



**Mondo Verde Expeditions LLC presents
A Photography Journey with Jim Griggs
Exploration of the Tambopata National Reserve, Cusco & Machu Picchu
October 4th to October 12th, 2018**

Tambopata is a river, a national reserve and a province in the Madre de Dios State, located in southeastern Peru. It harbors some of the most bio-diverse rainforest in the country (and possibly the entire Amazon basin), vast protected areas, and is home to several thousand people. Remote, wild, but still easily accessible, this contrasting combination has helped the Tambopata Reserve become one of the global hotspots for ecotourism.

Massive, old growth Ceibas and other rainforest giants emerge from a 90 foot high canopy. Hidden beneath the trees are troops of monkeys, toucans, brilliantly colored macaws, and even jaguars. It's forest harbors more than 10,000 species of plants.

Over 600 species of birds.

A staggering 200 species of mammals.

More than 1,000 butterfly species.

Literally thousands of species of insects.

Well over 100 species of amphibians and reptiles.

At 11,200 feet above sea level, Cusco is the heart of Tahuantinsuyo, Peru's pre- Colombian Empire. Cusco today is the oldest continuously inhabited city in South America, a fascinating and colorful paradox of the past and the present. Explore Cusco visiting the Temple of the Sun, the Cathedral and the immense walled complex of Sacsayhuaman.

Travel by train following the course of the mighty Urubamba River and spend a magical days exploring Machu Picchu and its surrounding areas. The complex was so well hidden by the towering jungle covered ramparts of the Cordillera Vilcabamba that it was never discovered by the Spaniards. Machu Picchu preserves the most perfect picture of what the Inca world must

have been like. However, much of its origins and purpose are lost in time.

Itinerary

Day 1 – Oct 4th

USA – Lima

Late night arrival to Lima. Representative from MVE will be at the airport to meet you and help with the transfer to hotel Costa del Sol located at the airport. Overnight in Lima.

No meals included

Day 2 – Oct 5th

Puerto Maldonado - Refugio Amazonas

Early morning breakfast at the hotel. Flight to Puerto Maldonado. Upon arrival from Lima reception and transfer to the Tambopata River port in Puerto Maldonado. Puerto Maldonado is situated at the confluence of the mighty Madre de Dios and Tambopata Rivers and is a bustling, booming tropical frontier town. Its principal activities are gold mining, Brazil nut collecting, timber extraction, agriculture and ecotourism. After a brief stop at our offices we will depart on a 30-minute drive to the Infierno Community port, followed by 2-1/2 boat journey by motorized canoe to Refugio Amazonas. The ride from the Tambopata Port to Refugio Amazonas will take us past the Community of Infierno and the Tambopata National Reserve's checkpoint and into the buffer zone of this 1.3 million hectare conservation unit.

Boxed lunch aboard the boat.

During our voyage we may see bird and photograph species typical of the river or forest edge such as: Black Skimmer, Pied Lapwing, Capped Heron, Jabiru Stork, Roadside Hawk, and several species of kingfishers, swallows and flycatchers. When we arrive at Refugio Amazonas we will unpack and unwind. Refugio Amazonas is a comfortable yet unobtrusive lodge owned by Rainforest Expeditions. We will receive a short orientation and a complete briefing about the lodge trails and activities.

B,L,D included

Optional: Tonight we could be out at the river's edge scanning the shores with headlamps and flashlights to catch the red gleams of reflection from caiman eyes.

Your Jungle Accommodations: You will be staying in superior 45-m2 rooms overlooking the tropical rain forest. The rooms are single, double or twin, as requested. Each one is equipped with a bed, a mosquito net, and two hypoallergenic pillows per person, a hammock and a reading table. Rooms have spacious private bathrooms with hot water.

Electric lighting is available in the evenings until 10:00 pm, at your bedside table, your bathroom and an outlet to charge your electronics. Free Internet is available in every room. You have access to a personal safe-deposit box, an umbrella for rain and a special set of eco-friendly amenities.

Day 3 – Oct 6th

Refugio Amazonas

Chuncho Clay Lick / Oxbow Lake

Very early departure from Refugio Amazonas on our private boat so we have a chance to search for jaguar and other mammal species along the way to the Chuncho Clay Lick located inside the Tambopata National Reserve. The journey will take us approximately two and half hour by boat with a chance to use the restroom facilities at the Park Rangers Station.

