**Amazon Floating Cabins**

**Pre-Trip Planner – 4 Day Fishing**

**ENTRY INTO BRAZIL**

**YOU MUST HAVE A VALID PASSPORT TO TRAVEL TO BRAZIL**. All U.S. Citizens must possess a valid U.S. Passport with at least six months validity from the time of your return date on your scheduled trip.

**BRAZIL VISA UPDATE***: Currently, U.S. citizens do not require a visa to visit Brazil for tourism purposes. Should you be traveling on a passport other than USA nationality, please contact your local embassy for your visa requirements.*

VERY IMPORTANT: Please review your airlines website if you have any questions on baggage. Trek assumes no responsibility for excess luggage. For any questions regarding what you can bring as carry-on luggage from the US please visit <http://www.tsa.gov/traveler-information/prohibited-items>

**THE TRIP**

This trip is organized as an 8-day adventure to the heart of Brazil’s Amazon Jungle fishing for the exciting Peacock Bass using the unique Floating Cabins. You will have a total of four full days fishing for peacocks and other species calling the Amazon home.

**Day 1 –** Upon arrival into Manaus and after clearing customs in Manaus, our representative, Jennifer, will be on hand outside of the baggage claim area to with a sign printed with “TC Fishing” to greet you. The camp owners’ name is Tuco Carvalho, hence the TC. Your group will then be taken to the Mercure Hotel Manaus for the night and informed as to what time to be ready the next morning, but normally departing the hotel 7am.

**Day 2 -** About 5am you will have wake-up call and time to enjoy breakfast at the hotel. After breakfast, the group will be taken from the hotel to their private charter flight that will be either a float plane landing directly into camp or a fixed wheel plane landing nearby camp followed by a fast boat transfer into camp. ***Please limit your baggage to 40 pounds per angler plus a 5-pound carry-on.*** This is very important. You do not need a lot of clothing on this trip as laundry is done daily in camp. Any excess baggage over 40 pounds is the responsibility of each angler. The flight time will vary, but normally 60- 90 minutes. If landing on a strip, you will be met by your camp host, Tuco Carvalho, then we will take a fast boat (water taxi) to the camp. The remainder of today will be at leisure.

**Days 3-6 -** These will be four full fishing days with overnights in camp.

**Day 7 -**This morning, you will take the floatplane out or transfer back to the airstrip to catch your charter back to Manaus. If need be, a day room will be set-up at the Mercure Hotel Manaus for you to relax during the day. This evening, you will be transferred back to the airport and check in for your flight home.

**Day 8 -** You arrive back in the States today.

**THE FISHING**

Our main species on this trip is the peacock bass and known locally as the tucunare. The peacock is a species of the Cichlid family, which is a fresh water tropical fish. Casting to points and entries to the lagoons and structure that line the banks will prove very productive. Peacock Bass is a generalized name for the large bass-like game fish native to tropical South America. They are actually a subspecies of the family Cichlidae. Cichlids are a diverse family of tropical fishes found throughout Africa and South America, some of which are popular for aquariums. Although there are countless color variations throughout their range, there are only three recognized species of peacock bass – two in Brazil. All species are commonly called tucunare in Brazil and Peru. The peacock tucunare (Cichlla temensis), better known as azul or paca, is the largest of the three species, with an average weight of six or seven pounds. Ten to fifteen pound fish are very common, and twenty + pounders are a lifetime trophy if caught. This fish has an unmistakable mottled black patch directly behind its eye. Body coloration and markings vary greatly. Three vertical black bars are usually visible. Often, horizontal white spots are present.

The butterfly tucunare (Chichla ocellaris) is the smallest and most numerous species in the Amazon basin. This fish has three different color phases, but the butterfly primarily seen has three black oscillated spots (about the size of a half dollar) running along its lateral line. Although peacock bass are the main attraction in the Amazon, there are many other jungle species that are no less impressive – both in beauty and fighting ability. Depending on location pacu, pirapitinga, jacunda, apapa, tambaqui, pirarucu, bicuda, picua, piranha, aruana and pescada can be caught.

**TACKLE**

Peacocks make a very strong initial run and will head straight for structure when they get the chance. Additionally the big lures you are using require a rod with some backbone. We suggest two rods at least being medium heavy and between 6’ to 6’ 6” as well as 7’ in length with long handles. Forget those pistol grip rods, as peacocks will tear them out of your hands. We suggest bait casters like Abu Garcia’s 5500 or 5600 or Shimano Curados 200-300 series. You will need a reel with a high retrieve ratio that allows you to work the bait faster and gets the line in quicker.

***Please note that you have the option of using rods, reels, and all tackle provided in camp for the week. There is no cost for this added convenience.***

We realize some of you may want to take your own rods, reels and tackle. Below is helpful information on this.

