



Herp Expedition & Photo Tour

**Los Amigos Biological Station
Peruvian Amazon
August 1-10, 2019**

Edited 11 December, 2018



Overview

This expedition will take us to the Los Amigos Biological Station, located in the remote heart of the Madre de Dios region in southeastern Peru. Dubbed the ‘Biodiversity Capital of the World’, this region—where the towering Andes Mountains meet the sprawling Amazon basin—is the most biodiverse place known on earth. Los Amigos is located right in the middle of Manu National Park and the Tambopata National Reserve and is home to thousands of species of plants and animals, including more than 160 species of reptiles and amphibians (with more certainly remaining to be discovered!).

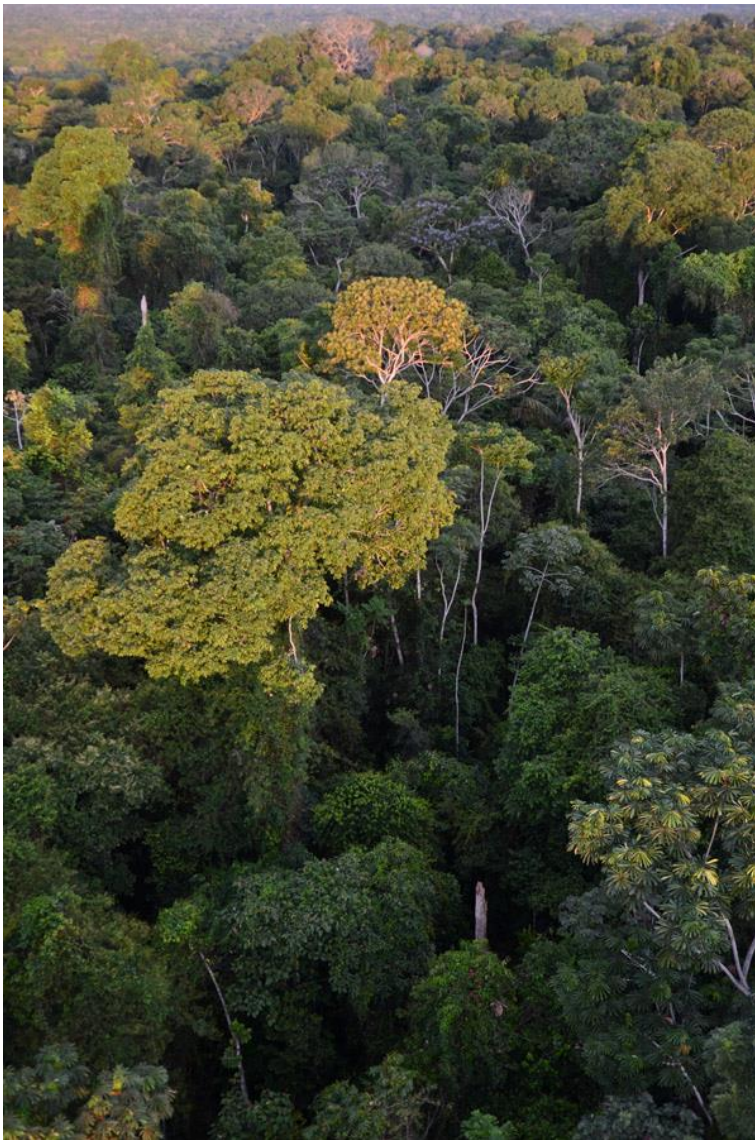
Our goals will be to find and photograph as many of these species as possible during our stay at Los Amigos, and to hone our photography skills in the process. The expedition will be led by Dr. Geoff Gallice and Anton Sorokin, who have 20+ years combined experience throughout the world’s tropics, including in Madre de Dios. Join us on this adventure as we explore the most biodiverse rainforest in the world!

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Herp Expedition & Photo Tour Overview



This expedition is supported by the **Alliance for a Sustainable Amazon (ASA)**, a non-profit organization working to conserve the southeastern Peruvian Amazon rainforest through basic and applied research and education. Our goals are to find and photograph as many of the 160+ reptile and amphibian species known from Los Amigos and to practice the skills needed to make beautiful pictures that can help us tell a compelling story. Participants will explore the most biodiverse rainforest on earth and learn basic photography skills in a challenging yet incomparably rewarding ecosystem, the Amazon rainforest.

The expedition begins in the city of Puerto Maldonado, the bustling capital of Peru's Madre de Dios region. From there we will travel overland to a port on the Madre de Dios river and then by motorized canoe for 5+ hours to the Los Amigos Biological Station, home to more plant and animal species than almost anywhere else on the planet. Using the station as our home base

the team will explore the station's 60+ kilometers of trails, scour the rainforest floor, paddle oxbow lakes, and search through mysterious palm swamps and flooded forests to search for reptiles and amphibians. Depending on team members' interests and skills we will learn and practice the basics of taking pictures in the rainforest, including macro, portraiture, and landscape photography, as well as post-processing. This expedition is ideal for those wishing to see many herp species in their natural environment, learn more about how to use their gear, or just explore one corner of the world's largest and most biodiverse rainforest, the Amazon.