After we reach the Chuncho site we take a brief 5-minute walk, set up our tripods and chairs and wait for the activity to start. We will have the chance to see countless numbers of parrots and parakeets and dozens of large macaws feeding on the special sodium rich clays of the riverbank. The Chuncho clay lick probably attracts more large macaws than any other clay lick in the world and the sight of dozens of macaws taking flight is truly unforgettable. The first birds to land at the lick are the parrots and parakeets. Later in the morning the larger macaws start arriving. They fly above us in pairs and land right across the narrow branch of the river Tambopata on the trees right above the lick.

We will enjoy breakfast at the lick and have plenty of time to photograph the full activity since we have our own boat.

Later in the day we return to the lodge for lunch. Along the way we scout the shores for wildlife and a chance to do scenic photography.

Later in the afternoon we visit an oxbow lake. We will paddle around the lake on a canoe or a catamaran, looking for lakeside wildlife such as hoatzin, caiman and horned screamers, hoping to see the otters, which are infrequently seen here. You will also be rewarded with overhead sightings of macaws.

Dinner and overnight at Refugio Amazonas.

B,L,D included

Day 4 – Oct 7th

Refugio Amazonas

Canopy Tower / Ethno botanical Walk

After an early breakfast we depart on a 30-minute walk to the 25-meter tall Canopy Tower. We will search for bird and monkey species along the way. A bannistered staircase running through the middle provides safe access to the platforms above. The tower has been built upon high ground, therefore increasing your horizon of the continuous primary forest extending out towards the Tambopata National Reserve. From here views of colorful mixed species canopy flocks as well as toucans, macaws, monkeys and raptors are likely.

On the way back to the lodge we walk a primary forest trail with plenty of opportunities to photograph the jungle plant diversity and searching for wildlife.

We return to the lodge lunch. Time to relax after lunch before we embark on our afternoon activity.

We meet at the lobby this afternoon and we take a short walk near Refugio Amazonas. We embark on an ethno botany experience and we will have a chance to learn about the relationship between local people and plants. Plants are incorporated in the daily lives of local people as food, medicine, and clothing and also used as building materials.

Nowhere else on the planet can one find a forest that harbors more than 600 species of birds, well over 100 species of mammals, and more than 100 species of reptiles and amphibians. The insect diversity is even more incredible with literally thousands of species of beetles, bugs, and other six-legged creatures. There are more than 1,000 species of butterflies in the rainforests of Tambopata and the number of shapes, colors, and types of katydids seems to be simply endless.

Nevertheless, the impressive animal biodiversity in Tambopata has its equal in the numbers and types of plants that make up the foundation of the rainforest. There are literally thousands of species of plants in the rainforests and most have developed an even more incredible variety of compounds as defenses against the countless herbivores that would eat their leaves and tunnel into their trunks. The natural chemicals developed by rainforest plants have been investigated and used by native Amazonian peoples for thousands of years. In the natural laboratory of the Peruvian rainforest, plants have been extracted and used for medicinal purposes long before modern techniques and treatments were developed. In Tambopata, many people from the native community still go to their local shaman (a traditional healer) to receive treatments for everything from sleeplessness to cancer.

Later in the afternoon we return to the lodge for dinner.

B,L,D included

Day 5 – Oct 8th

Refugio Amazonas

Return to El Chuncho – Mammal Clay Lick – Night Walk with Macro Photography

Opportunities

We return to El Chuncho for one more chance to look for jaguar and other mammals along the river banks and a second chance at the clay lick.

We return to the lodge for lunch and time to relax.

Later in the afternoon we visit the peccary clay lick located twenty minutes from Refugio Amazonas. These wild rain forest pigs show up in herds of five to twenty individuals to eat

clay in the late morning. Chances of spotting them are around 15%, but well worth the short hike. Other wildlife also shows up including deer, guan and parakeets. We will photograph and search for wildlife on our way back to the lodge

Dinner at the lodge

Night Walk (optional)

After dinner, we will venture out near the lodge to spot-light Pauraque, Tawny-bellied Screech-Owl, Great Potoo, Long tailed Potoo, Ocellated Poorwill and if we are lucky a Mottled Owl or Crested Owl. There is also the possibility of taking macro shoots of American Bullfrogs, Horned Frog, tree frogs and other creatures of the night.

B,L,D

Day 6 – Oct 9th

Refugio Amazonas – Puerto Maldonado – Cusco – Sacred Valley

After an early breakfast, we depart by boat back to the city of Puerto Maldonado, directly to the airport, in time for our flight to Cusco. Most flights depart after 1:00 pm so we will be arriving in Cusco at mid afternoon. Meet your guide and travel to the Sacred Valley. We will provide you with a box lunch to eat along the way. On the way to your hotel, we will stop along the way to photograph the magnificent landscape and the towering Andean mountain range.

