



Open to
alumni UBC
and friends

alumni UBC

THE AMAZON RAINFOREST

AN EXPEDITION VOYAGE TO REMOTE UPPER AMAZONIA | FEB. 23 – MAR. 3, 2018

The fabled Amazon rainforest is a place where lines are blurred. Mighty rivers and their tributaries not only interweave the megadiverse forests but also invade large tracts during “high water”, creating a unique mosaic of habitats. We invite you aboard our exclusively chartered 28-passenger expedition vessel to discover the great diversity and beauty of these habitats and their resident wildlife on this very special river cruise.

From our meeting point at Lima, we’ll fly over the Andes to Iquitos, a surprisingly sophisticated city that has no roads to the outside world. Here we’ll board the *Zafiro*, and sail upstream on the Amazon and along the Pacaya-Samiria Reserve, wedged between two important Amazon tributaries.

We’ll skirt past the buttressed trunks of trees that tower like rocket ships and Philodendron leaves the size of raincoats, hone in on many fantastic and colourful birds, watch for monkeys and sloths, and see orchids and bromeliads clinging to the limbs of overhanging trees. We’ll watch for the spectacular Giant Water-lily and Pink River Dolphins in the waters below, and anticipate the possibility of spotting the Harpy Eagle, one of the world’s fiercest predators.

Several times daily and on some nights too, we will walk in the forest or use specially designed excursion boats to investigate tributaries and lagoons that radiate off the main river. Our excursions are accompanied by local expert naturalists whose knowledge of the rainforest is enormous. They will complement our experience by providing evening presentations on the region’s history, geography, and wildlife in air-conditioned comfort.

Two optional extensions are available; a birding tour to Northern Peru and an archaeology-focused tour to Machu Picchu and Cusco. We are also happy to design customized itineraries for your special interest. Please be in touch.

TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS BY:


WorldwideQuest
Alumni Expeditions

WHY ALUMNI UBC TRAVEL CLUB?



- Meander between Giant Water-lilies on smaller crafts to explore secluded channels
- Observe freshwater dolphins breaking the water's surface
- Watch macaws emerging from their night roosts
- Scan for the eyeshine of nocturnal wildlife
- Hear the flourish of wildlife sounds along the river at dawn



STUDY LEADER

UBC Professor **Darren Irwin** is fascinated by biodiversity, and studies the processes that generate and maintain bird diversity in particular. He is particularly interested in how the evolution of behaviours (such as birdsong and seasonal migration) contribute to the evolution of new species. He is the author of more than 50 publications on these topics, teaches ornithology and biostatistics at UBC, and serves as Director of the terrestrial vertebrate collection at the Beaty Biodiversity Museum. His message is that birds serve as global ambassadors for biodiversity, tying together the world through their travels and their beauty.



WORLDWIDE QUEST TRAVEL MANAGER

Jean Iron is a past president of the Ontario Field Ornithologists and recipient of their Distinguished Ornithologist Award. Ontario's best-known birder, Jean also has broad interests in all matters of natural history and conservation. She is a veteran tour leader of Central and South America and will be your perfect host on this Amazonian adventure.

DETAILED ITINERARY

Friday, February 23: Arrive in Lima

Arrive today in Lima where you'll be met by a representative and transferred to our hotel. Depending on your arrival time, we may be able to arrange some pre-tour visits in vibrant Lima. The coastal environment here is very interesting and worth investigating as well as time allows. Even within the city, you can get a first taste of unique tropical wildlife in various parks and green spaces. Our hotel is located just two blocks from the famous park Bosque El Olivar, a rare example of a surviving 16th Century Spanish Colonial olive grove and host to various interesting birds.

Overnight: Swissôtel, Lima

Saturday, February 24: Fly to Iquitos, board the *Zafiro* and explore the Amazon River

The journey begins in earnest today with a flight from urban Lima over the Andes into the remote Amazon Basin at Iquitos – the world's largest city that is inaccessible by road. Iquitos is a remarkable place, and serves as the perfect gateway to the Amazon and its tributaries. Amazonian birdlife is readily apparent along the river edge, including egrets, kites, caracaras and the handsome Oriole Blackbird. Time permitting, we can have an inside look at rescued Amazonian Manatees at the Manatee Rescue Centre where a team of biologists and volunteers is preparing these gentle and endangered animals for reintroduction. A small museum dedicated to the history of local tribes helps establish context before we board the *Zafiro* and enjoy a fabulous welcome dinner as we set off on the world's largest river under the star-filled tropical night sky.

