



## Why book this trip?

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This unique trip is dedicated solely to discovering the rich ecosystem of the Amazon, journeying between the cities of Belem and Manaus by a variety of boat. We sail along the unimaginably wide Amazon River, exploring the thriving communities living near the banks. This is certainly a trip for an active traveller who is willing to forgo higher comfort levels to experience something extraordinary.

- **Amazon villages** - Visit caboclo (mixed white and indigenous) communities that live on the banks of the river
- **Alter do Chao** - See white-sand beaches in the middle of the Amazon
- **Stargazing** - Sleep in a hammock on deck, beneath a sea of shimmering stars



**INCLUDED MEALS**  
Breakfast: 15  
Lunch: 5  
Dinner: 6



**TRIP STAFF**  
Explore Tour  
Leader  
Boat Crew  
Driver(s)  
Local Guide(s)



**TRANSPORT**  
Bus  
Boat  
Flight



**ACCOMMODATION**  
2 nights  
comfortable boat  
2 nights simple boat  
1 nights simple  
camping  
6 nights  
comfortable hotel  
2 nights simple  
hotel  
2 nights  
comfortable lodge



**TRIP PACE:**  
Moderate



**GROUP SIZE:**  
12 - 18

## Itinerary

Itineraries on some departure dates may differ, please select the itinerary that you wish to explore.

### DAY 1 - Join trip in Belem

Arrive in Belem, the Amazon's port city, situated at the Guaraja Bay in the eastern part of the vast Amazon delta. In the late 1800s, the city owed much of its wealth to the burgeoning rubber trade, and we see this history played out in the number of colonial-era buildings found within Belem's downtown district.

For those arriving on time today our Tour Leader plans to meet you in the hotel reception at 5pm for your welcome briefing, and for those who wish there will be the option have dinner together with the group this evening. There are no other activities planned today, so you are free to arrive in Belem at any time. If you would like to receive a complimentary airport transfer today, you'll need to arrive into Belem's Val de Cans International Airport (airport code: BEL), which is approximately a 20 minute drive from our hotel. Should you miss the meeting, your Leader will inform you of any essential information as soon as you catch up.

If your flight arrives earlier in the day, you could visit the Museu Goeldi, a perfect introduction to the culture, fauna and flora of the Amazon region.



**ACCOMMODATION:**  
Hotel Grao Para (or similar)



Grade: Comfortable Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: NONE

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## DAY 2 - Walking tour of Belem; chance to visit the Goeldi Museum

This morning, a local guide will navigate us through some of the city's main sights, introducing us to the portuguese-tiled houses and beautiful baroque churches of the city centre. One of the most noteworthy attractions is certainly the Ver-o-Peso market with its distinctive steeple towers and central position on the docks of the city. This huge public market stocks everything imaginable from meat, fish, and medicinal plants, to arts and crafts and even a specialised market selling only the endemic acai berry, a staple of the Brazilian Amazon populations. We'll also discover the main opera house (entrance not included), which is one of the city's most impressive buildings, built in the late nineteenth-century at a time that was known as the 'Golden Age of Rubber'.

The afternoon is at our leisure to wander around the shady streets of Belem. Belem is the Amazon's culinary capital, using many indigenous plants and fruits, as well as plenty of fresh seafood. During the evening, the Estacao das Docas is well worth exploring - this series of three historic dockside warehouses has been converted into restaurants, bars and even a small theatre, with views out to the river.



ACCOMMODATION:  
Hotel Grao Para (or similar)



Grade: Comfortable Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

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## DAY 3 - Public boat to Marajo Island; explore the village and beach

Rising early this morning we head to the port to catch our public boat across to Marajo Island, a land mass in the Amazon River Delta that is bigger than the Netherlands. The boat journey takes approximately 3.5 hrs, and is somewhat an experience in itself as we follow the lush banks of the island,

hopefully spotting monkeys up in the tree branches. Upon arrival we will drive to our pousada (local inn), situated on a cliff overlooking Joanes Beach, a deserted stretch of Atlantic coastline harbouring fresh water, the influence of the mouth of the Amazon. This afternoon we may take the opportunity to take a canoe trip on the Rio Limao, or walk along the miles of deserted beaches.



