

Tucano Cruise Planner

2025-2026

Expedition Voyages on
THE MOTOR YACHT TUCANO



Well beyond the ordinary

Active

Adventurous

Unique

Nimble

Smart

Far into the Wild

Stylish

Elegant

Way off the grid



Amazon Cruise Planner - 2025-2026

THE MOTOR YACHT TUCANO

What Makes the Best Amazon Voyage? Active, Authentic and Meaningful

Dear Adventurer:

What do travelers want? We all want to want experience the world in a meaningful way. This has been our commitment for all of our years in the Amazon, to share the profound wonder at the exuberance of life, here in this wild magical forest. We are thoroughly devoted to observing the wonders of tropical nature.

There is lots of information in this booklet! But don't worry! It is really it is easy to plan a journey and we are happy to help! Check out the *Six Quick Facts* on the next page.

We look forward to offering travelers an exciting and meaningful experience deep in the greatest wilderness on earth.

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How are Tucano Voyages Different?

True Wilderness Itineraries - We go way out there: The M/Y Tucano goes farther into wilderness rainforest than any other tour vessel. We explore a UNESCO World Heritage Site, the *Central Amazon Conservation Complex*. This area is so remote, we rarely see any other vessels or people. Only in these wild places can travelers truly experience the wonderful diversity of rainforest flora and fauna.

Small Group Size: Our group size is very small, usually just 12-16 travelers on a voyage. On our many daily excursions we divide into even smaller groups, each with a naturalist guide. This is of crucial importance in observing wildlife! Small is the new luxury!

Lots of Excursions: We have four, and sometimes five, excursions into the forest every day. We engage with the forest at every opportunity through forest walks, launch excursions with quiet electric motors, and even kayak expeditions. There are choices of leisurely excursions or full bore adventure!

Focus, Focus, Focus ... on Nature: Everything about our cruises is dedicated to nature: where we go, our schedule, what we talk about and really, who we are. From the guides to the chef, all of us are devoted to observing the flora and fauna of this rainforest. All of our equipment from electric launch motors, the solar array and the M/Y Tucano itself, were chosen to help us explore this forest in the most authentic and sustainable way possible.

Comfortable, Elegant, Sophisticated

The M/Y Tucano is an elegant, comfortable, and air-conditioned yacht-style vessel. There are large public spaces, very attentive personal service, and a sophisticated cuisine. Our staff are some of the finest people we have ever met. But the true value of an expedition cruises is not the ship - it is the expedition experience! We don't try to be a luxury cruise because in some ways it detracts from what we offer our guests: a thoughtful, truly authentic, and a deeply moving experience far into one of the last great wild places on the planet.



Why Love our Trips?

Because they are personal and authentic. There is nothing generic about our tours. The Amazon is our life. We love to share the astonishing beauty of this astonishing destination with the personal warmth that is such an important part of Brazilian culture.

Travelers can Choose! There is something for everyone. Our guests can choose what kind of experience they want. It can be a comfortable leisure cruise simply enjoying the exotic flora and fauna of the rainforest, or for the energetic, it can be a rigorous expedition into the howling trackless wilderness.

Because the cruises are just plain fun. What makes the Tucano Experience fun are the small groups, the choices of activities, the very comfortable vessel, the deeply skilled guides, and the friendly and professional expedition staff. All this adds up to a great vacation and a truly, once in a lifetime experience

Companions in Adventure: Our Travelers Are the Best!

Our travelers are really interesting. They come from all over the world to feel the romance, the beauty, and the thrill of the Amazon. Our travelers are in good company.

Brasil is the place to be! The area we explore, a UNESCO Natural World Heritage Site, has some of the greatest wildlife diversity on Earth. Because of the variety of habitats, at any time of year we can walk, hike, kayak, and explore deep in the forest. And because it is one of the least inhabited places on the entire planet, the legendary creatures for which the Amazon is famous, still thrive here.



Travelers Feel Safe

Our cruises are naturally safe.....

Small Groups: With a small number of travelers and crew we can be sure that our contacts are healthy.

Wilderness Sanctuary: We are in very remote wild rainforest, away from groups of people and other travelers!

Our Staff: It's the people that count. Our crew members have worked with us for decades. They are conscientious, thoughtful and very careful. We all take care of each other!

Six Quick Facts!

1) Itineraries: We operate two itineraries, one is four nights in length and the other is six nights long.

2) Cabin Categories: There are three categories of cabins.

---Green Category: Double cabins, these are smaller than the Yellow cabins and have bunk beds!

---Yellow Category: Double twin cabins and have beds side by side. These are the largest on the ship.

---Blue Category: Single cabins with a single twin size bed.

Quick fact! The Green / Blue cabins are the same physical spaces on the ship! We simply change the beds as requested in the booking, either Green for double or Blue for single travelers!

3) How to get to the Ship: We provide free transfers from the city center of Manaus to the embarkation point!

4) Add-ons in Manaus: We can provide optional airport transfers, city tours, and hotel nights. But we are happy to just offer the cruise!



Six Night Cruise: *Voyage to the Heart of the Amazon*

This is the most exploratory voyage in the entire Amazon - and is the Amazon's only true *expedition voyage*. We venture along hidden uninhabited rivers deep into the wild woods where the magnificent plants and animals of the rainforest reign supreme. There are many active excursions into the forest everyday. By day and by night we seek out the mysterious life that stirs in this vast wilderness forest.

The *Motor Yacht Tucano* is comfortable and nimble and enables us to voyage far up the least inhabited major river in the Amazon basin: The Rio Negro. We venture farther than any other visitors into the UNESCO Natural World Heritage Site, the *Central Amazon Conservation Complex*.

