

POSADA AMAZONAS LODGE FACT SHEET & ACTIVITIES

POSADA AMAZONAS – CONCEPT, LOCATION AND ACCESS

Posada Amazonas is a 30-bedroom lodge owned by the Community of Infierno and managed with Rainforest Expeditions. Thanks to its accessibility, excellent wildlife observation opportunities, cultural context and comfortable accommodation, Posada Amazonas is ideal for a two night introduction to Amazonia's richest rainforests.

Posada Amazonas is located within the territory of the Infierno Community. It is built within the 2000 hectare, private, communal reserve, which in turn is directly adjacent to the Tambopata National Reserve.

To get there you need to fly to Puerto Maldonado from Lima or Cusco on daily commercial flights lasting 90 or 45 minutes respectively. From the airport you are transported by bus to the Infierno River Port where you board our boats for a forty five minute trip to Posada Amazonas. Posada Amazonas is located ten minutes walking from the river.

POSADA AMAZONAS - WHO IS IT FOR?

Posada Amazonas is ideal for those looking for an introductory experience lasting two nights because:

- The travel time required to get to Posada Amazonas from Puerto Maldonado is less than two hours, therefore you have time to explore the forest from the very same afternoon you arrive.
- It offers enough quality natural and cultural resources to keep your agenda full for your two night stay: giant river otters at an oxbow lake, parrots at a clay lick, a canopy tower and an ethnobotanical trail.

POSADA AMAZONAS – INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES

Accommodation

Posada Amazonas is built using a combination of traditional native materials (wood, palm fronds, wild cane and clay) and architecture and modern day eco-lodge technology. The lodge itself consists of a complex of four sections: rooms, dining area and kitchen, relaxation area and internal support facilities. The entire roof of the lodge is constructed using high quality crisneja palm fronds, whereas the floors are of tropical mahogany. The rooms complex is built of four 9 X 24 meter structures with six rooms per facility, for a total of 30 double bedrooms.

The rooms are 7 x 4 meters so they can comfortably hold three beds, although most are set up for two. The walls dividing each room are built using cane, and extend from the floor to about 2.5 meters in height making each room private. The side that looks out to the forest does not have a wall or screening of any kind, acting as a large window facing the forest. The reason we have been able to incorporate this "luxurious" design into our lodge is because mosquitoes are not really a problem around the lodge clearing and the open section allows for an intimate contact with the rain forest. A second small window on the opposite side, set up very high, keeps the rooms well ventilated. Doors are replaced with drapes. Rooms are not soundproof.

Each room has a private bathroom with cold water only. Rooms and bathrooms are separated by drapes. Each room has beds, mosquito nets, bedside tables and hammocks or lounge chairs. Rooms are decorated with bas-relief wood-carvings representing stories and characters from Ese-eja traditions.

Common areas are open and spacious and offer ample space for resting and socialising. They include a dining room and bar, a reception lounge with souvenir shop, and an interpretation center.

Meals

We provide self-serve three course meals at Posada Amazonas. Meals consist of soup or appetisers, salad, main course, and desserts combining Peruvian and international cuisine. All fresh fruits and salads are thoroughly disinfected before serving. We also provide at all times unlimited amounts of boiled, filtered, cooled drinking water, coffee or tea and we provide fruit juices during the meals. If any visitor has special dietary requirements, we are happy to make individual arrangements, but please notify us.

Communication

Posada Amazonas is in daily HF radio contact with our offices in Puerto Maldonado and Lima from where we are able to communicate by email, fax or phone with the rest of the world.

Lighting and electricity

Posada Amazonas has no electricity. Light is provided by numerous kerosene lamps and candles. A generator is turned on once a day to recharge batteries for guests or for lodge facilities. At night it is very dark, so we recommend good flashlights.

POSADA AMAZONAS ACTIVITIES

The following is the Posada Amazonas activity list. Some of them are included in our programs. Some of them are not included in our programs but can be included at no additional price by substituting it for an included activity. If there is an activity you feel like doing, but don't find here, then let us know anyway, you may help us design a new activity.

Sea Kayaking the Chonta creek: We head back to the Native Community of Infierno. Transportation will be waiting for us at the Tambopata River Port and will bring us to a creek within the Community named Chonta. We will descent this creek for approximately 90 minutes as we will reach the Tambopata River, where we will be picked up and brought back to the lodge. This creek has suffered little human impact and we could be able to see different species of birds and with luck even some smaller monkey species. In the lower parts of the creek we might meet some local fishermen. Not included in the fee, recommended for everyone. Cost: US\$170 per person, max. 10 people.

Cycling to Puerto Maldonado at the end of the program: Change the engine for pedals and ride back to Puerto Maldonado on a mountain-bike. An early boat will take you to the Tambopata River Port at the Native Community of Infierno. From there you will cycle back the 20-kilometre road to Puerto Maldonado that has short inclines and presents little technical difficulty, but it will be hot and sweaty. At our Puerto Maldonado Office a shower will await you. Afterwards you will be driven to the airport. This activity is always subject to airline departure times. Not included in the fee, recommended for everyone. Cost: US\$60 per person, max. 10 people.