ACCOMMODATION:  
Pousada Ventania (or similar)



**Grade: Comfortable Lodge**



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

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#### **DAY 4 - Full day on Marajo Island; wildlife tour**

The open grasslands of Marajo Island flood during the rainy months, creating a year-round wetland habitat that is excellent for wildlife spotting. It is particularly well known for its water buffalo - the story goes that some 150 years ago, a ship heading for the West Indies, carrying a herd of Indian water buffalo, sank off the Marajo coast. Most of the cattle were adept swimmers, and eventually reached the shore, making their home on the island, where they proliferate today in both a wild and domestic setting. They are used commonly in agriculture as well as being a common form of transport around the island. The diverse landscape of the island, with its rainforests, savannas, wetlands, beaches and mangroves, has developed a thriving eco system. There are all kinds of birds, including the red ibis, macaws, parrots and the 'missing link' hoatzin (the only bird with claws on its wings), as well as capybara, monkeys, and sloths hidden in the trees. We experience this wild setting today. Returning first to the port, we board a motorized canoe to take us upriver to a buffalo farm. The journey lasts 45 minutes but may be longer if we find any animals along the way. At the farm we enjoy a regional lunch with items produced on the farm - buffalo meat and cheese is a definite. We can head through the farm pastures looking for wildlife, and take a river journey to search for caimans, sloths and birds etc, before returning to the port and our lodge.



ACCOMMODATION:  
Pousada Ventania (or similar)



**Grade: Comfortable Lodge**



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST & LUNCH

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### **DAY 5 - Return to Belem; begin 2 night boat trip from Belem to Monte Alegre**

Heading back to Belem this morning we arrive in time for lunch at one of the restaurants in town. We are able to take a leisurely lunch before returning to the port to board our second boat of the trip for the journey to Monte Alegre. This public boat is equipped with twin cabins with air conditioning, a shower and WC, and buffet-style meals are all served on the boat. You will need to bring a lightweight sleeping bag liner (a sheet or two will also suffice) and a towel, as not all bedding is provided. This first evening we watch the vanishing lights of Belem as we set off on our way to Monte Alegre.



ACCOMMODATION:

Overnight boat from Belem to Monte Alegre (or similar)



**Grade: Comfortable Boat**



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST & DINNER

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### **DAY 6 - On the boat; watch life on the Amazon pass by; stargazing**

This first day on board takes us through narrow waterways with abundant rainforest, and typical 'caboclo' dwellings on stilts, built to cope with the fluctuating water levels. Caboclo communities are descended from the mixture of the indigenous populations and the white adventurers, such as rubber tappers and prospectors. We have a look into their lives on the riverbank as we travel, seeing them wash clothes, fish and travel to school by canoe or boat. Throughout our journey from Belem to Monte Alegre, we will be stopping in various locations in the Amazon Basin to see the busy ports and the loading and unloading of cargo, taking in the colourful atmosphere. Part of the fun of the journey is watching the frantic port activity as crates of alcohol, food and supplies are quickly unloaded at each town.



ACCOMMODATION:

Overnight boat from Belem to Monte Alegre (or similar)



## Grade: Comfortable Boat



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST, LUNCH & DINNER

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### DAY 7 - On the boat; watch life on the Amazon pass by; stargazing

This morning we awake on the mighty Amazon proper, 10-15km wide in parts, finding ourselves observing both banks at a distance and taking in the atmosphere of this incredible place. One of the highlights of this trip is the sky at night - away from city lights, we have unparalleled stargazing opportunities. The bar on the upper deck is the best place to watch the sunset, and also gives us the perfect chance to mingle with our fellow travellers, enjoying a game of cards or chatting about our mutual travel experiences. This is slow travel at its best, so bringing a book or activity for the boat is essential. In the evening we arrive late into the town, somewhere between 8pm and midnight.



