

*Private Expedition Cruises in the Amazon
Arrange a special cruise just for your group!*

The Amazon Odyssey On the MOTOR YACHT TUCANO



Private Cruises are Ideal for Groups

A) Thoughtful and Compact Itinerary

The itinerary of our group program is an active, meaningful and very authentic experience that is six days and five nights long. Starting in Manaus, Brasil the *Amazon Odyssey* cruise visits the two most important rivers in the Amazon: The Rio Negro and the Rio Amazonas.

B) Minimum Group Size is Small

The minimum group size is only 12 passengers. Most companies find that it is easy to enroll the minimum number and usually they enroll the maximum number, 18 passengers.

C) Only Your Passengers

Each group Amazon cruise is operated for one group only. No passengers from other groups are mixed into the departure. Your passengers will have the M/Y Tucano to themselves and will strongly identify with *your* company.

D) Departure Dates to Choose From

Companies are able to reserve group space far in advance so it is easy to reserve dates with plenty of time to promote a cruise.



Why Travel on The M/Y TUCANO? Operationally, Our Cruises are Superior

We Go Where Many Vessels Cannot: The M/Y TUCANO was built for the rivers of Amazonia. It has a shallow draft which allows us to explore the tributaries in the unsettled interior. Large vessels, because of their draft, are unable to go into the interior and are confined to the main rivers. On TUCANO we are able to navigate into the small tributaries where an abundance of wildlife can still be found.

Small Group Size: Even though the TUCANO is a big boat, it was designed for relatively small groups of up to eighteen participants. A small group size is really essential to observing wildlife. Large groups entail logistics that drive away wildlife and dilute personal contact with the guides. With a small group it is easier to communicate the magnificent detail of the flora and fauna of Amazonia.

Pristine Rainforests: We operate in one of the least settled areas of the Amazon. Our trips take place in true wilderness which is rarely seen by other visitors. The trips are never routine. Some cruise vessels ply the same waters week after week, year after year, but we vary our itineraries to keep them interesting for the guests and the guides alike.

Highly Skilled Guides: Our naturalists are some of the very best in the Amazon. They have the extensive knowledge of flora and fauna but also the culture of the Amazon settlers and of Brasil. For specialized tours, we can also bring with us well known scientists in almost any field to accompany the group.

We Are There!: We play a vital role in the trips. All of the details of the trip, from the course of TUCANO to how much salt is put in the food, are directly monitored by us. We do everything possible to make the expedition interesting and enjoyable to our guests.

Trip Description

The Amazon Odyssey

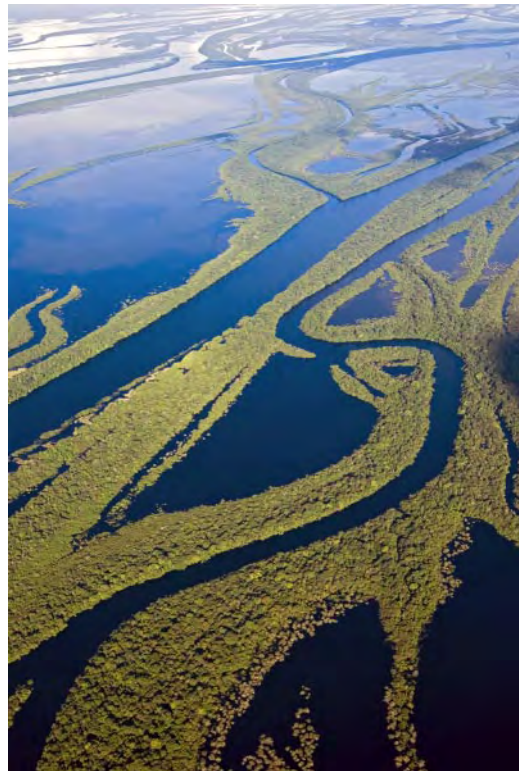
The expedition cruise *The Amazon Odyssey* is based on the vessel the MOTOR YACHT TUCANO. The cruise begins and ends in Manaus, Brasil. The M/Y Tucano is a river boat that is able to go deep into the small tributaries where the wildlife of the Amazon abounds. Though we use the boat to cover distances, we are not insulated from the forest. Several times daily we go into the rainforest by launch or on foot to explore. Some nights we scout by launch to observe nocturnal animals. During the day and in the evenings we have discussions on the creatures we observed that day and on the *ecology* of the rainforest.

