



4 Day/3 Night Amazon Cruise

Delfin II was launched in March 2009 after a refit and full refurbishment lasting two years. The vessel combines everything you could wish for in a luxury Amazon cruise in an understated casual atmosphere. The cabins are simply but luxuriously appointed. All have huge windows so you can watch the Amazon as you glide along. Beds are made with beautifully soft Peruvian cotton sheets. Towels are light and fluffy. Luxury toiletries are fully biodegradable. Air-conditioning in the cabins keeps out the mosquitoes and ensures a comfortable night's sleep.

Day 1 Arrive Iquitos

Pickup from either a hotel in Iquitos (for those arriving early) or from the airport for transfer to the Delfin riverboat in Nauta, which lies between Iquitos and the Marañon River. On arrival in Nauta, you will board the Delfin and have time to settle into your cabin. It will become clear that you are travelling where few have gone before. In fact, you will be a part of a select group of travellers who will visit the remote Pacaya Samiria Reserve, 2 million hectares of protected, flooded forest, roughly the size of a small Central American country. A world of flora and fauna awaits you.

Afterwards dinner will be served in the cosy dining room located at the back of the ship's second deck. Aside from providing you with your first rainforest adventure, the Delfin II is also a unique culinary experience, offering the best of Amazonian-Peruvian cuisine in a cosmopolitan gourmet setting.

After dinner, the guides will provide a brief orientation on the top observation deck. Using charts and short videos displayed the guides will outline details of your journey, including the places you will visit, the wildlife you will see, as well as a summary of the history and geography of the Amazon basin. Finally, under the beauty of an Amazonian night filled with hundreds of stars or perhaps a full moon, and wafted by the gentle breeze of the rainforest, the multi-talented staff will entertain you with a little live music, while you enjoy an after dinner drink and a fine Amazonian cigar. **(D)**

Day 2 Yanallpa – Dorado River

After an early breakfast this morning (as dawn and dusk are ideal times for nature observation) you will enjoy some excursions on shore. Aboard the skiffs, you will explore the black water stream and start learning about the rainforest. You are now in the Pacaya-Samiria national reserve, where you will have the chance to see its amazing wildlife. From the skiff you can easily spot parrots, macaws and monkeys, such as the monk Saki monkey with its gray and black body, naked face and long shaggy tail. You might also see the saddle-back tamarin monkey, whose high chirping notes can easily be confused with those of a flock of birds. It's also a good spot to see the beautiful morpho butterfly that flaps lazily along open corridors through forest or along river edges of lowland forest on sunny days. Different species of hawks will also be found and if we are lucky we'll see the noisy "laughing falcon," named after its loud falsetto call as it sits solitary in secondary forest and plantations.

(June – November) Hiking at the community of Yanallpa

During the low-water season, you can visit the community of Yanallpa and explore two different kinds of ecosystems: flooded forest and terra firme forest. After disembarking at this native village, we'll start our morning hike. This walk affords excellent opportunities for spotting transitional species such as the snail kite, black tailed ant bird, manikins, tanagers, hummingbirds, woodpeckers, nun birds, orioles, blackbirds, etc. You'll also see tall trees filled with epiphytes, woody vines and many varieties of palm trees. After an hour we'll reach a lovely lagoon where two dugout canoes await us in the midst of one of the most remote, least visited areas in the world. This lagoon is filled with endangered and unique fresh water fish, such as the paiche, the largest in the Amazon basin, which can weigh more than 80kg (170 lbs). The paiche is considered a delicacy, and you can often hear them when they rise to the surface. We'll also look for the peculiar crested hoatzin bird with its olive-colored plumage. Hoatzins live in small family groups along forested swamps and oxbow lakes. We will then hike back to the skiffs, where icy towels will refresh us, while we continue exploring the surrounding wildlife. There's a good chance of spotting the smallest monkey in the world, the pygmy marmoset, seen only at its sap-sucking sites low on tree trunks.

Afterwards you will enjoy lunch on board. The menu features fresh fish and other local delicacies, all prepared with an Amazonian flair and a personal touch.

