DAY 1

Lima (Peru)

Arrive the Jorge Chavez International Airport, where you will be greeted by a Haimark representative and transferred to the centrally located Hotel Estelar Miraflores.

DAY 2

Lima (Peru)

Enjoy a panoramic drive through Miraflores and San Isidro and to see the sites of "Parque de los Enamorados" (Lover's Park), and enjoy a spectacular view of the Pacific Ocean. Continue to the historic center of Lima, a UNESCO world heritage site, where you will see the Cathedral, the Government Palace, the Archbishop's Palace, and City Hall. Visit the Church and Convent of the San Francisco Monastery, the most significant religious site in Lima, which provides insight into life during Spanish colonial times, and the catacombs, which served as a burial ground until 1808. Continue to the Cathedral which houses the remains of Francisco Pizarro, the founder of Lima. After a Welcome lunch, enjoy the afternoon at leisure.

(B/L)

DAY 3

Lima/Iquitos/Embark Ship

After breakfast, fly from Lima to Iquitos, where you will be met by our local guides and transported to Nauta, the oldest city in the department of Loreto, which lies between Iquitos and the Marañon River. Here, with the help of our experienced crew, you will embark the DELFIN II, your home for the next four nights.

During your first moments on board, it will become clear that you are traveling where few have gone before, and a world of flora and fauna awaits you. In fact, you are part of a select group of seasoned world travelers who visit the remote Pacaya-Samiria Reserve: with five million acres of protected, flooded forest, the reserve is roughly the size of a small country.
Before dinner, our guides will conduct a brief cruise orientation, outlining details of your journey, the places you will visit, and the wildlife you will see; as well as provide a summary of the history and geography of the Amazon River basin.

Dinner will be served this evening on board. Because of its cultural diversity, Peruvian cuisine is considered one of the world’s finest, making the country an attractive culinary destination. In addition to providing you with a rainforest adventure, we also offer a unique culinary experience, with the best of Amazonian-Peruvian cuisine. Our chef prides himself on serving dishes in different styles, seasoned with a wide variety of fresh herbs, spices, and exotic fruits.

Finally, under the beauty of an Amazonian night filled with thousands of stars or perhaps a full moon, and wafted by the gentle breeze of the rainforest, our multitalented staff will briefly entertain you with a little live music during your Welcome Reception.

(B/D/Welcome Reception)

**DAY 4**

**BELLUDA CAÑO – DORADO RIVER**

Dawn and dusk are ideal times for nature exploration, and an early rise is highly recommended

Rainy Season (Dec –May) Belluda Stream exploration.

Aboard the skiffs, we will explore this black water stream and begin our rainforest education in Pacaya Samiria National Reserve, where amazing wildlife thrives. From the skiff you can easily spot parrots, macaws and monkeys, including the amazing Monk Saki monkey with its gray and black body, naked face, and long shaggy tail. You may also see the saddle back tamarin monkey, whose high chirping notes can easily be confused with those of a flock of birds.

It is also a good place to see the beautiful Morpho butterfly that flaps lazily along open corridors through the forest or along the river edges of lowland forest on sunny days. Different species of hawks can also be found, and if
we are lucky, we will also see the noisy “laughing falcon,” named after its loud falsetto call.

Dry Season (Jun – Nov) Hiking at Belluda Cano

During the dry season, you will explore two different ecosystems: “flooded forest” and “terra firma” forest. After disembarking at this native village we will start our morning hike. This walk affords excellent opportunities for spotting transitional species such as the snail kite, black tailed ant bird, manikins, tanagers, hummingbirds, woodpeckers, nun birds, orioles, blackbirds, etc.

You will also see tall trees filled with epiphytes, woody vines, and many varieties of palm trees. After an hour we will reach a lovely lagoon where two dugout canoes await us in the midst of one of the most remote, least-visited areas in the world. This lagoon is filled with endangered and unique fresh water fish, including the paiche, the largest in the Amazon basin, which can weigh more than 80kg. (170 lb.) The paiche is considered a delicacy and you can often hear them when they rise to the surface. We hope to spot the peculiar crested hoatzin bird, with its olive-colored plumage. Hoatzins live in small family groups along forested swamps and oxbow lakes.