**Fishing Line-** The best suggestion for line would be a braided product like Spider Wire or Tuff Line in 80-pound test. Don’t take lines under 60-pound test it is a waste of great opportunities. Braided line is smaller in diameter but a much stronger line and does not stretch. This will usually keep the peacocks from getting around a stump. But braided line will cut you and it is hard to detect weak points in the line, which may cause break offs. You may try each line on your trip to see which works better for you. And as in all cases, it is important to have a good drag system on your reel and to make sure the drag is set properly. If it is set too tight you will either break your line or straighten the hooks on your lures. If it is set too light you will lose your fish in the structures or create slack in the line. Check with your guide to set your drag accordingly.

**Lures-** While there are many lures that will work, we suggest contacting Monster Peacock Bass Lures (http:// monsterpeacockbasslures.com/index.html) or 972-377-7973 and speak with owners Robyn or Brenda Tassio. They are both very knowledgeable having fished in Brazil numerous times. Tell them you are fishing with Trek Safaris on the Amazon Floating Cabins and they will be happy to help. They will organize a lure kit specifically for this program complete with top water, subsurface, and jigs.

Should you want to surf the Internet looking for specific lures, here are some lures we suggest:

**Top Water**  - Luhr-Jensen’s Big Game Woodchoppers (6 3⁄4”) Amazon Rippers, and Peacock Specials. We also recommend High Roller Rip Rollers (6 1⁄4’). Colors are Perch, Clown Parrot, black & red/ yellow and Orange/Black. A total of 6 of these will suffice (mixed, not each)

**Jigs** - Bucktail jigs 1⁄4-3/8 ounce in Chartreuse/Orange and Red/White with 3/0-4/0 hooks with a teaser tail.

**Subsurface (Shallow running)** - Yozuri Crystal Minnow’s (5 1⁄4” jerk bait) Patterns; Clown, Blue Back or Perch or Rapala X-Rap (5 1⁄2” jerk bait) Patterns; Hot Head, Silver, or Spotted Minnow Cordell Red Fins in Chrome/Black Bomber Long A (heavy duty) in Silver Flash and Red and White.

**FLY FISHING**

Many anglers want to know if they can bring a fly rod and the answer is yes. In fact sometimes fishing with a fly rod is advantageous. 8wt and 9wt rods at the standard nine-foot length work well. We suggest a reel with a good drag system and loaded with a Teeny 300 T Series sink tip line (#9). This will handle large streamer patterns that work best for peacocks. You will need a floating line should you wish to fish with top water flies like poppers.

**Fly Patterns**

Big streamers to six inches (5/0) bi-colored and heavily dressed bucktails. Red/Yellow, Olive/White, Black/White, and Orange/Black.

Big Deceivers, Bunnies, Salt Water Zonkers, Clouser Minnows and other flashy baitfish imitations all take fish.

**Poppers**

Salt Water variety in Red/Yellow and Pearl/Olive. These baits are fun when the fish are biting but a bit exhaustive when things slow down and blind casting is a must.

**GRATIUTIES**

In keeping with our policy, a gratuity is a voluntary gesture on your part for services provided. A good gratuity for the staff and guide would be about $500.00 per angler for the entire stay on the Floating Cabins. This will cover all staff ($ 250.00 will be shared between all staff on boat) and guides ($ 250.00 covers the guiding team, which it will be shared in between them as anglers will rotate guides every day) and will be given to the manager of the camp who will distribute the gratuity accordingly.

**ACCOMMODATIONS**

The deluxe “River Train” caravan accommodations feature 8 aluminum cabins with a separate dining cabin and lounge areas on the beach. Each cabin is 270-sqft single occupancy with queen beds, front & back porches, air conditioner, large panoramic view windows on sides, a sink area, and private bathroom with hot shower and toilet. The cabins draw only 4 inches of water making access to private areas much easier than in the past. 110-volt electricity is available in each cabin.

The camp has a 12’ x 23’ dinning/sitting lounge, where guests dine on linen tablecloths enjoying our chefs’ four course meals. An excellent variety of both continental and exciting regional dishes make up the week’s menu. Fresh breads and pastries are baked daily and chilled wines, ice-cold beer, soft drinks, and Brazilian-style margaritas flow freely throughout your fishing trip.

A breakfast buffet is typically served at 6:00 a.m. Pancakes, eggs, toast, fresh fruit, bacon, cereal and fresh coffee are all standard fare. Lunch is a box-style prepared by each angler in the morning before heading out for fish. Appetizers are usually on the table as soon as all anglers return from the day’s fishing. Dinner is served around 7:00 p.m. and features steaks, chicken, fresh fish and many local specialties. The camp supplies soft drinks, beer and wine with meals. Your host for the week will be the camp owner, Brazilian National, Tuco Carvalho. Tuco attended high school in the States and is fluent in English, so, no issues with communication. He has owned and managed fishing camps in the Amazon since 1999, and is the perfect host.