Box Lunch

Later in the afternoon we arrive at our lodge in Ollantaytambo for dinner and overnight.

B,BL,D included

Day 7 – Oct 10th

Inca Complex of Ollantaytambo – Machu Picchu

Early morning breakfast at hotel before our guided tour of Inca ruins of Ollantaytambo. The most fascinating aspect of Ollantaytambo is that visitors have the opportunity to see how the Quechuas lived their lives during the Inca times. The walls, homes, canals and streets have survived intact despite the rigors of time and the Spanish conquest. To reach the fortress overlooking the town, one must walk up some very steep steps (over 200) that make up part of the fortified terracing used for the protection of the complex. The Spaniards lost a battle here and never conquered this area in battle. The most magnificent aspect of this ruins are the six huge stones located at the top of the complex in the Temple of the Sun. This site was never completed.

Later this morning we begin our journey to Machu Picchu - the "Lost City of the Incas". We will board the train to Machu Picchu and enjoy a wonderful lunch as we travel to Aguas

Calientes. After arriving at the train station in Aguas Calientes we board our bus and will climb a final 2,000 feet by minibus to the site of Machu Picchu.

Rediscovered by Hiram Bingham in 1911, Machu Picchu was unknown to the Spaniards. Its reason for existence remains under debate. Some argue it was built and populated by the family of one Inca ruler, Pachakutek; others have proposed the principal function of Machu Picchu was to maintain a reliable supply of coca leaves for the priests and royals of Cusco. Bingham fostered the school of thought that the city existed primarily for strategic and defensive purposes, but other findings support the hypothesis that Machu Picchu was a university where the children of the leaders of other Andean cultures conquered by the Incas were taken to be instructed and indoctrinated.

After an afternoon guided tour of this amazing Inca complex, we will descend to the village of Aguas Calientes and walk to our hotel nestled in the cloud forest.

Overnight in Aguas Calientes at the Pueblo Hotel.

B,L,D

Day 8 – Oct 11th

Pueblo Hotel Nature Trail – *Second day Return to Machu Picchu

After a very early breakfast we depart on our nature walk of choice with one of the expert resident guides. Attractions include 162 different bird species—36% of all the bird species recorded at the Machu Picchu Sanctuary can be seen in the Hotel gardens, 16 hummingbird species and other awe-inspiring species including the Peruvian Cock of the Rock, the golden-headed quetzal, the aquatic Mirlo, the highland motmot, and the white-capped dipper. The Pueblo hotel is also home to the largest native orchid collection in the world with a total of 372 species, a world record. There are 108 butterfly species, more than 200 species of trees and a great variety of reptiles and mammals, including two spectacled bears.

Lunch at hotel.

Afternoon option to return to the ruins of Machu Picchu on your own or have a free afternoon to explore the grounds of the hotel on your own to do some photographic or visit the town of Aguas Calientes. Dinner and overnight at the Pueblo hotel.

B,L,D

***Note:** The cost for the second day option to return to Machu Picchu on your own is approximately US\$ 100.00 per person. It includes your round trip bus ticket and the half-day entrance fee. We can book this option upon request.

Day 9 - Oct 12th

Train back to Ollantaytambo – Cusco City Tour – Lima – USA

After an early breakfast at hotel we take the train back to Ollantaytambo where we meet our guide and private van. We drive from Ollantaytambo toward the city of Cusco. Along the way

we stop at the ruins of Sacsayhuaman located two kilometers from the city of Cusco. This is an immense walled complex made up of huge stones distributed in a zigzag pattern in three platforms with an average of 1,181ft in length. These platforms are connected by flights of stairs and doorways also in stone; one of these is 29ft tall and 15ft wide and weighs more than 100 tons. The largest stone block found in Sacsayhuaman stands 27.88ft high and weighs 361 tons. Inca Pachakutek employed 20,000 men for the construction of the complex and it took approximately 50 years to complete.

We will provide you with a box lunch in order to maximize the time we have to explore the city of Cusco.

From Sacsayhuaman we drive down to Cusco. At 11,200 feet above sea level, Cusco is the heart of Tahuantinsuyo, Peru's pre-Colombian Empire. Cusco today is the oldest continuously inhabited city in South America, a fascinating and colorful paradox of the past and the present. In the afternoon you will have a guided city tour.

