

# itinerary

## essence of the amazon

cities	nights
Belém	2
Ilha do Marajó	2
Belém	1
Amazon river	3
Manaus	1



The North or Amazonia is the largest region of Brazil and also the largest area of tropical rainforest in the world, having become a worldwide synonym of biodiversity. This exotic roundtrip takes the tourist from the exotic towns and floodplains at mouth of the great Amazon River to deep into the heart of the vast Amazon Jungle by a clipper. The Best of Amazon does maintain a sharp focus on close contact with nature and also culture in the famous cities of Belém and Manaus.



### DAY 1 | BELÉM

Arrival at the airport, meet and greet with our local bilingual guide and transfer in a private air-conditioned vehicle to the hotel. Overnight at selected hotel.

### DAY 2 | BELÉM

This day begins with a tour, which starts out before sunrise and heads for the Ilha do Papagaio ("Parrot Island"), thus named because of the great number of parrots and other species that gather there to rest. As the sun appears, thousands of parrots and other birds leave the island for the mainland in an unforgettable spectacle. After witnessing this extraordinary phenomenon, the tour continues through the narrow creeks by motorised canoe, during which

the visitor encounters a large variety of plant and animal species. Another interesting feature is the passing boat traffic carrying caboclos - the inhabitants of the region, who cross the river with goods and to be sold in the city markets.

For lunch you can try some typical regional dishes at a local restaurant (optional). In the early afternoon you go on and start a half day city tour.

The capital of Pará State and chief port of the lower Amazon River, on the equator, Belém do Pará was founded in 1615 by the Portuguese, the city owing its commercial importance to the opening of the Amazon to foreign trade in the late 19th century.



In many ways, Belém's colonial architecture reflects the 17th century architecture of Lisbon that was a source of inspiration for the main housing projects of the time, with ubiquitous Portuguese ceramic tiles, or azulejos.

The tour includes visits to the Ver-o-Peso (“Check-the-Weight”) market, the Basílica de Nossa Senhora de Nazaré, the Museu Emílio Goeldi and the Museu de Arte Sacra - Brazil's finest museum of religious art. Stretching along the waterfront, the Ver-o-Peso market offers a curious combination of fishmongers, vegetable stalls and items for witchcraft (Macumba). On sale are peculiar medicinal herbs derived from rainforest plants and roots, cures for uncommon ailments, such as crocodile teeth, bottled snakes and three-toed sloths, and amulets to ward off the evil eye.

The Basílica de Nossa Senhora de Nazaré was built in 1909 on the site where the humble rancher Plácido found the image of Our Lady of Nazaré. In Roman architectural style inspired in the Basilica of St Paul in Rome and lined with fine marble, the elaborate altarpiece frames a tiny statue of the Virgin. The facade has a mural depicting the arrival of the Portuguese in Brazil, whilst the basement contains a museum of votive offerings.

Founded in 1866, the Emílio Goeldi Museum is a botanical, zoological and anthropological park with more than 2,000 species of plants and trees, numerous Amazonian animals and birds and an aquarium containing rare species. This internationally renowned museum is the oldest and most important research institute in the Amazon.

The tour also includes visits to the Palácio Lauro Sodré (State Museum), the former Governor's House; the Palácio Antônio Lemos (Art Museum), a former palace; the Forte do Presépio, known today as Forte do Castelo and the Metropolitan Cathedral, or Igreja da Sé. After this spectacular day you can relax at your hotel. Overnight at selected hotel. B.

### DAY 3 | BELÉM / ILHA DO MARAJÓ

Pick-up at hotel in Belém and transfer to the river port of Belém to board the regular passenger boat to the Island of Marajó at 06:30. Arrival at the pier of Foz do Camará and transfer by minibus or car to the ferry crossing of Beiradão, where a motorized canoe is waiting for the boat trip about 1 hour up the Camará river to the cattle ranch Fazenda Nossa Senhora do Carmo. Welcome juice with home-made cakes. After check-in, a tour through the natural grasslands on horseback or tame water buffalo, accompanied by Marajó cowboys, leading to woods and ponds where wildlife can be observed: capibaras, anacondas, wild pigs and birds. After lunch and a short siesta in hammocks on the veranda, a tour by motorized canoe enters the mangrove creeks and branches of the Camará River to spot birds, alligators,

monkeys and sloth. After dinner, flashlights can be used to spot alligators on the banks of the river near the house beneath the tropical night sky Overnight at Fazenda Nossa Senhora Do Carmo. B, L, D.



