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TRIP DETAILS
8 days / 7 nts - Peru

Departures Daily
Trip Ref 3520

ITINERARY IN BRIEF

PRICES FROM $6,720

Aria Amazon Cruise (Low water Itinerary 8d)

Dec to May (Low water Itinerary) in brief :

7 Nights			
Day	**Meals**	**Location**	**Description**
Fri - PM	D	Iquitos / Amazon River	Arrival to Iquitos, transfer to Dock and Check-in
Sat - AM	B	Amazon River	Iguana Isles and Piranha Fishing
Sat - PM	L/D	Yarapa River	Dolphin, Birds and Monkey Expedition
Sun - AM	B	Yanallpa River	Magdalena Village or Yanallpa Flooded Forest
Sun - PM	L/D	Ucayali River	Pink Dolphins; Macaws at Sunset
Mon - AM	B/L	Amazon / Pacaya Samiria	Amazon Source, Village / 3 Nighters Depart
Mon - PM	D	Nauta Caño	Forest of Mirrors / 4 Nighters Arrive
Tue - AM	B	Marañon River	Nature Excursion
Tue - PM	L/D	Choroyacu River	Jungle Walk, Meet the People
Wed - AM	B	Tacsha River / Pacaya Samiria	All-day Primary Forest Excursion; or Morning Rainforest Walk
Wed - PM	L/D	San Martin de Tipishca	Afternoon Caiman Expeditions
Thu - AM	B	Tahuayo / Lake Charo	Breakfast with Pink Dolphins
Thu - PM	L/D	Tahuayo / Lake Charo	Fishing Trip
Fri - AM	B/L	Amazon River / Iquitos	Iquitos City, Visit Manatee Rescue Center and Departure

Day 1: Iquitos - Amazon River (Fri)
*3:30 p.m. Flight from Lima LA 2382. In just an hour and 45 minutes you will be in the heart of the Peruvian Amazon region.

*5:15 p.m. Arrival. Your guides await you, as your flight from Lima glides in for landing at Iquitos International Airport. After you've claimed your luggage, you will board an air-conditioned bus for your journey to the river.

*5:40 p.m. Transfer to Iquitos' Main Wharf. There the M/V Aria awaits you.

*6:00 p.m. Embarkation and Check-In. From the moment you step on board, you will enjoy the M/V Aria's atmosphere of low-key luxury. As you settle into your handsomely appointed, over-sized suite, you will feel the vessel begin to move the beginning of one of the great adventures of your life. Stand on the Upper Deck to take in the view, as the M/V Aria leaves Iquitos behind.

Over the next seven days, you will also sail along the two largest tributaries of the Amazon, the Ucayali and the Marañon, as well as the mighty Amazon itself. You are embarking on a spectacular adventure, to a place visited by only a few of even the most experienced world travelers.

*7:30 p.m. Safety Drill and Briefing on the Upper Deck. Before dinner we will perform a routine safety drill. Then it's into the air-conditioned lounge, where you will learn about life onboard, and will have the first of the nightly briefings about your adventure to follow. You will meet the naturalist guides and the cruise director, who will use video, photos, and maps to explain the details of your journey into the Amazon.

*8:00 p.m. Welcome Dinner. Sit down, relax, sample some fine South American wine, and enjoy the truly world-class cuisine, created by Executive Chef Pedro Miguel Schiaffino, whose restaurant, Malabar, is the one of the best in all of Lima. Schiaffino's recipes, with the imaginative use of local products – fruit, fish, spices – make every meal a delightful adventure. (The menu always offers choices, including a vegetarian option.) Toast the beginning of a beautiful journey. Perhaps enjoy a nightcap on the Upper Deck, under the stars, before retiring.

(Included meals : Dinner)

Day 2: Amazon - Yanayacu - Yacapana - Yarapa (Sat)
*6:30 a.m. See the Sun Rise Over the River. Be up early to catch your first glimpse of the majestic Amazon River, as you watch the sun rise over this green world filled with wonderful wildlife. This initial contact with Amazonia is only a brief sampling of what the rest of your journey will hold.

*8:00 a.m. Breakfast. Our sumptuous daily breakfast buffet features a wide choice of traditional breakfast egg dishes, plus Peruvian specialties, and fresh-squeezed juices, made from tropical fruits you've never tasted before.

