



AQUA EXPEDITIONS

Why should I book my cruise with Aqua Expeditions?

Aqua Expeditions pioneered the concept of ultra-luxurious small ship expeditions on the Peruvian stretch of the Amazon River in 2007, with the intention of taking intimate “eye-level cruising” to other exotic regions of the world. Today, Aqua Expeditions is known for its in-depth exploration of some of the planet's most remote, wildlife rich areas, thanks to its local naturalist guides who provide life changing travel and educational experiences for our guests. Our bespoke expeditions in Peru led to the creation of Aqua Mekong with its cultural odyssey into Cambodia and Vietnam, and most recently, the Aqua Nera – to set a new standard of luxury on the Amazon once again. Aqua Expeditions also adventures on coastal waters with the Aqua Blu, a long-range explorer yacht which takes us out of the rivers to sail the pristine East Indonesian archipelago and the region's most prized destinations, including Komodo National Park, Spice Islands and Raja Ampat. Highly experiential in nature, every Aqua Expeditions journey encompasses tailored activities with expert-guided small-group excursions, exceptional service with a 1:1 crew-to-guest ratio, a focus on sustainability and conservation, contemporary ship design, as well as a world-class cuisine experience created by renowned chefs.

What are the health and safety measures onboard Aqua Nera regarding COVID-19?

We take the wellbeing of our guests and crew very seriously. As such, our health and safety measures begin at reservations level, all the way to surpassing required safety standards onboard, cleaning and sanitization, physical distancing policy, staggered mealtimes, daily crew health checks, and food safety. Please refer to [Our Commitment to Health and Safety](#) page for more information.

Will I be comfortable aboard my Aqua Nera Amazon River expedition?

Yes. The newly built Aqua Nera is the most state-of-the-art river vessel to sail the Amazon, featuring a high-concept interior by the same architect that designed the Aqua Mekong. Aqua Nera reveals the essence of our pioneering spirit, bearing the hallmarks of refined elegance, award-winning cuisine and unparalleled service that Aqua Expeditions is known for. The 62.4 meter (205 feet) long Aqua Nera unveils 20 river-facing Design Suites complete with floor-to-ceiling windows, locally sourced fabrics,

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custom-tiled bathrooms, and other bespoke details. The design philosophy manifests across the vessel's social spaces including the dining room, lounge and spa. Aqua Nera also features a top-deck plunge pool and gym, as well as updated elements such as solar panels, larger bathrooms, and outdoor dining areas. This innovative new ship accommodates a maximum of 43 guests plus 44 crew including a cruise director, dedicated Health and Safety Officer, and four English-speaking naturalist guides. With an exclusive 1:1 staff-to-guest ratio, we guarantee guests on board Aqua Nera a personalized five-star service, while Aqua Expeditions' highly experienced river pilots and the most rigorous cruise ship standards ensure smooth travel and safety on the waters of the Peruvian Amazon. All you need to do is relax and enjoy the voyage.

What does my all-inclusive Aqua Nera expedition include?

Our rates include all meals, non-alcoholic drinks, selected wines and beer, elegant design suite accommodations, small-group excursions with expert guides, entrance fee to the Pacaya-Samiria Reserve, onboard lectures, evening entertainment, and laundry service. We will provide group transfers from/to the airport if you arrive and depart on our recommended flights. The only extra expenses incurred will be airfare, cocktails, optional boutique purchases and massage services, and gratuities.

Should I buy travel insurance for my trip to the Amazon?

Guests are strongly advised to purchase trip cancellation insurance, which will reimburse the cost of air tickets and other non-refundable trip payments. International medical, baggage loss, and delay insurance are also recommended. We offer guests the option to purchase comprehensive [Ripcord Rescue travel insurance](#) for any unforeseen travel modifications, including cancellations.

Unfortunately, we are unable to refund your booking should you miss your vessel departure due to any weather-related flight cancellation since flight cancellations are beyond our control and we are required to comply with our schedules.

If Aqua Nera is unable to sail (i.e. due to force majeure or mechanical failure), Aqua Expeditions reserves the right to substitute another vessel. If this option is not taken, Aqua Expeditions reserves the right to cancel the trip upon a refund pro



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rata per cruise night not used or, as an alternative, offer credit toward a future expedition on Aqua Nera.

When will I receive my Aqua Nera Amazon expedition confirmation documents?

