

# AMAZON PEACOCK BASS FISHING SAFARI

## PRE-TRIP INFORMATION

### 2023-2024 PRICE — \$5995 PER ANGLER

**Included:** 6 full days fishing, ground transportation, air charter/fast boat from Manaus to camp and return, boats and guides (2 anglers per 1 guide), level-wind baitcasting rods, reels, line and lures (except jigs), accommodations, meals, Brazilian wine, beer, liquor, soft drinks, hotel in Manaus (double accommodations).

**Not Included:** Commercial air travel to Manaus, jigs, fly fishing tackle and flies, personal items, tips, meals, and extra hotel nights in Manaus.

#### TRAVEL/DOCUMENTS

A valid passport is required to enter Brazil.

**Beginning June 17, 2019**, citizens of the United States, Canada, Australia and Japan are no longer required to have a Brazilian visa to enter the country.

#### TRAVEL LOGISTICS

Anglers fly to Manaus, Brazil, arriving on Friday and overnight, then travel to the fishing area Saturday morning via air charter and fast boats. Anglers return to Manaus the following Saturday. Departing flights from Manaus should be scheduled for any time after 3:30 PM on Saturday. (Keep in mind that any charter delays could cause missed flights.) The safe bet would be to plan on staying in Manaus Saturday evening and depart Manaus at any time on Sunday.

For assistance with airline reservations, please contact Kevin Martin at Martin Travel Services — [kmartin@martintravelservices.com](mailto:kmartin@martintravelservices.com) or (800) 627-8468.

**\*\*IMPORTANT\*\*** When making your travel reservations, please be sure you have plenty of time between flights to make your connections. If you miss your flight to Manaus, you will miss your charter flight to the fishing area and it will be very costly for you to get a special (off-schedule) charter.

**Keep in mind you are traveling to the Amazon rainforest (the world's largest wilderness), and, as in all outdoor trips, your fishing and travel logistics depend somewhat on the weather, and bush runway conditions. There may be delays. Your outfitter will do everything possible within safety parameters to get you to your flights on time, but Rod & Gun Resources and River Plate Anglers will not be responsible for any extra expenses incurred from commercial or charter flight delays, cancellations, missed connections, etc., due to weather, mechanical problems, or any other factors.**

#### MEDICAL EVACUATION/TRIP CANCELLATION INSURANCE

From minor medical issues to life-threatening situations, Global Rescue's critical services have been there when they were needed most. Outdoorsmen have trusted Global Rescue's medical and security travel services since 2004. Global Rescue memberships start at \$119 and feature the following benefits:

- Medical evacuation services to your home country hospital of choice
- Field Rescue services from the point of injury or illness
- 24/7 access to board-certified physicians, clinicians and specialists from the Johns Hopkins Emergency Medicine
- Division of Special Operations

Additionally, International Mountain Guides has created one of the industry's most complete travel insurance products, integrating Global Rescue's advisory and evacuation services with the financial protection of a comprehensive travel insurance program. This product, Signature Travel Insurance, guarantees that a trip is covered no matter what happens, and features the following highlights:

- CANCEL-FOR-ANY-REASON BENEFIT
- Trip cancellation insured up to \$100,000
- Up to \$2,500 for lost luggage/baggage delay
- \$100,000 emergency medical/dental coverage

Rod & Gun Resources recommends a Global Rescue Membership with Signature Travel Insurance for your next trip. Visit <http://www.globalrescue.com/rodandgun/> or call (617) 459-4200 for more information.

## MANAUS

Manaus was founded in 1669 by the Portuguese as a small, fishermen's village. Its name is of Indian origin and its literal translation is "Mother of God." Situated just 3 degrees below the equator and over 1000 miles inland, it is one of the busiest ports where cargo ships distribute their goods throughout the Amazon basin. With the discovery of rubber trees in the area in the 1850s, Manaus flourished for a period of about 20 years, from 1890-1910, and was known as the "Paris of the Jungle." Today, Manaus is a duty-free zone and center for ecotourism in the Amazon.

## CURRENCY

Brazil's hotels and shops readily accept U.S. dollars, so there is really no need to exchange money.

## CAMP ACCOMMODATIONS

The deluxe floating safari camp accommodations feature spacious dining and lounge areas. Pairs of anglers sleep in 12' x 21' air-conditioned bungalows, each with porches, separate toilet and sink area, twin beds, table, chairs, and lights. Guests enjoy evening cocktails while watching sunsets over the river's white sand beaches and grassy river bars.