Canopy climbing: Replicating the daily work of macaw researchers, we will climb a 30-metre high tree with a rope, harness and jumar. From this vantage point we will have a macaw's eye view of the forest. This demanding exercise is perfectly safe and requires no previous experience. Not included in the fee, recommended for most program participants. Cost: US\$40 per person, max. 10 people.

Canopy tower: A twenty minute walk from Posada Amazonas leads to the 30-metre scaffolding canopy tower. A bannistered staircase running through the middle provides safe access to the platforms above. From on top you obtain spectacular views of the vast expanses of standing forest cut by the Tambopata River winding through the middle. Now and then toucans, parrots or macaws are seen flying against the horizon, or mixed-specie canopy flocks land in the treetop next to you. Included in the fee, recommended for everyone.

Tres Chimbadas oxbow lake: Tres Chimbadas is thirty minutes by boat and forty five minutes hiking from Posada Amazonas. Once there you will paddle around the lake in a catamaran, searching for the resident family of nine giant river otters (seen by 60% of our lake visitors) and other lakeside wildlife such as caiman, hoatzin and horned screamers. Included in the fee, recommended for everyone.

Parrot clay lick: This clay lick is only a twenty minute walk from Posada Amazonas. From a blind located about twenty metres away you will see dozens of parrots and parakeets descend on most clear mornings to ingest the clay on a river bank. Species such as mealy and yellow-headed Amazon, blue-headed parrot and dusky headed parakeet descend to this clay lick. The clay lick is active at dawn, during the late mornings and mid-afternoons. Included in the fee, recommended for everyone.

Ethnobotanical tour: A twenty minute boat drive downriver leads you to a trail designed by the staff of the Centro Ñape. The Centro Ñape is a communal organization that produces medicines out of forest plants and administers them to patients who choose their little clinic. They have designed a trail which explains the different medicinal (and other) uses of selected plants. Included in the fee, recommended for everyone.

Ceiba trail hike: We leave from the lobby at Posada Amazonas and embark on a two hour hike crowned by the largest tree in the vicinity: a giant ceiba tree. During the hike we will focus on the natural history of the rainforest and its principal taxonomic groups. Included in the fee, recommended for everyone.

Farm visit: A thirty minute boat trip downriver takes us to the most complex farm in the community of Infierno. The owner grows a diverse variety of popular and unknown Amazon crops. In his garden, just about every plant and tree serves a purpose. Included in the fee, recommended for everyone.

Night walk: You will have the option of hiking out at night when most of the mammals are active but rarely seen. Much easier to find are frogs with shapes and sounds as bizarre as their natural histories. Included in the fee, recommended for everyone.

Time-off: Time off to relax and enjoy the lodge surroundings, try out a new trail, or repeat your favorite activity. Included in the fee, recommended for everyone.

Ecotourism lecture: A daily presentation about the Infierno ecotourism project is available every night from a staff member. Included in the fee, recommended for everyone.

Video presentation: Video presentations are available every night at the interpretation center. Topics include the Tambopata National Reserve and the macaw project. Included in the fee, recommended for everyone.

Handicraft workshop: Great for kids! An artisan will help you polish and prepare a seed necklace of colorful rain forest seeds in a few hours at the workshop at Posada Amazonas. Not included in the fee, recommended for cultural travellers and families.

High school bingo: Our way to pitch in with the Senior Prom at Infierno. Two representatives of the Infierno high school come to Posada Amazonas to host a bingo session - proceeds benefiting the high school senior prom. Not included in the fee, recommended for cultural and academic travellers.

Visit by the Mapachos and the high school dance group: The Mapachos are the official music group from the local community. Three musicians play variations of a festive rhythmic tune as the high school seniors well-practiced representation of traditional local dances is demonstrated. This is how they fund their senior prom. Not included in the fee, recommended for cultural and academic travellers.

Infierno Community visit: Forty five minutes downstream from Posada Amazonas, close to the port is the centre of the community of Infierno. Although family homes are scattered over 10,000 hectares, the centre concentrates the shared infrastructure - school, store, medical post and meeting room. We only visit with community authorization. Not included in the fee, recommended for cultural and academic travellers.

Soccer game: A soccer game is the perfect way to cap off a day at the community and an effective form of cross-cultural communication. The athletic and well adjusted rainforest children are difficult to beat and have teams for every age group. Not included in the fee, recommended for cultural and academic travellers.

Harpy eagle nest visits: When they are active, this is the only way that you are guaranteed to see the world's most powerful bird of prey. Rigorously following protocols established by scientists studying harpies in Tambopata, we approach nests from below to wait for the adult to appear and feed the chick, or if the chick is old enough, we will see it exercising in the branches around its massive nest. This activity is only possible when nests are active. Not included in the fee, recommended for nature travellers and birders.