You will visit the Inca temple of Koricancha or the Temple of the Sun with walls demonstrating some of the finest examples of Inca stonework in existence. The Santo Domingo church was built over this magnificent temple. During the Inca times its courtyards were filled with life-sized gold and silver representations of all the flora and fauna of the Empire. Pizarro's men looted the temple as part of Inca Atahualpa royal ransom who was held prisoner in Cajamarca by the Spaniards and later killed. An earthquake destroyed the Santo Domingo church in 1950 revealing the Inca walls that were hidden or plastered over.

Time permitting we also visit the Cathedral located at the northeast side of the Plaza de Armas, which was built in 1550 and contains over four hundred XII century paintings done by the members of the renowned Cusco School. In the cathedral you will see the Lord of the Earthquakes altar weighing over 52 pounds made of solid gold and studded with precious stones.

Later in the afternoon we transfer to the airport for your flight to Lima. Upon arrival in Lima meet our representative for airport assistance to the international counter. Transfer to Costa del Sol hotel. Day room for a chance to change clothing and freshen up before checking in for your international departure back to USA.

B,BL included

Land Cost per person based on double occupancy with minimum of 6 paying participants: US\$ 4,569.00

Single Supplement Fee: US\$ 830.00

***Domestic Peruvian Flights: US\$ 520.00**

- **Lima-Puerto Maldonado**

- **Puerto Maldonado-Cusco**
- **Cusco - Lima**

*Domestic-flight rate is to be taken just as a reference, since it will depend on availability when confirming the booking.

INCLUDED IN YOUR TRIP

- Private assistance upon arrival in Lima
- Airport hotel in Lima upon arrival and day room upon departure
- Private expert guide in Cusco
- Overland transportation to reach the river port at Puerto Maldonado
- Half day visit to Machu Picchu ruins with private guide
- All entrance fees to enter historical sites
- Accommodations in superior rooms at the lodge in Ollantaytambo and Machu Picchu Pueblo Hotel
- All meals as described in the program
- English and Spanish speaking guides for the duration of the program
- Guided tours in accordance with the itinerary
- Reception and transfer assistance at all airports
- First class train tickets to/from Machu Picchu with reserved seating and lunch
- *Second day entrance fee to Machu Picchu and buses tickets upon request

NOT INCLUDED

- Air tickets price separately and included in the land cost from Lima to Puerto Maldonado, to Cusco and then back to Lima
- Accommodation in Puerto Maldonado
- Extra services like boat transportation, and extra nights at hotels in case of flight cancellations or delays due to weather or other circumstances
- Souvenirs, T-Shirts, Posters, Postcards. Personal expenses and tips

Payment and Cancelation Policy

Payment:

- A 25% deposit of total invoice is due to hold your place on the journey.
- Balance payment in full is due 90 days before departure.
- Deposit and final payment for the program should be made by check.

Please make check to Mondo Verde Expeditions.

Via Bill Pay:

Alpine Bank
701 N. Summit Blvd.
P.O.Box 4457
Frisco, CO 80443
Routing Number: 102103407
Account Number: 3350006432

Or mail check to:

Mondo Verde Expeditions
POB 2937
Frisco, CO
80443

If you would prefer to pay via credit card, we would need to include a 6% credit card processing fee. Please let us know if this is your preference so we can amend your invoice and send you to our secured credit card processing link.

- For any cancellations within the final 90 days before departure there will be no refunds. Mondo Verde Expeditions will make its best effort to refund a portion of the trip cost that it able to recover from hotels and other service providers.

- No refunds will be made for any unused portions of the trip.

Responsibility and Insurance:

· Mondo Verde Expeditions services include only the services described in the itinerary. The guest is responsible for obtaining passports, visas, travel insurance, payment for excess

baggage charges, items of a personal nature, such as drinks, laundry, communications (phone calls, faxes, emails, internet service, etc), national and international airport departure taxes, gratuities, or any other services not specified in the program.

- Mondo Verde Expeditions retains the right to make changes in the contracted itinerary.
- Mondo Verde Expeditions is not responsible for extra costs caused by delays or cancellation of air, road, lake, river or trail travel due to changes in airline schedules, bad weather conditions, civil or government strikes, acts of God or government, acts of terrorism, force majeure, criminal activity, or sickness.
- Mondo Verde Expeditions highly recommends that our clients protect themselves with travel insurance to prevent any financial losses.

Payment Forms:

- Payment constitutes your acceptance of the terms and conditions set out herein, including the attached itinerary and travel tips.