Activities & Highlights

Hone your photography skills



- Hone your photographic skills under the guidance of two biologist-photographers with 20+ years combined experience in the world's tropical rainforests, including at the field site
- Learn how to tell a natural history story through photography in one of the most challenging yet rewarding ecosystems, the tropical rainforest
- Practice the basics of macro, portrait, & landscape photography and learn how to get the most out of your gear
- Experiment with other techniques, including drones, camera traps, & white background
- Use post-processing software (e.g., Photoshop, Lightroom, etc.) to turn your photographs from good to great

Explore the Amazon rainforest



- More than 160 species of reptiles & amphibians known from Los Amigos
- Unmatched diversity of other plants and animals, including birds, mammals, insects, and more
- Travel by motorized canoe 5+ hours to the field site located in the remote heart of the world's largest and most biodiverse rainforest
- Explore 60+ kilometers of trails through upland, 'terra firme' & floodplain forest and palm swamps, hike jungle streams at night, paddle an isolated oxbow lake, and watch epic sunsets over the Amazon rainforest
- Go to sleep to the calls of frogs and tinamous, and wake to the sounds of macaws and monkeys

Highlight & target species

- Green anaconda (*Eunectes murinus*)
- Emerald tree boa (*Corallus caninus*)
- Rainbow boa (*Epicrates cenchria*)
- Black caiman (*Melanosuchus niger*)
- Smooth-fronted (Dwarf) caiman (*Paleosuchus trigonatus*)
- Bushmaster (*Lachesis muta*)
- Mussurana (*Clelia clelia*)
- Giant monkey frog (*Phyllomedusa bicolor*)
- Poison frogs (*Ameerega* spp., *Ranitomeya* spp.)
- Amazonian horned frog (*Ceratophrys cornuta*)
- Caecilians (2 spp.)
- Yellow-footed tortoise (*Chelonoidis denticulatus*)
- Yellow-spotted river turtle (*Podocnemis unifilis*)
- Many, many more reptile & amphibian species
- Non-herp species including big cats (jaguar, puma, ocelot), harpy eagle, monkeys (11 species), and many, many more
- *Thousands* of insects & other arthropods

Click [HERE](#) to view the Los Amigos Reptile & Amphibian species list

Expedition Details

Dates

August 1 – 10, 2019

The expedition starts and ends in the city of Puerto Maldonado, Peru. Participants should arrive in Puerto Maldonado on or before August 1 (any flight) and depart on or after August 10 (any flight). We will meet team members at the Puerto Maldonado airport (PEM) when they arrive on the first day of the expedition and also provide return transportation for the departing flight on the last expedition day. While we do not organize flights directly, our partner STA Travel can help you make travel plans from your home country to Puerto Maldonado on a recommended flight.

Cost

\$1,650 per person

What's included?

- All expedition-related local transportation—transfer to and from the airport (or bus terminal) in Puerto Maldonado & all other transportation to and from the field site (by road and boat)
- All accommodations—shared room in 2 star hotel in Puerto Maldonado & bed in shared dorm at Los Amigos (basic facilities, cold showers, etc.)
- All food in the field—3 meals per day plus 24 hrs. coffee, tea, & snacks at Los Amigos

What's *not* included?

- International or domestic airfare, bus tickets, etc. (i.e., from your home country to Lima and/or Puerto Maldonado)
- Meals in Puerto Maldonado
- Photography gear—all cameras and lenses are your responsibility
- Post-processing software, laptop, etc.
- Personal expenses (e.g., toiletries, souvenirs, alcoholic beverages, etc.)
- Personal gear and equipment (e.g., binoculars, headlamp, rubber boots, etc). See the [packing list](#) for items to bring with you.

Private room supplement

- Private room in Puerto Maldonado
- Private rustic/wooden cabin at Los Amigos (w/private bath & hot water shower)

Single occupancy \$625

Double occupancy (per person) \$250

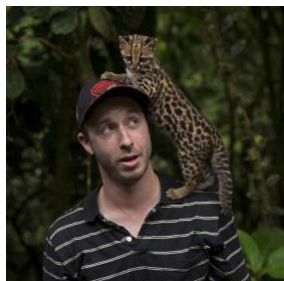
Triple occupancy (per person) \$150

Please note that an application fee of \$150 is due after registering for the Herp Expedition & Photo Tour, which reserves your spot on the program and is non-refundable. The minimum group size at the \$1,650 fee structure is 4; if this number of participants is not reached by the application & payment deadline (June 28, 2019) the expedition will be cancelled and all fees paid to the ASA will be reimbursed, including the application fee. Confirmation of the expedition will be provided just after the application & payment deadline. Please read our [Cancellation Policy](#), as well as our [Terms and Conditions](#) before making a payment. You will be given payment options upon completion of the online application form.

Application & payment deadline

June 28, 2019

Expedition leaders



Geoff Gallice, Ph.D.

Geoff is a biologist, conservationist, educator, and photographer based in Madre de Dios, Peru, and the President of the ASA. He uses photography to share stories about the threats facing wild plants and animals and the ways in which people can reverse the ongoing biodiversity crisis. His photography has been featured in numerous books, magazines, and online platforms. Follow him on Instagram at [@gallice.g](#).



Anton Sorokin, M.Sc.

