



## Itinerary

### 11 Day Amazon River Cruise

**\*IMPORTANT NOTE: Any extra nights, optional tours or other amendments, will not be visible on this itinerary.**

#### Day 1: Arrive Manaus, Brazil – Gateway to the Amazon

Today you will board and depart for a guided tour of Manaus, the gateway to the Amazon rainforest. This peaceful city is known for its unique architecture and historic charm. You will explore the historic centre and visit the famous Amazonas Opera House, a Renaissance-style masterpiece inaugurated in 1896, featuring Carrara marble, Murano glass chandeliers, and colourful tiles from Alsace. You will then stroll through the vibrant Adolpho Lisboa Market, a striking wrought-iron building on the banks of the Rio Negro, filled with the scents of freshly caught fish, exotic fruits, aromatic spices, traditional remedies, and handmade crafts typical of the Amazon.

A short cruise will then take you to Vila Paraiso, where you will visit the Rubber Museum. Here, you will learn about the rise and fall of the Amazon's rubber industry through artefacts, documents, and faithful reconstructions of a 19th-century rubber plantation, offering a glimpse into the lives of the seringueiros (latex collectors) and the cultural heritage of that time. After your excursion, you will return on board the RV Brazilian Dream and begin your cruise along the Rio Negro, one of the Amazon's great tributaries stretching 2,250 km. In the evening, you will enjoy a welcome cocktail and have the opportunity to meet the crew.

**MEALS:** Lunch, Dinner

**OVERNIGHT:** RV Brazilian Dream

#### Day 2: Rio Negro

At dawn, you will set out on a private boat excursion along the Rio Negro, just as the forest awakens and birds take flight. You may see colourful macaws, parrots, fish eagles, and with some luck, the grey river dolphins (Tucuxi) or even the rare pink dolphins. After this magical early morning experience, you will return on board for breakfast.

Later in the morning, you will enjoy a guided forest walk to discover the astonishing diversity of Amazonian flora, including towering hardwoods, palms, and vines. Local riverbank communities have organised associations to protect this unique environment, ensuring its natural wealth of fruits, oils, resins, and dyes continues to be used for both handicrafts and traditional medicine.

Back on board, your cruise continues toward the "Três Bocas" area. In the late afternoon, you will once again head out on a private boat to explore the Lago da Pescada region, where you can observe wildlife and take in the beautiful scenery. The evening will be spent cruising toward the Anavilhanas Archipelago.

**MEALS:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**OVERNIGHT:** RV Brazilian Dream

### Day 3: Madada Caves ~ Rio Negro

This morning, you will set off on a hike through pristine primary rainforest on your way to the fascinating Madada Caves. Here, you will discover ancient rock engravings carved in relief by local tribes more than 3,000 years ago. Along the trail, you will also learn about the rich diversity of plants and trees that thrive in the region, many of which are still used today in traditional indigenous medicine.

In the mid-afternoon, you will board a private motorised boat for a wildlife observation excursion. As you glide along the waters, keep watch for snowy egrets, colourful macaws, and majestic fish eagles. After your excursion, the ship will continue its journey cruising toward the Meduini River.

**MEALS:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**OVERNIGHT:** RV Brazilian Dream

### Day 4: Jaú National Park ~ Rio Negro

At dawn, you will board a private boat for an exploration of the Meduini River, an extraordinary site renowned for its incredible biodiversity. As the ship continues cruising toward Jaú National Park, you may be lucky enough to spot dolphins along the way, including the pink river dolphins (botos) and grey dolphins (tucuxis).

Arriving at Jaú National Park, a UNESCO World Natural Heritage Site and the largest protected tropical rainforest in South America, you will discover a preserved paradise covering more than 23,000 km<sup>2</sup>. This region is one of the most biodiverse on Earth, home to countless species of plants and wildlife. During a guided forest walk, you will encounter some of the rainforest's most iconic trees, including the Samauma, a majestic giant of the Amazon that can soar up to 90 metres high.

In the afternoon, the ship will continue its course toward the Carabineni River, where you will once again set out aboard a private boat to explore its waters and observe the wildlife that inhabits this unique environment.