The World's Greatest Rivers

The *Amazon Odyssey* explores the two different worlds of the Amazon: the timeless wilderness rainforests of the Rio Negro and the vibrant forests of the Amazon River, teeming with life. On our journey we will experience the sharp contrasts and very different forests of these two legendary rivers.

We first explore on the Rio Negro, where the water is the color of dark wine. We navigate our vessel into small tributaries deep into the rainforest. The M/Y Tucano goes deep into the pristine wilderness. Almost completely devoid of nutrients, the Negro water is acidic and dark in color....it is a giant river of tea. The acidic water has resulted in the evolution of an extremely diverse collection of plants and animals that are unique in all of the Amazon.

In contrast, the Amazon River is white-brown in color. This is not because of rapids, but due to suspended soils eroded from the Andes. One of the world's youngest and fastest growing mountain ranges, the Andes are subjected to furious erosion. Along with unimaginable volumes of rich nutrients, the



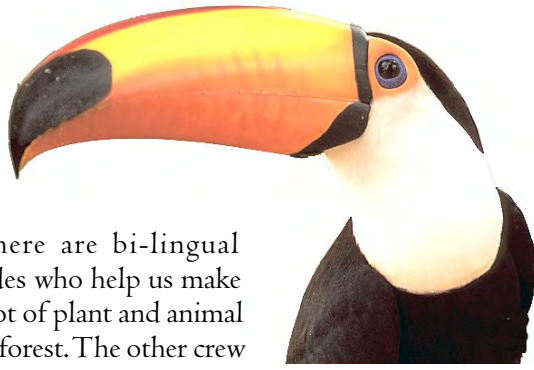
Amazon hauls along with it uprooted trees and entire islands of floating vegetation. The water is muddy, thick, and has a swift current.

This rich water supports a great density of wildlife. We will see large numbers of birds of every color and shape, gargantuan trees, and we usually also observe monkeys. We will cruise to the *Encontra das Aguas*, the confluence of the world's two greatest rivers, the Amazon and the Rio Negro. Here the warm black water of the Negro collides with the dense liquid earth of the Amazon and the surface boils upward in whirlpools stretching on for many miles. Along this stark division dolphins leap in the air and then dive into the black water, snatching up fish. The black water and the white water flow side by side for miles without mixing.

Accommodations and Staff of M/Y Tucano

Our excursion boat is comfortable, safe and very well suited to exploring the Amazon wilderness. The MOTOR YACHT TUCANO is built in the elegant style of a 19th Century river steamer, but it is actually a modern and fully certified commercial cruise vessel. All of the cabins are outside cabins and each has its own bathroom. There are two cooks who prepare elaborate meals from fresh ingredients.





On board there are bi-lingual naturalist guides who help us make sense of the riot of plant and animal life of the rainforest. The other crew members also have a wealth of information about the culture of the rainforest peoples. Our staff is highly trained and offers a very attentive and careful service.

While we are able to travel in reasonable comfort, we are not insulated from the forest. We remain focused on the flora and fauna of this magnificent wilderness. The voyage is quite active and we spend most of every day exploring the forest on foot or in our boat's launches.

Our Days in the Rainforest


The Amazon Odyssey is an active program. We spend quite a lot of time off the vessel every day, exploring the forest. The daily schedule varies, There are as many as five excursions off the boat every day. We get up with the sun every morning and either search in our launches for birds and wakening howler monkeys or we walk in the forest. In the middle of the morning we return to the M/Y Tucano for a full Brazilian breakfast. Later in the morning, after some relaxation we go again for another excursion, usually a walk in the forest.