Anton is a biologist that has conducted research throughout the world's tropics, including Borneo, Ecuador, and, most recently, in Peru on the poison frog genus *Ranitomeya*. Anton is also an award-winning nature photographer and has contributed to various photography initiatives, magazines, and books. He is on Instagram as [@antonsrkn](#).

Expedition location



The expedition will take place at the Los Amigos Biological Station, located in Peru's Madre de Dios region, in the country's southeast where the Andes mountains meet the Amazon rainforest (ca. 200-250 masl). Due to its geography—and also to its unmatched habitat diversity that includes upland and floodplain rainforest, *Mauritia* palm swamp, two major rivers, and multiple oxbow lakes—Los Amigos is home to more plant and animal

species than anywhere else on earth, including more than 160 reptiles and amphibians. This is one of the most important research sites in all of the Neotropics and is an ideal place for exploring the western Amazon's unmatched biodiversity.

After meeting in the city of Puerto Maldonado we will travel by land to a port on the Madre de Dios river and then travel 5+ hours upriver by motorized canoe to reach the remote Los Amigos station. Using Los Amigos as our base we will explore the rainforest that stretches unbroken rainforest stretches for hundreds of miles in all directions.

Accommodations





The first night of the expedition will be spent in shared rooms in a comfortable, mid-range hotel in Puerto Maldonado; supplementary private rooms are also available. The hotel offers clean, air-conditioned rooms, hot water showers, and free breakfast.

At Los Amigos participants will stay in shared dormitories with shared, cold-water showers; supplementary private, wooden cabins are also available that offer a greater degree of style and comfort, including increased privacy and hot water showers.

Los Amigos is a rustic yet comfortable research station that offers a dining hall where meals are eaten as a group following a fixed, but flexible, schedule (included), 24-hour access to hot drinks and snacks (included),

laboratory space and lounging areas, and a small library. Limited WiFi is available and 220V electricity is provided daily from roughly 6-9pm.

Itinerary

Date(s)	Activities	Overnight
1 Aug	Group arrives in Puerto Maldonado Expedition overview & safety briefing	Pto. Maldonado
2 Aug	Travel overland & by boat Pto. Maldonado to Los Amigos	Los Amigos
3-8 Aug	Daily & nightly hikes Scheduled & opportunistic photography instruction	Los Amigos
9 Aug	Return to Pto. Maldonado	Pto. Maldonado
10 Aug	Expedition concludes	

Eligibility Requirements

1. At least 18 years old at time of expedition (unless accompanied by a parent or guardian)
2. Proof of medical and travel insurance
3. Good physical condition
4. Valid passport or ability to travel to/within Peru. Citizens from most countries (including the USA and Canada) receive a visa at the international airport in Lima, usually for 90 days but check this with the immigration official that admits you. Passport must be valid at least 6 months from the end of the expedition. Please note that immigration officials may request proof of departing flight from Peru before granting entry to foreign citizens.
5. No formal training or education is required; we invite people from all background to join our expeditions. However, a healthy curiosity for tropical nature, a positive attitude in the face of challenging field conditions, and a willingness to work patiently with people from a variety of backgrounds to achieve a common goal are essential.

How to Sign Up

1. Make sure you meet the eligibility requirements (see above section)
2. If you have any questions, please review the [FAQs](#). You can also [contact us](#).
3. When you're ready to apply, just fill out the form located [here](#) or visit the following link:
<https://www.sustainableamazon.org/herp-photo-2019-register>
4. You will receive a message with instructions on how to make your payment and secure your spot on the expedition.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Traveling to Peru

How do I get there?

The Herp Expedition & Photo Tour begins and ends in the city of Puerto Maldonado, located in the heart of the Amazonian region of Madre de Dios in Peru. There are two ways you can travel to Pto. Maldonado: overland (i.e., by bus) or by air. A bus from Lima takes at least 30 hours; from Cusco it is about 10 hours. A direct flight from Lima is about 2 hours; from Cusco about 40 minutes. The Pto. Maldonado airport (PEM) is serviced by Latam and Avianca, each of which have daily flights from Lima and Cusco. Although you can also purchase flights through other international carriers that are operated by one of these local airlines that originate in your home country, you might find it more convenient or cheaper to purchase a flight to Lima from your home city and then a separate flight onward to Pto. Maldonado. If coming by bus, we recommend either Cruz del Sur, Tepsa, or Movil Tours; these are the most reliable companies that have service to Pto. Maldonado and have the best safety records.

Do I need a visa to enter Peru?

Citizens of the United States do not need to apply in advance for a visa to enter Peru for stays of 90 days or less; a visa will be granted at the international airport in Lima upon entering the country (or at the border with a neighboring country). Requirements for citizens of other countries vary, and we recommend that you check these with the website of your country's embassy in Peru.

What about money in Peru?

Peru's currency is the Nuevo Sol, usually referred to simply as the 'sol' (plural 'soles'). The exchange rate as of Dec. 2018 was about S/. 3.3 to US \$1, and this has been relatively stable for several months. ATMs are widely available in most major Peruvian cities, including Pto. Maldonado, many of which dispense either soles or US dollars. You will receive a slightly better exchange rate at a currency exchanger (available in Pto. Maldonado) than at an ATM when withdrawing soles. We recommend that you avoid changing money at airports, as the rate will be fairly poor.