After lunch you will head out for another exciting excursion in the skiffs to a spectacular spot within the Pacaya-Samiria Reserve, a place where you will experience an unforgettable encounter with gray and pink river dolphins. Enjoy a unique opportunity to swim among the dolphins. On the river you will experience abundant wildlife and nature in all of its exuberance while you search for the Amazon river's transitional forest specialties such as snail kites, festive parrots, endangered scarlet macaws, olive spotted hummingbirds, Amazonian parrots, wood creepers among others. Prehistoric-looking iguanas laze in the sun while you travel along the shoreline searching for whatever the jungle has to offer. Squirrel Monkeys are very active at this time of the day, when they move in large noisy troops at mid-to upper-levels of primary and secondary lowland forest. Return to the Delfin for dinner. **(B,L,D)**

Day 3 Pacaya River – Atun Poza Lagoon

Early wake-up call this morning and breakfast on board the skiffs, in order to see as much wildlife as possible in one of the earth's greatest wilderness. Reaching the main goal, the Pacaya River, in the very heart of the Pacaya-Samiria National Reserve, Peru's largest protected area with a mean annual rainfall of nearly 3,000mm, 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 one of the most beautiful places you may ever visit. An early rise is very rewarding: you'll see parrots, macaws, toucans, kingfishers, black collared hawks, southern swallows, white winged swallows, and manikins. Aside from the large variety of birds, you'll also see troops of squirrel monkeys. Aboard our comfortable skiffs, we will go in search of magnificent views and wildlife opportunities, experiencing spectacular rainforest wilderness, while searching for different species of monkeys, such as small family groups of red howler monkeys, the largest in the Amazon basin, with its bright rust-coloured fur and long prehensile tail. As the sun starts to heat up, continue along the shores of the Pacaya River, spotting huge ceiba or kapok trees, mahogany trees, strangler figs, epiphytes such as bromeliads and orchids, palm trees and woody

vines. Breakfast will be served afloat amidst a favoured dolphin-feeding spot. After breakfast, you may enjoy a refreshing swim in the beautiful dark, clean and warm water. Return to the Delfin afterwards for lunch.

04:00 pm. Atun Poza expedition

(December – May) Atun Poza by skiff: This afternoon cruise in the skiffs along a lake called Atun Poza, where you will encounter several species of egrets, herons, hawks, long-legged neo-tropical cormorants fishing for their dinner, and unusual and loud-horned screamers. You will also have a chance to explore other black water lagoons linked to this huge lake, where wattled jacanas compete with a wide variety of spiders, grasshoppers, dragonflies, butterflies, moths, beetles, etc. living along the grassy edges and lily pads of freshwater swamps and marshes. An excellent opportunity of seeing social spiders and how their webs embrace huge parts of a tree.

(June – November) hiking at Atun Poza: This afternoon hike through this pristine and unique ecosystem, passing through a classic tropical rainforest with emergent trees and canopy trees reaching up to 55 metres in height. Many trees have buttress roots which often extend high up the trunks while palms are abundant and many of them have stilt roots. Biologically, this kind of forest is probably one of the richest habitats on earth, supporting the most species of plants and animals per unit area. Encounter the giant ceiba or kapok tree with its large diameter. If you're lucky you may also see giant otters with their large bodies, dark fur with spotted throat and noisy calls. They nest by a small stream inside this forest, but we must be very quiet, because if they hear us they will swim away. This forest is also very good for spotting birds such as the bluish-fronted jacamar seen in pairs in middle and lower parts of forest edges, or collared trogons, red-capped cardinals, etc.

Return to the Delfin to enjoy a Farewell Dinner. Leaving behind the wildlife, you will continue enjoying the on-board service as the talented staff will delight you with some live music before you retire. **(B,L,D)**

Day 4 Yarapa River – Puerto Miguel Village – Nauta

This morning, the smell of fresh ground toasted coffee will be the wakeup call and as usual you will continue enjoying all the different types of local fresh fruit for a good start to the morning.

On board the skiffs you will stop at the village of Puerto Miguel to meet local villagers. You will have the chance to learn about their culture, traditions and folklore. You may also visit one of the villager's homes, to see how they live and the simplicity of their lifestyle and purchase some of the handcrafts they make. After visiting the village, we will explore the Yarapa river, where there's a good chance that you'll see squirrel and capuchin monkeys, herons, egrets and green iguanas. We will reach a beautiful lagoon called Uvos, named after a fruit that grows wild along its shores. Pink river dolphins ply its waters in search of fish. The forest also boasts abundant flora including a variety of bromeliads and orchids. Monkeys love these surroundings.

Back on board the Delfin, continue sailing downstream to the confluence of the Ucayali and the Marañon, birthplace of the Amazon river. Dolphins delight in this special setting. This is also the time to gather all of your things, pack your bags and check out.

