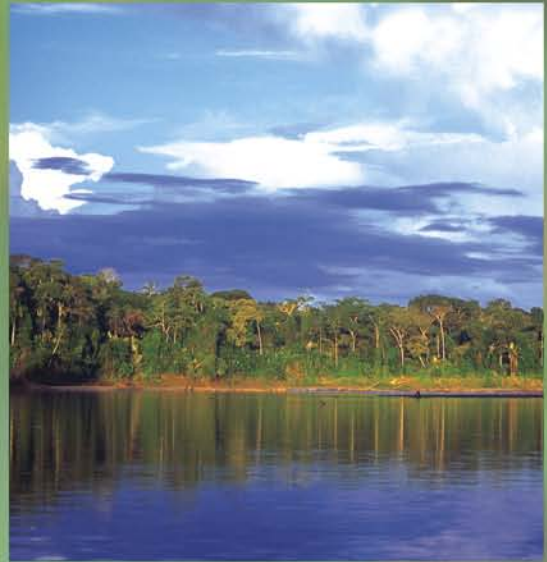


The Great
MAMU
Wilderness



By far the richest, most extraordinary biological transect in the Amazon, or the world, starts in Cusco and runs northeast by road and river to the great Manu Wilderness.

Manu offers by far the greatest quantity and diversity of animals and plants in the world. No other destination in Peru or beyond can compare. Nowhere else can you enjoy a superbly intact transect of tropical habitats from Andean grasslands and cloud forests down to foothill and lowland forests.

Manu boasts the highest bird, mammal, and plant diversity of any park on Earth, including 1,000 of the world's 9,700 bird species, 200 species of mammals, and 15,000 species of flowering plants. The most photogenic spectacles are frolicking Giant Otters, 1,000 parrots and macaws at a riverbank clay lick, dancing Cocks-of-the-Rock, habituated monkeys, and huge Lowland Tapirs at a forest clay lick.

One of our lodges, Manu Wildlife Center, currently offers the world's finest viewing of this elusive animal, which elsewhere is harder to see even than the Jaguar, which also is a frequent sight in Manu.

In terms of wildlife for your money, our Manu itineraries offer the greatest payoff of wildlife per dollar of any rain forest site in Latin America. Other New World rain forests may be somewhat less expensive than Manu, but NONE of them offer Manu's tremendous wildlife diversity. For travelers who want the finest rain forest experiences in the world, Manu offers the ultimate "bio-trip". All trips described here start and end in Cusco and include all air and ground transport, food, lodging, and guided rain forest outings.





Our Traditional Offerings in Manu



2. THE ULTIMATE BIO-TRIP.

This five-night program provides a complete overview of the habitats and wildlife of all elevations along the road-and-river route from Cusco to the Manu lowlands. We travel in our expedition bus down the orchid-festooned cloud forest road to Cock-of-the-Rock Lodge, which offers the world's finest viewing of these blazing scarlet birds. The following day, we drive and boat to Pantiacolla Lodge in the foothills of the Andes. On day three, we boat to Manu Wildlife Center and spend three nights there exploring the vast Manu lowlands. This trip includes one visit each to the Macaw Clay Lick, the Tapir Clay Lick, a canopy platform, and a mature oxbow lake. On the last day, you fly out to Cusco.

One fixed departure per week departing Cusco on Wednesday and arriving back on Monday. Minimum of two persons.

1. MANU WILDLIFE CENTER-the single finest wildlife site in Latin American rain forests.

From Cusco this lodge is only 35 minutes by air and 90 minutes by river. No other lodge in Manu offers all the major wildlife attractions in one spot: 1) the world's largest tapir lick; 2) the most photogenic large macaw lick; 3) miles of monkey-rich trails through mature rain forest; 4) two 120-foot-tall (35-m) canopy platforms; 5) two mature lakes complete with Hoatzins and Giant Otters.

The Wildlife Center is located in a private, 40,000-acre rain forest reserve adjacent to the 1 million acre protected area named the "Amarakaeri Reserved Zone". The Center is the only lodge in the Manu lowlands with roomy, private bungalows, each of which has en suite private bathrooms complete with tiled, hot water showers.