Overnight: The Zafiro

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Welcome Dinner

Sunday, February 25: Meandering through Amazon tributaries near the junction of the Río Ucayali and Río Marañón

Awaken this morning to the Amazon's enchanting dawn chorus. As birds awaken from their night roosts, a flurry of activity ensues, offering great opportunities to view colourful species such as macaws and parakeets. The seasonal floodplain or "várzea" forest at the edge of the river is also an excellent place to observe songbirds and spectacular butterflies like morphos. As we weave through river channels and past small villages, watch for more secretive species such as Green Ibis and Boat-billed Heron hidden in shadier corners of this remarkable floodplain forest. One of the highlights of our Amazon River expedition is the chance to see Gray and Pink Amazon River Dolphins. As we detour into the Río Ucayali, keep an eye out for these bizarre freshwater creatures. We then take our specially-designed excursion boats into smaller waterways where the Ucayali and Marañón Rivers converge to create the beginning of the Amazon. While weaving between the pads of *Victoria amazonica* – the Giant Water-lily – keep an eye out for sloths and monkeys in the nearby palms. As the sun sets, watch from the balcony as Fishing Bats patrol close to the water's surface.

Overnight: The Zafiro

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Monday, February 26 and Tuesday, February 27: Confluence of the Amazon River / Río Ucayali

We will have excellent opportunities over the next two days to explore the "várzea" forest. There is so much life here long the border of the Pacaya-Samiria National Reserve that many new species will be encountered each day. We are sure to bear witness to some of the more interesting animal behaviours such as the aerial acrobatics of feeding Fork-tailed Flycatchers, and perhaps even the spectacular hunting maneuvers of jacamars and kingfishers. The often strange calls of woodcreepers will emanate from the wet forest where trogons, barbets, puffbirds, antbirds and cotingas lurk. Iguanas are commonly seen sunning on sunlit branches, and there's always a chance of seeing more river dolphins. Some of the 13 primate species in the area are sure to make an impression, especially the resonant and ethereal calls of Red Howler Monkeys and the playful antics of Squirrel Monkeys. After dark during a special nocturnal boat excursion, we hope to catch the eyeshine of caimans, frogs and capybaras, or glimpse the curious feeding rituals of potoos. With some luck, there's even a chance of seeing the opening of a Giant Water-lily blossom!

Overnight: The Zafiro

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Caiman Lizard

Wednesday, February 28: Exploring Dorado and/or Zapote Creek

Today's exploration of the Pacaya-Samiria Reserve takes us to the black waters of Dorado Creek and, time-permitting, into the productive Zapote Creek area. Along the way, both Blue-and-yellow Macaws and Scarlet Macaws can be observed (and heard from quite a distance!). Primates are once again conspicuous, and throughout the day, we are sure to be treated to several entertaining encounters. The beautifully iridescent Greater Anis are often in close pursuit as they feed on insects rustled up by the activity of monkey troupes. The angelic-looking Capped Heron and the nimble Wattled Jaçanas are commonly found close to the shore. By travelling on foot deeper into the flooded forest, changes in flora and fauna are striking, and with that comes the opportunity to see wildlife not commonly found right along the river edge.

Overnight: The Zafiro

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Thursday, March 1: Travel up the Río Marañon

This morning, we visit a riverside village and will be warmly greeted by the Ribereños (translating into English as 'river people'). Hear their traditional stories and learn how they use medicinal plants while strolling past their gardens. We then make for Río Marañon where wildlife is particularly visible among the relatively open vegetation of the river islands. Each island has its own unique character, depending on age, size and degree of flooding. This results in distinctive vegetation communities, and in turn, specially adapted animals. After noon, we make for the Río Marañon en route to higher and drier land tomorrow upriver.

Overnight: The Zafiro

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Friday, March 2: Dry forests of Río Marañon above Nauta

High-ground forest or 'terra firme' is markedly different from the "várzea" forest that we've enjoyed over the past few days. As such, today's outing on land is a completely different experience, and one bound to have a few surprises. Birds here tends to be more secretive unless we have the good fortune of coming across an army ant swarm. As the hordes of ants efficiently move through the forest, they scare up everything in their path, which initiates a feeding frenzy of antbirds and other typically inconspicuous creatures. Back on board our vessel, enjoy a final dinner under the stars of this hauntingly beautiful region.

Overnight: The Zafiro

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Saturday, March 3: Depart Iquitos, fly to Lima and depart

This morning, disembark in Iquitos and fly back to Lima for lunch and flights home. If you wish to extend your stay, ask us for suggestions and we would be happy to book them for you.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Farewell Dinner

Note: The itinerary and accommodation described in these notes are subject to change due to logistical arrangements and to take advantage of local events.

PRE- AND POST-EXPEDITION EXTENSIONS

Please call for the detailed itineraries of the post-tour extensions.