*9:15 a.m. Explore the Yacapana Isles. Locals call the Yacapana Isles the "the Isle of the Iguana" thanks to the great number of these reptiles, resembling tiny dinosaurs, which inhabit them. Amazonian beliefs state that if you touch an iguana, you will develop some of its characteristics and, as no one wants to look like one of them, these animals are well protected. We will pass very close the islands aboard the launches, giving you an opportunity to take good photos of the flora and fauna that we are able to observe along our route. We will also have the opportunity to go fishing for the infamous piranhas with our naturalists.

*11:45 a.m. Return to the M/V Aria. While the boat continues its journey along the Amazon River, you will have free time to rest or take a siesta before lunch.

*12:30 p.m. Lunch. Enjoy a light lunch in the air conditioned dining room.

*4:00 p.m. Expedition to the Yarapa River. As the sun sets, you will have the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to see and photograph both gray and pink freshwater dolphins. The people of the Amazon believe that these dolphins turn into humans to steal handsome men or pretty women from their villages during celebrations. Once the sun sets and the jungle is dark, we begin our search for caiman, frogs, and different kinds of nightlife.

*7:30 p.m. Return to the boat. Before dining, we recommend drinking a pisco sour as an aperitif on the top deck, while watching the sunset.

*8:00 p.m. Dinner

(Included meals : Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

Day 3: Yanallpa - Magdalena Village - Pacaya (Sun)
*6:30 a.m. Optional excursion to see wildlife along the Ucayali river.

*8:00 a.m. Breakfast

*9:30 a.m. Jungle Walk to Magdalena. After breakfast we stroll through the village of Madgalena, a small community of just ten families. After you meet the people, including lots of lively and curious children, your naturalist guides will lead you through the jungle to a beautiful lake that is home to the world famous Victoria Regia giant water lily. Have your cameras ready to capture this once-in-a-lifetime sight.

*11:30 a.m. Return to the M/V Aria

*12:30 p.m. Lunch, followed by a siesta

*4:00 p.m. Excursion to watch Monkeys and Dolphins. On this trip, you will be able to appreciate the different types of freshwater dolphin, including the rare pink dolphins found along the Ucayali River. We recommend that you bring your binoculars as there will also be opportunities to observe some species of birds, among which the macaws stand out, as well as a spectacular sundown.

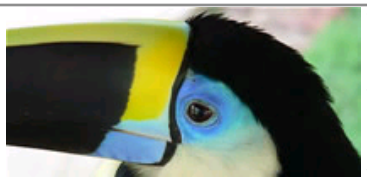
*7:30 p.m. Return to the M/V Aria

8:30 p.m. Dinner

(Included meals : Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

Day 4: Source Of The Amazon - Puerto Prado - Nauta Caño (Mon)
*7:00 a.m. Breakfast

*8:00 a.m. Birthplace of the Amazon. This morning, the M/V Aria skirts the edges of the vast Pacaya-Samiria Reserve, a flooded forest covering five million acres at the headwaters of the Amazon basin. Rise early and be on your skiffs at 8:00 a.m. to view one of the great spectacles of the Southern Hemisphere: the sun rising over the birthplace of the Amazon River. Here, where the union of two major



tributaries, the Ucayali and the Marañon, form the world's greatest waterway, nature is at its most dramatic. Your dawn excursion will be accompanied by abundant bird song, as you glide in small boats past river banks populated by large-billed terns, laughing falcons, gray tanagers, sandpipers, five kinds of parakeets, the exotic short-tailed parrot, and dozens of other birds.

8:30 a.m. Puerto Prado Village
We will then travel by skiff to Puerto Prado native village, where you will get to know the hospitable Cocama Indians. They will share their culture, traditions, and folklore with you, and you will have the opportunity to purchase some of their delightful folk art and crafts.

*12:00 p.m. Lunch. Share a farewell last lunch with your fellow passengers who have taken the three-night journey.