**CURRENCY**

The official currency in Brazil is the Real (Ree-Al). Please check the Internet, or your favorite financial news publication for the latest exchange rate. There is really no need to exchange money as the dollar and most major credit cards are readily accepted.

**MEDICAL INFORMATION**

We suggest you check with your personal physician or The Center for Disease Control (800-311-3435 or WWW.CDC.GOV) regarding inoculation information for this area.

**COMMUNICATION**

The cabins are placed in the middle of Brazil’s Amazon and off the grid in regards to communication. While the camp has a satellite phone, the cost to use approaches $5/minute. Trek Safaris suggest renting your own satellite phone if you need to stay in communication with home or office. The hotel in Manaus will have Wi-Fi service and most cell phones with international calling plans work in Manaus.

**CLOTHES/SHOES FOR FISHING**

Lightweight, breathable, long sleeved shirts in neutral colors; those made of technical fabrics that block the sun’s UV rays are best. Long pants in neutral colors, made of lightweight, fast-drying fabric or wading pants work well in the Amazon heat. Flip-flops or non-slip boat shoes are suggested for fishing. Lightweight, waterproof rain jacket and possibly waterproof pants for the occasional rain shower. Columbia, Simms, Under Armor are brands popular among fisherman looking for lightweight protection. **Laundry will be done daily in camp. *See attached packing list for extensive items to pack.***

**TRAVEL PROTECTION**

Trek Safaris highly recommends that you purchase a travel protection plan due to the remote location of the fishing along with logistics involved to reach camp with charter flights flying on a pre-arranged & reserved date. For your convenience, we offer a travel protection plan from Arch Roamright. You should have received the brochure at the time of final billing. Please contact Trek to purchase the travel protection plan. To view the policy, go to Arch Roamright's website: http://treksafaris.archinsurancesolutions.com. Travel Insurance is underwritten by Arch Insurance Company, NAIC #11150.

 **IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS**

Mercure Hotel Manaus - 011 55 92 2101 1100 (as dialed from US)

Trek Safaris (24 HR Line) – 904-273-7800

Trek Safaris (Reservation Line) – 800-654-9915

Jennifer- TC Fishing Representative Manaus- 011 55 92 99391 9041 (as dialed from US)

***Trek Safaris maintains a 24-hour answering service on its (904)-273-7800 number. Please call that number should you have any problems getting in touch with your party.***

***PLEASE SEE ATTACHED PACKING LIST FOR ITEMS TO BRING ON YOUR FISHING TRIP***

***REMEMBER TO RELAX & HAVE A GOOD TIME!!***

**SUGGESTED PACKING LIST**

\_\_\_ Bags and suitcases

\_\_\_ Daypack (waterproof suggested)

\_\_\_ Luggage IDs

\_\_\_ Passport / Personal ID / Driver’s License (including photocopies)

\_\_\_ Airline Itinerary

\_\_\_ Emergency contact information

\_\_\_ Wallet and Cash

\_\_\_ Credit/ATM Cards (set up for international use)

\_\_\_ Correspondence related to the trip (any letters or trip itinerary you received from Trek)

\_\_\_ Toothbrush, Tooth paste and floss

\_\_\_ Razors and Shaving cream

\_\_\_ Shampoo / Deodorant

\_\_\_ Lip balm and sunscreen (high SPF sunscreen)

\_\_\_ Any Medications you are taking

\_\_\_ Prescription Eyeglasses (and a spare)

\_\_\_ Reading glasses

\_\_\_ Sunglasses (polarized) (good idea to bring extra pair)

\_\_\_ Flashlight & batteries

\_\_\_ Camera & memory cards

\_\_\_ Camera batteries and charger

\_\_\_ Insect Repellant

\_\_\_ Rain Jacket (lightweight)

\_\_\_ Lightweight fishing shirts (2 or 3 -- long sleeve suggested)

\_\_\_ Tropical weight pants (2 pair)

\_\_\_ Fishing shorts (2 pair)

\_\_\_ Casual pants (2 pair)

\_\_\_ Casual shorts (2 pair)

\_\_\_ Casual Shirts (2 or 3)

\_\_\_ Shoes for fishing (flip-flops, Crocs or boat shoes)

\_\_\_ Underwear and socks (3 to 4 pair of each)

\_\_\_ Swimsuit

\_\_\_ Fishing cap (wide brim suggested)

\_\_\_ Fishing Gloves (sun gloves)

\_\_\_ Fishing Rods (optional)

\_\_\_ Fishing Reels (optional)

\_\_\_ Fishing lures (top water, jigs, subsurface) (optional)

* ***Please limit your baggage to 40 pounds per angler plus a 5-pound carry-on due to charter flight restrictions – Laundry is done daily in camp***