

Final Itinerary for Mr. Porter

Manu Biosphere Reserve 6 days and 5 nights

- **DAY 1: Cusco – Rainforest Lodge**

Our adventure begins in the exciting Jungle of Manu; we will pick you up around 5:00 am from your hotels in Cusco in our private transport. The first part of our excursion will take us through the majestic Andean mountains and afterwards we will briefly visit the town of Huancarani which contains the funeral towers of Ninamarca, and the cemetery of the Lupacas, part of the precious Pre-Inca culture. We will then travel Paucartambo, a small traditional town, which is known for its folklore. At midday we will arrive at the entrance of Manu National Park and enter into one of the most protected natural areas in the whole of South America. We will continue in our transport down a small road and on through the thick fog from which this section of the forest takes its name in Quechua. Eventually we will come to the home of the exotic Peruvian national bird, the “Cock of the Rocks”.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

- **DAY 2: Rainforest Lodge – Bonanza Ecological Reserve**

Very early at 06:30 a.m., we will depart for Atalaya port; on the way we will make a few stops to visit the small local's farmers who are known to be producers of many varieties of jungle fruits including the famous coca plant. Later we will begin the boating part of our journey in a river excursion on the Madre de Dios River, a part of the famous Amazon River. We will have the chance to witness many types of colorful birds such as parrots, oropendolas, vultures and other species. We will make a stop at the natural hot springs, and hopefully get to see some jungle animals such as monkeys or the famous capybaras (jungle rodents that are as much as 2.5 ft long). After that we will start trekking through the jungle to witness the true grace of the Amazon, hear the natural sounds of the birds, and get visuals of the wildlife such as anteaters, peccaries and many different types of trees and medicinal plants. Late afternoon we will arrive at our next destination Bonanza Lodge, where we will spend the night, arriving approximately at 3:00 p.m. Here there will be showers and other facilities available. We will do some bird watching and then have a night walk in the dark, which is the best time to see creatures like tarantulas, scorpions and snakes.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

- **DAY 3: Bonanza Ecological Reserve – Casa Matsigenka**

Well fed and rested we leave Bonanza Lodge, leaving the relatively clean waters of the Madre de Dios River behind and enter the clay laden waters of the Manu river with a brief stop at the park ranger station at Limonal to present our permits. We will travel for about five hours up the Manu river beaches, which, especially in dry season, are loaded with nesting birds and feeding herons,

egrets, orinoco geese, terns and skimmers to name but a few. Some beaches will host sunning white and black caimans (South American relatives of the Alligators) and breeding side-necked turtles, hundreds of sand-colored nightjars roost during the day on logs and beaches and there is a

chance of encountering a stunning Jaguar (the world's third largest cat) we will see some species of primates on this river trip, possibly red howler monkeys or the smaller squirrel monkeys. We'll have the afternoon to explore some of the trails through the rainforest in the area. Before or after dinner you will have the chance to go on an optional excursion into the forest at night with your guide in search of nocturnal creatures. We will spend the night at the Casa Matsiguenka, a rustic native owned lodge run by the Matsiguenkas themselves, with its own exclusive trail system. There will be modern facilities available; there are toilets and reasonably warm showers, screened twin rooms, with comfortable beds and mosquito nets.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

About the Casa Matsiguenka

The Casa Matsiguenka was designed using the indigenous people's building techniques and counts on 12 fully screened twin rooms. Beds are furnished with mosquito nets. There is a private trail system and local Matsiguenka guides will accompany you on the trails.

DAY 4: Casa Matsiguenka – Cocha Salvador – Cocha Otorongo

After breakfast we'll spend the morning at the lake of Cocha Salvador. We plan to ride down the lake on a floating platform observing the animal life from the water. We may encounter an agami heron or a sungrebe, and there are brown Cappuchin monkeys who are usually feeding on fruits nearby and therefore are relatively easy to sight. Specially constructed piers that jut out into the lake enable us to look for a family of giant otters that live here in the world's largest freshwater carnivores. These Otters are only found in Manu, and each animal consumes between 4 and 5 kilos of fish per day. After that we will continue exploring the forest we may encounter troops of monkeys. This is a particularly good trail to see woolly and black spider monkeys. We'll pay special attention to the plant life on this walk and take it slowly listening for the rustle of vegetation or the soft sound of fruits falling to the rainforest floor that may betray the presence of animals or large birds. A visit to the lake of Cocha Otorongo is planned, where observation piers and a 20 meter observation tower in the rainforest canopy overlooking the lake are available for observing wildlife. We will also be on the lookout for a large family of Giant Otters that inhabit this lake at night at Casa Matsiguenka

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

DAY 5: Casa Matsiguenka – Bonanza Ecological Reserve

We will leave early in the morning to continue exploring the jungle in order to maximize our chances of spotting wildlife, and after that we will take a 4 hour trip down river to Boca Manu. The river trip may hold several surprises and we'll be very attentive for any wildlife on the beaches. Leaving from Boca Manu we'll head up the Madre de Dios River for three hours to get to our

comfortable Bonanza Lodge. This well placed lodge facility is jointly owned and run by Amazon Wildlife Peru, a local conservation group. We should arrive at the lodge in the afternoon. The afternoon is set aside to relax or if you want to explore a trail through the pristine forest. Those who wish can participate in a night walk with your guide in search of nocturnal animals. We will spend the night at Bonanza Lodge.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

DAY 6: Bonanza Ecological Reserve - Cusco

The sixth day will be our final day, we depart early in the morning travelling up stream to Atalaya port where our private bus will be waiting for us and take us back to the magical city of Cusco arriving at approximately 7:30pm

Meals included: Breakfast and Lunch