#### ACCOMMODATION:

Hotel Panorama (or similar)



## Grade: Comfortable Hotel



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST, LUNCH & DINNER

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### DAY 8 - Option to discover ancient rock paintings; drive to Vale do Paraíso

For those who want to rise early, we have the chance to travel to the Serra do Erere - a spot of great anthropological and historical importance. It was here that the archaeologist Anna Roosevelt (granddaughter of the former US president) studied the petroglyphs and rock paintings found on the jagged peaks protruding through the jungle, and sparked her belief that the native people in this area could not have been descendants of the original indigenous people who populated North America across the Bering Strait. Her findings in the Painted Rock Cave (part of the Serra do Erere) were dated 10 to 11 thousand years ago. In the present-day Serra do Erere, not only can we witness these important caves and petroglyphs, but we also take a short hike to be rewarded by stunning views over the vast Amazon floodplains.

Those who have opted to remain in Monte Alegre will enjoy a relaxed morning discovering this 300 year old town and its typical Portuguese-style buildings. Before lunch we set off via dusty red dirt roads for the hidden rainforest paradise of Vale do Paraíso. Along the way we pass simple huts and rickety wooden bridges through the Amazon region. We arrive in the late afternoon to the pousada - this set of simple cabins was built with love by a local Brazilian who wanted to create something sustainable, integrating

the wooden buildings into the rainforest environment. We can spend the rest of the afternoon walking the trails and exploring the forest.



ACCOMMODATION:  
Pousada Vale do Paraíso (or similar)



Grade: Simple Hotel



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

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### DAY 9 - Free day in Vale do Paraíso; options include waterfall swimming

Vale do Paraíso is situated in a leafy valley, its river carving a path through the steep forest walls. It is known best for its three waterfalls, between 12-35m high, with dark pools that are perfect for swimming. A path connects the three falls, making it a wonderful place to cool off after walking in the humidity. The first fall is near to the pousada and easy enough to take a dip there on our own steam. For those who wish, a local guide will take us to the second and third falls, which are located at 30 minute intervals from each other, through dense jungle and along the river bed. This is a steep hike in sections, with some use of ropes to help on the uneven ground. These beautiful waterfalls are great for swimming, surrounded by the rainforest.

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Important to note: Brazil's dry season is roughly from September to November, when the waterfalls in Vale do Paraíso will be relatively low. If this is important to you, we recommend travelling earlier in the year (where dates are available) for a more impressive effect.



ACCOMMODATION:  
Pousada Vale do Paraíso (or similar)



Grade: Simple Hotel



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

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## DAY 10 - Travel to the river beaches of Alter do Chao

We've got a very early start this morning, leaving our rainforest paradise at around 4am to drive to Alenquer, where a speedboat awaits us to take us through the narrow Amazon creeks across to the town of Santarem. There are only two of these public speedboats each day, hence our early departure. We head immediately 35km south to the laid-back town of Alter do Chao. Best known for its beautiful white-sandy beach and transparent waters (an unusual site for anyone expecting the muddy brown Amazon), it is also idyllically situated on a blue lagoon and flanked by forest reserves. The town has attracted many beachside dwellers, and there is a lively feel to the town with Carimbo (Amazonian folk music) being played by many of the small local bars. This afternoon is free to explore, swim and relax in these surroundings. You may wish to head to one of the open-air restaurants, where chairs and tables are placed in the warm water of the lagoon, with only the tabledesk above the water level, and fish swim around you as you eat.



