

MORE INFORMATION

## WEATHER

Puerto Maldonado is in the Amazon Basin. The climate is hot and humid at all times. The average annual temperature is **26 °C (79 °F)** with the months of August and September being the hottest. The wet season is from October to April. A common phenomena known locally as a "surazo" or "friaje" occurs when polar winds blow in from the mountainous south. The temperature will drop to as low as **8 °C (46 °F)** for several days.

*We suggest wearing light clothing yet long-sleeve shirts and a hat. Pack a flashlight with extra batteries and bring a poncho and waterproof boots. Also important is to use insect repellent, especially one that protects against mosquito bites. It is recommendable to get a yellow fever vaccine, which has to be applied 10 days before travelling.*

## HOW TO GET THERE?

### BY BUS

From Lima: 1,621 km/50 hours  
From Lima to Manu: then taking a bus to the community of Atalaya 8 hours. Once there, take a boat to Boca Manu 8 hours and from that spot to the park's Tourist and Recreational Use Area 8 hours

### BY AIR

From Lima: 1 hour and 30 minutes regular flights  
From Cusco: 35 minutes to Puerto Maldonado  
From Cusco to Manu: 30 minutes  
Puerto Maldonado is served by Padre Jose Aldamiz Airport

## SUGGESTED FOR

**People attracted to visiting native communities**, who will see each one has their own identity, world view and language. Among the many ethnic groups, there are the Ese'ejá, Machiguengas and Yines.

**Plant and animal watchers**, who once in the natural protected areas, will be able to see large cats, tapirs and wild boars as well as mushrooms, orchids and centuries old mahogany trees.

**People interested in scientific tourism**, since Manu is one of the most biodiversity places on Earth, containing unique species or those already extinct in other places in Amazonia.

**Trekkers**, who will discover Madre de Dios is an ideal destination. Lodges and travel agencies offer out of the ordinary trekking circuits.

## PLACES TO VISIT

### N PUERTO MALDONADO

**Japipi:** A butterfly farm and biodiversity center. The name means “butterfly” in the Ese’ija language.

## EXCURSIONS

**Lake Sandoval:** In the middle of the rainforest, it is home to a vast amount of plants and animals, like herons, hoatzins –the only ruminant-like bird on the planet – and caimans. Activities on the lake include: fishing, boat rides, swimming, or just watching the reflection of the light on the water at sunset. This is also a good launching point for visiting one of the few chestnut tree forest in Peru.

**Lake Valencia:** A truly awesome place. Its waters are so rich that both the native Huarayos and the settlers nearby make their livings from fishing a wide array of different varieties of cat fish (doncellas and dorados), oscars, piranhas and paiche. Besides fishing, chestnut gathering is another important livelihood in the area.

**Tambopata National Reserve:** Located between the river basins of the Tambopata River and the Heath River, the biodiversity of

the reserve is simply immeasurable. On record are 632 species of birds, 1,200 of butterflies, 169 of mammals, 205 of fish, 103 of amphibians and 67 of reptiles. Likewise you can see all the characteristics tropical vegetation there. To enter, you need to have a previously arranged INRENA permit.

**Colorado macaw clay lick:** This spot is located within the confines of the Tambopata National Reserve and is the site of exciting show; each morning, macaws, parrots and parakeets meet at one of the world’s largest clay licks – each species at a time-, swirling and swooping around it before beginning the “colpeo” ceremony, which consists of them eating the clay found on the sides of the ravine.

**Bahuaja Sonene National Park:** This national park straddles the departments of Puno and Madre de Dios and includes extensive mountain forests, savannahs filled with palm trees and different valuable wood trees grow. It is likewise one of the world’s greatest amassing of biodiversity, where one-of-a kind and endangered species live, the likes of the river otter and the black caiman. It is also home to the Ese’ija people.

**Manu National Park:** Altitude ranges between 300 masl and 4,000 masl (984 fasl and 13,120

fasl), The park contains the entire Manu watershed on lands belonging to two departments: Cusco and Madre de Dios. Here, hidden away are some of the greatest concentrations of life on the planet; it is a world record holder in bird varieties (over 800 species, like the harpy eagle and the Cock-of-the –Rocks), mammal species (nearly 200 of these), a huge variety of bats and insects, and a list of yet unclassified reptiles. The figures on the plants are also astonishing: close to 2,000 species, including gigantic orchids and emergent trees, towering above 45 meters in height and possessing 3-meter diameter trunks. Many of these species are endemic to the area. Also found within the park’s territory are 30 indigenous people groups, owners of their own traditions, culture and languages, people like the Michiguengas, Amahuaas, Yaminahuas, Piros, Amarakaeries, Huachipaires and Nahuas.

## WHAT TO BUY?

Many artisans work in wood, creating paper weights, **ashtrays**, **wooden postcards** and other **decorative pieces**. Others make **necklaces** and **bracelets** out of plant fibers, seeds and jungle roots. Still others fashion key chains from chestnut shells.

## WHAT TO EAT?

Regional cuisine carries the stamp of the combination of produce from both farmers' fields (**cassava**, **banana**, **peanut and other crops**) and resources give by nature (**paiche** –a massive freshwater fish- palm tree heart, game meats and others). This happy mixing makes it possible to enjoy dishes as **patarashca**, fish wrapped in banana leaves and grilled over charcoal, and **timbuche**, a fish broth with green bananas and wild coriander. International food is served in some Puerto Maldonado restaurants and tourist lodges located along the river banks. Otherwise there is a definite Brazilian influence in many restaurants in Puerto Maldonado, seen in dishes that combine beans with beef. In constant supply are the exquisitely tasty drinks made from tropical fruits.