

MORE INFORMATION

WEATHER

Tropical humid, maximum temperature **99.9°F (37.7°C)**. Minimum temperatures **58.6°F (14.8°C)**. Rainy season goes from November to March.

When walking to the jungle, we recommend you to take the precautions common to all tropical areas, such as wearing light clothing, preferable long sleeve shirts and shorts, a hat and waterproof boots, preferably rubber up to knees, which keep mosquito bites on your legs to a minimum and your feet dry on muddy paths. Also bring a waterproof coat or poncho in case of rain and bug repellent.

Likewise, the rule is never leave the well beaten path or track. First try to refrain from touching the wildlife. Hikes should be led by a guide who fully knows the areas and you should follow his/her instructions.

HOW TO GET THERE?

BY BOAT

From Pucallpa: 3 days
From Yurimaguas: 2 days

BY AIR

From Lima: 90 minutes
From Pucallpa: 50 minutes
From Leticia (Colombia): 55 minutes
Iquitos is served by Crnl. FAP Francisco Secada Vignetta International Airport.

SUGGESTED FOR

Nature lovers, who can traverse the Amazon rainforest and find trees as tall as 196.85 feet or small, beautiful orchids. It is also easy to see monkeys, tarantulas and toucans.

Intrepid adventurers, who can float down the Amazon River and discover its many tributaries. There you can see pink and grey dolphins and go visit the village of Grau and its lookout. Treks and hikes through the deep jungle, even at night, are organized, but you have to keep in mind that it takes patience and a little bit of luck to catch sight of some exotic mammals.

Plan watchers, who will have no complaints after seeing the splendid Victoria regia; a lovely floating aquatic lily with one-meter diameter circular leaves.

Bird watchers, who will enjoy their trip to Lake Zungarococha (12.43 miles from Iquitos), Quistococha, an the Allpahuayo –Mishana National Reserve. There are birds that can only be found on the many islands formed by the Amazon River.

Those interested in mysticism and popular traditions, who can visit the Bora community of San Andres or simply talk with one of the natives to learn more about the magical world of the Peruvian Jungle.

PLACES TO VISIT

IN IQUITOS

Cathedral: A Neo-Gothic structure that was built from 1911 to 1924, its dome is intensely decorated with images of Christian piety. Its upper altarpiece exhibits the exquisite wooden carved statue of Saint John the Baptist, patron saint of the city.

Historic Landmarks: At the end of the 19th century, the Peruvian Amazon experienced the so called Rubber Rush and the barons who made their fortunes from its extraction built a series of architectural gems. Decorated places in miniature, showcasing Arab tiles (the Rocha, Morey and Cohen Mansions), Art Nouveau homes (the former hotel Palace) and the famous mansion designed by Gustav Eiffel, that was built out of metal sheets that were transported through the jungle by hundreds of men.

The Boulevard: Walking down this street in Belen quarter gives the visitor a lovely view of the Itaya River as well as glimpses of important historical landmarks. The Boulevard boasts wide sidewalks, pleasant little plazas decked out with gardens and a unique fountain that is a monument to biodiversity and Amazon myths and legends.

Museum of the Amazon: Exhibits a collection of more than 80 life sized fiberglass sculptures that represent the main Amazon ethnic groups. It shares the same premises as the Military Museum.

Port and Belen quarter: it is called the “floating quarter” since houses are built on topa wood (cork) rafts, and when the river rises, they float. It is a very traditional regional style. Its market is lively and colorful.

EXCURSIONS

FROM IQUITOS

Lake Quistococha Tourist Complex: Found in a natural rainforest, 912 acre in the area, the complex has a zoo featuring representative animals from the area and an artificial lake, where tourists can swim and enjoy the sun, the white sandy beach and the surrounding breathtaking beauty.

Santo Tomas: A tiny village in an area that is home to a farming community whose residents belongs to the Cocama Cocamilla ethnic group. Their main livelihoods are fishing and pottery making.

Santa Clara (Nanay River): From July to October (dry season) fine sands beaches form on the banks of the Nanay, perfect places to enjoy swimming or fishing.

Padre Cocha: Local residents belong to the Cocama Cocamilla ethnic group, who make their living as potters.

Pilpuntawasi Butterfly Farm: It is a refuge for more than 40 exotic butterfly species situated in a beautiful setting, surrounded by waterfalls and tropical vegetation. It is also a wildlife refuge for endangered species that have either been rescued or donated to its managers.

Boras from San Andres: A community who still preserve their customs and cultural traditions and whose festivals and ceremonies are closely tied to their myths and legends. They paint their bodies before dancing, with the image of the snake being the preferred motive for both men and women.

Allpahuayo - Mishana National Reserve: It shelters the largest concentration of white sands forests, or varillales, as they are known in the Peruvian Amazon, as well as those flooded by black waters. The biological wealth spread from one end to the other of its 143,321 acre is enormous and one-of-a-kind, highlighted by

EXCURSIONS

numerous endemic and restricted distribution plant and animal species, many of which have still not been subject to scientific description. It is very easy to reach on account of its proximity to Iquitos.

Pacaya- Samiria National Reserve: Because of its size, it is considered the most important protected natural area in Peru. Thousands of fish spawn in its lakes, such as the paiche, the largest Amazon fish. Yet, also found there are the highly sought after pink dolphin, the black caiman, the river otter, the manatee and the side-necked taricaya turtle.

To enter this reserve you need a permission issued by the National Institute of Natural Resources (INRENA)

WHAT TO BUY?

You can find a great variety of **handicrafts** in the area, such as **pottery** pieces featuring geometric designs, hand painted fabrics and many other objects, both decorative and utilitarian, made from materials found in the region.

WHAT TO EAT?

Iquitos has a lot of restaurants to satisfy the most refined of **palates**, where chefs take advantage of regional resources, such as the **palm heart**, an essential ingredient in salads yet also prepare international foods. The **paiche** and extraordinary Amazon fish, is a main ingredient for dishes in which its delicious meat is marinated in tropical fruit juices before being accompanied by different sauces. The most popular restaurants offer creative regional dishes, like the famous chicken **juanese** (a type of rice tamale wrapped in banana leaves), the tasty **tacacho** (roasted bananas with deep fried pork) or the delectable soup, worthy of the best restaurants, called **inchicapi**. The meat of game animals is also a succulent choice, the best being **paca**, **deer** and **caiman** (farm raised, not the ones living in the world). Honorable mention is stimulating traditional drinks like **huitochado** and **chuchuhuasi**, which are reported aphrodisiacs.