How much money you will need while in Peru (and not with the Expedition) will depend on your taste and spending habits. As a rule, you can eat at a fancy restaurant in Pto. Maldonado for about \$10-20 (S/. 30-65); cheaper places (e.g., set lunch or 'menu' restaurants) will obviously be much less. Prices for hotels also vary—backpacker hostels may charge S/. 30 per night, whereas nicer hotels will charge as much as S/. 200-300 per night; high-end tourist lodges in the jungle are at least \$100-300 per person, per night.

What's the weather like in the Amazon?

The expedition takes place in the lowland Amazon rainforest at the peak of the dry season (also called 'verano,' summer). You should be prepared for periods of intense heat (average high temperature in August 31°C/88°F) when the sun is out, and intermittent and/or torrential rain when storms pass through. Summer also brings 'frijas,' which are cold snaps resulting from a cold front moving north from Patagonia along the Andes Mountains. Temperatures during friajes can drop below 10°C (into the 40s Fahrenheit), so you should be prepared with a change of

warm clothing. The rainforest is an interesting, if bizarre place during one of these cold spells, but you'll want to be prepared for it!

What clothing and personal items should I bring?

The expedition involves long days and nights hiking through the rainforest searching for and photographing reptiles and amphibians. Although mosquitoes are not abundant during the dry season you'll still want to bring layers that you can use to cover up day and night. You should also bring all of your toiletries with you, as only toilet paper is provided at the field site. All linens (sheets, pillow, mosquito net, towel, blanket during friajes) are provided.

A detailed packing list is provided at the end of this document that offers suggestions of what to bring with you.

What camera gear & equipment should I bring?

Other than a drone, camera traps, and a small white background field studio we do not provide photographic equipment for use by expedition participants; it is your responsibility to bring all of the gear you wish to use.

We recommend that you bring at least one DSLR camera body, and another as a backup if possible. Digital is ideal since it will allow us to monitor our progress during the expedition without having to wait to develop film outside of Peru. To maximize the subjects you can photograph in the rainforest we recommend at least one macro lens (e.g., ~100mm), a wide angle (something like ~10-24mm), and a telephoto (at least 200mm). However, lens choice is a very personal decision and we will work with whatever gear you bring. Remember, technique and a good location/ subject is almost always more important than the gear being used—some of our most interesting shots have been taken on the fly with an iPhone! A flash and diffuser are also indispensable for macro photography, especially when photographing reptiles and amphibians in the rainforest. And finally, don't forget to bring a laptop computer with your favorite post-processing software installed, for editing photos in the field.

The following will also be very useful: a camera backpack, tripod, extra batteries for everything, filters (e.g., polarizing for landscapes)

If you have any questions regarding the gear you should bring please don't hesitate to look over the detailed [packing list](#) or [contact us](#).

How do I stay healthy in the rainforest?

Despite some of the stories and exaggerated tales from past explorers in the Amazon, the rainforest is not as dangerous or scary a place as many people think. Nevertheless, we take the safety of our team members very seriously and offer a number of recommendations to help ensure that you have a safe and enjoyable stay in Peru.

Perhaps the greatest nuisance to humans in our study region is posed by biting insects, including mosquitos and biting sand flies. These are also the vectors of several rare, but potentially serious, tropical diseases.

Malaria is rare in the study region but does occur. It is more of an issue in larger towns, though, since at remote sites such as ours there aren't enough people to serve as constant reservoirs for the disease. We are unaware of any cases of Malaria at any of our field sites, but your decision of whether or not to take a malaria prophylaxis is entirely up to you and your travel doctor.

Dengue is slightly more common in the region in general, especially in towns and cities, where there are many potential reservoirs and *Aedes aegypti*—the mosquito that transmits the disease—is more common. There is no vaccine for dengue, but there are treatments. However, as with all insect-vectored tropical diseases, avoiding insect bites is your best protection. Although it can be unpleasant, DEET is very effective at keeping these and other biting insects from biting you and transmitting the disease in the first place.

Leishmaniasis is endemic to our study region. It is transmitted by bites of small sand flies (family Psychodidae), which are active mostly at dawn and dusk, and at night. The disease itself is usually not serious or painful but can become serious if left untreated for long periods or if the patient has a compromised immune system. Therefore, if a team member has a bite or small wound that does not heal in a week, we will recommend that they get tested locally. Again, this, as with all other insect-vectored tropical diseases, are best avoided through the prevention of insect bites. Covering up while in the forest (e.g., pants, long sleeves) and at camp in the evenings, as well as sleeping in a tent or under a mosquito bed net (provided at all of our non-camping sites), are your best protection.

Zika. This disease has received much attention in the news lately and has infected large numbers of people across Latin America. Although the symptoms of infection with the virus are typically rather mild (e.g., fever, rash, etc.) and only about 20% of those infected exhibit even mild symptoms, there is a possible link between infection during pregnancy and a condition known as microcephaly in newborns. We know that the Zika virus is transmitted by *A. aegypti* (the same mosquito that transmits dengue), but much of the rest of the disease's biology remains a mystery. We follow the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines, and recommend that women who are pregnant, or who may become pregnant during or soon after the Expedition, exercise extreme caution while in Peru. The CDC has a very informative webpage regarding this disease: <http://www.cdc.gov/zika/index.html>.

