



**Stewart
McPherson**   
Natural History Tours

AMAZON ADVENTURE

This intrepid 16 day/15 night itinerary takes you to the most amazing sites South America has to offer: from cruising the mighty Amazon, swimming with pink river dolphins, exploring the streets of colonial Manaus and observing the animals of the rainforest, helicoptering to the lost world of Mount Roraima, and joining a motorised-canoe trip to the base of Angel Falls to see the tallest waterfall on Earth up close and personal! Optional add on trips before or after the expedition include visits to Machu Picchu and the impressive Iguazu Falls.

Manaus – this colonial gem of a city sits on the banks of the mighty Amazon River and boomed during the 19th century fever for Amazonian rubber. Today, Manaus' old town still resonates with the romance of the exploration of the greatest river on Earth, and the city continues to depend upon the Amazon as a transportation highway to the rest of Brazil, and as the main source of countless delicious fish dishes. The immense jungles that surround Manaus (the largest rainforests on Earth) are home to diverse wildlife and remote tribal Amerindian villages.

Mount Roraima is called South America's "lost world". A gigantic tableland encircled on all sides by vertical cliffs up to 700m tall. Towering over the surrounding savannahs and rainforest like an immense fortress above the clouds, Roraima's summit has been isolated for millions of years and is home to bizarre landscapes of towering stone pinnacles, a valley of shimmering quartz crystals, and unique animals and plants found anywhere on earth. The discovery of Roraima inspired Arthur Conan Doyle's novel *The Lost World*.

Angel Falls is the tallest waterfall on Earth. At 979m in height (nearly a vertical kilometre high), this immense cascade is twice the height of the Empire State building and fifteen times the height of Niagara Falls - it is one of the great natural spectacles of our world.

| | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| START POINT: | Manaus International Airport, Manaus, Brazil |
| END POINT: | Manaus, Brazil (drop off at airport or hotel of your choosing) |
| EXPEDITION LEADER: | Stewart McPherson (experienced naturalist) |
| DATES: | 15th of October 2017 (Subject to a minimum number of 8) |
| IDEAL GROUP SIZE: | 8 to 10 tourists, plus Stewart McPherson as expedition leader |

Cost per person: \$5615.00 per person Twin share – Land only
Single Supplement on request



ITINERARY

Day 1: Meet in Manaus, Brazil. Visit a refuge specifically for the pink river dolphins ("Botos"). The population of dolphins is fed to help bolster the health of the local population of this threatened species. Although the dolphins are wild, visitors can swim in the Amazon's waters and the curious dolphins approach, or voluntarily swim amongst visitors whilst feeding. After lunch, we visit a village of an Amazonas Amerindian tribe and are permitted to enter the long house, observe a cultural dance, and see the tribe's traditional dances and hear their music. In the afternoon, we undertake a boat trip along the Rio Negro (excellent for wildlife spotting – several species of monkeys and sloths are frequently seen). We then visit a local restaurant specialising in Amazon River fish (local delicacies include Pirarucu and Tabaquinho). Overnight in Hotel Go Inn in Manaus.

Day 2: Early breakfast and transfer to boats to see the point where the rivers meet (the confluence between the Rio Negro, a river with dark (almost black-looking) water, and the sandy-coloured Amazon River). We visit a sheltered lake to see the giant water lily *Victoria regia* (usually a haven for birdlife). We then have lunch at "Mercado Municipal do Manaus". After lunch, we visit the famous market to see the enormous quantities of fish (and the bewildering diversity of species) caught from the Amazon on sale by hundreds of fishermen. In the afternoon, we visit the Plaza of Manaus for "Capoeira dance", and to explore the city and see the fascinating colonial architecture of this gem of a city. Dinner in a local restaurant. Overnight in Hotel Go Inn in Manaus.

Day 3: After a more relaxed start to the day, we visit Manaus' historic sites, including the beautiful Opera

House (built at the height of the rubber boom), and visit the Port of Manaus to see the bustle of cargo boats and ferries that ply the mighty Amazon River and connect this city in the rainforest to the rest of Brazil. After lunch (Amazon river fish speciality or a la carte), we visit the famous Tropical Juice House (Casa dos Sucos) – something of a legendary local institution – for tasting best natural juices, often including many strange and wonderful Amazon fruits. We then spend the afternoon at the Rio Negro Paseo, swimming at the river's beautiful beach. We dine in a local restaurant and overnight in Hotel Go Inn in Manaus.

