

› INKATERRA ‹
RESERVA AMAZÓNICA
TAMBOPATA - PERU



USER'S GUIDE

A rainforest is an expansive territory with high annual rainfall, very dense plant growth, and a relatively warm temperature. Two-thirds of the world's plant and animal species make their home in these jungle regions, and it is believed that there are hundreds of millions more species that are yet to be discovered.

The Tambopata National Reserve—adjacent to Inkaterra Reserva Amazonica—is one of the last easily accessible virgin tropical rainforests in the world. The reserve, with its 274,690-hectare (678,774-acre) area, offers a wealth of biodiversity as well as magnificent natural landscapes. Puerto Maldonado, known as the “Capital of Biodiversity,” is the largest city of the Tambopata Region. Overlooking the confluence of the Tambopata and Madre de Dios rivers, Puerto Maldonado is 400 meters (1,312 feet) above sea level, 650 km (404 miles) from Cusco, and 15 km (9 miles) upriver from the Inkaterra lodge.

Though the rainforest is known to host a vast number of species, the animals tend to avoid human presence, making opportunities to observe them variable and unpredictable. Nevertheless, the region's diverse plant life offers endless opportunity for discovery; the lakes and wetlands invite exploration, and the varied rainforest ecosystems hold the promise of new insight and understanding. For a complete and updated list of animals and recent sightings please visit our website www.inkaterra.com. The richness of the Amazon Basin creates a spectacular arena for birdwatching and other related activities. Some 590 different bird species, including toucans, tanagers, flycatchers, and colorful macaws, have been sighted around the reserve. Due to the tropical climate of the region it is common to observe exotic insects such as spiders, beetles, ants, and centipedes near the lodge.

Tropical rainforests have been called the “earth's lungs” because they are essential to recycling carbon dioxide into oxygen. The rainforest has also been called the “world's largest pharmacy,” because of the many natural medicines discovered there.

THE LODGE

Inkaterra Reserva Amazonica is situated on the steep banks of Peru's winding Madre de Dios River, in a private ecological reserve deep in the Amazon Basin Rainforest.

Guests enjoy a delightful combination of simplicity and luxury. Our 35 lantern-lit, palm-thatched cabañas, designed in the fashion of local Ese' Eja-style huts, are appointed with comfortable beds swathed in mosquito netting, log chairs, and a writing table, plus umbrellas, lanterns, and a complete set of our own natural toiletries. Every cabaña has a spacious siesta porch with hammocks. There is no air conditioning, but every suite and superior room is equipped with fans, hot water, and limited electricity.

DINING

Inspired by the tropical flavors of the Amazon region, meals and beverages at Reserva Amazonica are prepared with fresh local ingredients. We serve an international buffet breakfast; lunch and dinner are served a la carte. All meals include a variety of proteins, salads and fruits, as well as a selection of homemade breads. We also offer vegetarian meals and a children's menu, upon request. Meals are served in the main dining room, where you can also enjoy complete bar service. (Drinks not included in room-rates.)

ENA SPA

The ENA Spa, located on the banks of the Madre de Dios River, is a great spot for watching the Amazonian sunset, adding a lovely element of relaxation to your rainforest travel experience. The Spa Room is open from 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. (upon request) offering a range of services that includes traditional massage, aromatherapy and reflexology sessions, as well as an Amazon purification treatment, body exfoliation, cooling massage treatment, cold stone massage, and Reiki.

ARRIVAL AND TRANSPORT

A 20-minute flight from Cusco brings you to Puerto Maldonado Airport, where the Inkaterra Reserva Amazonica staff will greet you. Luggage not needed during your rainforest stay may be stored at Inkaterra Butterfly House, located near the airport. Following a 10-minute bus transfer to the port, you will board a motorized dugout canoe for your trip to Inkaterra Reserva Amazonica. The 45-minute journey introduces you to the spectacular scenery that will be part of your rainforest experience. Transportation by boat is also provided upon your departure..

EXPERIENCE PACE

Relaxed, moderately paced, nature & ecological walks within the Nature Reserve with some boat rides along the river. Some activities/excursions may be physically demanding, and require hiking. Agility required for visiting the jungle. Not appropriate for wheelchair or other mobility aids.

SECURITY

There are no locks and no safety deposit in the cabanas. The lodge has a safe deposit box located inside the gift shop, where guests may leave all their valuables. We suggest that you leave your valuables locked in your suitcases. Inkaterra will not be responsible for loss or misplacement of valuables. The lodge has a security guard on site 24-hours a day.

