bernardo Ramos, Teatro Amazonas (Opera House), Palacete Provincial with Praça Heliodoro Balbi, visit to the Municipal Market and Fish Market with a view to the Manaus Harbour and stop outside Palácio Rio Negro. We then transfer to the pier to join our cruise on the Amazon



*Cabins: The Amazon Clipper hosts all guests in 8 air-conditioned cabins, with bunk berths (6m<sup>2</sup> – 8,75m<sup>2</sup>) and private bathroom facilities with shower.*

*Description: The Amazon Clipper contains 3 decks, on the main deck are located 6 Cabins, on the 2° deck you find 2 cabins and a covered dining room who seats all passengers leisurely at same time and a bar with library. The last deck is a spacious sundeck with a fantastic 360° panoramic view, as well as a covered area for outdoor sightseeing.*

*Crew: 01 captain, 03 sailors, 01 cook, 01 english speaking field guide.*

Depart upstream on the Rio Negro while we drink a fresh fruit juice and listen to the information about facilities. After a snack meet for lectures about Amazon where we will get a good start to understanding Amazon preservation and ecology. After Dinner we will explore little creeks in our canoes and listen to the sounds of nocturnal animals with the possibility of observing birds, frogs, snakes and caimans.

#### **Day 22 – Thurs 14 Amazon (B,L,D)**

Early morning we explore the surroundings along the water's edge in our canoes while we mainly find fruit eating birds like parrots and toucans. After breakfast we go for a jungle walk, to discover many surprising fragrances in leaves, fruits, woods and animals. Around midday we return and we may go for a swim, before lunch. In the afternoon we navigate through the Anavilhanas National Park, one of the world's largest fresh water archipelagos, a labyrinth of waterways. In the late afternoon we embark in the canoes and learn more about this wonderful nature park.

#### **Day 23 Fri 15 Amazon (B,L,D)**

Early this morning we spend a little time fishing for piranhas and other fish. After breakfast we visit a %Native Community+where we find many of the typical Amazonian fruits like Cupuaçu and Tapereba, palm trees like Açaí, Tucumã and Pupunha. We learn about the preparation of manioc flour and the health and education situation of the children. After lunch we are landing on one of the white sandy beaches to swim in the dark water and enjoy the Pink River Dolphins. Exploring by canoe and scout for wildlife in the late afternoon. On the way toward the Amazon River will be served dinner.

**Day 24 Sat 16 Manaus – Sao Paulo (B)**

Early this morning we explore the Lago Janauary Ecological Park. This area is usually a very good place to observe wildlife and chances to see the %Victoria Regia+the giant water lilies. While we have breakfast we navigate to the "Meeting of the Waters", the confluence of the world`s two largest rivers, the Amazon and the Negro. Then return towards Manaus with fine views of Manaus` waterfront. Transfer to the airport for late afternoon flight to Sao Paulo. Overnight at hotel near the airport with transfers included

Options:

It is possible to continue on to Rio or Iguassu Falls

**Day 25 Sun 17 Depart Sao Paulo (B)**

Transfer to the airport for your LAN Airlines flight via Santiago with overnight connection home. Cross the international dateline and lose a day

**Day 27 Tues 19 Auckland**

Arrive Auckland early this morning.