Day 4: Early morning flight from Manaus to Boa Vista with lunch and snacks enroute. We cross into Venezuela, and have dinner in Santa Elena. Overnight in local hotel.

Day 5: Transfer into helicopter for flight to the summit of Mount Roraima.

Day 6, 7 and 8: On the summit of Mount Roraima. We can decide the itinerary as a group - highlights include the Valley of the Crystals, labyrinths of towering stone pinnacles, Lake Gladys, the Prow, Triple Point (the three way border of Venezuela, Guyana and Brazil) and the Oilbird Ravine (home to rare echo-locating oilbird *Steatornis caripensis*). The summit is the habitat for a plethora of orchids, bromeliads, airplants, carnivorous plants (*Brocchinia*, *Drosera*, *Genlisea*, *Heliophora*, *Utricularia*), unique butterflies and toads, and a black and yellow spotted lizard called Riolama. A trek to La Ventana offers the chance to catch breathtaking views of some of the most spectacular scenery in South America. Other activities include early start to walk to La Ventana to see spectacular sunrise views of the neighbouring plateau Kukenán Tepui bathed in sunlight. The

exploration of El Carro view point to see the whole plateau, the Jacuzzis (crystal lined pools), the pit, the valley of a thousand columns, spectacular rock formations. We watch for the elusive South American coati (*Nasua nasua*). And sunset views of La Ventana. Campside dinner and overnight in tents inside caves. (Tents and all sleeping equipment can be provided).

Day 9: Pickup by helicopter from the summit of Mount Roraima. Transfer back to Santa Elena.

Day 10: Buffer day (in case of bad weather delaying pickup on day 9). Otherwise early breakfast then transfer into 4x4 vehicles for safari tour of the Gran Sabana. Sites to visit include Jasper Creek (waterfall made of blood red semi-precious gemstone), Agua Fria Falls, Yuruaní curtain falls, view point for the Eastern Plateaus, and visits to native Amerindian villages. Lunch in San Francisco village. Offroad journey (1.5 hour) to overnight in huts with beds at Paraitepui de Roraima (charming traditional village). During the journey we look out for giant anteaters.

Day 11: Transfer to Puerto Ordaz (either by internal flight if possible, or by vehicle stopping through the Gran Sabana at viewpoints). If by vehicle - long day of driving. Lunch and snacks en route. Dinner in restaurant in Santa Elena. Overnight in local hotel.

Day 12: Early transfer to catch light aircraft charter flight to Canaima. Flight duration approximately 1.5 hours. Landing at the native Pemón Amerindian village of Canaima. Transfer to motorised, traditional Pemón dugout canoes (curiaras) and travel upstream to Angel Falls camp (4 hrs in the canoes). Angel Falls camp is on the bank of the river opposite the mighty Angel Falls. We watch the sun set on the tallest waterfall on the planet. Dinner at Angel Falls camp. Overnight in hammocks.

Day 13: Breakfast in Angel Falls camp, and then cross the river in the canoes and then hike 1 km to the base of Angel Falls to photograph the gigantic cascade and to bathe in the cascading waters of the falls. We have lunch at a scenic look out point, and then return to Angel Falls camp. Dinner at Angel Falls camp. Overnight in hammocks.



Day 14: After breakfast, we return by motorised canoes back to Canaima. After lunch in Canaima, we explore Canaima lagoon with a walk to Sapo Falls and, depending on water levels, either a walk behind the thundering curtain of water of Sapo Falls or Hacha Falls. Dinner and overnight in a posada in Canaima.

Day 15: Transfer from Canaima to Boa Vista for transfer onward to Santa Elena. Dinner in restaurant in Santa Elena. Overnight in local hotel.

Day 16: Transfer from Santa Elena back into Brazil for flights back to Manaus. Drop off in Manaus.

AMAZON ADVENTURE

EASY: anyone with a normal level of health and stamina, capable of walking two or three kilometres across flat terrain will be able to complete this expedition. Most activities involve following trails with guides. This trip does involve significant transfer by vehicles, helicopters and light aircraft, with several journey times being in excess of one hour.

ACCOMMODATION: comfortable local hotels and posada guest houses that are the equivalent of 2 to 3 STAR accommodation by international ratings standards. When in the lowlands, all hotels used have air conditioning. Single supplement is available on request