ACCOMMODATION:  
Pousada Agualinda (or similar)



Grade: Comfortable Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

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## DAY 11 - Free day in Alter do Chao; chance to visit local communities

Today is free to enjoy the lush green surroundings and sandy beaches of Alter do Chao. There are many options here, including a trip to the FLONA (National Forest) nature reserve; a massive protected area of primary rainforest, FLONA gives you the opportunity to learn a lot about the delicate ecosystems that exist in the Amazon, as the passionate local guides give an in-depth view of the many different plants and bird species living here as well as a history of the rubber trade in the area. Alternatively, take a boat trip on the Lago Verde at its main canals. During the wet season (Feb-Aug) we will be able to enter the Enchanted Forest by canoe and explore this labyrinth of trees that are home to birds and monkeys. During the dry season (Sep-Jan) the low water levels allow us to walk along the canals and do some surface snorkelling to explore the area's marine life.



ACCOMMODATION:  
Pousada Agualinda (or similar)



## Grade: Comfortable Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

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### DAY 12 - Fly to Manaus and board private boat

This morning is free to enjoy the final hours along the river at Alter do Chao. In the afternoon we transfer to Santarem airport and fly to Manaus (taking into account the time zone change, this journey takes a mere 10 minutes!), before heading to the port to board our private boat. This really is the climax of our Amazon journey as we cruise down the Rio Negro for 3 nights, sleeping in hammocks under the stars. On board our boat is a galley, a small bar and basic washing facilities. We will be sleeping on deck, so be prepared for a certain lack of privacy. Hammocks are of course provided, but they are also found in abundance in Belem and Manaus, and many people like to buy one as a souvenir and use it on the boat. Your tour Leader can tell you the right way to sleep in a hammock (diagonally) in order to get the best night's sleep!



#### ACCOMMODATION:

Overnight Boat on Rio Negro (or similar)



## Grade: Simple Boat



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST & DINNER

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### DAY 13 - Rio Negro boat trip; visit indigenous communities

During the course of the 3 days on board the boat, there are a whole range of excursions that will allow us to thoroughly explore this Amazon region. Throughout the boat trip we will be seeing the huge Victoria Regia water lily, birdwatching and hopefully spotting pink Amazon river dolphins playing alongside us in the water. We have motorised canoes on the boat with us and will be using them to explore the riverbanks as well as landing on the shore to do some jungle walking on foot. We visit a caboclo family as well as an indigenous community in order to learn more about how they live in this rainforest environment. One of the most interesting parts is learning about how they use the plants and trees around them - each one of them has a meaning and a use. We will be exploring jungle trails with our guides and Explore Leader, as well as discovering the huge river archipelago of Anavilhanas, which has more than 1000 islands and abundant aquatic life, including caimans and dolphins. In the evening we do night outings to spot dark caiman, or catch a piranha supper. This trip gives us a real expedition feeling while still travelling in the relative luxury of our boat.

**ACCOMMODATION:**

Overnight Boat on Rio Negro (or similar)



**Grade: Simple Boat**



**MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST, LUNCH & DINNER**

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**DAY 14 - Rio Negro boat trip; sail through the Anavilhanas archipelago of 1000 islands**

Our final full day on the boat brings our Amazon exploration to an end, and hopefully we will have caught a glimpse of 'the real thing'. Our ideas of the Amazon are so often glamorised - weird and wonderful birds flying overhead, animals popping out of the forest canopy every two minutes and spear-toting indigenous tribes behind each tree. This journey is dedicated to discovering this incredible world region, and should defy some of the myths whilst giving us a sense of understanding and appreciation for this amazing ecosystem. Our guides and crew will make this part of the trip unforgettable. Tonight, we will be taking our hammocks off the boat and having a magical camping experience in the Amazon, with a BBQ meal cooked for us on the spot by our crew. This does of course depend on the weather - in cases of rain, we will sleep on the boat as normal.

**ACCOMMODATION:**

Hammock Camp on Rio Negro (or similar)



**Grade: Simple Camping**



**MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST, LUNCH & DINNER**

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**DAY 15 - Arrival in Manaus; fly to Rio de Janeiro; free afternoon**

This morning we disembark in Manaus, where we'll take a quick visit to the impressive Teatro Amazonas, a 19th Century neo-classical style opera house that is frankly a work of art. We will also see the 'Meeting of the Waters' - the point at which the black Rio Negro and the brown Solimoes come together and continue towards the coast under the name of the Amazon. The rivers run separately for several miles, creating an usual two-toned effect as the river runs. There is not a lot else in this Amazon city to hold us, and we fly to Rio in the afternoon for the final night of our tour.



