Amazon River Expedition

January 31 to February 9, 2014

Suzanne Alonzo  Associate Professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology
Join Yale Educational Travel exploring the mysterious Amazon River Basin, one of Earth's most exotic natural realms and our planet's largest rainforest ecosystem. The longest navigable river, the Amazon, winds more than 4,000 miles from its source in the Andes Mountains to the Atlantic Ocean, and its tributaries fan out over 1.5 million square miles to sustain the lush flora and extraordinary fauna of this fragile environment. Explore a boundless diversity of nature's most wondrous offerings from delicate orchids to transparent glass frogs and pink river dolphins, from the treetops of the lush rainforest to the depths of blackwater tributaries.

Join us for this phenomenal natural history tour aboard a small, expedition river vessel uniquely designed to travel during this “high water” season along remote tributaries of the Amazon that are inaccessible at any other time of year, gliding into areas few other visitors have ever seen. The newly refurbished La AMATISTA is one of a limited number of passenger vessels allowed to cruise this portion of the Peruvian Amazon, and its craftsmanship evokes the 19th century’s age of discovery while providing comfortable accommodations. In an authentic atmosphere of exploration, cruise beyond the confluence of the Río Ucayali and Río Marañón—the legendary inception of the Amazon River—where the primeval calls of birds and wildlife echo across the rainforest. Travel far beyond civilization to the Pacaya-Samiria National Reserve, the largest wetlands refuge in the world, navigating blackwater rivers and walking in remote forests where the number of butterfly species climbs into the thousands, and many species have yet to be classified or even discovered.

From your expedition vessel, English-speaking, expert Peruvian naturalists will lead you through the rainforest to see rare indigenous species and guide you down the Amazon's secretive, sinuous tributaries aboard small excursion boats. You will also visit local villages to gain insight into the traditional way of life of the ribereños (river people) and see a shaman perform an ancient ritual.

In addition to the mystifying reaches of the Amazon, this unique program also includes two nights in Lima, Peru, featuring a visit to its historic city center, a UNESCO World Heritage site; one night in Iquitos with an opportunity to experience its traditional market; and offers a magnificent Machu Picchu Post-Tour Option including a visit to the UNSAAC-Yale International Center for the Study of Machu Picchu and Inca Culture in Cuzco, Peru.

Travel with other Yale alumni and friends on this exclusive, phenomenal natural history tour at the very best time of year.

Reserve today to hold your spot on this once-in-a-lifetime adventure.

With best wishes from Yale,

Kathy Edersheim ’87
Senior Director
International Alumni Relations and Travel
Association of Yale Alumni

Dear Yale Traveler

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SUZANNE ALONZO

Suzanne Alonzo is an Associate Professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology specializing in mathematical theory and empirical studies in the fields of sexual selection and animal behavior. It is for this combination of evolutionary theory and detailed experimental work that she was recently awarded the National Science Foundation’s prestigious early CAREER award. Suzanne first became interested in the study of animal behavior and marine organisms during an undergraduate field studies course to French Polynesia, and she has been studying the striking diversity of fish reproductive behavior ever since. Her current research aims to understand how interactions within and between the sexes affect whether males and females exhibit parental care. Her field research takes her to Corsica each year to SCUBA dive in the Mediterranean to watch fish behavior. During our voyage, she plans to discuss various interesting aspects of terrestrial and aquatic life in this region, examine what is special about the tropics and how they differ from the more familiar temperate regions, and explore the unique biology of the Amazon and how our scientific knowledge can aid the conservation and management of these amazingly diverse places.
U.S./Lima, Peru
Friday, Day 1
Depart for the cosmopolitan coastal city of Lima, Peru, located at the foot of the Andes Mountains, and arrive late today. In the upscale, cultural Miraflores, district, located in the heart of the city, check into the deluxe CASA ANDINA PRIVATE COLLECTION HOTEL.