Following your final payment, you will receive an email confirmation by our reservations team. Once your cruise is ready for online check-in, typically 90 days prior to the embarkation date, you will be requested to complete the check-in process. All guests are required to check in at least 30 days before departure so that our Operations team will have adequate time to provide exceptional services and experiences for your voyage ensuring all your requests and dietary requirements are met.

How old do you have to be to cruise on the Aqua Nera?

The minimum recommended age for children is 5 years old. Guests must be at least 18 years of age to travel without their parents or guardians. If any occupant in the suite is under 18, then a guest of at least 18 years old must be booked in the same suite. The only exception is that guests under age 18 may be allowed to have their own suite if they are in an interconnected suite shared by their parents or guardians.

How many people can stay in one suite?

To ensure the optimum safety and comfort of all our guests, we allow a maximum of three people in each non-balcony design suite. Triple accommodations are subject to availability due to limited ship capacity. There are four pairs of interconnecting suites available for families.

Do you accept group bookings? Are charters available? What about special rates and discounts?

Yes, we accept both group bookings and charters. Our group policy grants one guest free of charge on a first deck design suite with double occupancy for each group of 15 paid guests. Please request our special charter rates and group and charter terms and conditions for further information.

For triple accommodations, we offer a 20% discount for the third guest sleeping on sofa bed. A child under 12 years old sleeping on the sofa bed as a third person will be charged US \$500 per

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night and children under 12 years old will receive a 20% discount when accommodated in a separate suite. For limited time offers or special departures, consult our webpage www.aquaexpeditions.com.

Is the Amazon river cruise experience family-friendly?

Yes, we love to host families on our cruises at Aqua Expeditions. We understand that parents are constantly seeking new, engaging, and educational experiences for their children while on holiday and our Aqua Nera itineraries include just the variety and level of activity children (as well as parents) will enjoy. Kindly note that all our activities and excursions are suitable for children over five years old, as long as they are always supervised by a parent or a designated adult. These include onboard cooking lessons and lectures, piranha fishing, swimming, kayaking, canoeing, biking, jungle walks, skiff excursions, as well as visits to local villages, markets and manatee rescue center. However, biking is not recommended for children. If a child meets the height requirement to ride an adult bicycle, exceptions can be made, but only under strict supervision of a parent or a designated adult. For further details, please contact our reservations team at reservations@aquaxpeditions.com

Is an Amazon expedition aboard Aqua Nera suitable for a honeymoon?

We believe that sailing the Amazon river on board the chic and contemporary Aqua Nera offers a unique and romantic atmosphere perfect for honeymooners. Imagine enjoying a gourmet dinner for two after a day of exploration in the jungle, sharing a bottle of champagne while watching the sun set over the world's mightiest river or waking up in your California king-sized bed as the colors of the Amazon flood through your panoramic window. For couples wishing to immerse themselves in nature while enjoying the comforts of a five-star accommodation, a once-in-a-lifetime adventure along the Amazon river is the perfect way to start life as a married couple. For more information on our special amenities for honeymooners, please contact our reservations team at reservations@aquaxpeditions.com.

Will my Aqua Nera suite be assigned in advance?

A design suite will be assigned to you when we confirm your reservation. All design suites are described and numbered in our



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Deck Plan. You may request a specific design suite depending on your preference and we will assign it if available.

Are all suites river view-facing?

Yes, all design suites on Aqua Nera have outward-facing panoramic windows with a spectacular river view. The dawn light will awaken you in the mornings, and you can check what the weather is like without leaving your suite.

Is there any difference between the lower- and upper-deck suites?

The dimensions and features of our design suites are exactly the same for both decks. The only difference is how close you will be to the river level as we sail along the Amazon River and its tributaries. The rates for second deck suites are slightly higher than those on the first deck as they are closer to the ship's social areas such as the restaurant, lounges, decks, plunge pool, and gym.

What health precautions should I take before traveling to the Amazon?

Malaria medication and yellow fever shots are not required for travelers coming into the region; however, they are recommended. Please consult your physician. All guests are required to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19.

What should I pack for my Amazon River expedition?

