

TAMBOPATA RESEARCH CENTER LODGE FACT SHEET & ACTIVITIES

TAMBOPATA RESEARCH CENTER – CONCEPT, LOCATION AND ACCESS

The Tambopata Research Center (TRC) is a spartan yet comfortable 18-bedroom lodge which was built fifteen years ago with the object of lodging tourists and researchers alike and of protecting the adjacent macaw clay lick. Because of its remote location in uninhabited wilderness housing stable populations of endangered wildlife, the small scale of its infrastructure and operations and the presence of researchers and naturalist guides, Tambopata Research Center is an excellent headquarters for in-depth explorations of Amazonian nature and wildlife.

TRC is located in a half hectare clearing in the middle of the uninhabited portion of the Tambopata National Reserve, adjacent to the Bahuaja National Park and 500 meters from the world's largest macaw clay lick.

TRC is four hours upriver from Refugio Amazonas. To get to TRC 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 the two and half hour trip to Refugio Amazonas. From Refugio Amazonas, TRC is four hours upriver, and a few minutes walking from the river.

TAMBOPATA RESEARCH CENTER – WHO IS IT FOR?

Tambopata Research Center requires at least four nights because of the travel time. One consecutive afternoon and morning are spent on the way to and from the lodge, so unless you plan on spending at least two nights at TRC, the hours in the boat are not worth it. However, TRC is the ideal option for in depth explorations of the rain forest lasting four or more nights because:

- The seven hour upriver drive takes you 150 kilometers into the uninhabited heart of the Tambopata National Reserve, where the surrounding wilderness is untouched. The largest known macaw clay lick is five hundred yards from the lodge. Dusky headed titi, squirrel, brown capuchin, howler and spider monkeys, as well as capybara, caiman, and agouti are seen frequently. Although very difficult to see, herds of peccary, tapir and jaguar are all at their carrying capacity.
- Two state of the art, long-term research projects are based out of TRC: the macaw project and the areas project (see Conservation Impact Sheets).
- The combination with Refugio Amazonas allows you to experience the canopy tower and the oxbow lake.

TAMBOPATA RESEARCH CENTER - INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES.

Accommodation

Tambopata Research Center 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 consists of one wing of 18 rooms connected by raised boardwalks to eight shared bathrooms, the research quarters and a dining room. The dining room is an open building that doubles as a bar.

Rooms are small and hold two beds. 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. Doors are replaced with drapes. Rooms are not soundproof. Each room has beds, mosquito nets, bedside tables and a rack of clothes hangers. Bathrooms are shared, and have no hot water.

Bathroom facilities here are shared, but are close to the rooms, very well maintained and sufficient to guarantee availability at all times.

The research quarters is a two story building usually full of scientists and their assistants on the macaw project.

Meals

We provide self-serve three course meals at Tambopata Research Center. 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

Tambopata Research Center 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

Tambopata Research Center 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 lodge facilities. At night it is very dark, so we recommend good flashlights.

TAMBOPATA RESEARCH CENTER ACTIVITIES

The following is the Tambopata Research Center activity list. Some of them are included in our programs. Some of them are not included in our programs but may 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 it here, then let us know anyway, you may help us design a new activity.

Sea kayaking the Tambopata River at dawn: No previous experience required. After a few practice strokes with our kayaking guide, you will be ready to navigate the Tambopata at a natural pace for a few hours. Wildlife sightings increase in quality – the silent kayaks do not intimidate. Dawn is the best time for wildlife viewing. Not included in the fee, recommended for nature & soft adventure travellers as well as families.
Cost: US\$230 per person, max. 10 people.

Sea kayaking the river near the lodge: No previous experience required. After a few practice strokes with our kayaking guide, you will be ready to navigate the Tambopata at a natural pace for a few hours. Wildlife sightings increase in quality – the silent kayaks do not intimidate. Not included in the fee, recommended for nature & soft adventure travellers as well as families.
Cost: US\$90 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, maximum 10 people.

Aromatherapy: A gift for both your body and soul. Aromatherapy is a complementary therapy based on the use of essential oils extracted from herbs, flowers, roots, grasses and trees. You will be able to choose between three aromatherapies: Anti-stress, Romance and Passion. Depending on which you choose you will be enjoying aromas of chamomile, lavender, jasmine, or sandalwood, among others. Not included in the fee, recommended for everyone.

Cost: US\$35 per person.

Digitopuncture: The Inca Trail, City Tours, Machu Picchu, the Rainforest - in Peru you walk a lot! Give your feet a rest and allow them some recovery. They have earned that recognition. Not included in the fee, recommended for everyone.

Cost: US\$35 per person.

Rainforest massage: They consist of 30 minutes of massages and approximately 10min. of relaxation. At the lodge you will find a list of options: Spiritual Peace, Energising, Anti-stress, Cat's Claw, Brazil Nut Oil, and Chuchuhuasi/Matico. There is something for everyone. Not included in the fee, recommended for everyone.

Cost: US\$35 per person

Macaw clay lick: On most clear mornings of the year dozens of large macaws and hundreds of parrots congregate on this large river bank in a raucous and colorful spectacle which inspired a National Geographic cover story. Discretely located fifty meters from the cliff, we will observe Green-winged, scarlet and Blue-and-gold Macaws and several species of smaller parrots descend to ingest clay. Outings are at dawn when the lick is most active. Included in the fee, recommended for everyone.

Overlook trail: A three to five kilometer hike will lead us to overlooks commanding magnificent views of the Tambopata winding its way into the lowlands. The forest on this trail, regenerating on old bamboo forest, is good for Howler Monkey and Dusky Titi Monkey. Included in the fee, recommended for everyone.

Floodplain trail: This five kilometer trail covers the prototypical rain forest with immense trees criss-crossed by creeks and ponds. Amongst the figs, ceibas and shihuahuacos we will look for Squirrel, Brown Capuchin, and Spider Monkeys as well as peccaries. TRC is located within this habitat. Included in the fee, recommended for everyone.

Palm Swamp: A thirty minute hike from TRC brings us to the palm swamp. Dead aguaje palms serve as nests to Red-bellied and Blue-and-gold macaws. An elevated boardwalk and scaffolding tower allow for eye level observation of the macaws as they fly in and out of their nests. Included in the fee, recommended for everyone.

Terra firme trail: An entirely different habitat characterized by smaller, thinner trees atop hills and slopes is covered by this five kilometer trail. Saddleback tamarins are frequently found here. As we walk near the limits of the swamp we will also keep our eyes open for rare tapir tracks. Included in the fee, recommended for everyone.

Pond platform: Ten minutes upriver from the lodge is a tiny pond with a platform in the middle. It is a great place to spot waterfowl such as Muscovy duck, sun bittern and hoatzin along with the woodpeckers, oropendolas, flycatchers and parakeets that call this pond their home. Included in the fee, recommended for everyone.

Macaw project lectures: After dinner scientists will provide an in depth look at the biology of macaws, their feeding habits, the theories for clay lick use, their breeding and feeding ecology, population fluctuations and the threats to their conservation. Included in the fee, recommended for everyone.

Night walks: 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.