Arrive in Nauta after lunch and disembark. Before returning to Iquitos, visit the Minga Perú ONG (located in the main Plaza of Nauta city) a socially responsible, non-profit organisation committed to foster social justice through the promotion of better health and higher standards of living and sustainable management of natural resources. Afterwards continue to Iquitos and your hotel or Iquitos Airport approximately 4.45pm **(B,L)**

***** End of services with Travel Projects *****

NOTE: All activities are subject to change due to weather conditions and time of year. River and tributaries level may vary and thus navigation times and excursions may need to be modified at the captain's discretion.

General Information

- The weather in Iquitos is warm and humid with average annual maximum temperature of 33°C (95°F) and minimum of 21°C (70°C).
- The dry season is from May to November. Wet season is from December to April.
- The seasons feature differences in the plant and animal life as well as in the climate.
- All activities are subject to change due to weather conditions and time of year.
- River & tributary levels may vary and thus navigation times & excursions may need to be modified at the captain's discretion.
- Vitamin B or B-12 taken 15 days before your arrival in the jungle has been proven to be the most effective natural repellent.
- Do not forget to include some items that you can give away to the locals. (T-shirts, pens and paper are especially prized).
- Change Soles into small bills Lima Airport for shopping in Puerto Miguel's arts & craft market & helping the local economy.
- Tipping is expected by the crew and the guides, envelopes will be provided in your cabin (suggested amount is USD\$100 per passenger)

INCLUDED:

- Cruise visits as per itinerary
- Return transfers Iquitos airport/boat/airport
- Meals as specified
- Naturalist guides
- Entrance Fee to Pacaya Samiria National Reserve.

NOT INCLUDED:

- Flights
- Optional activities
- Departure taxes
- Alcohol and Beverages
- Extras in hotels (laundry, phone calls, room service, etc.)
- Gratuities

Please Note: Please be aware that arrival times and the itinerary may change due to unforeseen delays or events such as festivals and public holidays. However, we shall endeavour to ensure all sites are visited and that your tour runs as smoothly as possible but please note that Latin America does not run like clockwork, therefore do not expect the streamlined travel arrangements associated with some other continents. Things do not always go to plan; there will be times when you will need to be patient and philosophical about your travels. Conditions in South America can change rapidly and changes to the itinerary may be necessary. Be flexible, you will enjoy your tour much more. Travel Projects Pty Ltd. makes a point of visiting the indigenous populations of each country you visit, in order to give a true reflection of the country; please treat the local people and their customs with respect. Lastly, your tour guides are always conscious of everybody's views, but sometimes he/she will have to make an unpopular decision and your understanding will be appreciated in these circumstances.

Insurance: Travel insurance is compulsory for all tours. All clients MUST be insured to cover personal accident, medical expenses, cancellation, curtailment and repatriation. If you have not already arranged your insurance Travel Projects can do this for you.

Please call us on the Travel Projects 1300 662 533 number, or on 03-9670 7304 in Australia for further information. No client will be allowed on tours without suitable insurance. At the start of your tour or on collection of your travel documents, you will be asked to present your original policy document and complete an insurance information form. We recommend that you have a photocopy of this document, which you keep separate from the original. It is very important that your insurance policy is relevant to the Travel Projects style of travel. Also, be aware that many of the optional activities such as bungy jumping or water rafting may not be covered on your policy. If you plan on doing any of these activities please purchase additional insurance.

Passport: Your passport is a valuable document and you should exercise extreme care in keeping it safe. We recommend that you keep your passport on you at all times, preferably in a money belt that is worn under your clothing or in a suitable safe deposit box at your hotel. It must be valid for at least six months after the end of your tour and it must have at least one blank page for each visa required. We advise that you take copies of relevant pages in your passport and any visas that you may purchase in case of loss or damage. We recommend that you have a photocopy of all passport details, kept separate.

Visa Requirements: It is important that you obtain the appropriate visas before you embark on your Latin America trip. Country entry regulations change daily, www.columbusguides.com/region/atoz.asp provides up-to-date visa information. Please consult your Travel Agent or relevant embassy for all details such as opening hours or costs. **EACH CLIENT IS SOLELY RESPONSIBLE FOR OBTAINING ALL NECESSARY VISAS BEFORE JOINING A TOUR.** Travel Projects Pty Ltd. does not accept responsibility for changes in regulations or requirements for visas. The information provided is given in good faith. Please note the following are approximate prices and can vary, however this should help you with your budgeting.

