

# AMAZON PEACOCK BASS FISHING SAFARI

## PRE-TRIP INFORMATION

### PRICE — \$6495 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.

**Starting April 10, 2025**, eVisas are mandatory for USA, Australia, and Canada passport holders visiting Brazil.

The application process for the new Brazilian visitor visa has just been released.

The application process is completely online, on the website <https://brazil.vfsevisa.com/>.

You will be asked to submit the following:

- Passport (signed, valid up to the end of the Brazil trip, two visa pages free).
- Visa application form (completed online).
- Passport-style photo (2" x 2", white background).
- E-visa fee payment (US\$ 80.90).
- Confirmation of flight reservation (showing entrance into and exit from Brazil).
- Printed bank statement showing transactions for the last 30 days and showing a balance of at least US\$ 2,000.00 for travel.

The expected processing time is five business days. Once approved, we suggest printing the visa (you should receive it at the email address you used on your application) and keeping a screenshot or PDF file on your phone.

#### TRAVEL LOGISTICS

Anglers fly to Manaus, Brazil, arriving on Saturday and overnight, then travel to the fishing area Sunday morning via air charter and fast boats. Anglers return to Manaus the following Sunday and overnight in Manaus. Departing flights from Manaus should be scheduled for any time on Monday.

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

**\*\*IMPORTANT\*\*** When making your travel reservations, please allow 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 arrange an off-schedule charter.

**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 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**

Outdoorsmen have trusted Global Rescue's medical and security travel services since 2004. From minor medical issues to life-threatening situations, Global Rescue's critical services were there when they were needed most. Memberships 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 offers 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.

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 three 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, and from 1890-1910 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 no need to exchange money.

## **CAMP ACCOMMODATIONS**

The deluxe floating safari camp accommodations feature spacious dining and lounge areas. Two 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 riverbanks.

You will travel from the safari camp to nearby lagoons and river tributaries via 22-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, polite and may understand some fishing English. Bilingual cards will be sent prior to your departure to aid in communication.

## **ELECTRICAL**

The camps provide 110- and 220-volt electricity. You can access the former with traditional American flat-blade plugs. For the latter, you will need a double, round-pin plugs. If your devices cannot be operated with either of these, you may need to buy a current conversion kit. Some devices will need a transformer. Advice on what to do (and not do) is engraved or imprinted on most electrical devices. If you are unsure about this, please take your devices to a qualified store in advance.

## **WEATHER**

Mid-day temperatures in the Amazon range from 85° to 95°. Generally, the sun is intense during the day, so 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. Use sunscreen, sunglasses, a hat, and perhaps long sleeves/pants. Nighttime temperatures drop to 70° to 75°.

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

## **FOOD & BEVERAGE**

A breakfast buffet is served about 6:00 a.m. Pancakes, eggs, toast, fresh fruit, sausage, cereal, and fresh coffee are standard fare. Lunch is typically fixed, box-style, by each angler in the morning before fishing. Anglers are encouraged to stay on the river the

entire day to maximize fishing results. Appetizers are soon on the table when anglers return from the day's fishing. Dinner is served about 7:00 p.m. The dinner service features steaks, chicken, fresh fish, and 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 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 often have a high tannin concentration due to the forest's leaf decay, and do not encourage the growth of insect eggs and larvae, but bugs are occasionally encountered: no-see-ums (gnats), and an occasional bee, mosquito, or wasp. Travel with an EPI-Pen if you are allergic to stings.

We suggest you consult your doctor about inoculations recommended for travelers to the Amazon; or review the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) website [www.cdc.gov/travel](http://www.cdc.gov/travel). Brazil **does not require** travelers entering Brazil to present proof of yellow fever vaccination.

Antibiotics and antiseptic medicines such as *Polysporin* are a good idea to avoid infections from cuts and scrapes.

## GRATUITIES

We suggest a tip of \$600 for the week for the guides and staff. 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, the outfitter 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 a subspecies of the family Cichlidae. With countless color variations throughout their range, only three species of peacock bass are recognized—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*), commonly 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 common, and a few twenty-plus pounders are hooked each week. This fish has a distinct 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. Many other jungle species are also 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, or measured 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. Use a Boga Grip to control the fish, but never hold the fish in an unsupported vertical position from a 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 freshwater dolphins and piranhas.

## PEACOCK HABITS AND ANGLING HINTS

Like largemouth bass, peacocks often prefer structure. Rocks, fallen logs, points and sand bars are hiding places for baitfish, so this is where peacock often lurk. Always heed the guide's recommendations on where to cast.

Two-to four-pound peacocks often 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 highly competitive schooling fish. Always cast a free lure or fly right next to any hooked fish. Another peacock is almost always close by (attracted by the commotion). If no strikes

result, fish the surrounding area thoroughly.

New 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. 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 misses the lure on the first strike, keep it moving; the fish will usually come up and hit the lure a second or third time. If it loses interest, quickly cast a different lure or fly. This often elicits another strike.

Never "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 runs into cover, 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 two level-wind baitcasting rods and reels per person. Lures are also provided.

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 Tuflite" or "Power Pro" in 65-pound test or other brands of similar braided line. Steel leaders are not required while fishing for peacocks.

### **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** - Bring a dozen jigs per angler; some jigs may be available for purchase at camp.

Slevad brand or similar jigs in 1/2 oz., bucktail, all colors, with white or yellow underbelly.

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

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

**Our recommendation for fish replicas: Advanced Fish Taxidermy – Josh Kelly – (214) 288-9814 – [advancedfishtaxidermy@gmail.com](mailto:advancedfishtaxidermy@gmail.com) – [www.advancedfishtaxidermy.com](http://www.advancedfishtaxidermy.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 Scientific Angler Sonar Titan Tropical/Jungle Clear Tip or Rio Tropical Outbound Short/Clear Tip. Use 40- to 60-pound monofilament for leader/tippet material. A 1/16-ounce bullet weight works well with a floating line.

### 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 (subsurface) (CF Baitfish, Clouser/Kreh's Half & Half, Ehler's Gator Done, Flashtail Whistler, Bush Pig, Big Fish Deceiver, etc.)	3/0 to 4/0	chartreuse/white, blue/white, red/white, orange/white, yellow/white or combinations, all with flash

You can order flies 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 —

**A 35-pound weight restriction is strictly enforced on luggage (including checked luggage, rods, reels, and any small carryon). The camp has daily laundry service, so don't overpack. For aircraft safety purposes, please pack in medium-size soft duffel bags (no larger than 30" x 14" x 12", or similar). Roll-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 plane compartments.**

### 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 (two pair)
- 60-pound leader material (fly-fishermen)
- Optional stripping finger sock (fly-fishermen)
- Adhesive tape to protect fingers
- Line cleaner (fly-fishermen)

### 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
- [Liquid I.V. - Faster Hydration Than Water Alone \(liquid-iv.com\)](http://www.liquid-iv.com)
- 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 early on your departure day. You will have spent a lot of money on the trip, so start off on the right foot.

Again, take a photocopy of the photo page of the passport in case you lose the original. The copy greatly facilitates the process of securing a new passport.

Take a raincoat with you on each outing. If it doesn't rain, it makes 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.

**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