



Amazon Basin

ELEV 0-1800M

Includes ➔

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San Ramón	462
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Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Burgos's Restaurante (p444)
- ➔ Al Frio y al Fuego (p480)
- ➔ Amazon Bistro (p481)
- ➔ Belén Mercado (p480)

Best Places to Stay

- ➔ Hacienda Concepción (p454)
- ➔ Manu Paradise Lodge (p459)
- ➔ Carolina Egg Gasthaus (p466)
- ➔ La Casa Fitzcarraldo (p479)
- ➔ Samiria Ec lodge (p487)

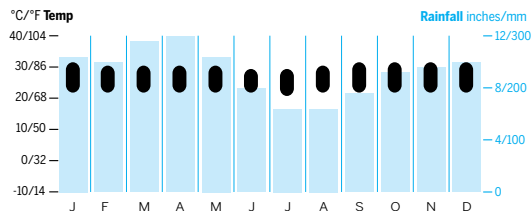
Why Go?

The best-protected tract of the world's most biodiverse forest, the strange, sweltering, seductive country-within-a-country that is Peru's Amazon Basin, is changing. Its sheer vastness and impenetrability has long protected its indigenous communities and wildlife from external eyes. Tribes exist here that have never had contact with outside civilization. More plant types flourish in one rainforest hectare than in any European country, and fauna is so fantastic it defies the most imaginative sci-fi comic.

But as the 21st century encroaches on this expanse of wilderness, exploitation of the forest's abundant natural resources threatens to irreversibly damage it. Sure, the Peruvian Amazon offers phenomenal wildlife-spotting, forays into untamed forest from the jungle's best lodges and raucous city life, but it also begs for protection. Remember that as, forging through it by rough road and raging river, you'll feel like the explorers who first brought attention to this region.

When to Go

Iquitos



Jan Rising temperatures and water levels; a perfect time to visit the waterfalls near La Merced.

Apr & May Rains subside, heralding courtship season for many birds.

Jun The rainy season ends: cue the jungle's best parties, like debauched San Juan in Iquitos.



Amazon Basin Highlights

- 1 Traveling overland through a smorgasbord of Peruvian scenery via mountains, cloud forest and jungle to **Parque Nacional Manu** (p460).
- 2 Spotting animals and birds at the upper echelons of the **Río Tambopata** (p447) and the **Reserva Nacional Pacaya-Samiria** (p473).
- 3 Discovering the central Amazon's thriving German heritage in **Oxapampa** (p465) and nearby **Pozuzo** (p465).
- 4 Swinging in a hammock on a riverboat trip from **Pucallpa** (p466) or **Yurimaguas** (p471) to **Iquitos** (p473).
- 5 Rising early for a trip to Peru's premier jungle market in the floating district of **Belén** (p476) in Iquitos.
- 6 Tucking into the wondrous and often downright weird eating scene of **Iquitos** (p480).
- 7 Admiring world-class art in the remote rainforest at the gallery of Francisco Grippa in **Pevas** (p486).