LIMA: FEBRUARY 22 - 24, 2018

Arrive a day early and spend a day getting to know Lima. Airport transfers, Accommodation, based on double occupancy, 2 breakfasts, 1 lunch, and a full day of guided sightseeing in Lima are included: US\$395 per person



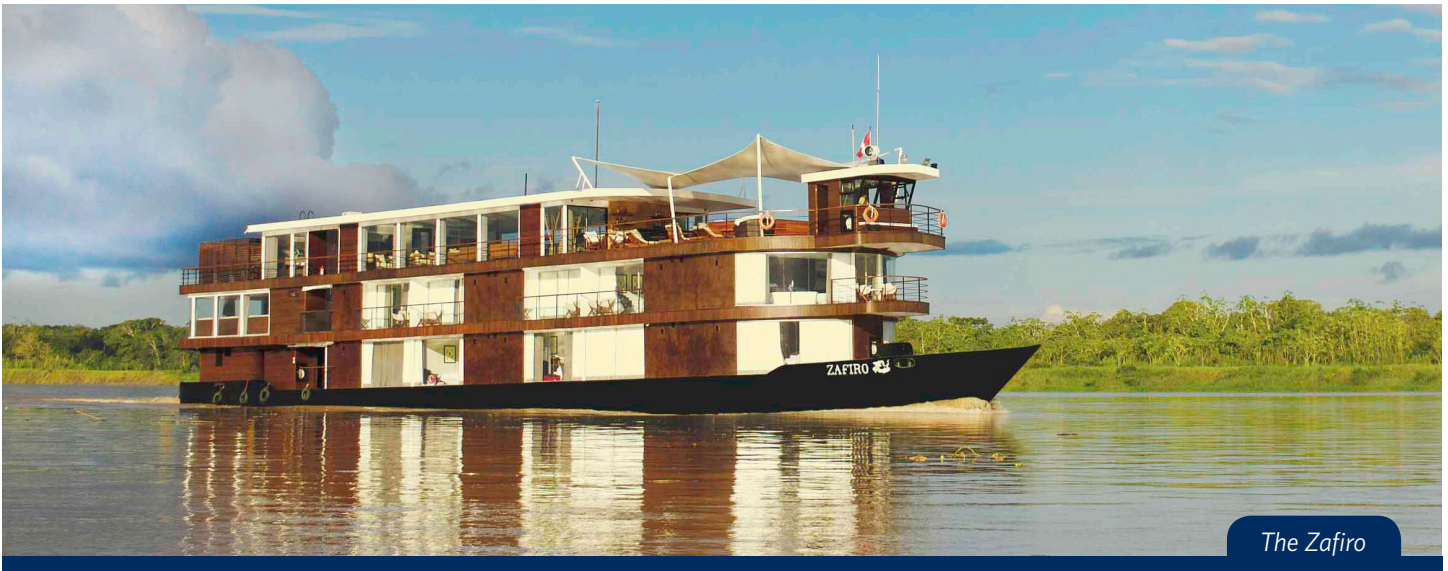
NORTHERN PERU BIRDING: MAR. 3 - 7, 2018

Four nights in the Andean cloud forests of northern Peru. This rarely explored region is rich in endemic birds and highland specialties, including the bizarre Oilbird, the splendid Andean Cock-of-the-Rock and a myriad of colourful tanagers. One of our prime targets is seeing the spectacular display flight of the male Marvelous Spatuletail - considered by some to be the most beautiful hummingbird in the world!



MACHU PICCHU, THE SACRED VALLEY OF THE INCAS, & CUSCO: MARCH 3 - 9, 2018

A seven-day tour to view the amazing structures at Pisac, Moray, and Ollantaytambo, and the colourful markets and small villages of the Sacred Valley. Enjoy two visits to Machu Picchu and two days in beautiful Cusco. Accommodation in fine hotels with style and character.



The Zafiro

TOUR DETAILS

Tour Cost (per person):

| | |
|-------------------------------|----------|
| Lower Deck Suite | US\$5595 |
| Upper Deck Suite | US\$5995 |
| Master Suites | US\$6595 |
| Zafiro Suite | US\$7195 |
| Taxes and gratuities: US\$275 | |

Single Supplement:

If you wish to have guaranteed single accommodation, the single supplement for this trip is an additional 50% of the cost for a double-occupancy cabin. Please note that if you are travelling alone, and we cannot match you with a roommate, you will have to pay the single supplement for this trip. This will be collected at 90 days prior to departure.

Group Size: 28 - 36 participants

Included Features:

- Accommodation in indicated occupancy, in hotel or aboard the Zafiro
- Gratuities for services provided by Quest
- Ground transportation
- Domestic flights
- Park entrance fees
- Airport transfers, if travelling as per the group flight itinerary
- Meals as described in the itinerary
- Services of study leader Darren Irwin, Worldwide Quest tour manager Jean Iron, and local guides

Not Included:

- International airfare
- Airport departure taxes
- Visa fee
- Airport transfers, if not travelling as per the group flight itinerary
- Optional activities
- Alcoholic beverages and bar expenses
- Phone calls and items of a personal nature
- Additional arrangements required due to any emergency or other situation

Payment Details:

A non-refundable deposit of US\$500 per person is required to reserve a space on this tour. A second deposit of \$1000 will be required on August 1. Final payment is due on November 6.