**ACCOMMODATION:**

Hotel Copa Sul (or similar)

**Grade: Comfortable Hotel**



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

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### **DAY 16 - Trip ends in Rio**

The trip ends after breakfast at our hotel in Rio.

There are no activities planned today, so you are free to depart from Rio at any time. If your flight is departing later in the day, luggage storage facilities are available at our hotel, and this is the perfect opportunity to spend a day in Rio. The Christ the Redeemer statue is well worth the visit for a first timer, otherwise, for an alternative experience of Rio, the bohemian neighbourhood of Santa Teresa is full of cafes, art galleries and bars, and an excellent place to spend an afternoon. Time permitting, we recommend booking post-tour accommodation in Rio so that you can explore a little more of the city.

If you would like to receive a complimentary airport transfer today, you need to depart from Rio de Janeiro International Airport (airport code: GIG), which is approximately a one hour drive from our hotel.



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

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## **Trip information**

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### **Country information**

**Brazil**

## Climate

Due to its enormous size, Brazil has many different climatic zones which vary year round. There is no 'best time' to visit Brazil, but at different times of year your experience will vary. Temperatures rarely dip below 20° C, with Iguazu, Rio and Salvador dropping down there during the winter months of June to August. Evenings around the coast are cooler during this period but the sea is still warm and fresh, and the air is less humid. In Paraty, Belem, the Pantanal and the Amazon temperatures tend to hover around 30° C year round. January to March is mid-summer across Brazil, but warm days on the coast are matched by the rainy season in the Amazon and the Pantanal. Parts of the Pantanal become flooded and it can be a very lively time to visit. The main characteristics of this season are the beautiful water landscapes and the prevalence of many water birds. Conversely, the dry season (July to October) in the Pantanal is a better time to observe larger wildlife such as the coati or giant anteater. In the vast central area of the Amazon, the climate is tropical, with warm to hot temperatures year round, and a rainy season as detailed above.

Time difference to GMT	Plugs	Religion	Language
-3	2 Pin Round	Predominantly Roman Catholic.	Portuguese

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## Budgeting and packing

### Optional activities

The following excursions and/or activities are usually available and may be arranged locally. Estimated costs are provided below for guidance only, are on a per person basis unless shown otherwise, and may depend on the number of participants. Prices quoted are correct as of the date these tour notes were originally issued but may change at any time due to currency fluctuations. Please note: These activities are booked and paid for direct with the supplier and do not form part of your Explore holiday contract.

Marajo Island - Canoe trip on the Rio Limao US\$20; Local Carimbó dance show US\$15\*\*

Monte Alegre - Serra do Erere US\$59 (based on 4 pers.); US\$30 (based on 6 ppl)

Alter do Chao - Flona Nature reserve US\$104 (based on 6 pers.); Lagoa Verde boat trip - US\$64 (based on 6 pers)

Optional excursions need to be paid in local currency, although some accept credit card

### Clothing

Lightweight clothing is essential for this trip. The air is humid and muggy, so you may wish to change your clothes more than usual. We recommend clothes that cover legs and arms in the evening and on any walks, in order to protect your legs against scratches from trees and biting insects.

### Footwear

Good shoes or walking boots are essential for the jungle walks, which can be muddy and slippery. A pair of sandals or comfortable shoes will be useful for walking around the boat.

### Luggage

20kg

## Luggage: On tour

Main bag - One piece of main luggage, a daypack plus one small bag for your 2 nights in Paradise Valley where you will leave your main luggage in storage.