Lima
Saturday, Day 2
Enjoy a tour of Lima, Peru’s capital, and see the UNESCO World Heritage site of Plaza de Armas—the city’s main square, pre-Columbian temples and colonial mansions. Visit the magnificent Casa Aliaga, built in 1535 as the residence of Don Jeronimo de Aliaga, the co-founder of Lima. It is the oldest private house in continuous use in the western hemisphere and has been inhabited by the same Aliaga family for 17 generations. It is filled with original 16th-century Spanish art and furniture. Then, see the 17th-century Convent and Church of San Francisco, a brilliant combination of Moorish and Baroque styles and one of the finest colonial churches in South America.

The afternoon is at leisure. The Welcome Reception is in the hotel this evening.

Lima/Iquitos
Sunday, Day 3
Following breakfast, fly to the 19th-century rubber boom city of Iquitos, today a vibrant, culturally diverse international city.

Enjoy lunch in the hotel followed by a city tour highlighting the Plaza de Armas, home to the Iron House, designed by Gustave Eiffel for the International Exposition of Paris in 1889 and still considered one of the finest examples of civil architecture in Peru. Continue to the Amazon riverfront and along the beautiful Malecón Tarapacá. See majestic views of the river and the city’s architectural legacy of 19th-century European-Amazonian-style mansions built with Baroque and Rococo influences and stunning ceramic tiles imported from Italy and Portugal.

Overnight in the EL DORADO PLAZA HOTEL.

Iquitos/Nauta/Río Amazonas
Monday, Day 4
After breakfast, visit the colorful, traditional Belén Market before transferring to Nauta to embark the expedition vessel in time for lunch.

Early this afternoon, leave the modern world behind and begin your journey of discovery into one of the world’s most remote regions. Gather on the ship’s observation deck and watch as civilization fades and the vast Amazon River unfolds before you.

Please note: Itinerary may vary based on wildlife sightings, water levels and navigability.

Río Amazonas/Río Marañón/Amazon Natural Park
Tuesday, Day 5
Awake in the heart of the Amazon Basin, where the dense jungle teems with the

Watch for scarlet macaws, some of the most colorful and social birds in the Amazon rainforest, often gathering atop tall trees.

Cover photo: LA AMATISTA was built to blend into the natural environment of the Amazon River.

Photo this page: Explore the Amazon River’s serpentine course through one of the world’s most mysterious natural realms.
greatest diversity of plant and animal life on Earth and the perfect serenity of the river is broken only by the occasional fisherman paddling by in a traditional dugout canoe.

Journey beyond the confluence of the Ucayali and Marañón rivers, further along the Marañón. A team of expert naturalists will share their insight into this rich and complex ecosystem and help you identify fascinating species like the gray and pink river dolphins, which often swim alongside the vessel, and the South American oriole. Look for a three-toed sloth moving between trees in a slow-motion ballet, while hawks, kites and turkey vultures glide overhead and jabiru storks methodically search for food in the shallows.

This afternoon, visit a typical village to experience the timeless way of life of the ribereños (river people), who have inhabited the shores of the Amazon for generations. Enjoy a unique opportunity to interact with villagers and learn more about their special relationship with this remarkable environment.

Later this evening, take a special night excursion through the rainforest of the Amazon Natural Park in search of elusive nocturnal creatures such as caiman and bats, and admire a universe of stars.

Amazon Natural Park/Río Marañón
Wednesday, Day 6

A morning canoe ride across one of the park’s enchanting blackwater lakes introduces you to a riveting world of rare animals like the endearing capybara, a comically large, semi-aquatic rodent native only to South America. Watch for wildlife including macaws, egrets, oriole blackbirds and purple gallinules as you walk through a spectacular rainforest of soaring ceiba trees that reach as high as 200 feet to form a vast canopy, and a profusion of palms, orchids and other tropical plants that flourish at ground level. See the giant lupuna tree, one of the tallest species in the Amazon. Participate in a traditional Amazonian tree-planting ceremony dedicated to ensuring the longevity and health of the rainforest.