With our small group, our skilled naturalist guides and our expedition itinerary, we observe creatures almost never seen by other visitors. Far off the beaten path, we also visit small villages where the rhythms of life are tuned to the cycles of the wilderness. On the last day of the cruise we visit the *Encontro das Aguas*, the confluence of the world's two largest rivers, the Rio Negro and the mighty, magnificent, Amazon River itself.

This experience is well beyond any ordinary cruise and way off the grid - the quintessential Amazon expedition voyage.

Where This Trip Begins and Ends

Embark

Day 1, Embarkation Time: 07:30am: This voyage begins with a complementary transfer to the vessel from select hotels in the city center of Manaus: the Hotel Villa Amazonia, the Hotel Casa Perpetua, Hotel Ibis STYLES, Hotel Saint Paul or the Hotel Juma Opera. Other travelers, by pre-arrangement, can join the cruise at 07:00am at the arrival lounge, *Tucano Rendezvous*, 182 Sete de Setembro, Praça Dom Pedro II, Centro, Manaus. Due to port regulations, it is not possible for travelers to meet the group on the vessel. This complementary cruise transfer is essential to the cruise.

Disembark

Day 7, Disembarkation Time: 07:00am: This voyage ends with a complementary transfer to the city center of Manaus. Due to port regulations and logistics it is not possible for travelers to be transferred directly from the vessel. Transportation is provided to the Hotel Villa Amazonia, the Hotel Casa Perpetua, Hotel Ibis STYLES, Hotel Saint Paul, or the Hotel Juma Opera. Travelers going to other places will disembark at our departure lounge, the *Tucano Rendezvous* at 182 Sete de Setembro, Praça Dom Pedro II, Centro, Manaus. Should travelers have evening flights, it is highly recommended to book a hotel for this day to avoid long waits at the airport. Early disembarkation is possible only by pre-paid arrangement and transportation of the *M/Y Tucano*. ****Please note that meeting times and places are subject to change!**



2025 Voyage Departures: Voyage to the Heart of the Amazon (6N/7D)

2025 Departure Dates: Jan 15-21, Feb 12-18, Mar 05-11, Apr 09-15, April 19-25, May 07-13, May 28-Jun 03, Jun 11-17, Jul 02-08, Jul 16-22, Aug 06-12, Sep 10-16, Oct 01-07, Oct 15-21, Nov 05-11, Nov 26-Dec 02, Dec 10-16, Dec 24-30

2026 Voyage Departures: Voyage to the Heart of the Amazon (6N/7D)

2026 Departure Dates: Jan 03-09, Jan 17-23, Feb 07-13, Feb 28-Mar 06, Mar 14-20, Apr 04-10, May 02-08, May 16-22, Jun 06-12, Jun 27-Jul 03, Jul 11-17, Aug 01-07, Aug 22-28, Sep 05-11, Sep 26-Oct 02, Oct 10-16, Oct 31-Nov 06, Nov 21-27, Dec 05-11, Dec 22-28



Voyage to the Heart of the Amazon (6 Nights) A True Expedition Voyage

Description: *Voyage to the Heart of the Amazon* is different from all other cruises offered in the entire Amazon. It is a true "expedition voyage". We go far, far into the forest and are able to see creatures that are hidden to other visitors. We explore some of the most untouched rainforest in all of the Amazon. The voyage begins in Manaus, Brasil and the *Motor Yacht Tucano* navigates far up the *Rio Negro* [pronounced NAY-GRO]. In the daytime, and often at night, we seek out the wildlife that still lives in the world's greatest wilderness. There are very few settlers so the plants and animals are still abundant.

Voyages on the *M/Y Tucano* are quite active with four or five excursions off the vessel every day. Together with our naturalist guides we get out into the forest and explore---not simply watch from the deck of the vessel. There are daily walks in the forest and we scout the small streams that branch off the main river using our electric powered launches or optionally by kayak. One day we may swim off a river beach in water as refreshing as rainwater. We are always treated to vistas of wild rainforest stretching as far as the eye can see.

On our excursions into the rainforest we observe magnificent plants of every imaginable shape and size. We listen to the exotic calls of birds and mammals and watch them from a forest trail or while scouting the river's edge in our launches. In the evenings we have a brief discussion about the creatures that we observed and the extraordinary ways in which the plants and animals have evolved to live in this ancient rainforest. Some nights we explore the river's edge in our launches and with spotlights we see caiman, close relatives of crocodiles.

we explore many small tributaries where the forest is wild and undisturbed. Our journey takes us to many different rainforest habitats which allows us to see a great diversity of wildlife.

On the last day of the voyage we travel to the "*Encontro das Aguas*", the meeting of the waters of the world's two largest rivers: The *Amazon River* and the *Rio Negro*. The light colored water of the Amazon and the dark water of the Negro do not readily mix and the two rivers flow side by side for many miles.

UNESCO Natural World Heritage Site

Voyage to the Heart of the Amazon explores some of the most untouched rainforest in all of the Amazon. The *M/Y Tucano* is the only expedition vessel that explores far into the world's largest Amazon reserve the UNESCO Natural World Heritage Site: *The Central Amazon Conservation Complex*.



<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/998>

This reserve is the largest in the Amazon with six million hectares of uninhabited wilderness. Roaming these trackless forests are all of the creatures that have made the Amazon the object of myth and legend. Along the *Rio Negro* there are only a few small settlements large enough to be considered towns. It remains a true wilderness.

This cruise is the quintessential and truly superlative expedition voyage of the wilderness Amazon. We explore beyond the tangle of vines and limbs along the river banks and experience the primal forest where the forces that shape plant and animal evolution continue on as they have for millions of years.