Hard shell bags are not practical on this trip - a soft rucksack or holdall is the best option, as you will be expected to carry your own baggage throughout the trip, including on and off the boats so don't overload yourself. Bring plastic bags to keep things dry.

## Equipment

Headtorch with spare batteries, water bottle, high factor sunscreen, insect repellent, binoculars and a selection of dry bags to keep personal equipment dry. Mosquito nets are not necessary on the Rio Negro, but if you are particularly sensitive to insect bites then you may wish to bring one, or simply put some insect repellent on your face and hands before sleeping. A lightweight raincoat is also essential for the jungle walks. In addition, you may also wish to bring a game, book or pack of cards with you for the evenings on the boat, a small travel wash if you would like to wash clothes by hand, and a lightweight travel towel for the Belem to Monte Alegre journey.

## Tipping

### Explore leader

Tipping isn't compulsory, and we work hard to ensure that our leaders all receive a fair wage. However, you might want to recognise a leader that's done a great job or really added to your trip by giving them a tip. We're often asked about the recommended amount. It's a tricky one, and down to personal preference, but we'd recommend between £15 to £20 per person per week as a guideline

### Local crew

Although entirely voluntary, tipping is a recognized part of life in this region of the world. Some local staff will look to members of the group for personal recognition of particular services provided. In order to make things easier for you, your leader may organise a group's tips kitty for included activities and meals and if this is the case, they will account for it throughout the tour.

Accordingly, you should allow US\$ 80, approx. 325 Reales for group tipping

For all non-included services and meals on your trip please tip independently at your discretion.

## Brazil

### Food and drink

The costs for meals may vary depending upon location, type of restaurant and number of courses eaten and so the prices given are an average guide. Local restaurants located off the beaten track may be less expensive, whereas an upmarket restaurant located in the centre of a major city may charge more.

Lunch price	Dinner price	Beer price	Water price
£10	£17	£2.1	£1

## Foreign Exchange

### Local currency

Real (BRL)

### Recommended Currency For Exchange

You can choose to either change your money in advance or on arrival at the airport. Here you will find both ATMs and Bureau de Change. The exchange rate with the BRL is approximately BRL 5 to the British Pound. We recommend you take some emergency cash in USD as the GBP exchange rate isn't very good. Notes should be in good condition otherwise they might be difficult to exchange. Please check on line for up to date information

### Where To Exchange

Your Tour Leader will advise you on arrival.

### ATM Availability

ATMs can also be found in the major towns and cities for cash withdrawals in BRL. Always have some cash back up as they are not always reliable

### Credit Card Acceptance

Credit card are widely accepted in many shops and restaurants but some may be subject to a service charge

### Travellers Cheques

We do not recommend Travellers Cheques

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## Transport, Accommodation & Meals

### Transport Information

Bus, Boat, Flight

### Accommodation notes

While in towns and cities we will be staying in a mixture of small lodges, bungalows and 3 star comfortable hotels. In Vale do Paraíso we stay at a pousada - a set of simple cabins in a remote area of the rainforest that were built to fit in harmoniously to the jungle environment.

We have two boat trips comprising 2 and 3 nights respectively - the first is on a public boat, where we will be joined by many more passengers travelling from Belem to Monte Alegre. Here you will have a twin cabin with en suite facilities and all bedding provided (except towels - please bring along a travel towel with you). You will be sharing with another Explore passenger of the same sex, and single cabins are available on the boat. In the second boat, which is our private Rio Negro cruise, we sleep out in hammocks under the stars. Sleeping mats can be provided if necessary, which you can use out on the deck, and these should be requested when you book in order to arrange them prior to travel. You will also need to bring a sheet or sleeping bag liner to cover yourself on the hammock - this is fully adequate for the warm Amazon nights. A travel towel is also recommended for washing.

As part of the Amazon boat journey, we also aim to take our hammocks off the boat and camp out in the jungle itself, with a BBQ meal cooked for us by our crew. This will depend on the weather - if rain is

forecast, we will sleep on the boat as normal.