Fixed departures on Mondays and Thursdays with a minimum of two persons.





Two New Itineraries Featuring Our New Wildlife Tented Camp in the Manu Reserved Zone

For birders and wilderness enthusiasts, we recommend boating far up the wild Manu River to stay at our new Manu Wildlife Tented Camp near Cocha (Lake) Salvador, the largest and most beautiful of the 13 oxbow lakes of the Manu River. This itinerary offers excellent opportunities to observe flocks of beach-nesting birds and to search for a Jaguar lurking on the riverbank.

The Wildlife Tented Camp features screened, hermetically-sealed, double-occupancy, walk-in tents with hinged, lockable doors and solid wooden floors. Each tent measures 16.5x10x7 feet (5x3x2.2m) and the floor is elevated above the ground on wooden stilts. Each of the extra-long twin beds in each tent has a mosquito net. Our camp also features an elevated, screened dining room with wooden floor and a separate complex of shared hot-water showers and flush toilets. For those who prefer not to venture out at night, each tent has a private enclosure equipped with a sturdy, plastic-and-metal camp toilet.



DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY

Day 1: Transfer from your Cusco hotel to the airport; flight to Landing Strip at the mouth of the Manu River, and 5-6-hour motorized passenger canoe ride up the Manu River to the Wildlife Tented Camp (WTC) near Cocha Salvador in the multiple use tourist zone called "Manu Reserved Zone". Lunch and dinner.

Day 2: Visit Cocha Salvador and take a canoe or catamaran outing on the lake to observe birds and to search for Giant Otters. Also walk trails through different forest types, with excellent chances to observe monkeys. Breakfast, lunch, and dinner.

Day 3: Short motorcanoe ride on the Manu River to the trail head for Cocha Otorongo, walk the trails at Cocha Otorongo to search for Woolly Monkeys (the best place to see them in the Manu lowlands), climb a 50-foot (17 m), metal tower to the mid-canopy, and return to Wildlife Tented Camp for the night. Breakfast, lunch, and dinner.

Day 4: Leave very early to motor down the Manu River and catch the flight to Cusco. Transfer to your hotel in Cusco. Breakfast.

We offer fixed departures on Tuesdays and Saturdays with a minimum of two persons.

FIRST NEW ITINERARY: The Manu Adventurer

This trip is an superb choice for the hardy explorer intent on experiencing the wildest habitat in the Manu Watershed. This trip, which features three nights at the Wildlife Tented Camp on the Manu River, includes all food, lodging, boat and air transport (Cusco to Cusco), and guided explorations of Cochass Salvador and Otorongo.



RECOMMENDED TWO-NIGHT EXTENSION TO VISIT MACAW CLAY LICK, TAPIR CLAY LICK, AND CANOPY PLATFORM

For those who wish to extend their stay to visit the macaw clay lick, tapir clay lick, 120-foot-high (35m-high) canopy platforms and mature oxbow lakes near Manu Wildlife Center, we recommend that you boat down the Madre de Dios River and spend two nights at Manu Wildlife Center. This two-night extension could be done just before or just after our "Manu Adventurer" itinerary. Pre-trip extensions start in Cuzco on Thursdays and Sundays, while post-trip extensions start at the Manu Landing Strip on Tuesdays and Fridays.