In the afternoon on most days we will look for an interesting place to explore small streams winding through the trees. One afternoon we might fish for some of the fantastic diversity of fish found in the Amazon. We will catch them and make them movie stars with our cameras and then return them to their watery home. We will always be at the ready to photograph the red bellied piranha or the armored catfish with his foot-long feelers. Some evenings we board the launches and hunt for *jacaré*, Amazon crocodiles, with flashlights and cameras. Throughout the trip our theme will be to observe wildlife with great intensity and curiosity, but not to injure or destroy plants or animals.

Another important feature of our trip is visits to the homes of river settlers. We will have a talk with them—and folks living this far in the interior are always happy to have visitors—and we will walk in their extensive gardens. Though their lives are so dramatically different from ours, their great dignity and competence are obvious and for many passengers this experience is one of the most memorable of the trip.

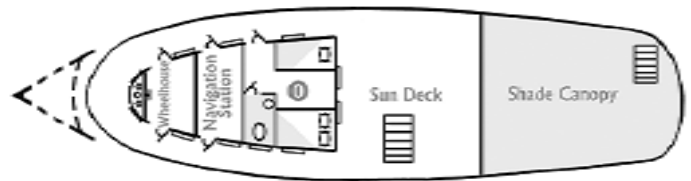
Deck Plans:

THE MOTOR YACHT TUCANO

All of the cabins on the M/Y Tucano are outside cabins with large windows and private baths. Each cabin is air-conditioned with its own thermostat. The Dining Room/Salon is at the front of the boat affording splendid views of the rainforest. The Salon is air-conditioned, though in the cool of the day we generally leave the windows open to breathe the fresh air scented by Amazon blossoms. This symbol:  equals windows. There are lots of them!

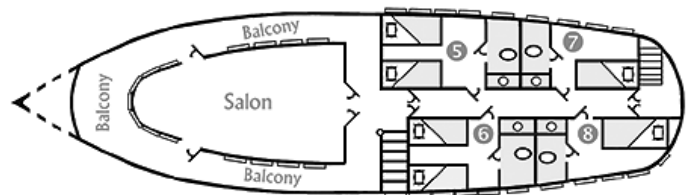
Observation Deck

This deck is open and an exceptional place to observe wild-life. The forward balcony allows views into the forest canopy. Cabin "0" has a queen size bed and a single bed.



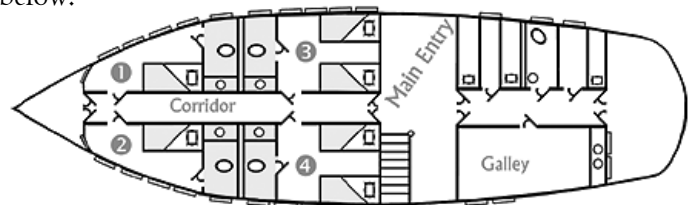
Middle Deck

Cabins "5" and "6" have single size beds side by side which can be placed together to form a queen size bed. Cabins "7" and "8" have bunks with a single size mattress above and below.



Main Deck

Cabins "3" and "4" have single size beds which can be placed together to form a queen size bed. A narrow bed can also be inserted in these cabins to accommodate three persons. Cabins "1" and "2" have bunks with a single size mattress above and below.



Itinerary, 6 Days / 5 Nights:

The Amazon Odyssey

Day 1 Monday This morning we embark on the MOTOR YACHT TUCANO in Manaus, Brasil and depart upstream on the Rio Negro. As we glide upstream close to the shore we will study the magnificent tangle of vegetation for brightly colored flowers or monkeys scurrying about in the branches. Amazonia has the greatest collection of birds in the world and we are sure to see some of these brightly colored jewels perched in the treetops.

