

## Expedition UCAYALI

This expedition concentrates on the high and low jungles in the Peruvian Amazon. Day to day we will move further away from civilisation. The remoteness intensifies the contrasts in nature and between the people on our way through Peru's central jungle. From coastal beaches right up to the Andes, we cross the mountain ranges at 4818 msl (15,803 ft) before descending to the high jungle at 800 msl (2,624 ft) then further down to the low jungle at 200msl (656 ft). We stay in the low jungle until we reach the Peruvian Amazon's second largest town Pucallpa. We will stay and live together with two ethnic Amazon Indian tribes – the Ashaninka and the Shipibo.



### Day 1

#### Arrival at Lima Airport

- Pickup by Coex Amazon and transport to Hotel Colon de Miraflores.
- Overnight stay at Hotel Colon de Miraflores; this 4 star accommodation includes a breakfast buffet and is centrally located in Miraflores, one of Lima's finest parts of town, only 2 blocks from the stylish LarcoMar terrace overlooking the Pacific Ocean.

### Day 2

#### Full Day in Lima – “City of the Kings”

- After breakfast information meeting by Coex Amazon.
- Overnight stay at Hotel Colon de Miraflores.
- **The day in Lima is free to enjoy as desired.**

### Day 3

#### Expedition start on departure from Hotel Colon de Miraflores at 06:00 hrs

- The first leg of the expedition is about 8 hours by car over two mountain chains in the towering Andes. We will then descend towards the lush high jungle where we stay overnight. We will stop at the highest point of Ticlio at 4818 msl (15,803 ft) to test the thin air and enjoy some well earned coca-tea. In the idyllic Andes town of Tarma at 3000 msl (9,840 ft), we stop for lunch. After a good meal a fantastic descent awaits in the dramatic mountain landscape. The road down towards Chanchamayo in the high jungle offers views of ever-changing landscape and vegetation.
- La Merced, Peru's coffee capital lying approx. 750 msl (2,460 ft), is our destination on the first day where we will stay overnight at the intimate and exotic Cocos Inn. In La Merced we will visit a local coffee – bodega to learn about the processing. There will be opportunities to taste and buy their coffee. Afterwards we will find a restaurant and have dinner.

**Day 4 Our first meeting with the Ashaninka – the Indians of Chanchamayo**

- After a good night's sleep we start our first full day in the high jungle with a Chanchamayo breakfast including freshly brewed coffee. Our Ashaninka guide, Frank, who speaks a little English, will be with us from leaving hotel Cocos Inn.
- Initially we will visit a nature reservation to see the waterfall; Tirol. Frank will describe the area's history and flourishing nature.
- We have to drive a distance on down into the central jungle and after a while upwards to eventually arrive at the semi-exposed Ashaninka ethnic tribe of San Miguel. *San Miguel was one of two selected locations in Peru in the Norwegian TV-series "Worlds Apart" in 2005.* They live at about 1200 msl (3,936 ft) in Perene and are a very friendly and welcoming people with a strong cultural identity. They live in harmony with nature in a plentiful landscape with vast natural resources. They are self sufficient and practice natural medicine. We will live and eat with the Ashaninka.



**Day 5 The intermediary journey leg to Satipo – before the low jungle**

- Either after a good night's sleep or an active night's hunting we wake in an airy Ashaninka house to the sound of insects and bird life. We eat a particularly special breakfast with our host families. This mainly consists of lots of different fruit, newly smoked fresh game meat and home grown coffee.
- After practicing Ashaninka art, natural medicine, bow and arrow shooting and much more, we take leave of our new friends and travel towards Satipo, the largest town of the central jungle and a halfway stop before reaching the low jungle. On the way we stop at Pichanaki for lunch by the banks of the river Perene. We stay overnight in the Majestic Hotel by the plaza in the centre of Satipo.