COMMUNICATION/ TELEPHONE

There is limited telephone access and no mobile phone coverage at the lodge. In case of emergency the Guest Service Department can contact the office in town via radio.

HEALTH

The US Travel Advisory for Peru usually recommends yellow fever shots and malaria-preventive medication for tourists traveling to rainforest regions. Please consult your doctor at least a month before entering the Amazon Basin. No cases of yellow fever or malaria have ever been reported on our property.

Water: Inkaterra Reserva Amazonica has filtered river water that can be used for showers but is not safe to drink. Bottled drinking water is provided to all guests.

The most common ailments for travelers are diarrhea and altitude sickness. Take necessary precautions with local exotic food and alcoholic beverages. Eating and drinking in moderation is always the best safety measure to avoid discomfort and unnecessary hassle while traveling.

CURRENCY/FOREIGN EXCHANGE

The official currency is the Nuevo Sol (PEN) divided into 100 céntimos. Inkaterra Reserva Amazonica accepts major credit cards. There are no facilities to exchange Travelers' cheques; travelers are advised to have cash (in Soles) on hand as foreign currency exchange is limited. It is advisable to exchange to Soles before coming to the Inkaterra Reserva Amazonica though payment is accepted in both US Dollars and/or in Soles. ATMs are available only in main cities.

WEATHER AND WHAT TO WEAR

The weather is tropical, with an average temperature of 32°C (89° F), ranging from 25°C (77° F) to 42°C (107° F). The hotter season usually ranges from December to March and comes with frequent afternoon rainfall. Between June and September you may need some warmer clothing, since occasional "frijes" or Patagonia Cold Fronts can reduce the temperature to 10°C (50°F). Cool comfortable cotton clothes are required to counter the heat while sweaters and jackets may be handy at night. See Equipment and Luggage.

Visitors must anticipate the extreme heat and humidity of the jungle by finding out the exact weather condition at the time of travel in order to be ready with clothing and accessories.

Equipment and Luggage

It is important that you bring only necessary clothing and equipment to the lodge. Due to weight and space limitations on the boat, passenger luggage is limited to 10 kg. (22 lbs.) per person. Storage is available at Inkaterra Butterfly House, near the airport in Puerto Maldonado.

Packing List:

- > Long pants and long sleeve shirt made from light, breathable, quick-dry material
- > Good water resistant trekking shoes
- > Raingear (back-up gear is a good idea)
- > Binoculars
- > Sun block, sun hat, sunglasses and sunscreen
- > Insect repellent
- > A converter (voltage is 220). The hotel has a limited number of converters available

- > Contact lens solution and an extra set of contact lenses or glasses
- > Don't forget your camera and/or video camera (we recommend a waterproof case), and, if it is not digital, bring plenty of film!
- > Extra batteries

Please note that when you are inside of the Butterfly House, you must wear clothes without insect repellent.

CARBON NEUTRAL

Inkaterra's commitment to authentic travel includes a legacy of conservation, preservation, and concern for local communities through responsible tourism programs such as Carbon Neutral.

Carbon Neutral is a term that indicates the point at which carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions are completely offset through high quality renewable energy, energy efficiency and/or reforestation projects. Carbon dioxide emissions are measured according to international standards and given a monetary value (US dollar/ton CO₂). This amount may be invested to offset emissions through Sustainable Travel International (STI). Inkaterra is carbon neutral due to its conservation and reforestation efforts in the cloud forest and Amazon jungle. Inkaterra hotels provide its guests not only 100% carbon neutral stay but also the opportunity to offset their air travel related greenhouse gas emissions through carbon neutral directly with STI.

SUGGESTED READING

In addition to the info available on our website <http://www.inkaterra.com> , we have also selected a list of links that may be of interest to you:

DESTINATION INFORMATION ON PUERTO MALDONADO AND TAMBOPATA:

<http://www.peru.travel/en/nature/tambopata-917-7.1.2.9-2-1823-c4>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Puerto_Maldonado

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/travel/2007/dec/30/peru.green>

http://www.boston.com/travel/getaways/latinamerica/articles/2007/08/12/seeing_and_saving_perus_rain_forest_firsthand/

http://gosouthamerica.about.com/od/topdestmachupicchu/Machu_Picchu_Peru.htm

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