You will travel from the safari camp to nearby lagoons and river tributaries via 21-foot specially designed shallow-running aluminum boats equipped with two casting platforms, outboards, trolling motors, and comfortable swivel seats. The guides are good boat handlers, very polite and understand fishing English. Bilingual cards will be sent to you prior to your departure to aid in communication.

## WEATHER

Mid-day temperatures in the Amazon range from 85° to 95°. Generally there is intense sun during the day, so please be mindful of dehydration and overexposure to the sun. The camp manager will stock your boat's cooler with your preference of drinks and water. Make sure to use sunscreen, sunglasses, a hat and perhaps long sleeves/pants. At night the temperature drops to 65° to 75°.

**Although you will be fishing in the dry season, there are occasional and sometimes frequent rain showers and thunderstorms which can adversely affect water levels and your fishing success. You are in the rain forest. If it does rain and create higher water level conditions, this can affect the fishing and occasionally allow our competitors to encroach on our private/exclusive concessions.**

## FOOD & BEVERAGE

A breakfast buffet is typically served at 6:00 a.m. Pancakes, eggs, toast, fresh fruit, sausage, cereal and fresh coffee are all standard fare. Lunch is typically fixed (box-style) by each angler in the morning before fishing. We encourage everyone to stay on the river the entire day to maximize fishing results. Appetizers are usually on the table as soon as anglers return from the day's fishing. Dinner is served around 7:00 p.m. The dinner service features steaks, chicken, fresh fish and many local specialties. The camp supplies soft drinks, local liquor, beer (limited for safety reasons to six per person during the fishing day) and wine with meals. The camp provides factory bottled water.

## LANGUAGE

Brazil is the only Latin American country where Portuguese is spoken as the native language. Grammatically, Portuguese is quite similar to Spanish, but the spoken language/word pronunciation is very distinct. Most individuals fluent in Spanish can converse fairly well with a Brazilian native. The camp has a full-time bilingual host.

## HEALTH/INSECTS

The rivers we fish have a high tannin concentration due to the forest's leaf decay, and do not encourage the growth of insect eggs and larvae, but some bugs are occasionally encountered, mainly no-see-ums (gnats) which can be irritating, along with the occasional bee, mosquito, or wasp. Be sure to travel with an EPI-Pen if you are allergic to stings.

We suggest you contact your doctor regarding inoculations recommended for travelers to the Amazon, or log on to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) website at [www.cdc.gov/travel](http://www.cdc.gov/travel). Doctors may suggest vaccinations for typhoid, tetanus, hepatitis and yellow fever.

Brazil **does not require** travelers entering Brazil to present proof of yellow fever vaccination.

Also, antibiotics and antiseptic medicines such as *Polysporin* are always a good idea to avoid infections from cuts and scrapes.

## GRATUITIES

For the guides and staff, we suggest a tip of \$500 for the week. Half can be given to the guide and half to the camp host to be divided up among the staff. Tipping is done at the end of the trip—U.S. dollars are accepted.

## LIMITS ON BEER CONSUMPTION

For safety reasons, River Plate Anglers allows six beers per angler, per fishing day. (This is in addition to evening beer, cocktails and wine.)

## PEACOCK BASS

Peacock Bass is a generalized name for the large bass-like gamefish native to tropical South America. They are actually a subspecies of the family Cichlidae. Although there are countless color variations throughout their range, there are only three recognized species of peacock bass—two in Brazil. All species are commonly called *tucunare* in Brazil and Peru, while other Spanish-speaking countries use the term *pavon*. The peacock tucunare (*Cichla temensis*), better known as *azul* or *paca* is the largest of the three species, with an average weight of six or seven pounds. Ten-to-fifteen-pound fish are very common, and twenty+ pounders are hooked each week. This fish has an unmistakable mottled black patch directly behind its eye. Body coloration and markings vary greatly. Three vertical black bars are usually visible. Often, horizontal white spots are present.

The butterfly tucunare (*Cichla ocellaris*) is the smallest and most numerous species in the Amazon basin. This fish has three different color phases, but the butterfly primarily seen has three black, oscillated spots (about the size of a half dollar) running along its lateral line. There are many other jungle species that are no less impressive—both in beauty and fighting ability. Depending on location *pacu*, *pirapitinga*, *jacunda*, *apapa*, *tambaqui*, *pirarucu*, *bicuda*, *picua*, *piranha*, *aruana* and *pescada* can be taken.

## CATCH AND RELEASE

To further ensure the survival of released peacock bass, trophy peacock bass should be weighed in the net, in a horizontal position. Never weigh fish vertically as this puts strain and stretch on a fish used to the support of water pressure. Weighing fish vertically can cause spine and other injuries to the fish. The Boga Grip is still used to control the fish, but never hold the fish in an unsupported vertical position from the Boga Grip. Hold fish horizontally while photographing and then quickly return them to the water. Take time to fully revive the fish and release it in shallow water (one foot or so). A tired fish that is not fully revived is very vulnerable to predators such as dolphins and piranhas.