Updated Sept. 15, 2017



WHAT TO EXPECT

Level of Activity: Moderate

You will be getting in and out of small boats and rafts for wet and dry landings (with assistance from the crew), as well as walking at a leisurely pace with frequent stops on ground that is sometimes rough and/or uneven. Some trails may be wet and will have to be traversed carefully. However, they should be accessible to anyone who has normal walking ability and stamina and this trip is suitable for people of all ages who are in good health. If you have any concerns about being able to participate in this trip, please contact us for further information.

Weather

In the Amazon, we are visiting during the wet season. This is the ideal time to enjoy the fantastic diversity and opulence of the rainforest, but we may experience brief showers during the day. Temperatures will range from highs of 32°C to overnight lows of 23°C.

Travel Documents

You will require a passport for this trip. Please ensure it is valid for at least six months beyond your scheduled return home.

Vessel info

The *Zafiro* - meaning sapphire in English - is a state-of-the-art luxury Amazon River vessel that began sailing the Peruvian Amazon in October 2015. She has stylish design and modern facilities, and passengers can expect highly-trained expert guides, hospitality and attention to detail on board. Her 19 spacious suites feature all modern amenities, with air conditioning, ensuite bathrooms and magnificent views from floor-to-ceiling windows and for those on the Upper Deck, their private balconies too. The boat itself has exercise and massage rooms, and an outdoor Jacuzzi on her rangy Observation Deck, itself equipped with sunloungers and bar lounge.

Suites - 226 ft.2 on Upper & Lower Decks

Beds: Convertible between twin beds and California King

Windows: Panoramic floor-to-ceiling windows

Balcony: Only suites on the Upper Deck have balconies

Features: All have a sitting area, smoke alarms, desk, safety

Master Suites - 248ft.2 on Lower Deck

Beds: Convertible between twin beds and California King

Windows: Panoramic floor-to-ceiling windows with 90° view

Balcony: No

Zafiro Suite - 480 ft.2 on Upper Deck

Beds: Convertible between twin beds and California King There is the ability to accommodate one child (younger than 12) on the sofa bed.

Windows: Panoramic floor to ceiling windows with 180° view

Balcony: Yes

Special Feature: Your own Jacuzzi-style bathtub!

ADDITIONAL INFO

Cancellation Policy

All payments are non-refundable, however you may transfer your initial deposit for any land tour to another tour 90 days or more prior to your scheduled departure date. Initial deposits for cruises are non-refundable and non-transferable. Your second payment and your final payment are non-refundable and non-transferable. If you cancel within 90 days prior to trip departure, all associated trip costs are non-refundable. The tour price is quoted as a package. No partial refunds or credits will be given for services not used. In the event of a cancellation, you must notify Worldwide Quest immediately and in writing.

Travel Insurance

Please note that all payments are non-refundable. We urge you to ensure that you have adequate cancellation and medical insurance in place, should an unexpected event cause you to cancel or interrupt your trip or should the tour not be operable per our terms and conditions. We will offer you Manulife insurance coverage. Should you decline this coverage, you must sign a waiver and provide details of your own medical coverage. Medical insurance including emergency medical evacuation coverage is mandatory on all our tours.

Terms and Conditions

For additional information about our terms and conditions, please refer to your booking form, the current brochure or our website. All participants booking with Worldwide Quest are covered by the terms of the Ontario Travel Industry Act (Worldwide Quest International, Ontario - License # 2667946).

TRAVEL WITH ALUMNI UBC

It's your travel experience.

Indulge your curiosity as we take you to unique places you've always dreamed about.

UBC experts and knowledgeable local hosts provide context. That allows you to develop a deep connection to the people you meet and the cultures, cuisines and landscapes you're exploring.

- Best value in educational travel
- Meaningful local experiences
- Thoughtful itineraries

See our complete list of tours at:
WorldwideQuest.com/alumniUBC

The University of British Columbia Alumni Association will not be responsible for the financing, the arranging, or the conducting of these tours. They assume no liability or responsibility for damages or financial loss to person howsoever arising from the negligence, omission or otherwise of travel services arranged through Worldwide Quest International. Refer to the General Terms and Conditions established by Worldwide Quest International with respect to participating in this tour.

OUR VESSEL

Outdoor Lounge



Zafiro Suite - Deck 2



Suites with Balcony - Deck 2

Indoor Lounge



Master Suite - Lower Deck

Dining Room



Suites - Lower Deck