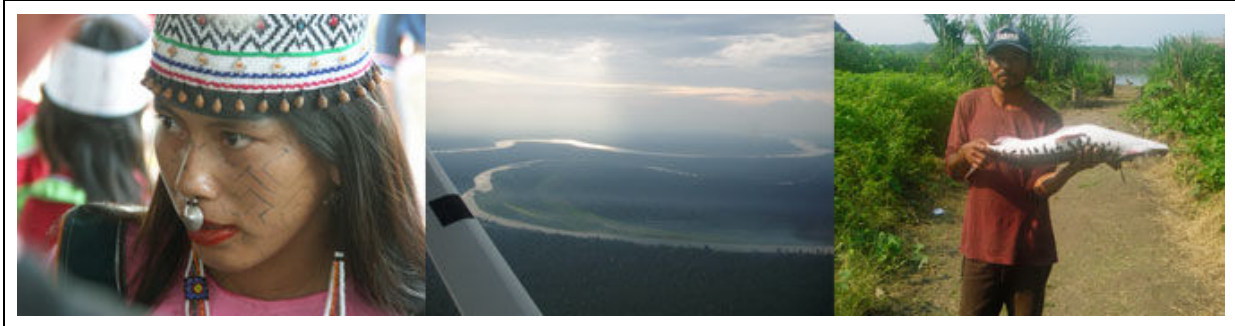
**Day 6 By Cessna plane over the central jungle down to Bolognesi in the low jungle by Rio Ucayali**

- After breakfast in Satipo we travel to the Franciscan airstrip where pilot Enrique Tante will weigh us before boarding the Cessna 206 plane "Wings of Hope" which will take us down to the low jungle. Here only boats and small planes are feasible transport methods. We are far, far away.
- We land on the airstip at Bolognesi, a small village made up of 1/3 Ashaninkas, 1/3 Shipibos and 1/3 Mezti. Here the Governor and our Shipibo guide Damaso are ready to meet us. We feel the warm humid air of the low jungle and sense we are far, far away. We book into one of the village's two basic hostels.
- We will get to know this charming, isolated and relatively well organised little village. The Governor invites us to lunch. Afterwards we relax with a little siesta or a wander around the area.
- We have our own boat and boatman at our disposition for the next 5 days. We find ourselves in the Shipibo's water kingdom with rivers and lagoons all around us. We boat out to one of the sandbanks along the Ucayali River to swim and spot freshwater seals and "bufeos". The Ucayali River is approx. 1800 km (1,119 miles) long and joins the Marañon River in the north of Peru to become the great Amazon River.
- We return to the village Bolognesi and get ready for dinner at La Abuela. Afterwards we take a stroll to the village's unique and classic outdoor venue Catalan to enjoy a bit of music until it finishes at 22:00. It is time to retire for the night. It is warm and the sound of nocturnal

insects is intense. We brush our teeth looking up at a fantastic starry sky and know we are far from home.

**Day 7 Our first meeting with the Shipibo tribe**

- After breakfast we get ready to travel down the Ucayali River. After about 2 hours we arrive at the Shipibo community of Betijay, the tribe of our guide Damaso. The Shipibo are known for successfully managing the ecosystem of their watery domain, actively using natural medicines and for their uniquely designed ceramic and textile artwork.
- We will live a day with this relatively large tribe and take our time to get to know them and their lifestyle. Apart from trading on the river there is little the Shipibo people know of foreigners. We set up camp and can reckon on there being some competition between the Shipibo boys for the opportunity to help us.
- We get ready for lunch with the Shipibo – most likely fish.
- We follow their daily activities including handicrafts, hunting, fishing, farming and recollecting or playing with the children.
- Before dinner we go swimming off the sandbanks and try our skills at balancing in the children's hand carved canoes.
- After dinner we can join the Shipibo in their traditional fishing activities or follow the tribe's shaman, getting an insight into the active use of natural medicines. There is a good opportunity for cultural exchanges.
- It is late. The insect sounds are no less intense and the starry sky no less impressive. It is time for bed in the great tent with ample mosquito netting and a comfortable double mattress.



**Day 8 Onwards down the river Ucayali**

- Either after a good night's sleep in the Coex Amazon tent or an active night out hunting, we wake early to the sound of birdsong. Some of us might already be out on the river fishing with the Shipibos. We have breakfast made mainly from what we brought with us. In contrast to the high jungle there is little variety in fruit here in the low jungle.
- We decamp and get ready to continue down the Ucayali River. On route we enjoy the great breadth of the river as it opens up before us with freshwater seals and "buefos" jumping about in the water around us. After about 2 hours we arrive at the Shipibo settlement of Fenicia, which was the second selected location for the Norwegian TV-series "Worlds Apart" in 2005. We will live here for a day. We take our time getting to know a bit about the people and their way of life before having a Shipibo style lunch.
- After lunch we set up camp – again with many keen helpers. We follow the daily activities of the tribe similar to yesterday.
- It will be a late dinner and an early night for those who wish it.