Do I need any vaccinations?

We recommend that all travelers to the Amazon region have their updated Yellow Fever vaccine, as well as all other standard vaccines and boosters (e.g., hepatitis, typhoid, measles mumps & rubella, tetanus, etc.). Please note that we do not intend to dispense medical advice here; any medical decisions you make, including those regarding vaccinations or other health precautions, are between you and your travel doctor.

How can I stay safe in Peru?

As with anywhere else in the world, you should exercise caution and common sense while traveling in Peru. Don't walk alone late at night in larger towns and cities, for instance, and avoid ingesting substances from people you don't know and trust. In addition, you should try to travel only with official taxis, as unofficial 'pirate' taxis (just unmarked cars) have been implicated in

robberies. Although violent crime directed to foreigners is relatively uncommon in Peru, it is not unknown, and a good dose of caution will help you to avoid any trouble.

Petty crime, especially opportunistic thievery, is more common in Peru than violent crime. Don't leave valuables (cash, cell phones, tablets, wallets, etc.) in visible or easily accessible, public places at hotels or hostels; instead, check these with your hotel's safe deposit box or put them in a locker. Also be careful when traveling on long-distance buses—leave your backpack in the rack above your head while napping and you might wake up to it missing. Wallets in back pockets are also easy targets for pickpockets, especially in large cities. Finally, when in doubt, ask at your hotel which parts of the town or city you should avoid, and at what times, and heed their advice. The vast majority of visitors to Peru have a safe and healthy visit, and with a bit of good judgment you will likely have the same experience.

The field site

What's a typical day like in the field?

Reptiles and amphibians are mostly active at night and team members, therefore, will be out for long hours most nights to find and photograph them. We will also spend time during daylight hours searching for diurnal species and also taking advantage of other photographic opportunities (e.g., landscape photography, sunsets, birds, mammals, insects, etc). Meals are taken on a fixed schedule (except for breakfast which is flexible, especially after long nights) and post-processing time will be worked into the schedule as well. Expedition members should be very flexible in terms of the daily schedule as there are many factors that impact it—weather, productive hikes, unexpected opportunities, etc.

What's the food like in the field?

In Puerto Maldonado we'll have a decent selection of restaurants to choose from, ranging from cheap local places to fancier Peruvian cuisine and international fare. At Los Amigos we will eat three healthy meals per day which are prepared by the station's chef using fresh, local ingredients. Meals at Los Amigos are mostly typical Peruvian dishes from the coast, Andes, and Amazonian regions. Hot water for coffee and tea, as well as snacks, will be available at all times.

Special diets or food restrictions (e.g., vegetarian, allergies, etc.) can be accommodated with advanced notice.

What is phone and internet service like?

There is good cell/data coverage in Puerto Maldonado and WiFi at the hotel there. At Los Amigos very slow WiFi is available. As of Dec. 2018 there was also fairly good 3G cell/data coverage with the carrier Claro. We recommend that you either discuss international options with your home carrier or consider buying a local SIM card in Pto. Maldonado (unlocked phones only).

How do I do laundry at the field sites?

In the field, we wash clothes by hand. We recommend that you bring laundry soap (preferably biodegradable) with you. Otherwise, you can purchase soap and/or detergent in Pto. Maldonado.

Packing List

Clothing

Long-sleeved shirts: Two or more, for protection against insect bites and other jungle hazards.

Button-down shirts are nice as they are thicker and can be removed when not needed.

Short-sleeved shirts, T-shirts: Several, for wearing underneath long-sleeves and for camp.

Shorts: For town and lounging around camp, when bugs aren't bad.

Pants or trousers: At least two, for protection against insects and thorny vegetation. We prefer thicker pants in the jungle (e.g., Dickies brand or similar), but quick-dry material is also very nice.

Rain jacket or poncho: Make sure the jacket is *water proof*, not just *water resistant*. Goretex is the best. We prefer ponchos to rain jackets, since the former are better for keeping packs covered in the rain, but many people prefer jackets, and it's up to you which option you go with. Good ponchos can be purchased cheaply in Puerto Maldonado.

Hat, cap, or visor: Nice to have while in the hot tropical sun for long periods, especially on boats.

Socks: At least several pairs. Bring as high-quality as you can; thin cotton socks tend to wear out quickly and can cause blisters, especially while wearing rubber boots, which will make hikes no fun.

Sandals: Hiking sandals (Teva, Chaco, etc.) or simple flip-flops. Use as camp shoes or in town.

Shoes: A pair of sneakers or running shoes to wear in towns, in camp, etc.

Rubber boots: Essential in the jungle. You can bring your own, but good rubber boots are also available cheaply in Puerto Maldonado. We recommend against bringing hiking boots—they are heavy, they never dry once wet, and they offer little protection against biting and stinging insects and other animals. Expedition members are strongly encouraged to wear rubber boots while in the forest, both on and off trail.

Paper Items

Passport: Keep sealed in a zip-lock bag, to prevent growth of mold.

Photocopy of passport photo-page: Stored separately, for replacement process if passport gets lost or stolen.

Notebook and pencils: For taking notes during the expedition. These are available in Peru, but not very good in wet environments. Rite-in-the-Rain brand field notebooks are high-quality and waterproof, and widely available online.