Our basic navigation plan is to explore upstream northwest on the *Rio Negro*, as far as a major river called the *Rio Jaueperi*, over 200 miles from Manaus, Brasil. Along the way

Itinerary Sketch - 6 Nights

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

Day 2 Explore the giant lake inside a river island, Lago Turia

Day 3 Lago Buriti

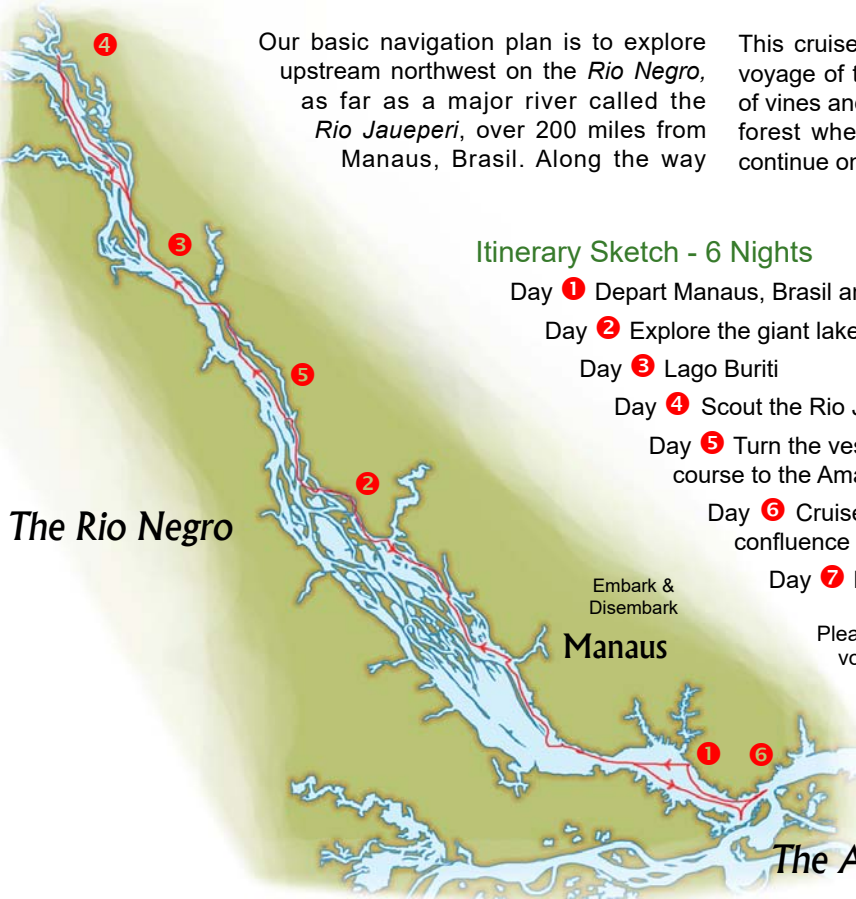
Day 4 Scout the Rio Jaueperi

Day 5 Turn the vessel to the South East and explore different regions on course to the Amazon River

Day 6 Cruise the Amazon River and the Encontro das Aguas, the confluence of the Amazon River and The Rio Negro.

Day 7 Return to Manaus, disembark early morning.

Please note that, because our cruises are exploratory expedition voyages, we adapt the vessel course to weather and river level conditions to maintain an interesting cruise. The itinerary must be considered approximate. But this does not diminish the cruise, instead it allows us to improvise and seek interesting places to explore.



Itinerary: Voyage to the Heart of the Amazon (6 Nights)
A True Expedition Voyage

Day 1 Early this morning all guests board the vessel the *Motor Yacht Tucano* and depart upstream on the Rio Negro. Through the morning we will cruise through the world's largest river island system, the Anavilhanas Archipelago. From the observation deck we scan the magnificent tangle of vegetation at the water's edge. By mid-afternoon the vessel has gone beyond the frontier of settlement and entered a wilderness area. Both shores are covered by dense rainforest. Though we cannot predict what we will see, we likely observe pink river dolphins, primates and a large collection of exotic birds. Most certainly we will be treated to magnificent forest vistas and the spectacular trees themselves. In the late afternoon we embark in the launches and hunt for wildlife. (LD)



Day 2 Early this morning we divide into small groups and explore the rainforest in our launches or kayaks with a naturalist guide. We should hear and perhaps see howler monkeys accompanied by a morning serenade of toucans. After breakfast we go for a walk in the forest where we will get a good start on understanding Amazon ecology. Around midday we return for lunch and the vessel will get underway, forging ahead on this magnificent wilderness waterway. In the late afternoon we will again explore the forest in our launches and listen



to the sunset chorus of birds, frogs and howler monkeys. Weather permitting, we may do a night excursion in our launches to marvel at nocturnal creatures of the Amazon. (BLD)

Day 3 This morning there will be an early exploration of the waking forest. We will keep our eyes open for sloths... on most trips we see them often. We return for breakfast followed by either a walk in the forest or an excursion in the launches. The *M/Y Tucano* will travel during the middle of the day and we stop in the afternoon for an excursion. Tonight the vessel may travel a bit more as we marvel at the night sky crowded with stars. (BLD)

Day 4 After our morning excursions the *M/Y Tucano* will navigate along the heavily forested shore, scouting for wildlife. We may stop for a visit at a settler's home carved out of the forest. In the early afternoon we will be near an extraordinary river called the Rio Jauaperi. Here we will see a kind of forest known as the *varzea*. We will scout along the shoreline for some of the extraordinary creatures found only in this unique environment. Weather permitting, we will have a night excursion to observe nocturnal creatures. (BLD)



Day 5 Today we will turn the vessel to the Southeast and begin our course to the Amazon River. We will continue to scout in our launches and walk in the forest. Weather and water depth permitting, we will explore areas rarely visited by anyone else. Tonight the *M/Y Tucano* goes downstream, and will explore deep into the rainforest on this magnificent river. (BLD)

Day 6 We begin the day with a dawn excursion hunting for wakening wildlife followed by a full Brazilian breakfast. Conditions and navigation permitting, we will then go one last time into the forest. In the mid-afternoon we will begin to journey downstream.



