

MANU NATIONAL PARK – JUNGLE TOUR
CUZCO, PERU – operated by Pantiacolla.



Duration: 7 days/6 nights – in by bus, out by plane.

Fitness level: Low

Price:

- Private (two people): US\$2960 per person.
- Group (six to ten people): US\$1900 per person.

Includes:

- Our own ground transportation (overland buses and 4WD vehicles)
- Our own boat transportation (covered motor boats)
- Specialised and bilingual guide
- Camping equipment - two-person tents and sleeping mattresses
- All meals (vegetarian options available)
- First aid kit including anti-ophidian shots
- All land and river transportation, captain and river rafting equipment
- Paperwork and payment for Park permits
- Radio communication equipment in all lodges and campsites
- Satellite telephone for emergencies
- Safety box for valuables and storage of luggage in Cusco
- Air charter - maximum 10kg of luggage per person from Boca Manu to Cusco on day 7

Not included:

- Tips for the guide
- Optional flight in to jungle from Cuzco available at additional cost.
- Airport taxes for air charters
- Snacks and alcoholic and carbonated beverages
- Entrance into the Reserved Zone **US\$55.00**

Packing suggestions:

- Sleeping bag
- Binoculars, camera and films (ASA 200 and 400 for the inner forest)
- Warm clothing, long sleeve shirts and long pants (cotton)
- Wide brim hat and sun glasses for sunny days
- 100% waterproof rain gear (long poncho or rain wear)
- Insect repellent (at least 50% DEET), sunscreen lotion
- One pair of lightweight, ankle height boots and sandals
- Flashlight, enough batteries (alkaline) and bulbs
- Towel, swimming suit
- Personal medicines and/or supplies (liquid for contact lenses for example)
- A day pack and one back pack or duffel bag of luggage
- One bottle of water for the first day
- Plastic bags

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DAY 1: Cusco-Cloud Forest

Leaving Cusco early in the morning, we begin an eight-hour journey over the Andes by 4WD transport, stopping for a coffee at the beautiful colonial village of Paucartambo.

Continuing, we climb to the highpoint of the Manu Biosphere at about 3,530masl, before descending to the cloud forest. In these mysterious surroundings we take a hike to the lek of the incredible cock-of-the-rock, to see the 'performance' of the males right under our eyes.

We spend our first night in the rustic lodge Posada San Pedro (appr. 1,600masl.).

DAY 2: Cloud Forest-Atalaya-Manu River

At daybreak we continue by bus to tropical lowland rainforest. Here at the small village Atalaya at 650masl, we change into a motorized canoe to navigate some five hours down the Alto Madre de Dios River to Boca Manu.

As night falls we stay in a basic lodge, or camp next to that lodge, depending on availability.

DAY 3 & 4: Lake Salvador and Lake Otorongo

On the morning of the third day we turn up the Manu River for a six-hour ride into the heart of Manu's Reserved Zone. From this vantage point we will have great views of riverside birds, sunbathing caiman, and the enormous aquatic guinea pig, the capybara.

We reach our camping huts deep inside Manu in the afternoon. This will be our base for the next two days.

During this time, we will hike through virgin forest and explore one of the most beautiful lakes of the Manu basin, Lake Salvador, by catamaran. There is a chance to see a huge variety of colourful birds, numerous species of monkey and with luck, a family of giant otters. There is another hike in this habitat-rich forest that will end in Lake Otorongo and a 20 metre-high observation platform overlooking the lake.

At night we can explore the forest by torchlight or go moonlight caiman-spotting on the lake.

DAY 5: Lake Salvador - Macaw Lick

Joining the Madre de Dios River we arrive at Blanquillo, near the clay lick for macaws, where we spend the night in the jungle lodge Tambo Blanquillo.

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DAY 6: Macaw Lick

At first light we head to the macaw lick to watch the dazzling spectacle of hundreds of parakeets, parrots and macaws eating clay.

In the afternoon we visit another one of Manu's beautiful oxbow lakes, Cocha Blanco.

Going back up the river we stay in a basic lodge, or camp next to that basic lodge, depending on availability.

DAY 7: Boca Manu-Cusco

A short boat ride takes us to Boca Manu airport and our mid-day return flight over the rainforest and the Andes to Cusco by light aircraft.

END OF OUR SERVICES

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**MANU RESERVE:**

Manu National Park was established in 1977 and in recognition of its uniqueness was designated a "World Heritage Site" ten years later. Manu is internationally acclaimed as one of the most bio-diverse areas on earth.

Approximately half the area of Switzerland, the Manu Biosphere is a complete ecosystem with protected watershed embracing Andean montane cloud forest, tropical lowland forest and the Alto Madre de Dios and Manu river drainage systems.

The biosphere itself is subdivided into national park and two adjacent zones, one for tourism and the other for cultural subsistence. It is home to over 1000 species of birds, 15,000 species of plants, over 200 species of mammals, and untold numbers of insects, and within its heart remain yet uncontacted peoples.