Insurance papers: The name and number of your health insurance policy. Compensation forms required by your insurance company.

ATM card and bank phone number: To call in case of loss or theft. Also, you should inform your

bank of your travel plans to avoid blocks being placed on transactions.

Camera gear

Camera body: We recommend SLR, preferably digital (DSLR), either full frame or crop sensor.

A backup is usually a good idea, in case the primary body fails but also to have multiple lenses available and ready to shoot quickly. If you don't have a DSLR bring whatever you have—remember that technique and location/subject are the most important elements of taking a good picture, and some of our most interesting shots have been taken on the fly with an iPhone!

Lenses: This is a personal decision but we recommend at least one macro lens (e.g., ~100mm), a wide angle (zooms are nice, something like ~10-24mm) for landscape and habitat shots, and a telephoto (at least 200mm) if you plan to photograph birds and other animals in the rainforest canopy. Of course, there are a dizzying variety of lenses out there to suit all goals and budgets, and you should bring whatever you will need to get the shots you want.

Camera backpack: These have adjustable compartments inside and are very useful for carrying gear into the field and keeping it organized and easily accessible.

Tripod: Very useful for getting landscape and habitat shots, especially if you use long exposures. Also useful for mounting flashes for in situ photography.

Filters: These improve light conditions (e.g., circular polarizers which reduce harsh glare in full sun) and allow you to achieve interesting effects (e.g., graduated neutral density filter which improves exposures of images that are a mix of light and dark, such as sunsets or other landscapes).

External flash and diffuser: Flash is essential in the dimly-lit rainforest environment. A diffuser will reduce or eliminate harsh glare and shadows created by bright flash. Lastolite make very nice pop-up diffusers but there are many options available, including DIY.

Laptop and post-processing software: This will allow you to edit your photos and turn them from good to great. Software should have basic tools such as crop and angle-adjustment, contrast, shadows and highlights, basic color correction/adjustment, sharpness, and a repair/clone tool. Software such as Adobe Photoshop or Lightroom allow you to make all of these edits, and we recommend one of these or something similar. We also recommend that you shoot in raw format, so make sure your software is able to open and edit raw files.

Batteries: Make sure to bring plenty of batteries with you, especially if they are specialty batteries (e.g., CR123A). Also bring several rechargeable camera batteries with you so that you can continue to shoot while spent batteries recharge.

Equipment

Backpack (backpacking style): The largest size that fits your body, to carry all of your clothes & equipment during our transfer from Pto. Maldonado to Los Amigos. Try to avoid luggage with wheels if possible.

Daypack: Small enough to bring into the field regularly, with enough space for water, field notebook, and raincoat. You may want to bring a camera backpack as your daypack, which can be arranged to hold and offer easy access to all of your cameras, lenses, and personal items while in the field.

Pack cover: A means of keeping the stuff in your pack dry—a pack cover—or you can put your stuff in plastic bags and put those in your pack. A pack cover will be much easier and will keep

the bag itself mostly dry.

Binoculars: We recommend binoculars, especially if you want to observe birds and other animals in the rainforest canopy. Binoculars are rated by their magnification power and the size of the lens (measure of light-gathering power): 8 x 42 magnify eight times with 42 mm diameter lenses. We recommend these since they have sufficient magnification and light-gathering capacity for the dimly-lit rainforest environment while not being too large and heavy to use comfortably for longer periods. Smaller binoculars are lighter and cheaper, but drastically reduce the amount of light gathered: this makes objects seem dim, colorless, and not sharp.

First aid, personal pharmaceutical, and toiletry supplies: Your choice of items such as moleskin, Band-Aids, antibiotic ointment, ibuprofen, Benadryl, hydrocortisone cream, anti-diarrhea medicine (note that group first aid kit is for injuries, not small stuff). Also, bring any personal care items you need, as we will not be able to re-supply these items regularly and selection in Peru might be different than what you are used to. Don't forget sunscreen, and a roll of toilet paper (often not provided in hotels, boat and car rides, etc.; obtainable in Peru).

Headlamp: Sturdy, compact, good quality, and high light output. We recommend something with at least 200-300 lumens so that you can see well in the rainforest at night. Black Diamond, Petzl, and Princeton Tec all offer good quality headlamps at affordable prices. Make sure to bring enough batteries (think at least one set for a long night).

Water bottles or bladder: We prefer bottles; we've had many problems with leaky hydration packs/bladders.

Insect repellent: You want the highest concentration of DEET possible (100% if you can get it); herbal or 'all-natural' repellants don't work very well. Please remember that covering up is the best protection against bites. Also be careful with DEET around your gear.

Contact Info

Still have questions? Feel free to [send us a message](#), or contact us at info@sustainableamazon.org.