Kind Regards,
Ed Garcia/Hanna Shilo/Ushi Grant

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Delfin II

5 Day/4 Night Amazon Cruise

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Day 1 Arrive Iquitos

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Afterwards dinner will be served in the cosy dining room located at the back of the ship's second deck. Aside from providing you with your first rainforest adventure, the Delfin II is also a unique culinary experience, offering the best of Amazonian-Peruvian cuisine in a cosmopolitan gourmet setting.

After dinner, the guides will provide a brief orientation on the top observation deck. Using charts and short videos displayed the guides will outline details of your journey, including the places you will visit, the wildlife you will see, as well as a summary of the history and geography of the Amazon basin. Finally, under the beauty of an Amazonian night filled with hundreds of stars or perhaps a full moon, and wafted by the gentle breeze of the rainforest, the multi-talented staff will entertain you with a little live music, while you enjoy an after dinner drink and a fine Amazonian cigar. **(D)**

Day 2 Belluda Caño and River Dorado

After an early breakfast this morning (as dawn and dusk are ideal times for nature observation) you will enjoy some excursions on shore.

Rainy Season (Dec – May) - Belluda Stream exploration. Aboard the skiffs, explore this black water stream and start learning about the rainforest. You are now in Pacaya Samiria national reserve, where you will have the chance to see its amazing wildlife. From the skiff you can easily spot parrots, macaws and monkeys, such as the Saki monkey with its gray and black body, naked face and long shaggy tail. You might also see the saddle-back tamarin monkey, whose high chirping notes can easily be confused with those of a flock of birds. It's also a good spot to see the beautiful morpho butterfly that flaps lazily along open corridors through forest or along river edges of lowland forest on sunny days. Different species of hawks will also be found and if we are lucky we'll see the noisy "laughing falcon," named after its loud falsetto call while sitting solitary in secondary forest and plantations.

Dry Season (Jun – Nov) Hiking at Belluda Caño

During the dry season, you can visit and explore two different kinds of ecosystems: flooded forest and terra firma forest. After disembarking at the native village you will start the morning hike. This walk affords excellent opportunities for spotting transitional species such as the snail kite, black tailed ant bird, manikins, tanagers, hummingbirds, woodpeckers, nun birds, orioles, blackbirds, etc. You will also see tall trees filled with epiphytes, woody vines and many varieties of palm trees. After an hour you will reach a lovely lagoon where two dugout canoes await you in the midst of one of the most remote, least visited areas in the world. This lagoon is filled with endangered and unique fresh water fish, such as the paiche, the largest in the Amazon basin which can weigh more than 80kg. The paiche is considered a delicacy and you can often hear them when they rise to the surface. There may be a chance to spot the peculiar crested hoatzin bird with its olive-coloured plumage. Hoatzins live in small family groups along forested swamps and oxbow lakes. Afterwards, hike back to the skiffs, where icy towels will refresh you, while continuing to explore the surrounding wildlife. There will be a good chance of finding the smallest monkey in the world, the pygmy marmoset, seen only at its sap-sucking sites low on tree trunks.

Afterwards you will enjoy lunch on board. The menu features fresh fish and other local delicacies, all prepared with an Amazonian flair and a personal touch.

After lunch you will head out for another exciting excursion in the skiffs to a spectacular spot within the Pacaya-Samiria Reserve, a place where you will experience an unforgettable encounter with gray and pink river dolphins. Enjoy a unique opportunity to swim among the dolphins. On the river you will experience abundant wildlife and nature in all of its exuberance while you search for the Amazon river's transitional forest specialties such as snail kites, festive parrots, endangered scarlet macaws, olive spotted hummingbirds, Amazonian parrots, wood creepers among others. Prehistoric-looking iguanas laze in the sun while you travel along the shoreline searching for whatever the jungle has to offer. Squirrel Monkeys are very active at this time of the day, when they move in large noisy troops at mid-to upper-levels of primary and secondary lowland forest. Return to the Delfin for dinner. **(B,L,D)**

Day 3 Atun Poza Lake-Rio Pacaya

After a delicious breakfast, your jungle experience continues.

Rainy Season (Dec – May) Atun Poza by skiff: This morning we will cruise in our skiffs along a lake called Atun Poza, where we will surprise several species of egrets, herons, hawks, long-legged neotropical cormorants fishing for their dinner, and unusual and loud horned screamers. We will also have a chance to explore other black water lagoons linked to this huge lake, where wattled jacanas compete with a wide variety of spiders, grasshoppers, dragonflies, butterflies, moths, beetles, etc. living along the grassy edges and lily pads of freshwater swamps and marshes. We will have an excellent opportunity of seeing social spiders and how their webs embrace huge parts of a tree.