*3:30 p.m. Afternoon Excursion to Nauta Caño
Nauta Caño is also part of the Pacaya Samiria Reserve. It is known as the mirrored forest, due to its glistening black water lagoons. Here you will enjoy observing different species, such as: toucans, parrots, macaws, iguanas, and more. On the way back to the M/V Aria you will see a glorious sunset reflected in the waters of the mirrored forest.

*6:00 p.m. Return to the M/V Aria

*8:30 p.m. Dinner
Meet new passengers who have signed on for the four-night trip, and enjoy your gourmet meal as we start our journey along the Ucayali River.

(Included meals : Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

Day 5: Marañon River - Choroyacu - Pacaya (Tue)
*7:00 a.m. Breakfast

*8:00 a.m. Boat Ride Expedition. This morning we will board the skiffs to explore part of the vast Amazon flooded forest. Your guides will tell you about the rainforest and its dynamic life, as we explore what scientists call a "gallery forest," because of its narrow vegetation, creating a tunnel of leaves. As we float through this tunnel, it is easy to spot parrots, macaws, and fluffy monk saki monkeys, very close to the skiff.

*11:30 a.m. Return to the M/V Aria

*12:30 p.m. Lunch

*4:00 p.m. Jungle Walk and Village Visit. On this walk, your guides will introduce you to native people doing subsistence farming, and will tell you how they learned to cultivate wild plants and trees to earn farm income. As your adventure takes you deep into the primary forest, your guides will also show you the wealth of fruit trees and medicinal plants hidden in the jungle, and will reveal some of the plants' secrets.
7:30 p.m. Return to the M/V Aria

*8:00 p.m. Dinner

(Included meals : Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

Day 6: Tacsha River - Pacaya - San Martin De Tipishca (Wed)
*6:30 a.m. Breakfast. Today you can choose between two options:

Option 1: Full-day excursion to Primary forest with a Picnic Lunch
*7:30 a.m. This morning you will board your skiff to go deep into the Pacaya Samiria National Reserve, along the Samiria River. Along the route, we will have the opportunity to see various species of monkey, such as howler monkeys, squirrel monkeys, saddleback tamarin monkeys and many bird species such as blue, yellow and scarlet macaws as well as toucans and some species of river hawks. We will arrive at the PV2 Tacsha watchpost, where we will follow a path deep into the rainforest. Enjoy a generous picnic lunch, before we begin our journey back to our vessel.

*5:30 p.m. Arrive at the M/V Aria.

Option 2: Guided Jungle Walk/Siesta/Monkey and Dolphin Expedition

*7:30 a.m. Guided Jungle Walk in the Primary Forest . This morning your Naturalist Guide will tell you all about sustainable resource management projects in Amazonia, and will take you to one of these projects, where villagers are planting palms to obtain oil. Your Guide may also show you the artificial nests created on the sand to protect turtle eggs. Then we will take you deep into the jungle, where you will encounter wildlife and learn first-hand about the important medicinal value of many jungle plants. We will also show you famous Kapok Trees (ceiba pentandra), the tallest trees in the Amazon Basin.

*12:00 p.m. Return to the M/V Aria

*1:00 p.m. Lunch, followed by a Siesta

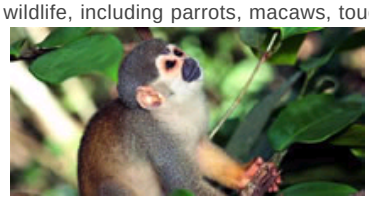
*4:00 p.m. Caiman Expedition
In this late afternoon skiff excursion, keep your eyes directed toward the jungle canopy, where you can spot at least several kinds of primates, some of the 13 species of monkeys resident in the National Reserve. Perhaps you will catch a glimpse of tamarins and dusky titi monkeys, as well as pigmy marmoset monkeys. Watch for alligators, and keep your binoculars at the ready, as you are likely to see more than 200 species of birds. As the sun sets and our searchlight comes on, keep your eyes out for caimans, tree boas, tarantulas, and frogs.

*7:30 p.m. Return to the M/V Aria

*8:30 p.m. Dinner

(Included meals : Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

Day 7: Yanayacu Pucate - Tahuayo - Charo Lake (Thu)
*6:30 a.m. Yanayacu Pucate Exploration and Breakfast Aboard the Skiffs. Back on the river as the sun rises, you will see a treasure trove of wildlife, including parrots, macaws, toucans, and many kinds of monkeys—as well as some "surprise" species that you have never seen before. Enjoy a "bag breakfast" of light sandwiches and fresh juice. Since we will stop near a popular dolphin feeding spot, you will see quite a show as you enjoy your meal.