SECOND NEW ITINERARY: The Manu Explorer

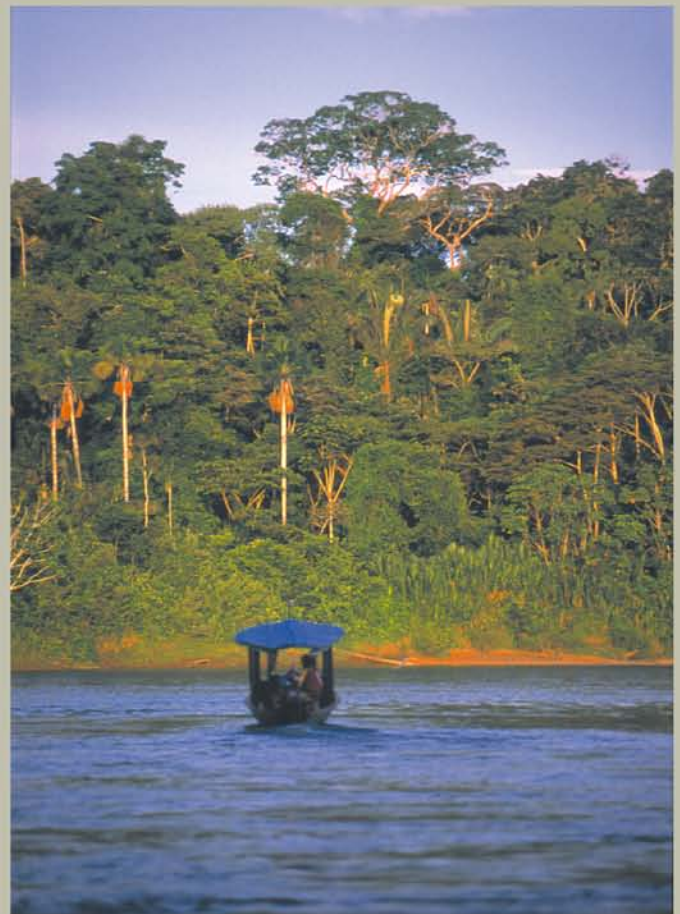
This program is similar to our traditional "Bio-Trip" but features the Wildlife Tented Camp as the lowland rain forest site instead of the Manu Wildlife Center.

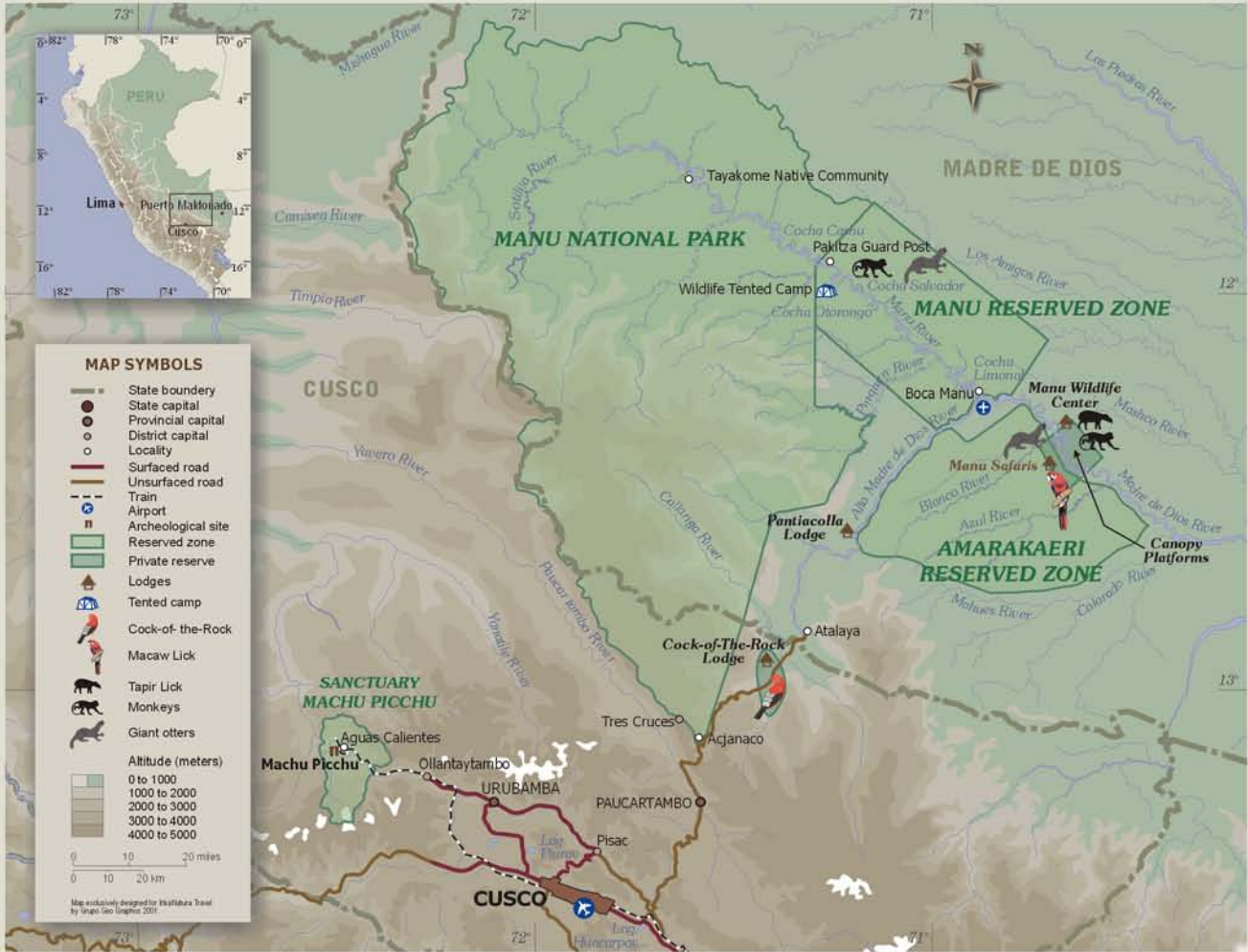
Day 1: Sunday. Depart Cusco in our private, custom-designed expedition bus with reclining seats and extra legroom and drive all day through all elevations and habitats to reach Cock-of-the-Rock Lodge, which is located in our private, 11,000-acre (4,400-hectare) cloud forest reserve. This is the largest private reserve of cloud forest in Peru. The bus stops frequently during the trip to permit visits to small Andean towns and exploration of the incredible range of cloud forest habitats. Lunch and dinner.