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## **Essential Information**

### **Government Travel Safety Advice**

We strongly recommend that you check your government's travel advisory for up-to-date information and advice about your destination: safety and security, entry requirements, health, local laws and customs. For UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office advice [click here](#).

For more information from Explore about travel advice, [click here](#)

### **Under 18 immigration guidance**

Please note that some countries require proof of parental consent when travelling overseas with under 18s. Please check requirements with the relevant embassy or consular office well in advance of travel if this applies to your party.

### **Price Guarantee**

Once your booking has been confirmed we guarantee the price will not increase, whatever the circumstances. Before booking please ensure you have read our important tour pricing information. [Booking Conditions](#)

### **Visa and Passport Information**

**Brazil:** Visas are not required for UK citizens. They are, however, required for Canadian, Australian and US citizens. Citizens from Canada, Australia and the US can now get their visa for Brazil online. Applications can be done here - <http://www.vfsglobal.com/brazil-evisa/>

Other nationalities should consult the relevant consulate.

**USA:** (including those in transit) Citizens of the UK, New Zealand, Australia, Canada and passport holders from several EU countries can enter the United States without a visa under the Visa Waiver Program (VWP) - where you apply for an ESTA (Electronic System for Travel Authorisation), which applies if you enter the country by sea or by air. This must be done on line - <https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov> no later than 72 hours prior to travel. Travellers who have not registered before their trip are likely be refused boarding.

You must have an electronic passport with a digital chip containing biometric information about the passport owner. UK passports which are biometric feature a small gold symbol (camera) at the bottom of the front cover.

If you have visited Iraq, Syria, Iran or Sudan since 2011 or are dual nationals of these countries, you cannot travel with an ESTA and instead you will need to apply for a visa from the nearest US Embassy or Consulate. If you are unable to provide a valid visa before boarding flights to the US, or entering via another method, you may not be permitted to travel.

Please note for your ESTA application you will be required to supply Point of Contact information.

Explore's USA contact information will be listed on your final documentation which you will receive approximately 3-4 weeks before departure. If you are leaving for the USA before this, please call the Explore team to get this information. (Not necessary if in transit)

For further information please check out the US embassy website. Visa applications - <http://london.usembassy.gov/niv/apply.html>

Canada: An electronic travel authorisation (ETA) is required by British citizens transiting via Canada. For more information see the official Canadian government website:

<http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/visit/eta.asp>

Other nationalities should consult their local embassy or consular office.

If you do require assistance in obtaining a visa then you may be able to apply through Explore's recommended visa service in the UK, Travcour. See [www.travcour.com](http://www.travcour.com) to download the relevant visa application for your trip, if applicable (UK citizens only), along with details of how to apply for your visa through Travcour. The Team at Travcour will be happy to answer specific questions relating to visa applications, please call them directly on 0208 5431846.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you are in possession of a full passport, with the correct validity for your chosen destination.

## Booking conditions

Before booking your Explore trip, please ensure that you read both our Essential Information and Booking Conditions.

## Transfers

Find out more about [Trip Transfer Terms and Conditions](#) before you book.

### Booking a land only package with Explore

Customers who have chosen to book on the 'Land Only' arrangements of our tour, please ensure that you have checked your tour specific 'Joining Instructions' prior to booking your own travel arrangements. Your joining instructions can be found below in the dates and prices information.

You may also be eligible for the Free Explore Transfer.

### Joining Tour Abroad

Customers booked on the 'Land Only' arrangements will now receive a Free Transfer, provided you arrive and depart on the tour only itinerary start and end dates. The complimentary transfers will be arranged from the Explore designated airport or train station to your trips joining point, and then back from the ending point to the designated airport or train station. Generally the airport or station that Explore have selected will be the one that is closest to the town or city where the trip starts, or the one nearest to the joining point. It will be either an airport or train station but not both.

The exception to this rule is customers who are booked on a tour where the joining and ending point is at the designated airport or train station.