We should arrive late in the day at the "Encontro das Aguas" - a stark, several-mile-long line where two of the world's 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. This is often a good place to fish for the legendary scourge of the Amazon, Piranhas, which might just become *hors d'oeuvres*.

At sunset the *M/Y Tucano* will once again turn her bows upstream on the Rio Negro and journey to our overnight anchorage. As we pass in front of Manaus, we will marvel at the scale of one of the world's largest and most vibrant port cities, over a thousand miles from the sea. As we pass the glittering lights on shore, we will have a small party, as we say in Brasil, a *festazinha*, our "Caipirinha Night". Tonight we will have a farewell dinner and prepare for an early departure in the morning. (BLD)

Day 7 Early this morning, after a hearty breakfast, all guests disembark from the *M/Y Tucano*. (B)

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

Please note that the day-to-day schedule is approximate. Because our cruises are exploratory expedition voyages, we adapt the vessel course to weather and river level conditions to maintain an interesting cruise. But this does not diminish the cruise, instead it allows us to improvise and seek interesting places to explore.

*Degree of Difficulty: Good health is necessary. Guests can have an enjoyable trip by simply staying on board the *M/Y Tucano* and participating in launch excursions, but the nature programming takes place on the excursions off the vessel. Participants in our walks in the forest must be able to comfortably walk on uneven terrain at a leisurely pace for up to two hours at a time.*

Four Night Cruise: *Into the Wild Amazon*

This cruise explores remote wild rainforest beyond the limits of typical tours and beyond the boundaries of human settlement. Over four nights the expedition voyage *Into the Wild Amazon* takes travelers into the dense forests and small tributaries within the UNESCO Natural World Heritage Site: *The Central Amazon Conservation Complex*. With our small group of adventurers, our very experienced naturalist guides and our deeply capable exploration crew, we venture into one of the richest areas of flora and fauna diversity on the planet.

We usually also visit an isolated village to see what life is like living on the edge of the greatest wilderness on Earth. These visits are not choreographed tourism performances, but genuine, congenial and welcome gatherings.

On the last day of the cruise we visit the *Encontro das Aguas*, the confluence of the world's two largest rivers, the Rio Negro and the mighty, magnificent, Amazon River itself. In a brief amount of time, *Into the Wild Amazon* provides an experience of the essence of Amazon nature.

Where This Trip Begins and Ends

Embark

Day 1, Embarkation Time: 11:00am: This voyage begins with a complementary transfer to the vessel from select hotels in the city center of Manaus: the Hotel Villa Amazonia, the Hotel Casa Perpetua, Hotel Ibis STYLES, Hotel Saint Paul or the Hotel Juma Opera. Other travelers, by pre-arrangement, can join the cruise at 10:30am at the arrival lounge, *Tucano Rendezvous*, 182 Sete de Setembro, Praça Dom Pedro II, Centro, Manaus. Due to port regulations, it is not possible for travelers to meet the group on the vessel.

Disembark

Day 5, Disembarkation Time: 07:00am: This voyage ends with a complementary transfer to the city center of Manaus. Due to port regulations and logistics it is not possible for travelers to be transferred directly from the vessel. Transportation is provided to the Hotel Villa Amazonia, the Hotel Casa Perpetua, Hotel Ibis STYLES, Hotel Saint Paul, or the Hotel Juma Opera. Travelers going to other places will disembark at our departure lounge, the *Tucano Rendezvous* at 182 Sete de Setembro, Praça Dom Pedro II, Centro, Manaus. Should travelers have evening flights, it is highly recommended to book a hotel for this day to avoid long waits at the airport. Early disembarkation is possible only by pre-paid arrangement and transportation of the *M/Y Tucano*. *****Please note that meeting times and places are subject to change!***



2025 Voyage Departures: Into the Wild Amazon (4N/5D)

2025 Voyage Dates: Jan 08-12, Jan 22-26, Feb 05-09, Feb 19-23, Mar 12-16, Apr 02-06, Apr 30-May 04, May 14-18, Jun 04-08, Jul 09-13, Jul 30-Aug 03, Aug 13-17, Sep 03-07, Oct 08-12, Oct 29-Nov 02, Nov 12-16, Dec 03-07

2026 Voyage Departures: Into the Wild Amazon (4N/5D)

2026 Voyage Dates: Jan 11-15, Feb 01-05, Feb 15-19, Mar 08-12, Mar 29-Apr 02, Apr 12-16, May 10-14, May 31-Jun 04, Jun 14-18, Jul 05-09, Jul 26-30, Aug 09-13, Aug 30-Sep 03, Sep 20-24, Oct 04-08, Oct 25-29, Nov 08-12, Nov 29-Dec 03



Into the Wild Amazon (4 Nights) The Wild Essence of the Amazon

Description:

This expedition voyage endeavors to capture the spirit and essence of the Amazon in a relatively short amount of time. We voyage into the wilderness rainforest on one of the most magnificent rivers in the Amazon basin, *The Rio Negro*. Over three and one half days we walk in the forest, kayak on hidden streams, explore in our launches and visit local communities along the edges of this wild and largely uninhabited river.

There are four or five excursions off the vessel every day. Early mornings we glide along quiet channels in our launches or kayaks among giant rainforest trees draped with vines and orchids. The silence is broken only by the rustling of leaves by Squirrel or Howler Monkeys, or by the occasional piercing shriek of a Screaming Piha bird. Mid-morning on most days we will walk in the rainforest. One day we may visit a small riverfront community. Some nights we search for nocturnal creatures in our launches out in the star-filled darkness.