## PEACOCK HABITS AND ANGLING HINTS

- Like largemouth bass, peacocks often prefer “structure” of some sort. Rocks, fallen logs, points and sand bars are hiding places for baitfish, so this is where the peacock will usually lurk. Of course, you should always heed the guide's recommendations on where to cast.
- Peacocks usually roam about in small schools searching for baitfish, often bursting into a feeding frenzy. When this situation is encountered, get your lure or fly in front of the feeding fish as soon as possible. The sooner you can cast to them after they've been spotted, the better your chance of a hookup. Peacocks are greedy and highly competitive schooling fish. Always cast a free lure or fly right next to any hooked fish. Another peacock will almost always be close by (attracted by the commotion). If no strikes result, fish the surrounding area thoroughly.
- Novice peacock anglers tend to set the hook too fast when fishing topwater poppers or flies. Often peacocks will

just slap at the lure to stun it, then come back around and firmly grab it on the second pass. It's hard to remember at first, but don't set the hook on the strike. If you can't see the plug, popper or fly after about one second, drop your rod tip and set the hook with your stripping hand.

- If the fish doesn't take the lure on the first strike, keep it moving. If you are patient, the fish will usually come up and hit the lure a second or third time. If he loses interest, quickly cast a different lure or fly. This often elicits another strike.
- Never try and "horse" a big peacock, and don't underestimate his power. If a big fish is headed for structure, apply side pressure to the rod trying to 'steer' the fish in another direction. If you crank your drag down too tight, they'll almost always snap the line, or pull off. If a fish does make it into cover, don't give up. Give a little slack and wait for the boat to spook the fish out of its hiding place—they'll often untangle themselves. When a fish comes to the boat, never assume it's ready to give up. Always keep a high rod tip and a loose drag to absorb last minute runs.
- Lure or fly color doesn't seem as important as lure or fly shade. If it is bright out, use a light-colored fly. Dark shades are more productive in low light conditions.

### **SPINNING OR BAITCASTING TACKLE**

We encourage you to bring your own tackle if you have it. If you do not have it or do not wish to bring it, the outfitter provides level-wind baitcasting rods, reels, line and lures.

If you bring your own gear, take medium-heavy to heavy largemouth bass tackle, with long-handled 6- to 7-foot rods and good-quality reels of at least 100 yards capacity with high-speed retrieve ratios. Use rods with a firm-action tip to allow for accurate casting of heavy lures. Bring at least two rods and two reels. For lines, we suggest "T & C Tuflin" or "Power Pro" in 65-pound test or other brands of similar braided line. Steel leaders are not required while fishing for peacocks. Again, backup tackle is available at no cost to anglers, except in the case that you break the rod—then you will be charged \$100 for a replacement—that fee is paid directly to the camp host.

### **SPINNING OR BAITCASTING LURES**

#### **Topwater\*\***

· Borboleta Woodstock 16 (Double Propeller)	6"	All colors
· Borboleta Jaraqui	6.7"	All colors
· Borboleta Nitro 2.0	4"	All colors
· Borboleta Juana	5 1/2"	All colors

\*\* Or similar

#### **Diving minnows and sub surface**

· Borboleta Tan Tan	4"	All colors
· Borboleta Perversa	4" - 3/4 oz.	All colors
· Borboleta Safada	5" - 1.3 oz.	All colors
· Johnson Silver Minnow Spoon	1/2 oz. & 3/4 oz.	Silver & Gold

**Jigs** - You should plan to bring a dozen jigs per angler and some jigs are available for purchase at camp. Slevad brand or similar jigs in 1/2 oz., bucktail, all colors, with white or yellow underbelly.

Flies such as listed below with 1/2 oz. worm weights also work well as jigs.

