

PERU



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PERU AND THE AMAZON

New England College

LAS-1990-1 Travel Course: Amazon (CRN 370, 2 credits)

Professors Eric Simon and Lori Bergeron

Course meets Fall 2012

Travel: January 11-19, 2013



Inhabited by the largest number of bird species in the world, the third largest number of mammals, and numerous other animals, plants, and insects, the Peruvian Amazon is considered to be one of the most biologically diverse places in the world. This 9-day program delves deep into Peru's lush, thriving landscape by foot, boat, and zipline for unique observations of rare, endemic, and endangered species in their natural habitats. The program includes opportunities to assist researchers in collecting important population data on birds, reptiles, amphibians, and mammals inhabiting the grid-trail system at the Amazon Research Center. Expert lectures and group discussions focusing on Amazonian biodiversity are included to enhance field activities.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Cruise along the Amazon River to ACRCTT, a bioreserve hosting the region's most diverse flora and fauna.
- Contribute to scientific research projects on birds, reptiles, amphibians, and mammals at the Amazon Research Center.
- Journey by foot and dugout canoe through floodplain ecosystems for close-up observations of tropical species.
- Learn about poison dart frog conservation and breeding study project at Frog Valley.
- Observe amazing panoramic views of orchids and giant bromeliads from treetop platforms.
- Take nighttime excursions into the forest to see nocturnal mammals, amphibians, insects and reptiles.
- Coast through the treetops on a canopy zipline adventure.
- Fish for Piranha.
- Hike to a jungle waterfall.
- Visit and learn about local communities.

EDUCATIONAL CONNECTIONS

- Biology
- Cultural Interaction
- Research and Investigation
- Citizen Science

ITINERARY

JANUARY 11 - DEPARTURE

Overnight flight to Lima, Peru.

JANUARY 12 - AMAZON

After arriving in Lima take a connecting flight to Iquitos. Upon arrival, travel to Tahuayo Lodge by boat. Journey along the Amazon River for views of marsh birds and small native villages that dot the river banks. Then travel on the Tahuayo tributary to the Area de Conservacion Regional Comunal Tamshiyacu Tahuayo (ACRCTT). Exceeding 1.1 million acres, the ACRCTT is the most diverse bioreserve in northeastern Peru. Studies have found more trees, primates, and non-violent mammals here than in any other site in the Amazon. Upon arrival to Tahuayo Lodge, receive an introduction to your guide(s), cabin assignments, and program orientation. Each cabin is raised above the jungle floor by stilts and is connected to other buildings by a raised boardwalk. The modern toilets and showers use a sanitary septic system and water used in the plumbing comes from a well. There is some electricity provided by solar panels and batteries. *Overnight at Tahuayo Lodge.*

JANUARY 13 - AMAZON

Spend the day exploring the Varzea ecosystem, a forest that is flooded for one to three months out of the year. Varzea is characterized by a unique assemblage of flora and fauna. Here you will find pygmy marmosets, owl monkeys, mealy parrots, and a manakin breeding lek. Those feeling adventurous can try the zipline canopy tour. Treetop platforms provide panoramic views and opportunities for up-close appreciation of beautiful orchids and giant bromeliads. In the evening embark on a boat excursion for an opportunity to spot nocturnal fauna such as pauraques, potoos, nightjars, Boat-billed Herons, owls, bats, and night monkeys. Later tonight receive an overview of the ACRCTT and learn about conservation programming. *Overnight at Tahuayo Lodge.*

JANUARY 14 - AMAZON

Early this morning visit the butterfly colpa where these colorful insects swarm to feed on marine sediment deposits. After breakfast, hike in terra firme ecology near the Tahuayo River to study plant diversity. Trek to frog valley to observe a poison dart frog conservation and a breeding study project. This afternoon visit a native Riberenos village to learn about their culture. While visiting, join natives by participating in an agronomy conservation project. This evening a native shaman will perform a ceremony of good luck and good health at the lodge. *Overnight at Tahuayo Lodge.*

JANUARY 15 - AMAZON

After breakfast you will begin a day-long journey beginning with a boat ride. Boat along the Tahuayo River where you may see giant lily pads, tropical fish and electric eels.

After disembarkment, hike to the forest's interior to spot monkeys and sloths. Lunch will be served along side a cascading waterfall. Located underneath the falls is a pool for swimming. This afternoon visit a native artisanian market. In the evening enjoy an informative lesson about native oral histories. *Overnight at Tahuayo Lodge.*

JANUARY 16 - AMAZON

This morning travel up river by boat to the Amazon Research Center Lodge (ARC). En route, stop to view the wildlife of riverine ecology, including bats, monkeys, sloths, toucans, aningas, and raptorial birds. The main research facility of the ARC consists of a series of transect trails laid out as a grid to facilitate the sampling of population density. Ecosystems represented on the grid include high resting (forest that is flooded once every few years), low resting (forest that is flooded for a month every other year), and aguajal (swamp). This evening participate in a discussion of the Amazon's biodiversity. *Overnight at Amazon Research Center Lodge.*

JANUARY 17 - AMAZON

Today you will hike the trails with trained observers and collect data on birds, reptiles, amphibians, and mammals such as the red faced (bald-headed uakari) monkey, which is found only in the ACRCTT. This afternoon embark on a piranha fishing adventure. If you are lucky enough to make a catch, you can take it back to the lodge for dinner. This evening attend a wrap-up session to review the outcome of your course. *Overnight at Amazon Research Center Lodge.*

JANUARY 18 - FAREWELL!

Participate in a final hike along the trail grid. After lunch, travel by boat to Iquitos where you will connect with your flight to Lima and catch your flight home.

PROGRAM PRICING

\$2,900 (minimum 10 participants)

Cost includes airfare from Boston and flights within Peru. All meals, lodging, transportation, and fees are included.

THE FINE PRINT

Cost is based on triple and quadruple occupancy. Program may incur unforeseen fuel surcharges. A \$200 per person deposit and enrollment form is due upon booking and no later than four months prior to departure. This deposit is refundable until 95 days prior to departure excluding a \$100 cancellation fee. Final payments are due no later than 95 days prior to departure. Cancellations received less than 95 days prior to departure are not refundable. Travel/trip cancellation insurance is strongly recommended. For more information call 800-243-3174. Holbrook Travel's agency number is 15849.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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