#### DAY 4 | ILHA DO MARAJÓ

After a buffet-style breakfast, another type of excursion is offered in search of hidden wildlife: in the dry season (September to January) by “Rural”, a classic multipurpose vehicle, on a safari-like ride across the grasslands, in the wet period (February to August) by small canoe up the Camará River. After lunch (try the buffalo meat and home-made buffalo cheese), a motorised canoe and short jungle walk will bring visitors to an archaeological site of the mysteriously vanished Marajoara indian tribe, where fine examples of their famous pottery can be found. The rest of the afternoon is free to have a swim, sunbath and a drink, observing the spectacular Marajó sunset. Dinner and overnight. B, L, D.

#### DAY 5 | ILHA DE MARAJÓ / BELÉM

After breakfast, another ride through the natural grasslands in search of wildlife. After lunch, a motorised canoe will bring the visitors back to Beiradão, where a vehicle is waiting for the 30-minute ride to the pier of Foz do Câmara. Here a regular passenger boat leaves for the port of Belém, from where tourists have a transfer to their hotel, arriving around 18:00. Overnight at selected hotel. B, L.



#### DAY 6 | BELÉM / MANAUS / AMAZON

After breakfast private transfer to the airport for the direct morning flight to Manaus. Arrival at the airport and transfer to the pier for a 4D/3N river cruise on the Amazon River and the Rio Negro. All overnights will be spent on board of the Amazon Clipper. B.

## DAY 6 - 9 | PACKAGE 4D/3N AMAZON CLIPPER

The Amazon Clipper is a regional boat with 8 cabins, all with private toilet facilities and air-conditioning, covered saloon with dining area, par and library and a panoramic sun deck with fantastic view. During the cruise, visits will be made to small villages, river islands with small beaches and a variety of ecosystems. Excursions on foot and by motorized canoe. This regular package always starts on a specific weekday: Wednesday! Accommodation is on Full Board basis.

For those, who wish the comfort of a luxury ship we can offer the Premium Clipper, a vessel unique in style, that offers “simply the best” small ship-cruising in the Amazon.



## DAY 9 | AMAZON RIVER / MANAUS

Returning from the river cruise on the pier of the Tropical Manaus Eco Resort at about 11:30, a private transfer will take you to your hotel. Rest of the day is free to relax and come back to civilization. Overnight at selected hotel in Manaus. B.

## DAY 10 | MANAUS

In the morning you can do a half day city tour Manaus. This tour includes a visit to the Amazon Opera House, County Market, Floating Harbor & The Indian Museum, observing each attraction schedules (optional).

After lunchtime pick-up for a private transfer to the airport for the flight to your next destination or to São Paulo / Rio de Janeiro, waiting for your international return flight. B.

There is also the option for an extension in an **Amazon Lodge:**

### **Example description of the AMAZONAT JUNGLE LODGE.**

The Amazonat Jungle Lodge, located 160 km from Manaus on the paved road to Itacoatiara, features 9 twin chalets, or 18 apartments, each with a sleeping room and a living, with a maximum capacity of 54 persons. The accommodation was built with great sensitivity to the landscape and concern for the preservation of the environment. All apartments are equipped with a bedroom with queen-size bed, bathroom and a living area with an additional single bed. Amenities include a fan and a fully stocked minibar. A large outside deck with hammocks brings the guest into safe and intimate contact with the jungle.

The lodge also has a restaurant, a swimming pool, a natural lake with white sand beach and 2 orchid parks. In addition to the main building the lodge recently opened a floating river lodge with panorama deck, featuring 10 apartments for the accommodation of 20 visitors. Trails through dense primary and secondary forest lead to two campsites located at 3 and 7 km respectively from the lodge. Unlike in many jungle lodges, Amazonat guests are free to adjust the planning and timing of their activities.

***Following excursions are included in all packages:***

- Orientation visit to the lodge and immediate surroundings
- Night-time jungle reconnaissance walk
- 3 - 4 hour jungle hike
- Visit to lakes, creeks and an igapó (flooded forest)
- Piranha fishing
- Bird watching at sunrise
- Alligator spotting



**INCLUDED:**

- 3 nights Belém at selected hotel.
- 2 nights Ilha do Marajó Falls at selected hotel.
- 3 nights Amazon river at Amazon Clipper.
- 1 night Manaus at selected hotel.
- Transfers as specified in air-conditioned vehicles.
- All excursions and packages listed above with English speaking guides.
- Breakfast plus all meals as specified.
- Hotel taxes and service charges.

**NOT INCLUDED:**

- All domestic and long haul flights, airport taxes etc.
- All meals and excursions not listed above

The itineraries is available with different category hotels and are selected on basis of customer preference.

Due to the vastness of the country, the best way to visit Brazil is by using a "Visit Brazil Air Pass" which allows you to fly between cities.

**PLEASE NOTE:** The destinations, hotels and excursions presented in this itinerary may be altered according to customer preference. All tours are presented as LAND ONLY (no airfare is included). All tour programs are subject to your acceptance of our Terms and Conditions, which is understood when you progress into the reservation. Please review Terms & Conditions