**Day 9 Up the Ucayali river in the direction of Bolognesi**

- After breakfast we decamp and say goodbye to our new Shipibo friends. We board our vessel to travel southwards, upstream towards Bolognesi. It will be a full day in the boat.
- We will enter tributary small rivers to Ucayali, and some of them will lead us into lagoons. Here we experience a whole new ecosystem, different flora and fauna, new sounds and smells. The lagoons harbours the world's largest freshwater fish – the "paiche" which can grow up to 300 kg (661 lbs). We rig fishing gear and prepare lunch.
- Before evening approaches we return to our friends at the native settlement of Betijay and we set up camp. Dinner will be served and later we will have intercultural evening.

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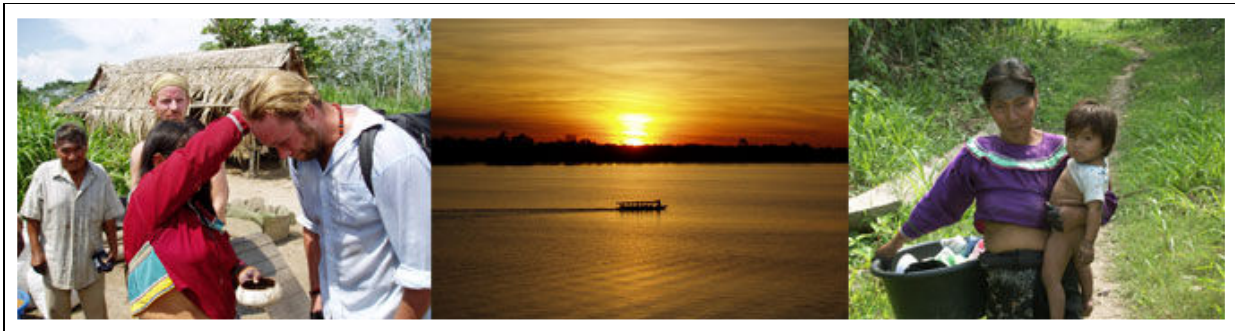
**Escandino Services S.A.**

**Day 10 Continuing upstream on the Ucayali River to Atalaya – last stop by boat**

- After breakfast we board our riverboat again which will take us to our last destination on the Ucayali River. Atalaya is a rapidly growing, slightly rough little town at a strategic point at the junction of the Tambo and Urubamba rivers which together become the Ucayali. Forestry and wood trade is the main industry and probably not all legal either. After 4 hours we arrive at Atalaya, book into Hotel Alex and find somewhere to have lunch.
- The rest of the day we can relax and take a stroll to experience the local life.

**Day 11 Flight to Pucallpa**

- Sleeping well into the morning, we take breakfast at the hotel. From the airport in Atalaya we take the scheduled flight “Aero Andino” to Pucallpa, the second largest town in the Peruvian Amazon with over 200,000 inhabitants. We are back in this relatively familiar environment despite the informality of the place. We book in at Hotel Gran Mercedes in the centre of town.
- After finding a place to have lunch we are free to enjoy the afternoon as we wish.
- Pucallpa has several fine restaurants serving meat and fish. We get ready for dinner.
- Pucallpa also has a relatively active night scene. The locals are lively and enjoy a good dance.



**Day 12 A day of relaxation in Pucallpa and Yarinacocha**

- After a good night's sleep we have breakfast at the hotel.
- Afterwards we get ready to travel out to the great lagoon Yarinacocha. We go by boat to a private area with fantastic views over the lagoon. We swim, relax and eat some good food. Before we return to the town we enjoy a breathtaking sunset.
- **The rest of the day is free to enjoy as desired.**

**Day 13 Return to Lima by plane**

- We have breakfast by the hotel then prepare to transfer to Pucallpa airport to catch the flight to Lima.
- Transfer from Lima Airport to Hotel Colon de Miraflores.
- **The stay in Lima up until the departure from Lima International Airport is free to enjoy as desired**

**Day 14 Departure from Lima International Airport**

- 3 hours before flight time we are ready to transfer from Hotel Colon de Miraflores to Lima airport. Coex Amazon fetch and bring expedition members to the airport.