

# THE AMAZON

## 7 DAYS



M/V Desafio

- Each departure limited to 20 guests
- Superior First-class hotel in Manaus and cabin on 'M/V Desafio'
- Three meals a day (a la carte in Manaus, table d'hote aboard 'M/Y Desafio'), including beverages of your choice with meals
- Professionally escorted
- All sightseeing, including entrance fees
- Arrival and departure transfer by private car
- Gratuities are included (also your tour manager's), except to ship's crew
- Portage of 2 suitcases per passenger

**COMBINE THIS TRIP WITH  
THE BEST OF SOUTH AMERICA !**

Your Amazon journey begins when you fly into the river port city of Manaus. Once an isolated urban island in the jungle, it is now the capital of the largest state in Brazil - Amazonas. Manaus has a rich past; much of its architecture reflects the period when it enjoyed the rubber trade monopoly (1890-1920).

After two days of relaxation at a picturesque tropical resort for two days, you board a beautifully renovated, 108-foot, cruise ship for three days. You explore the Amazon rainforest both by canoe and on foot in the company of experienced naturalist guides.

### Day 1 (Monday)

#### USA – MANAUS

Depart the USA on your overnight flight to Brazil.

### Day 2 (Tuesday)

#### MANAUS

Upon your arrival, you are escorted just outside the city to the **Tropical Hotel** – a lovely colonial-style resort with rambling walkways through extensive, lush

gardens that features two pools – one circular and the other featuring an impressive 16-foot waterfall. Many kinds of birds can be seen in and around the gardens; you'll also observe sloths and watch monkeys at play.

Later, join your travel companions and tour manager for a private cocktail reception and à la carte dinner at the hotel. (L,D)

### Day 3 (Wednesday)

#### MANAUS

Set 930 miles from the mouth of the Amazon, this city experienced an incredible economic boom in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century when the worldwide demand for rubber ("black gold"), harvested from the surrounding forests, was at its zenith. Manaus was the chief collecting point; the opulence of the inhabitants' lifestyle was matched by the speed of development in the area. It was the first city in Brazil to have electricity, water treatment, trams, and paved streets. European influence on architecture and fashion weighed heavily on this port city, close to the point where three great rivers join to form the mighty Amazon.

You visit the famous Opera House, the result of 17 years of construction. The



Teatro Amazonas, Manaus

marble came from Italy, hand-painted curtains and chandeliers from France, cast-iron columns and banisters from England. At the Indian Museum, you see an extensive display about the various Indian tribes of the upper Rio Negro. You also go to the Cathedral, built in a simple Jesuit style, and to the remarkable docks, designed to cope with the 40-foot annual rise and fall of the Rio Negro. (B,L,D)

**Day 4 (Thursday)**

**CRUISE ON AMAZON**

After a leisurely breakfast, you embark on your river journey by boarding the **M/V Desafio** for a three-day cruise. This 108-foot ship has been completely renovated and features air-conditioned dining facilities, bar and inside salon, as well as a large sun deck. Your private cabin with adjoining private bath offers many of the same amenities found on large cruise ships.

The total length of the Amazon is 4,020 miles; it has more than 1100 tributaries; and only the Nile is longer. The river system is the world's largest body of fresh water. Today, you cruise up the Rio Negro and anchor at Rio Cueiras for the night. (B,L,D)

**Day 5 (Friday)**

**CRUISE ON AMAZON**

Today, you go ashore and walk through the jungle for a first-hand look at an incredible assortment of rainforest plant life. It is estimated that one tenth of the animal, plant, and insect life is found in the Amazon River and surrounding rainforest.

Cruising up the Rio Negro, you come to Samauma Village at Anavilhanas, 60 miles from Manaus. This is the largest river archipelago in the world; there are hundreds of islands covered in thick vegetation. This



Giant Victoria Regies water lilies

**ACCOMMODATIONS**

**Manaus – Tropical Hotel (2 nights)**  
This superior first-class Brazilian resort is located in the heart of the world's broadest ecological paradise: the Amazon Rainforest.

**M/V Desafio (3)**  
The M/V Desafio is one of the newest and most exclusive vessels sailing in the Amazon region. She features 12 cabins (seven with double beds and five with twin beds), sophisticated navigation and safety equipment, central air conditioning, tv and video, a dining room, bar and sun deck.



Amazonas Rainforest

afternoon, board motor canoes to visit the surrounding lakes. When the river is low, white sand beaches are exposed, as well as the roots and trunks of the trees. (B,L,D)

**Day 6 (Saturday)**

**CRUISE ON AMAZON**

Watch birds leaving their nests in search of food at sunrise this morning. After breakfast, you join an excursion today to catch some of the many river fish, such as piranha and the giant pirarucu. You go on to Lake Ubin where you take a canoe ride through inlets, along the forests, and watch the sun slowly slip behind it all. (B,L,D)

**Day 7 (Sunday)**

**MANAUS – USA**

After your tropical breakfast this morning, you cruise down the Rio Negro to the point referred to as the "Meeting of the Waters", where the yellow-brown Solimoes River meets the blue-black Negro River. The two rivers flow side by side for several

miles before blending to form the mighty Amazon; dolphins sometimes can be seen here.

Returning to Manaus, the journey comes to an end as you are escorted to the airport for your overnight flight to Miami and home. (B,L)

**D A T E S**

Depart-MON (from USA)	Return-SUN
Feb 21	Feb 27
Sep 11	Sep 17
<b>2001 Dates:</b>	
Feb 19	Feb 25

**C O S T P E R P E R S O N**

Land Portion (Double occupancy)	\$ 1,985
Single supplement	\$ 680
International Airfare (Miami-Manaus-Miami)	\$ 920
<i>(If you combine this trip with 'The Best of South America', "International Airfare" does not apply. You only pay add-on airfare to connect from Rio de Janeiro. Please call us for quote.)</i>	
<i>All airfares are subject to availability and to change by the airlines. Cancellation penalties and surcharges may apply. Fares from other U.S. cities, as well as First and Business Class rates, are also available.</i>	

**FOR RESERVATIONS, PLEASE TELEPHONE TOLL FREE: 1-888-377-8023**