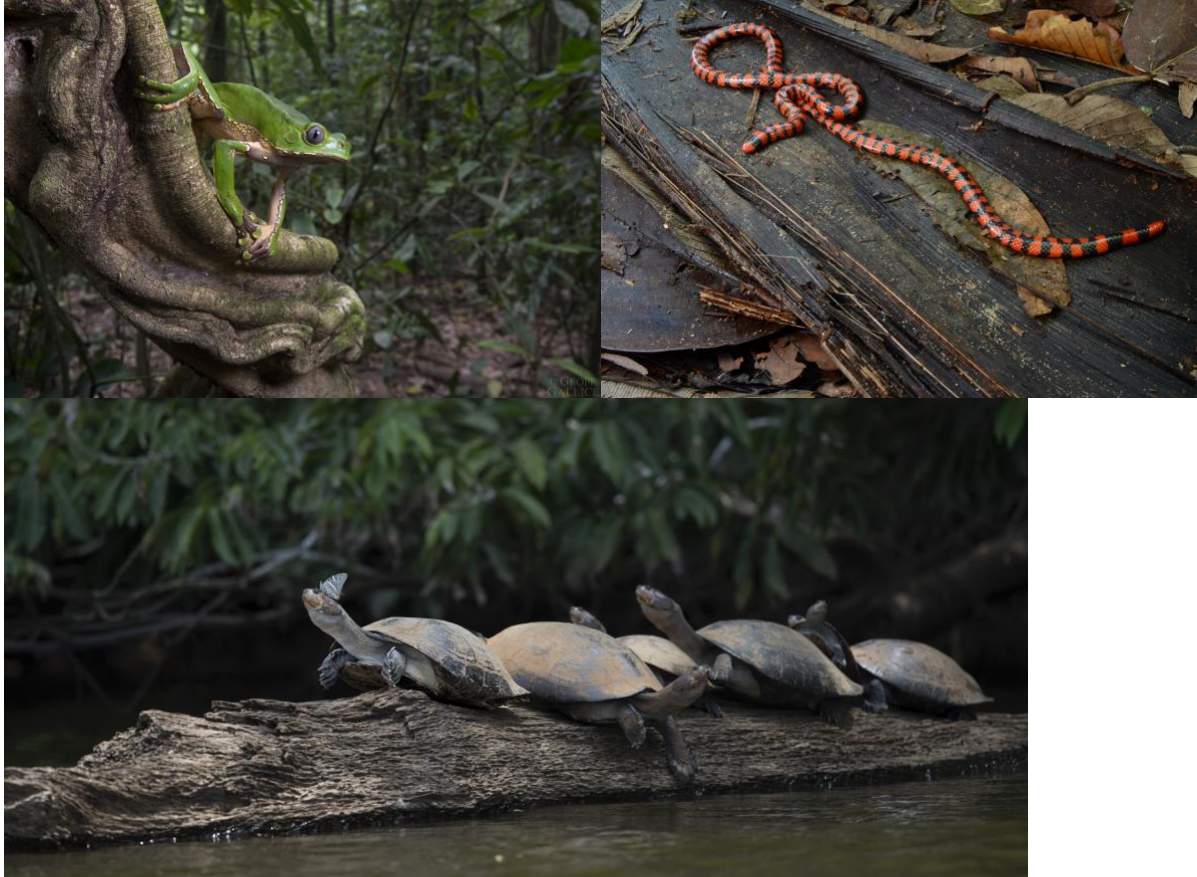
Photo gallery



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Los Amigos species list

Reptiles

Alligatoridae	<i>Caiman crocodilus</i>
	<i>Melanosuchus niger</i>
	<i>Paleosuchus trigonatus</i>
Amphisbaenidae	<i>Amphisbaena fuliginosa</i>
Boidae	<i>Boa constrictor</i>
	<i>Corallus caninus</i>
	<i>Corallus hortulanus</i>

	<i>Epicrates cenchria</i>
	<i>Eunectes murinus</i>
Chelidae	<i>Mesoclemmys gibba</i>
	<i>Phrynops cf. raniceps</i>
	<i>Phrynops tuberosus</i>
	<i>Platemys platycephala</i>
Colubridae	<i>Atractus</i> sp.
	<i>Chironius cf. scurrulus</i>
	<i>Chironius fuscus</i>
	<i>Chironius multiventris</i>
	<i>Clelia clelia</i>
	<i>Dendrophidion dendrophis</i>
	<i>Dipsas catesbyi</i>
	<i>Drepanoides anomalus</i>
	<i>Drymoluber dichrous</i>
	<i>Helicops angulatus</i>
	<i>Helicops cf. leopardinus</i>
	<i>Imantodes cenchoa</i>
	<i>Imantodes lentiferus</i>
	<i>Leptodeira annulata</i>
	<i>Leptophis ahaetulla</i>
	<i>Liophis reginae</i>
	<i>Liophis</i> sp.
	<i>Liophis taeniogaster</i>
	<i>Oxyrhopus petola</i>
	<i>Oxyrhopus formosus</i>
	<i>Oxyrhopus melanogenys</i>
	<i>Pseudoeryx plicatilis</i>
	<i>Rhinobothryum lentiginosum</i>
	<i>Siphlophis compressus</i>
	<i>Spilotes pullatus</i>
	<i>Thaeniophalus occipitalis</i>
	<i>Xenodon severus</i>
	<i>Xenopholis scalaris</i>
Elapidae	<i>Micrurus cf. annellatus</i>
	<i>Micrurus lemniscatus</i>
	<i>Micrurus obscurus</i>
Gekkonidae	<i>Gonatodes humeralis</i>
	<i>Pseudogonatodes guianensis</i>