We will then hike back to the skiffs, where icy towels will refresh us, and continue to explore the surrounding wildlife. We will have a good chance of finding the smallest monkey in the world, the pygmy marmoset, usually seen low on tree trunks.

After emerging from the depths of the forest and returning to the ship, you will be treated to a world-class lunch with an Amazonian flair while we continue upstream towards our next destination.

Our next stop within the Pacaya-Samiria Reserve provides the opportunity for encounters with gray and pink river dolphins. After venturing out in the skiffs, our more adventurous guests may choose to swim with the dolphins.

On the river you will experience abundant wildlife and nature while we search for the Amazon River’s transitional forest species, including snail kites, festive parrots, endangered scarlet macaws, olive spotted hummingbirds, Amazonian parrotlets, and wood creepers.

Along the shoreline, prehistoric looking iguanas laze in the sun while we see
what the jungle has to offer us. Squirrel Monkeys are typically very active at this time of the day, when they move in large, noisy troops through the mid- and upper-levels of primary and secondary lowland forest.

Back on board the DELFIN II, our staff and guides will be available throughout the evening to answer questions about your day’s visits. After dinner, enjoy the warm breeze of the Amazon night on the Observation Deck while listening to the musical sounds of the jungle. The beauty continues above, with millions of sparkling stars set against the deep black night, and perhaps a full moon that lights up the entire river.

(B/L/D)

DAY 5

ATUN POZA LAKE – RIO PACAYA

After a sumptuous breakfast on board, you continue your jungle exploration.

Rainy Season (Dec – May) Atun Poza by skiff

This morning we cruise in our skiffs along a lake called Atun Poza, where we will surprise several species of egrets, herons, hawks, long-legged, neotropical cormorants, and unusual and loud horned screamers. We will also explore other black water lagoons linked to this huge lake, where wattled jacanas can be found, along with a wide variety of spiders, grasshoppers, dragonflies, butterflies, moths, beetles, etc., living along the grassy edges and lily pads of freshwater swamps and marshes. We will have an excellent opportunity of seeing social spiders and how their webs embrace huge parts of a tree.

Dry Season (Jun – Nov) hiking at Atun Poza:

Today we will hike through this pristine and unique ecosystem, passing through a classic tropical rainforest with emergent trees and canopy trees reaching up to 55 meters in height. Many trees have buttress roots, which often extend high up the trunks. Palm trees are abundant, and many of them have stilt roots. This kind of forest is probably one of the richest habitats on earth, supporting the most species of plants and animals per unit area. Our target is the giant ceiba or kapok tree with its large diameter. If we’re lucky (and quiet), we will also see giant otters that nest in a small stream here, and
be lucky to hear their noisy calls. This forest is also very good for spotting birds such as the bluish-fronted jacamar, collared trogons, red-capped cardinals, etc.

We will enjoy lunch as we continue up the Puinahua River towards the Pacaya River, our destination at the very heart of the Pacaya Samiria National Reserve.

Once we reach Peru’s largest protected area with a mean annual rainfall of nearly 3,000mm. Filled with lakes, palm swamps, and streams, the reserve becomes a flooded forest in the rainy season, and is one of the most beautiful places you will ever visit.

Back aboard our comfortable skiffs, we will experience spectacular rainforest wilderness, while searching for different species of monkeys, including the large, rust-colored, red howler monkeys, which live in small family groups of red howler monkeys.

At sunset, you will be amazed by the beautiful colors of the sky and the reflection of the jungle in the black water of the Pacaya River. Known as the forest of reflections, it is hard to know where the jungle begins and the water ends. Armed with powerful spotlights, we will start our night safari in search of night herons, pauraque, spectacled owls, and fish bats flying over the water in search of their nightly meal.

Spectacled and black caimans are found in these pristine waters, and our guides will point them out to you, as stars and fireflies light up the jungle around you.

After our night safari, we will calm your appetite with a delicious dinner.

Relaxing on the Observation Deck this evening, you will hear the second installment of the jungle symphony: up to a dozen species of frogs croaking from the river’s edge.