Into the Wild Amazon takes us to a variety of environments including the *igapó*, where dark water floods into the forest. We also explore the *terre firme* forest, the high forest with towering trees and dense undergrowth. On lazy afternoons we may fish for the famous Amazon resident, the Piranha, some of whom we may see again on an appetizer plate. On our last day of the voyage we are treated to the ever-changing vistas of travel on the mighty Amazon River itself. Most travelers are astonished by the scale and grandeur of this majestic waterway that drains a continent.

On the cruise *Into the Wild Amazon*, time and weather permitting, we also experience the culture of the people who live in this vast wilderness. We will visit a small fishing village perched on the river bank where the traditional life is still guided by the rhythms of the rise and fall of the river. We may also visit the homestead of a family who make and grow almost everything they need. For many travelers these visits with local settlers, whose lives are so dramatically different from ours, are some of the most memorable experiences of the cruise.



The last evening of the voyage we will coast along one of the greatest ports in the world, the *Porto de Manaus*.

At our farewell dinner we will have the opportunity to reflect on our extraordinary experience and offer a toast to one of the most remarkable places on Earth.

Itinerary Sketch - 4 Nights

Day 1 Mid-day, depart Manaus and voyage north on the Rio Negro. We voyage this afternoon through one of the world's largest island systems, the Anavilhanas Archipelago.

Day 2 Several daily excursions into the rainforest during from the early morning and well into the night.

Day 3 Excursions into the forest by foot, launch and kayak during the day. Tonight we travel downstream toward the Amazon River.

Day 4 After morning excursions, in the afternoon voyage to the meeting of the world's two greatest rivers: the Amazon River and The Rio Negro. In the evening cruise upstream on the Rio Negro.

Day 5 Early morning we disembark.



Please note that, because our cruises are exploratory expedition voyages, we adapt the vessel course to weather and river level conditions to maintain an interesting cruise. The itinerary must be considered approximate. But this does not diminish the cruise, instead it allows us to improvise and seek interesting places to explore.

Itinerary: Into the Wild Amazon, (4 Nights)
The Wild Essence of the Amazon

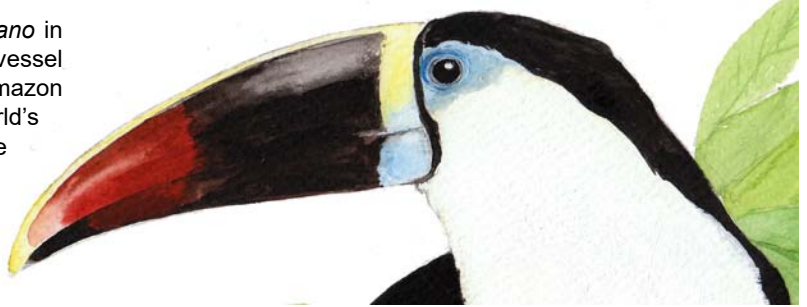
Day 1 This afternoon we embark on the *Motor Yacht Tucano* in Manaus, Brasil. We depart on the *Rio Negro* and as the vessel glides upstream over lunch we will have our first talk about Amazon key environments. By late afternoon we enter one of the world's largest river island systems, the *Anavilhanas Archipelago*. The boat will weave along a winding channel with rainforest on both sides in a riot of brilliant vegetation. Weather permitting, we will go for a launch excursion in the gnarled and dense flooded forest along the river's edge. We may see some Squirrel Monkeys and we may hear the other-worldly growls of Howler Monkeys echoing through the primitive rainforest. The Amazon has one of the greatest collection of birds in the world and we are sure to see some of these brightly colored jewels perched in the treetops.

In the late afternoon, we return to the *M/Y Tucano* for hors d'oeuvres on the observation deck and a toast to the rainforest sunset. Following dinner we will embark in our launches in search of nocturnal creatures such as the Caiman, the Amazon's crocodilians. We may also see one of the large night birds such as a Great Potoo, with its bulging eyes and large mouth, adapted to swallow the huge Mariposa Moths. (LD)

Day 2 Shortly after sunrise this morning we explore the Anavilhanas Archipelago, a reserve that includes the world's largest system of river islands and also areas of tall dense rainforest. Here we will see the strange environment called the *igapó*, the black water flooded forest, where trees grow right out of the dark water of the Rio Negro. Travelers can explore in our launches or conditions permitting, in kayaks. After about two and a half hours of exploring we return to the vessel for a hearty Brazilian breakfast. After some time to relax, weather permitting, in mid-morning we go for a walk in the type of rainforest known as the *terra firme*. In addition to the countless plants and small creatures of the forest floor, 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.

Around mid-day we return to the vessel for lunch and a siesta. In the afternoon we will excursion in our launches along the edges of the dense 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 Today we will voyage southeast on the Rio Negro and continue to scout in our launches and walk in the forest. We will explore, according to the weather and water depth, areas rarely visited by anyone else. Tonight the *M/Y Tucano* goes downstream, and river depth permitting, will enter an east bank affluent of the Rio Negro and explore on deep into the rainforest on this small river. After our nocturnal exploration of the rainforest in our launches we return to the *Motor Yacht Tucano* for "Caipirinha Night" and perhaps try a bit of samba on the top deck. (BLD)



Day 4 We begin the day with a dawn excursion hunting for wakening wildlife followed by a full Brazilian breakfast. Conditions and navigation permitting, we will then go one last time into the forest. In the mid-afternoon we will begin to journey downstream. We should arrive late in the day at the "Encontro das Aguas" - a stark, several-mile-long line where two of the world's 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. This is often a good place to fish for the legendary scourge of the Amazon, Piranhas, which might just become hors d'oeuvres.