**To purchase jigs, please contact Haggerty Lures – [www.haggertylures.com](http://www.haggertylures.com) – (610) 373-1368 or (484) 651-3107**

**High-quality, specialty lures can be purchased from K Lures - <http://www.klures.com/PeacockBassLures.html> – Kermett Adams (559) 903-4253**

**For questions regarding spinning and bait casting tackle and lures, contact: J.W. Smith at (800) 211-4753 or [dsmith@rodgunresources.com](mailto:dsmith@rodgunresources.com)**

**Our recommendation for fish replicas: Advanced Taxidermy & Wildlife Design Ltd. - Shawn Galea – (888) 691-1216 or (905) 838-9964 - [info@advancedtaxidermy.com](mailto:info@advancedtaxidermy.com) - [www.advancedtaxidermy.com](http://www.advancedtaxidermy.com)**

## FLY FISHING TACKLE

The aggressive jungle species are well suited to fly fishing. At least two 9- or 10-weight rods are recommended. Temple Fork Outfitters Professional Series II and Mangrove Series are good choices. Reels should have a smooth drag, hold at least 100 yards of backing, and be spooled with a weight-forward, bass-taper floating line or clear sink-tip line such as Teeny Flats Line/Clear Tip or Rio Tropical Outbound Short/Clear Tip. Bring a 200-300 grain fast sink-tip line for deeper water. Use 60-pound monofilament for leader/tippet material.

### *Flies—a mixture of 40-80 minnow pattern flies and 6-12 poppers*

Rainey's Bubblehead Poppers (topwater)	2 to 4/0	red, white, yellow, chartreuse, blue or combinations
Minnow, deceiver and Clouser patterns (underwater) (CF Baitfish, Clouser/Kreh's Half & Half, Ehler's Gator Done, Flashtail Whistler, Big Fish Deceiver, etc.)	3/0 to 4/0	chartreuse/white, blue/white, red/white, orange/white, yellow/white or combinations, all with flash

Flies can be ordered from Feather-Craft Fly Fishing (800) 659-1707 or [http://www.feather-craft.com/wecs.php?store=feacraft&action=category\\_view&target=051](http://www.feather-craft.com/wecs.php?store=feacraft&action=category_view&target=051). Please order well in advance of your departure.

## TACKLE, CLOTHING & EQUIPMENT

### —PLEASE NOTE—

**For aircraft safety purposes, please pack in medium-size soft duffel bags (no larger than 30 in. x 14 in. x 12 in., or similar). Roller boards with wheels add extra weight to your luggage and are not preferred. The weight in the charter plane must be distributed in the various compartments of the plane. There is a strictly enforced 35-pound weight restriction on luggage (including checked luggage, rods, reels, and any small carryon). The camp has daily laundry service, so lots of clothes are not necessary.**

### FISHING ACCESSORIES

- Boga Grip scale (certified—if you are trying for a world record)
- Tape measure
- Hook sharpener
- Small fishing pliers, pocket knife, clippers
- Reel lubricant
- Fly box
- Rod case
- Polarized sunglasses
- 60-pound leader material (fly-fishermen)
- Optional stripping finger sock (fly-fishermen)
- Adhesive tape to protect fingers
- Line cleaner

### CLOTHING & PERSONAL ITEMS

- Passport and Xerox of photo page
- Airline tickets
- Personal medications
- 2 Long-sleeved tropical-weight shirts
- 2 Tropical-weight pants/shorts
- Light-weight socks
- Swimsuit or shorts
- Fishing Shoes/Water Shoes
- Casual travel clothes
- Fishing hat
- Quality lightweight raincoat
- Lightweight fishing gloves
- Sunscreen
- Chapstick with sunscreen
- Water resistant bug repellent with DEET
- Repel® Lemon Eucalyptus Insect Repellent
- Small flashlight
- Camera and batteries
- Waterproof pack or gear bag
- Cash for tipping

## HELPFUL HINTS

Daily laundry service is available at the camp.

Benadryl in a spray bottle comes in handy for the occasional insect bite or sting.

Get to the airport plenty early on your day of departure. You will have spent a lot of money on the trip, so start off on the right foot. Carry some bills in small denominations for tips, airport meters, snacks, etc.

As mentioned earlier, take a photocopy of the photo page of the passport in case you lose the original. The copy will greatly facilitate the process of securing a new one.

Plan for rain. Always take a raincoat and **always take it with you** on each outing. It's amazing how many wet anglers have a nice dry raincoat in their guestroom at the camp. If it doesn't rain, they make an excellent outer shell for cool mornings. Pack sensibly. Use soft-sided luggage and take only as much clothing as you will need. Always take your passport, airline tickets, medications, camera equipment and valuables in a carry-on such as a backpack or small valise.

Bandannas protect your neck against the sun, and they work well as an emergency head cover if you misplace your hat and need to protect your head. Bring two pairs of sunglasses.

## SUGGESTED READING

The River of Doubt – Candice Millard

White Gold: The Diary of a Rubber Cutter in the Amazon – John C. Yungjohann (Easily read on the plane ride)

Through the Brazilian Wilderness – Theodore Roosevelt

My Last Chance to Be a Boy – Joseph R. Ornig

The Feather Thief – Kirk Wallace Johnson