Continue exploring the mysterious realm of the Amazon Natural Park.
From the forest canopy walkway, observe the breathtaking wonders of the jungle and look for howler monkeys, colorful macaws and the rare electric-blue morpho butterfly.

After lunch, try your hand at catching a red-bellied piranha during a fishing expedition with the vessel’s naturalist. This evening, by special arrangement, meet a local shaman, or medicine man, who will perform a traditional ritual and explain how the ribereños have used indigenous plants and herbs for centuries to cure medical ailments.

Río Marañón/Río Pucate/Río Ucayali
Thursday, Day 7
Arrive at the Pacaya-Samiria National Reserve, the largest wetlands reserve in the world. Your expedition vessel is among the select few to cruise this narrow length of the Amazon River, where white-necked heron and wattled jacana dip into the shallow waters, and endangered scarlet macaws chatter through the forest’s canopy. Enjoy a special excursion aboard one of the vessel’s small boats through the remote Pucate Basin in search of exotic wildlife, including toucans and saddleback tamarin monkeys. Marvel at Victoria amazonica—giant water lilies—and enjoy a picnic lunch aboard the excursion boat while watching for gray and pink river dolphins to swim up to you.

Later, our onboard chef demonstrates the preparation of Amazonian specialties, including juanes, a regional favorite made of chicken and rice wrapped in banana leaves.

Río Ucayali/Río Amazonas/Nauta
Friday, Day 8
Enter a virtually uninhabited portion of the Amazon where the river narrows. Board excursion boats and cruise up narrow tributaries while the vessel’s naturalists point out captivating animal and plant life rarely detected by the untrained eye. Enjoy a final afternoon of cruising the Amazon en route to Nauta. Gather on the vessel’s upper deck for a festive farewell dinner as the sun sets over the lush flora of the passing rainforest.

Nauta/Iquitos/Lima
Saturday, Day 9
Following breakfast, disembark LA AMATISTA and transfer to the Iquitos airport. Fly to Lima and check into day-room accommodations in the HOTEL COSTA DEL SOL RAMADA. Late tonight, board your return flight to the U.S. or stay overnight in Lima and continue on the Machu Picchu and the Sacred Valley Post-Tour Option.

U.S.
Sunday, Day 10
Your flight arrives in the U.S.

Post-Tour Option is available at additional cost. Details will be provided with your reservation confirmation.
FARES INCLUDE: Expertise of a Study Leader, Travel Director and local guides throughout the tour; all accommodations in Lima and Iquitos (based on double occupancy); flights round trip between Lima and Iquitos; transfers round trip between Iquitos and Nauta; five-night, round-trip cruise aboard LA AMATISTA; eight breakfasts, six lunches, five dinners, and a Welcome Reception; all beverages included on board the ship; all excursions and visits as noted in the itinerary with experienced, English-speaking local guides; gratuities to ship personnel and naturalists, and to guides and drivers in Lima and Iquitos; transfers and luggage handling abroad for all participants whose arrival(s)/departure(s) coincide with the scheduled group transfer(s); travel document wallet, name badge and pre-departure information; automatic $250,000 flight insurance policy for each participant ticketed on flights by Gohagan & Company. NOT INCLUDED: Passport fees; visas and fees for obtaining visas; personal expenses such as laundry and telephone calls; accident/sickness, trip cancellation, and baggage insurance; gratuities to hotel personnel; optional sightseeing excursions; baggage charges on aircraft; local departure air taxes; airfare and associated local taxes, airport facility taxes and federal inspection fees not listed in the “Fares Include” section; and all other services not specifically mentioned in the “Fares Include” section.

Throughout the cruise, two English-speaking, highly trained naturalists provide expert insight into the Amazon's amazing array of biodiversity, wildlife and the culture of the indigenous peoples during lectures, small boat excursions and nature walks. Each comfortable, outside cabin has two twin beds or one double bed, private bathroom and individual climate control.