Around midday we will have an orientation talk about Amazon environments. As the boat weaves in through the winding channel with rainforest on both sides we will closely study the wild forest from the observation deck. Around mid-afternoon we will pass the frontier of settlement and begin traveling in a wilderness area. We may stop for a swim from a beautiful beach and scout about in our boat's launches to observe wildlife feeding before sunset. (LD)

Day 2 Tuesday We rise with the sun and have an early morning excursion observing birds, and if we are lucky, primates like howler monkeys or dusky-titi monkeys. We will explore the *Reserva Ecologica Anavilhanas Archipelago*, a reserve that includes the world's largest system of river islands and also areas of tall dense rainforest. After a good breakfast we will go for our first walk in the high forest known as the *terre firme*. Here we have a good chance to see the markings, if not the animals themselves, of some of the Amazon's great mammals like peccaries (wild pigs) or even a jaguar. In the afternoon we will excursion in our launches to study the late afternoon forest and listen to the sunset chorus of birds, howler monkeys, and frogs. Weather permitting, tonight we will have an excursion to spot caiman (the Amazon's crocodiles) and other nocturnal creatures. We very often see arboreal porcupines or sloths scrambling high in the limbs. (BLD)

Day 3 Wednesday After our morning excursion and a full breakfast, weather permitting, we will take another walk in the rainforest. In the early afternoon we will get underway and enter one of the world's largest river island systems, the Anavilhanas Archipelago. We will explore this interesting maze of islands until the late afternoon when we will visit the Amazon village of *Novo Airão* where the style of building wooden boats has not changed in 100 years. Tonight we will travel downstream all the way to the confluence of the world's two largest rivers: the Rio Negro and the Amazon. (BLD)

Day 4 Thursday Rising very early we will excursion in our launches in the *Lago Janáuari Ecological Park*. This park is flooded with the coffee colored water of the Amazon River. We will see a very different collection of wildlife in this extremely rich system. There will be a profusion of birdlife and we almost always see squirrel monkeys and occasionally anteaters or sloths.

During breakfast the M/Y Tucano will navigate to the "*Encontra das Aguas*" the several mile long line where the world's two largest rivers, the Amazon and the Rio Negro, join in a turbulent maelstrom. Here the dark water of the Negro runs beside the opaque brown water of the Amazon. Dolphins usually leap and cavort along this stark line of contrasting water. Afterwards we will enter the main channel of the Amazon River itself and travel until the early afternoon soaking up the vast spaces the world's most mighty river.

By the late afternoon we will reach a smaller channel of the Amazon and begin concentrating on the fascinating Amazon environment known as the *varzea*. We will explore one of the large lakes on the south bank of the Amazon, *Lago Janauacá*. We are sure to see a wonderful diversity of birdlife and probably an iguana or monkeys. The plant life will be very different here with giant buttressed trees and massive tangles of vines. We are likely also to see primates, and if we are lucky, a three-toed sloth. Tonight we will have another excursion to observe the night shift of Amazon fauna which includes caiman (the Amazon's crocodiles). (BLD)

Day 5 Friday Today we will have a variety of excursions exploring one of the large lakes off the Amazon River. We will also visit the home of a settler or a small village to learn a little about how they survive on the edge of this vast wilderness. In the late afternoon or early evening our vessel will enter the main channel of the Amazon River and begin returning to Manaus for arrival late that night. Sometimes this is a good night to have a farewell party on the top deck and we can try to persuade our cook to teach us a bit of samba as we cruise under the countless stars of the southern sky. (BLD)

Day 6 Saturday Early this morning following breakfast travelers will disembark the vessel in Manaus, Brasil. (B)

Please note that the day to day schedule must be considered approximate. Features may be altered due to navigational or weather considerations.

Meal Codes: B= Breakfast, L= Lunch, D= Dinner)

Degree of Difficulty: Good health is necessary. Though the trip does not include endurance hiking, participants should be able to get in and out of launches and feel comfortable walking at a leisurely pace for 2 to 3 hours at a time.



Guide Making Animal Calls

The Amazon Odyssey

Group Expedition Cruises on the M/Y TUCANO

The Amazon Odyssey explores the two different worlds of the Amazon: the timeless wilderness rainforests of the Rio Negro and the vibrant forests of the Amazon River, teeming with life. These are the most storied rivers in all of the Amazon and on our journey we will experience the sharp contrasts of the two largest rivers in the world.