At sunset the *M/Y Tucano* will once again turn her bows upstream on the Rio Negro and journey to our overnight anchorage. As we pass in front of Manaus, we will marvel at the scale of one of the world's largest and most vibrant port cities, over a thousand miles from the sea. As we pass the glittering lights on shore, we will have a small party, as we say in Brasil, a *festazinha*, our "Caipirinha Night" and perhaps try a bit of samba on the top deck. Tonight we will have a farewell dinner and prepare for an early departure in the morning. (BLD)

Day 5 Early this morning, after a hearty breakfast, all guests disembark from the *M/Y Tucano*. (B)

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

Please note that the day-to-day schedule is approximate. Because our cruises are exploratory expedition voyages, we adapt the vessel course to weather and river level conditions to maintain an interesting cruise. But this does not diminish the cruise, instead it allows us to improvise and seek interesting places to explore.

*Degree of Difficulty: Good health is necessary. Guests can have an enjoyable trip by simply staying on board the *M/Y Tucano* and participating in launch excursions, but the nature programming takes place on the excursions off the vessel. Participants in our walks in the forest must be able to comfortably walk on uneven terrain at a leisurely pace for up to two hours at a time.*



Frequently Asked Questions

(How to Please Travelers? It's all about expectations.)

The very best way to have satisfied travelers is to thoroughly informed about the character of the tour program. A well informed traveler is able to relax and enjoy the experience. Below are some tips on what travelers can expect on our cruises. Be sure that all travelers receive copies of our pre-departure booklet "*Expedition Notes*"! A prepared traveler is happier!

What communications are there on board?

The Motor Yacht Tucano has an emergency satellite telephone. Within about four hours of travel out of Manaus there is cell phone coverage but then, thankfully, there are no more towers. There is no internet connection on the vessel! From a conservation and wildlife observation perspective, the lack connectivity really keeps the focus on nature. Most travelers enjoy this opportunity to disconnect and to experience the wild nature of the Amazon in its most elemental way.

Is this an active program?

Our cruises are quite active, but can also be as relaxing as our guests prefer. Guests can choose! We navigate the *M/Y Tucano* mostly in the middle of the day and sometimes at night, which leaves us lots of time to explore off the vessel in the rainforest. For guests who want an active program there are several hours spent exploring every day. We have optional kayak excursions where we thread deep into the wilderness flooded forest. For those travelers that prefer a more leisurely but engaged experience, they simply choose from among the many daily excursions. The entirety of the nature experience is conducted on our excursions though it is an interesting experience just being on the vessel because we are surrounded by wild rainforest.

Will travelers see lots and lots of animals?

On our cruises we see lots of *kinds* of animals because the Amazon has the greatest *diversity* of wildlife on Earth. But we usually see only a small number of creatures of *each* kind. The fantastic diversity of creatures of the Amazon is spread out in the forest and in this true wilderness, the creatures actually *hide from us*. Often a good look at an animal will require binoculars. But these are wild creatures and not the semi-captive animals that are typically found in land based tourist accommodations.

We never know what we will see on a trip, but our voyages generally see many more creatures than other Amazon cruises because of the skill of our guides, the small groups, the many excursions, our wilderness destination and the fact that we are dedicated to exploration. On a typical expedition voyage we may see about 50-100 different species of birds, 3-6 kinds of monkeys, 5-10 different reptiles and amphibians, about 5 or so other types of mammals like anteaters or otters and, of course, a vast collection of some of the most interesting plants on Earth.

Do travelers get a chance to go into the forest?

Absolutely, we usually have 3 or more excursions off the vessel every day. This is not a sedentary cruise where guests lounge most of the day, nor is it a voyage focused on fine dining or luxury accommodations. Most of the nature portion of our voyage takes place off the vessel. We go walking in the forest every morning. We have several daily excursions in our launches or kayaks and we visit small villages or the homes of pioneer families. Several nights during the cruise, weather permitting, we also have excursions to observe bizarre nocturnal creatures from the safety of our launches.

When is the best time to go?

The best time to travel to the Amazon is really dependent on a traveler's personal considerations. The key to observing wildlife is not when you travel, but rather the diligence of the guides and the guests, the remote places visited, the number of excursions, and a little bit of luck. We operate our expeditions all year round and the trips are wonderful any time of year.

Our trips take place in the very middle of the Amazon in the State of Amazonas, Brasil. It rains much less in the center of the Amazon than it does in the Peruvian end...as much as 30% less. The rainy season runs roughly from late January through early May. Though it can rain more in the rainy season, it is rare to have a full day of rain. There are even some advantages to traveling in this season. Most riverine plants fruit and flower in this period and it is generally a bit cooler.

The season of dry / low water runs from September to November and in this period the rivers begin to shallow and broad beaches of fine white sand appear. It often rains a bit in the afternoon in the dry season too. This is an excellent time to see large fishing birds, marine mammals and at night, reptiles like Caiman, the Amazon's crocodiles. The months of October and November are drier and hotter and correspond to the lowest river levels of the year. Though some creatures will be less abundant in the dry season, other migratory creatures will fly or swim in to fill the void. We usually adapt the itinerary in these months to navigate the changing river channels and the broad beaches that appear at every turn of the rivers. We are exploring!

The *M/Y Tucano* mostly travels in the middle of the day and at night, which leaves the best hours to explore. But when we do travel, when practical, the vessel hugs the shore line and it is interesting to observe the nearby forest. We are constantly on the lookout for the creatures that frequently congregate at the river's edge. Though we remain comfortable, we do not become insulated from the forest. The river is fascinating to watch since we often see large fish leaping, pink dolphins, countless birds and strange gargantuan trees with hanging vines.

Are these trips fun?

Of course the trips are fun! Our cruises are aimed at experiencing Amazon nature and the best kind of trip is good-humored, light-hearted and dedicated to exploration. We try to be precise about nature and we enjoy ourselves at the same time. Weather and navigation permitting, we may be able to swim off pristine beaches. We also fish for piranha and sometimes they end up on our table. There is a cocktail hour on the top deck with *hors d'oeuvres* every evening and at the end of the trip we will have a "*caipirinha night*" and enjoy the famous drink of Brasil>

Are these luxury cruises?