Day 2: Monday. Observe Cocks-of-the-Rock displaying and calling at dawn, and then enjoy breakfast back at the lodge. Explore the cool, moist, mosquito-free cloud forest and search for the confiding Brown Capuchin Monkeys. Travel by bus for 2-3 more hours to the riverside hamlet of Atalaya, where we board our motor canoes to travel down the Alto Madre de Dios River towards the mouth of the Manu River. Depending on the road and river conditions on this day, we either sleep in a simple tented camp (with small tents) or in a rustic local lodge near the mouth of the Manu River. Breakfast, lunch, and dinner.

Day 3: Tuesday. Dawn in the forest or on the riverbank, and then travel by motor canoe up the Manu River for 5-6 hours to the Wildlife Tented Camp near Cocha Salvador. Breakfast, lunch, and dinner.

Days 4, 5, and 6 are the same as Days 2, 3, and 4 from the Manu Adventurer above.





Useful references

- 90-minute-long, 1993 video entitled " Spirits of the Rainforest", from Discovery Channel. This documentary about Manu won the Emmy for Best Documentary.
- 52-minute-long, 1997 video entitled " Manu: Peru's Hidden Rainforest", from Public Broadcasting System (PBS).
- "Macaws: Winged Rainbows", by Charles A. Munn. Cover story of January 1994 National Geographic Magazine.
- "Peru's Amazonian Paradise: Manu, National Park and Biosphere Reserve", by Kim MacQuarrie, with photos by Andre Baertschi. 1998.



Packing list

- Good binoculars and camera gear
- A hat that will not blow off
- Two or three pairs of long cotton pants
- Four pairs of absorbent socks.
- Rain suit or poncho (100 % waterproof)
- Two or three long-sleeved cotton shirts
- Personal toiletries and medications.
- Two or three T-shirts.
- A water bottle for outings.
- Sunglasses, sunscreen lotion
- Two pair of sneakers or hiking boots.
- Insect repellents ("Skin-so-soft" for river, and 20%+ DEET for forest.)
- Photocopy of passport (leave original in Cusco).
- Two small flashlights and a larger one for long night walks in the forest.
- Swimsuit and one pair of shorts



Contact your travel agent or

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