Dry Season (Jun – Nov) hiking at Atun Poza: Today we will hike through this pristine and unique ecosystem, passing through a classic tropical rainforest with emergent trees and canopy trees reaching up to 55 mt in height. Many trees have buttress roots which often extend high up the trunks while palms are abundant and many of them have stilt roots. Biologically, this kind of forest is probably one of the richest habitats on earth, supporting the most species of plants and animals per unit area. Our target is the giant ceiba or kapok tree with its large diameter. If we're lucky, we'll also see giant otters with their large bodies, dark fur with spotted throat and noisy calls. They nest in a small stream inside this forest and we must be very quiet, because if they hear us they will swim away. This forest is also very good for spotting birds such as the bluish-fronted jacamar seen in pairs in middle and lower parts of forest edges, or collared trogons, red capped cardinals, etc.

This afternoon continue up the Puinahua River towards the Pacaya River, at the very heart of the Pacaya-Samiria National Reserve, Peru's largest protected area with a mean annual rainfall of nearly 3,000mm, 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 one of the most beautiful places you'll ever visit.

Aboard comfortable skiffs, explore magnificent views and wildlife opportunities, experiencing spectacular rainforest wilderness, while searching for different species of monkeys, such as small family groups of red howler monkeys, the largest in the Amazon basin, with its bright rust-coloured fur and long prehensile tail. At sunset, you'll be will be astonished by the beautiful colours of the sky and the reflection of the jungle in the black water of the Pacaya River, which is why it has been called the forest of reflections: it's hard to know where the jungle begins and the water ends. Once it is dark, you'll hear the second instalment of the jungle symphony. Armed with powerful spot lights, you will start the night safari in search of night herons, pauragues, spectacled owls, up to a dozen species of croaking from the river's edge, and fish bats flying over the water scooping up fish. Spectacled and black caimans are found in these pristine waters, and the guides will point them out to you. Stargazing at this time is unique while fireflies light up the jungle. **(B,L,D)**

Day 4 Car Curahuayte Lagoon – Jungle Hick

Early wake-up call around 7am in order to see as much wildlife as possible, in one of the earth's greatest wilderness and enjoy some fishing at Caro Curahuayte Lake or exploring the Shores of emergent Islands

Rainy Season – Fishing at Caro Curahuayte

On board our excursion skiffs, head for a beautiful lake, where you can expect to catch some fish, mainly piranhas. During the rainy season, the forest is flooded and many trees flower and bear fruit in conjunction with the flooding. Many fish, including piranhas, swim among the flooded tree trunks devouring the fruit or chewing at their skins. Obviously, the piranhas' reputation as super-carnivores is an exaggeration! There are 25 different species of piranha in the Amazon basin, including black, white and red bellied.

Dry Season – In search of shore-birds

On board the skiffs, search for shore-birds. When the river is very low, broad white sandy beaches emerge and river islands form, creating a special ecosystem that harbours sandpipers, terns that hover and dive to catch fish, black skimmers with their peculiar low flight over the water's surface, egrets, jabirus, wood storks, and kingfishers.

In the afternoon the Delfin will start navigating back down the Puinahua. Visit the riverside community of Yanallpa, which will be your first interaction with local villagers where you will discover their unique way of life and learn all about the fruit trees and how they harvest them. This is the time to bring along any small gifts you may have to give out to the community (papers, books, pencils, colours, t-shirts). They will really appreciate them and will be very pleased.

This evening as you continue towards the Ucayali River, the guides will review all that you have seen and learned, with the help of videos and a slide show. Tonight you will also enjoy a Farewell Dinner. **(B,L,D)**

Day 5 Amazon River – Yarapa River – Puerto Miguel Community

After enjoying your last breakfast on board (so be sure to try all the things you have resisted) you will go ashore for your last excursion. On board our skiffs, stop at the village of Puerto Miguel to meet local villagers. You will have the chance to learn about their culture, traditions and folklore. You may also visit one of the villager's homes, to see how they live and the simplicity of their lifestyle and purchase some of the handcrafts they make.

Afterwards continue sailing down the Amazon River towards Iquitos. This is also the time to gather all of your things pack and pack your bags. Disembark at Nauta around 1.30pm where a bus will be waiting to take you back to Iquitos arriving at around 4.30pm. **(B,L)**

***** End of services with Travel Projects *****



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Kind Regards,
Ed Garcia/Hanna Shilo/Ushi Grant

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