Our accommodations are very comfortable and elegant, but we do not aim for luxury accommodations or fine dining. These are true expedition voyages and we have not sacrificed the exploratory character for the sake of luxury amenities. What matters is the sophistication of the narrative, the story we tell, the activities in the forest and the authenticity of the experience. Our vessel is designed to provide exceptional and extraordinary experiences with very comfortable, but not fancy, accommodations. We cater to a discerning clientele seeking authenticity and adventure. We strive to offer travelers a sophisticated and elegant ship-board experience and an exceptional field experience at a reasonable price.

O Brave New Tucano! *Nimble, Smart, Stylish, and Elegant, the Amazon Expedition Small Ship*

New Spaces to Enjoy the Rainforest

The *M/Y Tucano* has been substantially renovated. The staterooms and salon were completely redone as was the main salon. And all of the expedition voyage activities were re-imagined to enable travelers to themselves choose how they will be exploring the depths of the Amazon rainforest.

We have made the exploration experience still more comfortable and elegant by thoroughly upgrading the accommodations and public spaces. There were countless small improvements to help the vessel stay new and inviting.



One of the most pleasurable of innovations are the glass panels in the salon that make the *M/Y Tucano* larger, brighter, and more stylish. Creating the glass walls presented a considerable engineering puzzle. We wanted to avoid turning the salon into an aquarium-style enclosure that would insulate the travelers from the rainforest; an enclosed space would not fit the vessel's commitment to sustainability.

The solution was a system of glass panels that actually *open and glide* into hidden pockets. Now, at certain times of day, the walls of the salon are opened and travelers enjoy the flower-scented breezes of the Amazon as well as experiencing an immediacy with the rainforest that cannot be had in a enclosed space. When the day becomes hot or we experience one of the magnificent torrential storms of the rainforest, we simply close the glass walls and enjoy the ever changing rainforest tableau in air-conditioned comfort.



Elegant and Sophisticated

In order to enhance the feeling of elegance, the staterooms on the *M/Y Tucano* were fully refinished and redecorated. The decorative style is of a sophisticated yacht with polished brass and highly varnished wood panels, and this ambience was renewed with new fixtures and refinishing.

Artelassé
A ARTE DE VIVER BEAU

Many new artworks were commissioned for the vessel. For the sense of style as well as to pamper the explorers, the stateroom amenities were also refashioned. The *M/Y Tucano* now features Egyptian cotton sheets woven by Brasil's premier luxury manufacturer, **Artelassé**. Each stateroom also has a bit of France via shower kits by **L'Occitane**, a fragrance that works well in the tropical environment.

L'OCCITANE
EN PROVENCE



Imagination + Authenticity

= Wonderful Experiences

Finally, the most important renovation made in our project of renewal was the re-imagining of the *expedition voyage* experience. The many daily excursions into the rainforest were reviewed in order to satisfy the great range of interests that travelers bring to these expedition voyages. The *M/Y Tucano* has a commitment to enabling travelers to choose among different ways to experience the wilderness rainforest.

Travelers can choose a leisurely, contemplative expedition pace with the keen observations of our naturalist guides, or alternatively, they can venture out with our deep forest guides on rigorous full-on adventures of deep forest hikes or kayak explorations in remote rainforest streams. Travelers can also choose to simply relax on the vessel with magnificent vistas of the rainforest. With many options to choose from, travelers can themselves actively engage in finding the most enjoyable, meaningful and authentic way to enjoy the wonders of the greatest wilderness on earth.

Stateroom Categories


The three categories of cabins on the M/Y Tucano are named after the national colors of Brasil, Green, Blue and Yellow. All the cabins are air-conditioned, have large windows and have private baths with sinks, toilets and showers.

Which are the Blue / Green Staterooms? *They are actually the same cabins on the vessel!* When we make them up with single beds they are Blue Category staterooms and when we make them up with bunk beds, they are Green Category staterooms.




Green Category: When configured as doubles, these have two beds with above and below berths (bunk beds!)
Yellow Category: The double-twin staterooms in this category are large and have two beds, side by side.
Blue Category: When configured as singles, these have a single twin bed.

Green Category Staterooms

 These double-twin staterooms when configured with above and below berths with single size mattresses - bunk beds! They are smaller than the Yellow staterooms, but are comfortable outside staterooms with large windows, private bathrooms and air-conditioning. They can be in cabins 1, 2, 7, and 8.




Blue Category Single Staterooms

 These are single staterooms when configured as a single twin-sized bed. They are smaller than the Yellow staterooms, but have lots of windows and a large bathroom. They can be in cabins 1, 2, 7, and 8.




Yellow Category Staterooms

 The double-twin staterooms in this category are large and have beds side by side. They are numbered #3, #4, #5, #6 and #0. Stateroom #0 has a queen-size bed and a single bed, and a smaller bathroom.

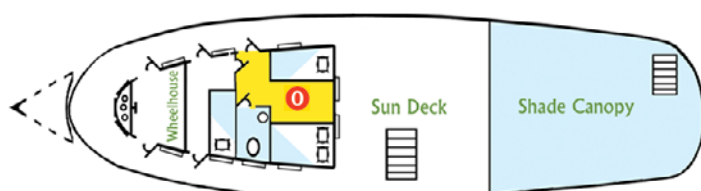


Deck Plans: THE MOTOR YACHT TUCANO

Because our cruises are quite active, we spend much of our time off the vessel exploring the forest, but when we are on board, the *M/Y Tucano* offers space to comfortably spread out and contemplate the wonders of nature. With over seventy large windows, the vessel is bright and airy. Most of the windows open and have screens, so travelers can enjoy the blossom scented air of the rainforest. The staterooms and the salon are air-conditioned and have elegant raised wood panelling so that the adventurers can travel in style. In the deck plans below this symbol:  = windows. There are lots of them!