Free transfers are not available for Self-Guided, Polar, Tailormade or Tours for Churches customers.

If you are not eligible for the Free Transfer then you will need to make your own way through to the joining and ending point. On a majority of our tours Explore will be able to provide a private transfer at

an additional cost. Please ask for a quote at the time of booking.

For more information regarding the Explore Free Transfer [click here](#)

## **Insurance**

It is a condition of booking with Explore that you have adequate valid travel insurance. It is your responsibility to arrange appropriate travel insurance and ensure you have read and understood the full terms and conditions of your travel insurance policy to ensure that you are covered for all activities you intend to undertake whilst on the tour, including all optional activities. Your Insurance Policy must fully cover you for medical expenses and emergency repatriation to your home country. Please ensure your policy includes medical emergency helicopter evacuation in the event of illness or injury and covers the entire duration of your holiday. If you are trekking at altitude please ensure that there is no upper altitude limit which may limit or exclude cover for your trip. The cost of many of our Polar Voyages will exceed the capped amount covered by standard insurance premiums and you will be required to pay an additional premium to cover the full value of your trip. Please ensure that you are covered for the full amount of your holiday cost, as insufficient cover could invalidate a claim under the policy. Medical and repatriation insurance cover is not mandatory for UK residents who are travelling on trips within the United Kingdom.

Read more information about what travel insurance is required.

## **Flight information**

Explore offers a wide range of flexible flying options to make joining and leaving our trips easy. Read more about them [here](#).

### **Flight Information**

You are able to book this tour on a 'land only' basis or as a 'flight inclusive' package. Your flight inclusive package will be fully protected by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) ATOL protection scheme.

### **Booking a flight inclusive package with Explore**

We have a good selection of flights not only from London but from many regional airports around the UK allowing us to compare fares between scheduled carriers as well as low cost and charter airlines. Our dedicated flights team will match the best flight options to your arrival and departure airport.

On our website we display a UK flight inclusive package guide price which is generally based on a London departure. To avoid paying supplements or to secure your preferred flight option, we recommend booking as early as possible, especially for peak travel dates.

## **Ability to swim**

An ability to swim is essential for your safe enjoyment of the water based activities on this trip. If you wish to participate in these activities then we insist that you are able to swim.

## **Brazil**

### **Vaccinations**

Nothing compulsory, we recommend protection against malaria, typhoid, tetanus, polio and hepatitis A. Please consult your travel clinic for the latest advice on Malaria, Dengue and Zika Virus. Please take preventative measures to avoid mosquito bites - these include mosquito repellent as well as long trousers and long sleeve shirts to cover up when necessary. Please note many countries in Central America, South America and the Caribbean require a yellow fever vaccination certificates if travelling from infected areas. A detailed list of these countries can be found on the NaTHNaC website -

<http://travelhealthpro.org.uk/countries>. Also on the NaTHNaC site there is a list of Countries (and specific areas within a country) which are at risk of infection and a vaccination is therefore recommended. There is currently an outbreak of Yellow Fever in Brazil. Yellow fever is recommended for those travelling to Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paulo, Bahia, Iguazu falls and inland cities such as Brasilia. Please check the latest requirements with your travel clinic or doctor prior to departure. The above is not an exhaustive list. Further information regarding vaccinations and travel health advice can be found by following the NHS and NaTHNaC links at Explore Travel Health and from your local healthcare provider. Visa and vaccination requirements are subject to change and should be confirmed by you before travelling.

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## Additional Information



## Why book this trip

This is one of the only trips dedicated solely to the vast Amazon rainforest, and the fact that we are travelling by boat allows us to discover so much more of the area than the standard 3 nights in a jungle lodge. It's certainly a trip for an active traveller who is willing to forgo higher comfort levels in order to experience something out of the ordinary.

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## Reviews



**AWARD WINNING  
EXPLORE LEADERS**



**PRICE GUARANTEE  
PROMISE**



**AIRPORT  
TRANSFERS**