*11:30 a.m. Return to the M/V Aria. As our journey nears its end, your luxurious home away from home starts to sail back down the river toward Iquitos. It isn't over yet however. A new adventure awaits you this afternoon.

*12:30 p.m. Lunch

*3:30 p.m. Excursion along the Tahuayo River and Fishing on Lake Charo. This evening you will board our comfortable launch and navigate from the Amazon River through the Huaysi Canal to explore the dark waters of the Tahuayo River. Lifejackets, ponchos, rubber boots and freshwater will be available on our launches. As we navigate along the Tahuayo River, we will observe fishermen paddling in their canoes. Keep your binoculars handy to see the abundant wildlife: sparrows, hawks, monkeys and sloths will be sharing this marvellous location with us. After our arrival at Lake Charo, you will be using the fishing gear to fish for piranhas and other specious. While you fish, our nature guides will tell you the history of the lake and its residents.

*6:30 p.m. Return to the M/V Aria. Once we are back onboard, the ship will continue its journey down stream, sailing toward Iquitos through the night.

*7:00 p.m. Briefing in the Top Lounge - Recap of Itinerary and Sightings.

*8:00 p.m. Farewell Dinner. Leaving the peace and beauty of the jungle behind, we will enjoy our final dinner together, swapping stories about the wonderful experiences shared on the river.

*9:00 p.m. Crew Presentation. After dinner, your guides will introduce some of the crew members that you have not yet met, but who have been busy with the "behind the scenes" work that has helped to create a seamless experience.

(Included meals : Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

Day 8: Iquitos - Check - City Tour - Departure(Fri)
*7:30 a.m. Breakfast

*9:30 a.m. Morning Excursion.
The excursions today depend on the level of the river. Weather and time permitting, this will be the last opportunity to see how people live along the Amazon,by floating in skiffs through the lively riverside community of Belen, in Iquitos. Here, where the houses and shops actually float on the river during some months, you will see the bustling food market for the entire Peruvian Amazon. All local inhabitants throughout the region sell and purchase goods here.

*11:00 a.m. Return to the M/V Aria. Sadly, it's time to finish packing. Please leave your packed suitcases in your suite for pickup before going to lunch.

*12.00 p.m. Light Lunch

*1:15 p.m. Disembarkation/City Tour/Manatee Rescue Center/Transfer to the Airport. Your afternoon in the remote city of Iquitos, accessible only by river or air, will not disappoint. This bustling town, complete with a house built by Gustave Eiffel, was once a rich center of the rubber industry. Before we head for the airport, we will take you to visit the Manatee Rescue Center, where biologists and volunteers care for endangered Amazon manatees that conservation authorities have seized from local people, including fishermen. Biologists will give a presentation about the project and its efforts to help these helpless mammals. You will also see how the manatees are cared for and are prepared for re-introduction into their natural habitat. Finally, we will stop at the San Juan Amazonian Indian Market, for a last

chance to shop for local crafts.

*4:30 p.m. Check in at Iquitos International Airport. Your guides will help you with check-in, and will stay with you until you have boarded your flight back to Lima.

*5:50 p.m. Your Flight Departs for Lima LA 2383

(Included meals : Breakfast, Lunch)

ERROR: No price table has been supplied for parsing.

Includes :
-All meals on board
-All excursions
-All beverages without alcohol, wine & beer
-Transfers to and from the dock
-Entrance to Pacaya Reserva reserve

Not included :
-Local flights from Lima - Iquitos - Lima
-Tips to guides or crew
-Purchases in the boutique

Notes :
All rates are per person double occupancy; single supplement +25% regular rates.
Child Policy: 7 year age minimum on all departures, child under 12 years old will receive a 20% discount.
Third person sleeping on sofa bed will receive a 20% discount
Third person being a child under 12 years old sleeping on sofa bed pays US $400 per night
All itineraries are subject to change, due to weather and other conditions. All times indicated are approximate, and are also subject to change.

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