Onboard dining features Peruvian and international cuisine prepared each day from the freshest vegetables, fruit, fish and local ingredients. The backdrop for every meal is an ever-changing vista of the Amazon's exotic beauty viewed through the floor-to-ceiling windows in the Dining Salon.

LA AMATISTA features a specially designed, spacious open-air Observation Deck offering panoramic viewing by day, spectacular stargazing at night and a full bar. The vessel is also equipped with excursion boats ideal for shore visits into the most remote reaches of the Upper Amazon.

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The jacana gives the illusion of walking on water as its long delicate toes, with up to an eight-inch span, enable it to balance on tiny fragments of floating flora.
Enjoy a once-in-a-lifetime experience featuring Machu Picchu, the “Lost City of the Incas,” the colonial and Incan traditions of Cuzco, and the lush Sacred Valley and a visit to the UNSAAC-Yale International Center for the Study of Machu Picchu and Inca Culture in Cuzco. Located high in the Peruvian Andes, Machu Picchu was obscured from humankind for 400 years until Yale Professor Hiram Bingham literally stumbled upon it in 1911. A century of extensive research and study still has not revealed the secrets of its purpose, its residents or its abandonment; nevertheless, this UNESCO World Heritage site has been carefully excavated and preserved. The rushing Urubamba River flows through the beautiful Sacred Valley, where ancient engineering marvels, such as the fortress of Ollantaytambo, stand as lasting testimony to the powerful and far-reaching Inca empire. Here, village craftsmen employ age-old techniques to weave intricate tapestries and sculpt colorful pottery.

In the historic Inca capital of Cuzco, a UNESCO World Heritage site, the Incan stone fortress of Sacsayhuamán and grand Baroque- and Renaissance-style churches provide a fascinating mix of pre-Columbian and colonial influences.

Day 1  Lima, Peru
Day 2  Lima/Cuzco/Sacred Valley
Day 3  Sacred Valley/Scenic train ride to Machu Picchu
Day 4  Machu Picchu/Transfer to Cuzco
Day 5  Cuzco
Day 6  Cuzco/Lima
Day 7  Lima/Return to the U.S.

Plaza de Armas is the magnificent center of historic Cuzco.
TERMS & CONDITIONS

BAGGAGE ALLOWANCE: Passengers are allowed two checked bags per person on international flights. Airlines have various policies concerning the number of bags and the weight allowed without excess baggage charges.

PHYSICAL ACCESSIBILITY: All programs require physical independence and mobility. Individuals with disabilities must ensure that special medical attention or physical assistance (for example, the need for a wheelchair) can be reported in writing when you make your reservation. Travelers must be able to embark or disembark motorcoaches alone or with minimal assistance from your traveling companion and climb stairs and step over raised thresholds without special medical attention or physical assistance. Travelers requiring assistance must travel with a companion who will be responsible for handling equipment.

CANCELLATIONS AND REFUNDS: All cancellations must be submitted in writing to the Association of Yale Alumni. Written cancellation through 91 days prior to departure—full refund minus a $500 per person administrative fee. Written cancellation 90 days or less prior to departure could result in forfeiture of recovery costs from independent providers of services. Program reservations are not transferable except at the sole discretion and with the explicit approval of the Association of Yale Alumni and Thomas P. Gohagan & Company. Cancellation on day of departure or after tour departs—no refund. Cancellation of tour by the Association of Yale Alumni or our tour operator—full refund. We strongly urge applicants to consider purchasing trip cancellation insurance. INSURANCE: Yale Educational Travel strongly recommends that participants purchase trip cancellation insurance. However, Yale does not recommend a particular insurance company. It is wise to cover the cost of trip investment in case one needs to cancel due to illness or emergency. The cancellation penalties listed in the program brochure will apply. Please review your medical insurance coverage for any limitations, what is not covered while traveling abroad, or handling equipment.