	<i>Thecadactylus rapicauda</i>
Gymnophthalmidae	<i>Alopoglossus angulatus</i> <i>Bachia dorbignyi</i> <i>Bachia trisanale</i> <i>Cercosaura argulus</i> <i>Cercosaura eigenmanni</i> <i>Cercosaura ocellata</i> <i>Ptychoglossus brevifrontalis</i>
Hoplocercidae	<i>Enyalioides palpebralis</i>
Leptotyphlopidae	<i>Leptotyphlops cf. diaplocius</i>
Pelomedusidae	<i>Podocnemis unifilis</i>
Polychrotidae	<i>Anolis cf. ortonii</i> <i>Anolis fuscoauratus</i> <i>Anolis nitens</i> <i>Anolis punctatus</i>
Scincidae	<i>Mabuya cf. nigropunctata</i>
Teiidae	<i>Ameiva ameiva</i> <i>Kentropyx pelviceps</i> <i>Tupinambis teguixin</i>
Testudinidae	<i>Geochelone denticulata</i>
Tropiduridae	<i>Plica plica</i> <i>Plica umbra</i> <i>Uracentron azureum</i> <i>Uracentron flaviceps</i>
Typhlopidae	<i>Typhlops cf. reticulatus</i>
Viperidae	<i>Bothriopsis bilineata</i> <i>Bothropsatrox</i> <i>Bothropsbrazili</i> <i>Lachesis muta</i>

Amphibians

Aromobatidae	<i>Allobates conspicuus</i> <i>Allobates trilineatus</i>
Bufonidae	<i>Dendrophryniscus minutus</i> <i>Rhaebo guttatus</i> <i>Rhinella margaritifera</i> <i>Rhinella marina</i>
Caeciliidae	<i>Oscacilia sp.</i> <i>Siphonops annulatus</i>

Centrolenidae	<i>Teratohylamidas</i>
Ceratophryidae	<i>Ceratophrys cornuta</i>
Dendrobatidae	<i>Ameerega hahneli</i> <i>Ameerega trivittata</i> <i>Ranitomeya biolat</i> <i>Ranitomeya uakarii</i>
Hemiphractidae	<i>Hemiphractus helioi</i> <i>Hemiphractus scutatus</i>
Hylidae	<i>Cruziohyla craspedopus</i> <i>Dendropsophus acreanus</i> <i>Dendropsophus allenorum</i> <i>Dendropsophus koechlini</i> <i>Dendropsophus leali</i> <i>Dendropsophus leucophyllatus</i> <i>Dendropsophus minutus</i> <i>Dendropsophus parviceps</i> <i>Dendropsophus rhodopeplus</i> <i>Dendropsophus sarayacuensis</i> <i>Dendropsophus schubarti</i> <i>Dendropsophus triangulum</i> <i>Hypsiboas boans</i> <i>Hypsiboas calcaratus</i> <i>Hypsiboas cinerascens</i> <i>Hypsiboas fasciatus</i> <i>Hypsiboas geographicus</i> <i>Hypsiboas lanciformis</i> <i>Hypsiboas punctatus</i> <i>Osteocephalus buckleyi</i> <i>Osteocephalus cf. lepieurii</i> <i>Osteocephalus taurinus</i> <i>Osteocephaluscastaneicola</i> <i>Phyllomedusa bicolor</i> <i>Phyllomedusa camba</i> <i>Phyllomedusa palliata</i> <i>Phyllomedusa tomopterna</i> <i>Phyllomedusa vaillanti</i> <i>Scarthyla goinorum</i> <i>Scinax garbei</i> <i>Scinax ictericus</i>

	<i>Scinax pedromedinae</i> <i>Scinax ruber</i> <i>Sphaenorhynchus lacteus</i> <i>Trachycephalus coriaceus</i> <i>Trachycephalus venulosus</i>
Leptodactylidae	<i>Edalorhina perezi</i> <i>Engystomops petersi</i> <i>Leptodactylus andreae</i> <i>Leptodactylus bolivianus</i> <i>Leptodactylus didymus</i> <i>Leptodactylus hylaedactylus</i> <i>Leptodactylus knudseni</i> <i>Leptodactylus leptodactyloides</i> <i>Leptodactylus lineatus</i> <i>Leptodactylus pentadactylus</i> <i>Leptodactylus petersii</i> <i>Leptodactylus sp.</i> <i>Leptodactylus stenodema</i> <i>Phyllonastes myrmecoides</i>
Microhylidae	<i>Chiasmocleis cf. bassleri</i> <i>Chiasmocleis ventrimaculata</i> <i>Ctenophryne geayi</i> <i>Elachistocleis bicolor</i> <i>Hamptophryne boliviana</i> <i>Syncope antenori</i>
Pipidae	<i>Pipa pipa</i>
Plethodontidae	<i>Bolitoglossa altamazonica</i>
Strabomantidae	<i>Oreobates quixensis</i> <i>Pristimatis altamazonicus</i> <i>Pristimatis buccinator</i> <i>Pristimatis carvalhoi</i> <i>Pristimatis cruralis</i> <i>Pristimatis divnae</i> <i>Pristimatis fenestratus</i> <i>Pristimatis ockendeni</i> <i>Pristimatis reichlei</i> <i>Pristimatis toftae</i> <i>Pristimatis ventrimarmoratus</i>