(B/L/D)
DAY 6

CARO CURAHUAYTE LAGOON – JUNGLE HIKE

Following breakfast, we board our excursion skiffs, and head to a spectacular spot on a lake, where we expect to catch some fish, mainly piranhas. During the rainy season, the forest is flooded and many trees flower and bear fruit. Many fish, including piranhas, swim among the flooded tree trunks, devouring the fruit or chewing at their skins. There are 25 different species of piranhas in the Amazon basin, including black, white and red bellied piranhas, and obviously, their reputation as super-carnivores is an exaggeration!

From our skiffs, we will also search for shore birds. When the river is low, broad, white sandy beaches emerge, and river islands form, creating a special ecosystem that harbors sandpipers, terns, black skimmers, egrets, jabirus, wood storks, and kingfishers. Upon returning to the ship, we start navigating back down the Puinahua River towards Iquitos.

Following lunch will be your first opportunity to visit a riverside community and experience the local villagers’ unique way of life. This is the time to bring along any presents you would like to give to the villagers (paper, books, pencils, pens, markers, crayons, t-shirts, etc.). You may take this opportunity to learn about the endemic fruit trees and how they harvest them.

Following our visit, we will continue down the Puinahua River towards the Ucayali River.

This evening our guides will review all that we have seen and learned, with the help of videos and a slide show, giving you the chance to see, up close, the wildlife we discovered on our journey.

This evening our chef will treat you to a sumptuous farewell dinner, and our talented staff will delight you with live music before you retire for your final Amazon evening.

(B/L/D/Farewell Reception)
DAY 7

AMAZON RIVER – YARAPA RIVER – DISEMBARKATION

Following breakfast, we will disembark at our port in Nauta, where a motorcoach will be waiting to return you to Iquitos.

En route, we will make a short stop at the Mantaee Rescue Center in Iquitos. At the Center, you will be able to see these beautiful creatures up close, touch them, and even feed them a bottle of milk. There is no admission fee to visit the Rescue Center, but donations are greatly appreciated. After our visit, we will proceed to the Sacred Valley and the tranquil Aranwa Sacred Valley Hotel.

(B/L/D)

DAY 8

SACRED VALLEY (Urubamba)

Sacred Valley is located in the Andes close to the Inca capital of Cusco, and below the ancient sacred city of Machu Picchu.

Begin the day with a drive through the town of Maras to the Saltpans, which have existed since Pre-Incan times. Continue to the town of Ollantaytambo with its huge Incan fortress rising from the edge of town. After lunch continue to Urubamba for a visit to the Pablo Seminario Ceramic workshop. Pablo and his wife have developed a technique of ceramics which reflects the ancient Peruvian culture. Pablo has exhibits of his artwork in the Pre Columbian museum in Cusco and also the Field Museum in Chicago.

(B/L)

DAY 9

SACRED VALLEY /MACHU PICCHU

After breakfast, board the train in Ollantaytambo for the scenic journey to Aguas Calientes for their tour of Machu Picchu, the “Lost City of the Incas.” A local expert will guide you through the marvelous citadel, the main plaza, the royal quarters, and the Temple of Three Windows before checking in to the Sumaq Machu Picchu Hotel.

(B/L/D)
DAY 10

SACRED VALLEY/CUSCO

Your morning is free to explore Machu Picchu on your own. Depart late this morning for the return to Ollantaytambo by train, and transfer to Cusco. Arrive at Cusco’s Plaza de Armas central square for a visit to the Cathedral, one of the most imposing structures in the city. The Cathedral houses an important collection of gold and silver work from the colonial period as well as a beautiful collection of oil on canvas. Continue with a visit to the Koricancha and the Convent of Santo Domingo. The Convent was built on the Koricancha (site of gold) the most important temple dedicated to the worship of the sun by the ancient Incans. At the end of the afternoon, check-in to the Casa Andina Private Collection Hotel in Cusco., and enjoy your evening at leisure.

(B/L)

DAY 11

CUSCO/LIMA/DEPARTURE

After a morning at leisure to explore the city, enjoy a Farewell Lunch before your return flights home.

(B/L)