Manu retains healthy populations of jaguar, tapir, anteater, black caiman, giant otter, and among the 13 species of monkey we find the unique pigmy marmoset, the smallest monkey in the world, and the nocturnal night monkey. Because of Manu's low human population and their continued use of traditional hunting techniques, the animals in the park show little fear of man and are more readily approachable than in many other rainforest locations. Manu, therefore, offers unparalleled animal watching opportunities.



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Wildlife aside, however, the journey into the park itself is amazingly spectacular and not to be missed. Access to Manu is normally by road. The two day trip from Cusco to the entrance of the Manu Reserved Zone carries you over the Andes mountains to an elevation of 4000masl, past pre-inca ruins and down through the cloud forest on the eastern side of the Andes, and finally into lush, lowland rainforest. Roads remain largely unpaved and wind their way precariously past cascading waterfalls, deep gorges, and precipices. Manu is truly a complete experience.

CLOUD FOREST:

Crossing over the eastern edge of the Andes, travellers to Manu National Park often encounter a thick blanket of clouds. This is the beginning of the Cloud Forest. In this mysterious, ghostly-lit forest lives the spectacular Cock of the Rock, Spectacle Bear and scores of dripping Tree Ferns, Bromeliads and Orchids. Ranging in elevation from 11,500 to 4,500 feet (3,500 to 1,500m.a.s.l.), the Cloud Forest is one of the least studied of environments, at least 50% of its plant species are found nowhere else on earth.

Heavy mists and frequent rains (up to 23 feet, or 6 meters annually) support the cloud forest's dense, stunted canopy of evergreen trees. In a process called "cloud stripping", the leaves cause the condensation of the moisture from the clouds. Water is therefore continually forming on the plant surfaces and dripping towards the ground.

The perpetual humidity of the Cloud forest makes an ideal home for Epiphytes - plants that live on other plants and take their moisture and nutrients from their surroundings, not the ground. As dirt accumulates on branches, lichens and mosses begin a colonization process that is soon followed by ferns, bromeliads and orchids.

LODGING:

Pantiacolla Lodge is set in beautiful rainforest on bluffs overlooking the turbulent Alto Madre de Dios river. Nestled in the Manu foothills at the base of the Pantiacolla Mountains, Pantiacolla Lodge invites you to share this very unique area of the Manu national park. The mountains rise to 1200 m or more behind the lodge and are a contributing factor to the enormous variety of wildlife that inhabits the area.



Accommodation at the lodge is provided in bungalows with a total of 14 double rooms giving a maximum capacity of 28 persons. Paths lead from the bungalows to showers and flush toilets, and to a spacious and comfortable dining area and bar.

Pantiacolla Lodge is an ideal rainforest destination for all types of jungle enthusiasts. For birders, it offers an exceptionally high species density. For first time visitors, it offers a comprehensive trail system and great wildlife watching opportunities. For students of Spanish, you find yourself in a stimulating learning environment. And for

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families, it offers an almost mosquito free environment in which both adults and children can discover the secrets of the tropical rainforest. Moreover, it is especially suited to those who would prefer a more relaxed and comfortable rainforest experience.

GENERAL ECOLOGICAL INTEREST:

The 900 hectares of land around the lodge offer the enthusiastic explorer miles of gridded trails to walk, traversing a variety of different habitats and also providing access to hot, cold, and mineral oil springs. The forest in the area supports eight species of monkey and a healthy population of Manu's least known and most elusive primate, the monk saki monkey. Coati, deer, peccary, and even tapir are frequent sightings and the area boasts a recorded 500+ species of birds. A short, early morning boat trip to a clay lick also enables visitors to observe macaws and parakeets at close hand.

BIRD WATCHING:

When the Moscoso patriarch, Don Isaac, chose the land at the foot of the Pantiacolla Mountains as his home, he knew he had found a special piece of the rainforest: the Andean Bear and the monk saki, a type of monkey which is very rare and still unstudied by science, both roamed there, and he observed many types of birds for the first time in his long presence in Manu. Don Isaac's intuition recently has been confirmed by entomologists and ornithologists assessing habitats from 400 to over 1200 m above sea level. The entomologists have not yet finished their evaluation, however the ornithologists, within the first month, found an astonishing approximate of 500 species! Many of the species are endemic to the area, very rare or found at altitudes different from their normal range. The highest campsite now is at 1250masl and a recent 10-day census at this altitude has given the lodge 12 new species of bird.

HEALTH:

Manu National Park is not an endemic area for malaria or yellow fever, but it is recommended to use insect repellent. River water is not recommended for drinking. Purified water will be provided at the lodges. There is radio communication available at the lodges.

FLIGHT:

Two types of aircraft are used for the flights between Cusco and the airstrip at Boca Manu. One, a Beechcraft King Air B-90 seats ten people and the other a Twin Otter seats eighteen. The flight lasts about 50 minutes.

Flights can be delayed due to bad weather (there is no radar on the Boca Manu landings strip) or other external circumstances. The two return flight options, the first by Boca Manu and the second by Puerto Maldonado, are used according to what best fits your commodity and safety.

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