There are many insurance companies to choose from. Please understand that there are restrictions on the type of insurance that will cover your trip. In general, if you pay in full at least 91 days prior to departure, coverage will be provided by Yale University, the Association of Yale Alumni, and Gohagan. Insurance may also be provided by your employer or your union, your travel agent, or, if purchased through Yale University, by the Gohagan Companies. If you decide not to purchase insurance, please note that Yale University, the Association of Yale Alumni, and Gohagan are not liable for any negligence or willful act or failure to act of any such person or entity of any third party.

In the event of death, injury, loss, death, inconvenience, delay, or damage to person or property in connection with the provision of any goods or services whether resulting from but not limited to, acts of God or force majeure, acts of war or civil unrest, insurrection or revolution, war, epidemic or other acts of God, any other compensation under these circumstances. Gohagan is not responsible for penalties assessed by air carriers resulting from operational and/or itinerary changes, even if Gohagan makes the flight arrangements or trip cancellation. REGISTRATION: CST: #2031868-40. WST: #601767666. OST: #TA0905.

Upon payment of a deposit, tour participant(s) indicates acceptance of the above Terms and Conditions and of the Arbitration Agreement.

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Responsibility section of this brochure and agree to their terms on behalf of myself and the members of my party.

Date: ___________________________________________________________

Signature(s) ______________________________________________________

Date: ___________________________________________________________

Signature(s) ______________________________________________________

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Yale Educational Travel Association of Yale Alumni
Box 209010, New Haven, CT 06520-9010  Fax: 203-432-0587

Reservation contact: (203) 432-1952 or edtravel@yale.edu

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**CATEGORY B, $5,695**
Cabin with window, private bathroom facilities and air conditioning. Two twin beds or one double bed. Main Deck. Single Pricing: $7,195

**CATEGORY A, $5,995**
Cabin with window, private bathroom facilities and air conditioning. Two twin beds or one double bed. Upper Deck. Single Pricing: $7,495

Taxes are included. All beverages on board are included. Ship gratuities are included.

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Please make my/our reservation(s) in Cabin Category:

1st Choice ______  2nd Choice ______

☐ Double occupancy (one double bed).
☐ Double occupancy (two twin beds).
☐ Single accommodations.

☐ I am reserving as a single but prefer to share accommodations and will allow you to select my roommate (shares cannot be guaranteed).

Please make my/our reservation(s):

- Machu Picchu and the Sacred Valley Post-Tour Option
  - Double at $2,495 per person.
  - Single at $3,195 per person.

☐ I am reserving as a single but prefer to share accommodations and will allow you to select my roommate (shares cannot be guaranteed).

☐ I/we want you to book my/our air from __________________________

(footnotes)

- Taxes are included.
- All beverages on board are included.
- Ship gratuities are included.

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**PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS:** Participants interested in this program should be in good health and able to walk at a moderate pace, without assistance, for a few miles on uneven terrain. You should be able to climb, without assistance, multiple sets of stairs that may not have handrails.

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[Signature as it appears on credit card]
Highlights

SPEND TWO NIGHTS in Lima, Peru, featuring a visit to its historic city center, a UNESCO World Heritage site, and one night in Iquitos with an opportunity to experience its traditional market.

EXPLORE A BOUNDLESS diversity of nature’s most wondrous offerings from delicate orchids to transparent glass frogs and pink river dolphins, from the treetops of the lush rainforest to the depths of blackwater tributaries.

VISIT LOCAL VILLAGES to gain insight into the traditional way of life of the ribereños (river people) and see a shaman perform an ancient ritual.

ENGLISH-SPEAKING, expert Peruvian naturalists will lead you through the rainforest to see rare indigenous species and guide you down the Amazon’s secretive, sinuous tributaries aboard special small excursion boats.

The bill of the Red-billed Toucan seems cumbersome, but is actually made of spongy, hollow bone covered in keratin.

Listen for the throaty call of the howler monkey, one of the Amazon’s most common species.