**MEALS:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**OVERNIGHT:** RV Brazilian Dream

### Day 5: Jaú River – Local Community

At sunrise, you will embark on a private boat excursion to discover the wildlife and flora that thrive along the riverbanks. Later in the morning, you will visit a nearby village, where local inhabitants will welcome you and guide you by canoe through the waterways in complete serenity, broken only by the rhythmic sound of paddles. With some luck, you may spot monkeys and other forest creatures along the way. You will also visit the village itself and stop at the local school to gain insight into daily life in this remote region.

In the afternoon, you can relax on board and enjoy wildlife observation as the ship cruises peacefully along the waters of the Rio Jaú—an enchanting interlude in the heart of the Amazon rainforest. After dinner on board, and weather permitting, you will set out again on a private boat excursion to experience the magical atmosphere of the river by night. As your flashlight beams sweep the riverbanks, you may see the gleaming eyes of caimans hidden in the darkness.

**MEALS:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**OVERNIGHT:** RV Brazilian Dream

### Day 6: Itaobal ~ Airão Velho

This morning, you will set out on a hike along the Itaobal Trail, a three-hour journey through the rainforest leading to a beautiful waterfall and a crystal-clear lake. Along the way, you will have the chance to observe the local wildlife and may even spot caimans resting quietly near the water's edge.

In the afternoon, you will visit Airão Velho, an abandoned village that once thrived as a centre of the rubber industry until the 1950s. During its golden age, the town flourished with cacao, coffee, and orange plantations. However, in 1955, the inhabitants relocated downstream to establish the modern settlement of Novo Airão. Today, the ruins of Airão Velho have been gradually reclaimed by the surrounding vegetation, creating an atmospheric blend of rainforest and remnants of a bygone era.

**MEALS:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**OVERNIGHT:** RV Brazilian Dream

### Day 7: Novo Airão

Today, you will visit the village of Novo Airão, beautifully located on the banks of the Rio Negro and known as the gateway to the Anavilhanas Archipelago—the world's second-largest freshwater archipelago. In Novo Airão, you can browse local handicrafts, visit a friendly village brewery, and enjoy the warm hospitality of the community.

In the afternoon, your journey continues as you cruise toward the village of Acajatuba. Upon arrival, you will board local boats for a relaxing excursion, giving you the opportunity to observe the riverbanks and take in the scenery of the Rio Negro's winding waters.

**MEALS:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**OVERNIGHT:** RV Brazilian Dream

### Day 8: Acajatuba ~ Ariaú River

This morning, you will explore the preserved village of Acajatuba, known for its charming collection of small, colourful wooden houses built on stilts along the riverside. After your visit, you will board local boats and cruise toward the Ariaú Canal, an important waterway that connects the Amazon River to the Rio Negro.

The Ariaú Canal area is renowned for its rich biodiversity and is a fantastic spot for wildlife observation, especially for seeing the distinctive mão amarela monkey.

**MEALS:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**OVERNIGHT:** RV Brazilian Dream

### Day 9: Meeting of the Waters

At sunrise, you will experience the magic of the Amazon rainforest as it comes alive, from the mirrored reflections of trees and sky on the water to the lively calls of birds and the passing flotilla of local canoes. This morning, you will witness the incredible natural phenomenon known as the “Meeting of the Waters” (Encontro das Águas), where the Solimões River—rich with yellow, silt-laden waters—meets the dark, acidic waters of the Rio Negro.

For nearly 80 kilometres, the two rivers flow side by side without immediately mixing, creating a stunning lace-like pattern of contrasting colours before finally uniting to form the mighty Amazon River.

**MEALS:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**OVERNIGHT:** RV Brazilian Dream

### Day 10: Janauacá Lake

As the sun rises, you will explore Janauacá Lake by private boat, observing the natural world as it awakens. Birds forage for food, dolphins hunt in the muddy waters, and local fishermen set out in their canoes. The inhabitants of the lake region divide their days between cassava farming, fishing, and raising livestock. This fertile area, called “Varzea” (floodplain), thrives thanks to the nutrient-rich deposits brought by the seasonal floods.

After breakfast on board, your journey continues with a cruise upriver along the Manaquiri River, offering opportunities to observe the local wildlife and unique flora until sunset. In the late afternoon, the ship will cruise along the Solimões River, heading toward Manaus.

**MEALS:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**OVERNIGHT:** RV Brazilian Dream

### Day 11: Manaus

This morning, enjoy breakfast on board as your journey comes to an end. After breakfast, you will disembark in Manaus.

**MEALS:** Breakfast