

AMAZON PEACOCK BASS SAFARI

PRE-TRIP INFORMATION

2010-2011 PRICE

\$4395

Included: 6 full days fishing, ground transportation, air charter from Manaus to camp/yacht and return, boats and guides (2 x1 guiding), accommodations, meals, Brazilian wine, beer, liquor, soft drinks, hotel in Manaus (one night).

Not Included: Commercial air travel to Manaus, Brazilian visa, tackle, lures, personal items, tips, meals in Manaus and hotel nights in the U.S. if applicable.

TRAVEL/DOCUMENTS

A valid passport and visa are required to enter Brazil. Your passport must be valid for 6 months after the date of travel and travel must commence within 90 days of receiving your visa from the Brazilian Consulate.

We recommend Passports Plus in Houston, TX for processing the Brazilian visas. They do a superb job and the process is very secure and expeditious. Please visit their website for complete requirements and details – http://www.passportsplus.com/visa_brazil_tour.html
The phone number for Passports Plus is:
Toll free (888) 821-8472.

You will also be filling out a “tourist card” while on the Miami/Manaus flight prior to landing in Brazil. Be sure **TO KEEP** your stamped copy of this tourist card after proceeding through customs—customs officials can hassle or even fine you if you don’t have the receipt when exiting the country. A departure tax of approximately \$36.00 is assessed at the time of departure from Manaus.

We recommend that you consider travel insurance. Contact Travel Insured International at 1-800-243-3174 or website: www.travelinsured.com.

TRAVEL LOGISTICS

Anglers are responsible for getting their own air travel reservations from their home city to Manaus, Brazil.

Currently there are two airlines offering non-stop flight service from the US to Manaus, Brazil. Delta Airlines offers limited flight service from Atlanta and TAM Brazilian Airlines offers daily flight service from Miami. Currently the fishing schedule out of Manaus is Saturday morning departure and return the following Saturday.

You should contact your local travel agent for assistance with reservations or you can contact the airline directly.

Delta Airlines - www.delta.com or (800) 241-4141
TAM Airlines - www.tamairlines.com or (888) 235-9826

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.

****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.

Special (off the regular schedule) charters from Manaus to the fishing area are available at an additional cost of \$4000 to \$6000 depending on the fishing area.

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, bush runway, and river landing area 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.

PRE-TRIP INFORMATION

PLEASE NOTE

For aircraft safety purposes, please pack in medium-size soft duffel bags. The weight in the Cessna Caravan float plane must be distributed by putting as many bags as possible into the float compartments of the plane. There is a strictly enforced 44 pound weight restriction on luggage for the float plane (including checked luggage, rods, reels, lures and any small carryon). The camp has daily laundry service, so lots of clothes are not necessary.

CAMP/YACHT ACCOMMODATIONS

The deluxe floating safari camp accommodations feature spacious dining and lounge areas. Pairs of anglers sleep in 10' x 18' air-conditioned bungalows, each with separate toilet and sink area, oversized camp beds, table, chairs, and lights. Guests enjoy evening cocktails while watching sunsets over the river's white sand beaches and grassy river bars.

River Plate also has a new wide beam, shallow draft yacht—The BW Explorer. The yacht is 74 ft. long, fully air conditioned and features ten staterooms, each with private bath.

You will travel from the safari camp/yacht to nearby lagoons and river tributaries via 21-foot specially designed shallow-running aluminum boats equipped with 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°–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°-75°.

Although you will be fishing in the dry season, there are occasional and sometimes frequent rain showers and thunder storms 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 four per person during the fishing day) and wine with meals. The camp/yacht provides factory bottled water.

CURRENCY

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

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. 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.

PRE-TRIP INFORMATION

GRATUITIES

For the guides and staff, we suggest a tip of \$300.00 per fisherman at the end of the week (\$150.00 for the camp staff to be given to the camp host and \$150.00 to be given directly to your guide—U.S. dollars accepted).

LIMITS ON BEER CONSUMPTION

River Plate Outfitters has a limit of 288 cans of beer per week, per camp. For safety reasons, River Plate Outfitters allows twelve beers per boat, per day. (This is in addition to evening beer, cocktails and wine.)

COMMUNICATION

Each of the camps and yacht has a satellite phone on which anglers can usually place calls home. The fee is \$5.00/minute, to be paid to the camp host. If you must call from camp, you should bring your own satellite phone.