Itinerary Sketch

Day 1 Depart Manaus, Brazil and voyage north on the Rio Negro to the Rio Apuaú

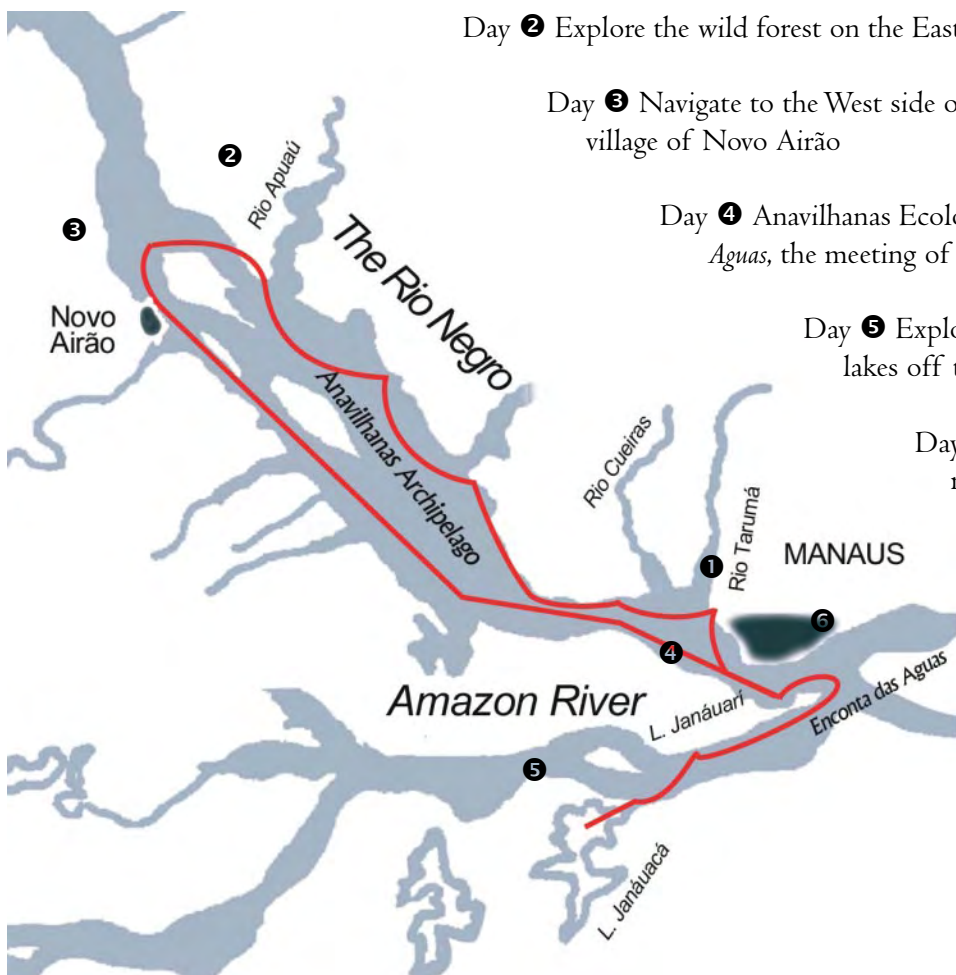
Day 2 Explore the wild forest on the East Side of the Rio Negro

Day 3 Navigate to the West side of the Rio Negro, visit the boat building village of Novo Airão

Day 4 Anavilhanas Ecological Park, navigate on the *Encontra das Aguas*, the meeting of the Amazon River and The Rio Negro.

Day 5 Explore the Amazon River and the hidden lakes off the main river, night excursion.

Day 6 Return to Manaus, disembark in the morning.



Please note that the day to day schedule must be considered approximate. The exact order of the days and specific features may be altered due to navigational considerations.



Howler Monkey