Observation Deck

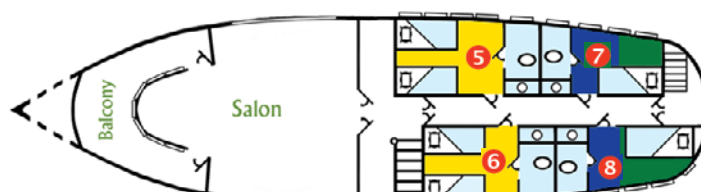
On this deck there is only one stateroom, number ① a Yellow Category cabin. This stateroom has a queen size bed and a single-twin bed so it can accommodate three travelers. It is a large stateroom, but has a small bathroom.



Middle Deck

Staterooms ⑤ and ⑥ are Yellow Category cabins and have two single-twin beds side by side.

Staterooms ⑦ and ⑧ can be configured as Green category cabins with a single mattress above and below (bunk beds!) or Blue Category staterooms a single-twin bed.

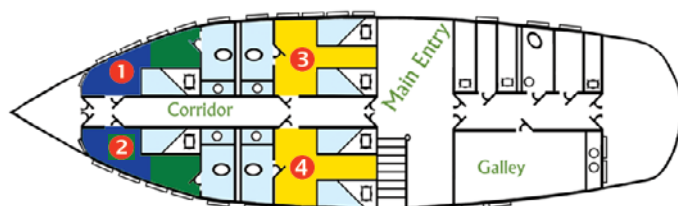


Salon / Dining Room

Main Deck

Staterooms ① and ② can be configured as Green category cabins with a bunk with a single mattress above and below (bunk beds!) or Blue Category staterooms a single-twin bed.

Staterooms ③ and ④ are Yellow Category cabins and have two single-twin beds side by side.



Sustainability

The *M/Y Tucano* conducts the most sustainable voyages in the Amazon. There are four parts of our sustainability policy: staffing, tour operations, equipment and ship management.

It's all about the people. On our cruises our staff has a vital role in sustainable tourism. It is not just that they themselves are committed to the environment, and it is not just that they are highly trained professionals, but crucially, most are members of our exploration team for many years. Our staff have long-term employment and in this way the benefits of ecotourism are shared and benefits can be derived from protecting primary forest. All of us have a commitment to sharing our knowledge of the rainforest with travelers in a sustainable way.

Operations

Tour operations on the *M/Y Tucano* are guided by very detailed "best practices" to protect the flora and fauna as well as help us in our relations with the traditional communities. Because our cruises voyage deep into the wilderness, we encounter rare wildlife and habitats and we are very careful to avoid disturbing them. All of our excursions off the ship are designed with conservation in mind. Many of our launch excursions are powered by electric motors. We have a policy of running on electrical power in wilderness areas, which does not disturb wildlife. We are routinely able to observe creatures that would otherwise be frightened by outboard noise. We also have optional guided kayak excursions most mornings, we fish, we swim, we walk in the forest and we do our best to enjoy the environment with as little impact as possible.

Equipment

The *M/Y Tucano* was designed to operate as sustainably as possible and our ship management focuses on energy conservation, pollution control, and waste reduction. Energy consumption is especially important and the vessel has equipment and procedures that help us reduce consumption while at the same time ensuring comfort for our travelers. Our equipment is sized to operate as sustainably as possible. Some of the more important measures in sizing for sustainability is smaller engines including outboard motors and generators.

In order to reduce fuel use and emissions, the *M/Y Tucano* was built with **two** independent water systems: one operated by gravity and one by electricity. The gravity system is not pressurized and is always available. The powered pressure system produces hot water with "on-demand" water heaters eliminating the need to heat water 24 hours per day. The power showers are operated at specific times of day.



Solar Power

The *M/Y Tucano* has a policy of "Solar Power Hours" for certain hours during the daytime. When they are not needed, we actually turn off all fuel consuming machines and what energy we use comes from our solar panels. This is generally in the morning and late afternoon when travelers are off the vessel on excursions. The vessel remains comfortable even without electricity because it was designed to offer water and illumination even without diesel generators operating. In **Solar Power Hours** the sinks, toilets and the showers continue to function. Because the *M/Y Tucano* has large windows, travelers are able to use natural lighting during the day. All stateroom fixtures have LED lamps.

Climate Control

The *M/Y Tucano* has an efficient air-conditioning system that functions in the heat of the day and at night. Even during the Solar Power Hours, the staterooms usually stay cool because the vessel is thermally insulated. The stateroom windows open and close and have insect screens. Many travelers choose to turn off the air-conditioning for the duration of the voyage. In ship management we employ hotel sustainability techniques such as changing the stateroom linens every other day instead of every day, unless requested by the travelers. We also avoid the use of disposable packaging, where possible, and recycle our waste in the city of departure, Manaus, Brasil.

Cultural Preservation

To be truly sustainable, travel must also be attentive to the impacts on local communities. We are very careful to only positively benefit the small communities that we visit - after all, our crew members are from these communities. We avoid creating "made for tourism" events such as faux native dancing which can commercialize important traditions and erode community cohesion. Some families and communities have begun to produce hand-crafts for our travelers, but they are by no means becoming tourist traps. Our goal is to share the benefits of tourism in a positive and respectful way and to help preserve the natural environment by providing income from wild forest. We are all in this great mission together.

Altogether, the combination of specialized equipment, conservation procedures, and responsible tourism practices enable us on the *M/Y Tucano* to operate as sustainably as possible. We do everything we can to not disturb the wild and lovely Amazon wilderness rainforest that we have the privilege of visiting.

