



The Amazon

POP 16 MILLION

Includes ➔

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Best Nature Reserves

- ➔ Desenvolvimento Sustentável Mamirauá (p632)
- ➔ Xixuáú-Xipará (p622)
- ➔ Floresta Nacional do Tapajós (p595)
- ➔ Parque Nacional do Jaú (p622)
- ➔ Parque Estadual do Jalapão (p605)

Best Places to Stay

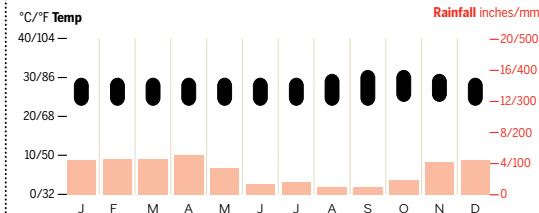
- ➔ Pousada Jamaraguá (p596)
- ➔ Juma Lodge (p618)
- ➔ Pousada Bela Vista (p619)

Why Go?

Named after female warriors of Greek mythology, the Amazon is itself a place of nearly mythical status. What traveler hasn't imagined a trip to the Amazon, not only to admire the towering trees and awesome river, but to enter, in a real sense, the very life spring of the planet, the source of so much of the air we breathe, the water we drink and the weather we rely on? To be sure, expecting a Discovery Channel-like experience (jaguars in every tree, spear-toting *índios* around every bend) is a recipe for disappointment. In fact, the Amazon's quintessential experiences are more sublime than superlative: canoeing through a flooded forest, dozing in a hammock on a boat chugging upriver, waking to the otherworldly cry of howler monkeys. On a river whose size is legendary, it's actually the little things that make it special. Give it some time, forget your expectations, and the Amazon cannot fail to impress.

When to Go

Manaus



May The world-famous Amazonas Opera Festival is held in Manaus.

Jun The rain eases, but the river is still high and the forest flooded.

Oct Hot, dry weather makes for good hiking.



The Amazon Highlights

1 Gliding through the flooded forest at **Reserva de Desenvolvimento Sustentável Mamirauá** (p632), in search of the shaggy uacari monkey.

2 Testing your mettle on a **survival tour** (p617) outside Manaus.

3 Roughing it with rubber-tappers in **Floresta Nacional do Tapajós** (p595), outside Alter do Chão.