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. Cichlids are a diverse family of tropical fishes found throughout Africa and South America, some of which are popular for aquariums. 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 a 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. Although peacock bass are the main attraction in the Amazon, 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 insure the best fishing possible, a strict catch and release policy is in effect. Throughout the week, the camp manager may ask you to bring back some smaller fish for dinner. Only at this time should fish be kept.

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 lures 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 or fly after about three seconds, drop your rod tip and set the hook as hard as you can.
- 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 diving (subsurface) 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 shade. If it is bright out, use a light-colored lure/fly. Dark shades are more productive in low light conditions.

TACKLE, CLOTHING & EQUIPMENT

SPINNING OR BAITCASTING TACKLE

Take medium to 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, in case of breakage. For lines, we suggest "T & C Tufline" or "Power Pro" in 65 to 80 pound or other brands of similar braided line. Steel leaders are not required while fishing for peacocks. 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—a mixture of around 12 total lures

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| • HighRoller Monster HighRoller™ | 6-1/2" | Colors: All available colors are good |
| • RipRoller™ | 5" | All available colors are good |
| • HighRoller or RipRoller™ | 5-1/2"- 4-1/2" | All available colors are good |
| • Heddon Super Zara Spook™ | 5" | Red Head, Spectrum, Chartreuse |
| • Luhr Jensen peacock bass prop lures | 4 1/2- 6 1/2" | All colors |

Diving minnows—a mixture of around 6 total

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| • Offshore Angler Lazer Eye™ Saltwater Shallow or Jointed Runner | 6" | Pinfish, Goggle-eye, Mullet |
| • Yo-Zuri™ Crystal Minnow Sinking | 5-1/4" | Red/White, Blue Tiger, Blue/Pink |
| • Rapala™ Saltwater X-Rap | 5-1/2" | Silver, Glass Ghost, Bunker |

Jigs—a mixture of around 6 total

Spro brand or similar jigs in 1/2 oz. to 5/8 oz.—bucktail or feathered, with white or yellow underbelly. Flies such as listed below with 1/4 to 1/2 oz. worm weights also work well as jigs.

FLY FISHING TACKLE

The aggressive jungle species are well suited to fly fishing. Two 9- or 10-weight rods are recommended. Reels should have a smooth drag, hold at least 100 yards of backing, and be spooled with a weight-forward, bass-taper floating line. Use 40 to 50 pound monofilament for leader/tippet material.

Flies—a mixture of about 24 total

Rainbow Bucktail Deceivers	3/0-4/0	red/orange/yellow/chartreuse/white combinations
Flashtail Whistlers	3/0-4/0	red/orange/yellow combinations
Lefty's Cuda	3/0-4/0	red/yellow
Mini Teaser Popper™	3/0-4/0	blue/white, chartreuse
In Shore Popper™	3/0-4/0	fire orange/yellow

NOTE: Key Puckett, Fishin' World offers a package of the above lures for sale and baitcasting and spinning equipment. To place an order call 214-358-4941 or visit their website at www.fishinworld.com A good reference book is *Peacock Bass Addictions*, by Larry Larsen. Purchase by calling (863) 644-3381 or e-mail **Larry Larsen at: larry@larsenoutdoors.com**.

For flies, call Dawn Smith at 800-211-4753 or e-mail her at dsmith@rodgunresources.com

Our recommendation for fish mounts: Ron Kelly, Artistic Wildlife Gallery, (214) 663-5299 www.fishcreations.com.

TACKLE, CLOTHING & EQUIPMENT

EQUIPMENT

- Extra line
- Boga Grip scale (certified—if you are trying for a world record)
- Tape measure
- Hook sharpener
- Replacement hooks and o-rings
- Fishing pliers, pocket knife, clippers
- Reel lubricant
- Lure box
- Rod case
- Polarized sunglasses
- 40-50 lb. 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
- Sneakers or deck shoes
- Casual travel clothes
- Fishing hat
- Fishing gloves
- Quality lightweight raincoat
- Lightweight fishing gloves
- Sunscreen
- Chapstick
- Water resistant bug repellent w/DEET
- Small flashlight
- Camera & 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.

Check the expiration date on your passport. Brazil requires that your passport be valid for six months past the dates of your travel. And, 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 headcover if you misplace your hat and need to protect your slightly balding head. Bring two pairs of sunglasses.