Life is casual aboard the Aqua Nera. Bring comfortable walking shoes, light-weight long pants and long-sleeved tops for excursions, a wide-brimmed hat, sunscreen, extra socks, mosquito repellent with DEET, and of course, your camera, with charger and extra batteries. Don't forget to include some items that you can give away to the locals (t-shirts, pens and paper are especially prized). During meals in the restaurant, we ask our guests to wear casual clothing and shoes. We provide rubber boots for wetland excursions and recommend taking comfortable walking shoes. We also provide waterproof ponchos with hoods to protect against rain. Design Suites on the Aqua Nera are equipped with 220-volt outlets. There will be hairdryers available in every suite.

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How much luggage can I bring? Are there porters available at the airport and the pier?

We allow you to bring as much luggage as you like but suggest the use of soft suitcases/bags for easy storage. Limits, however, may be determined by the airlines, which have weight restriction on both checked and carry-on baggage. Please consult your airline for baggage allowance included in your airfare. As soon as you have identified your luggage, our crew will take your suitcases to your design suite.

When is the best time of year to travel to the Amazon?

The Amazon has two seasons, the flooded (high water) and the dry (low water) season. Both offer rich rewards, fabulous sites, amazing opportunities to view plant and animal life, as well as the chance to enjoy warm weather. Two key points to remember: there will be some rainfall whichever season you choose, and you will see spectacular wildlife and plant life all year round.

The high water or flooded season runs from November through May. It is known as the summer and autumn in the Southern Hemisphere, with cooler and wet weather, the average temperature being 86 degrees Fahrenheit or 30 degrees Celsius (12 degrees cooler than the dry season). Keep in mind that the Amazon receives a little more than half of its total rainfall during this season, and that it is warm in the Amazon any time of year. There are great benefits to traveling at this time of year, perhaps the most important is the seasonal pulses which cause river-level fluctuations ranging from 13 to 23 feet. This allows for navigation of smaller rivers, creeks and lakes, ensuring more exploration of Amazonian waterways and access to plant life and wildlife areas that you might miss during the dry season. This extra rise in water levels places guests much closer to the jungle canopy, where monkeys play, and beautiful Amazon birds like to roost. Increased navigability by water however limits the areas that are usually open for walking and hiking. Fishing opportunities are also reduced during these months, but you still have close to a 50% chance to get out your rod and reel in a catch.

The dry season in Amazonia coincides with winter in the Southern Hemisphere (June to October). This is the warmer season, with temperatures averaging 98 degrees Fahrenheit. Despite its name, the dry season still receives heavy rains with the key



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difference being previously flooded trails and jungle paths are now easily accessible, allowing groups to explore deep in the jungle (accompanied by far less mosquitoes). The lower water levels means that many of the creeks and lakes that we visit during the flooded season are inaccessible. However, fishing is 100 percent guaranteed during these months, and you even stand a fair chance to catch a piranha. While you are farther from the jungle canopy, you will have the chance to see dozens of species of migratory birds in flight, something you would completely miss during the flooded season.

Will the shore excursions be physically challenging?

Guests should be in good physical health to be able to make the most of their Amazon expedition. The daily nature excursions may include walking on irregular terrain and getting in and out of the skiffs occasionally which requires some physical effort. A shore excursion can be anything from exploring remote tributaries to spotting exotic wildlife along a jungle trail, from visiting a local village to fishing on one of the Amazon's beautiful lakes. They vary in level of difficulty, but most travelers who are reasonably fit will have no trouble participating in every excursion.

Guests will be divided into four groups of up to 10 people for shore excursions, with each group led by a trained and knowledgeable naturalist guide. Guides will rotate among the groups, so that each guest can benefit from their specialized knowledge. Each evening, your naturalist guides will brief you on what to expect on the next day's excursions. Typically, we will navigate the Amazon River or one of its tributaries at night, arriving in a new location for a new adventure in the early morning. Guests opting to go on the early morning excursions will get a wakeup call at approximately 5 a.m. The Aqua Nera is equipped with four auxiliary aluminum skiffs that will take passengers along the waterways or ferry them to the landing point for onshore excursions. These comfortable skiffs are equipped with 4 stroke low-emission engines and constant radio communication with the main vessel. Each skiff has capacity for ten guests, plus guide and pilot. Excursions last three to four hours, allowing plenty of time to explore, discover the secrets of the Amazon through your naturalist guide, and photograph the abundant wildlife.

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Are we able to explore on our own instead of joining an organized shore excursion?

For safety reasons, guests are required to be with one of our naturalist guides whenever they are on land.

Do your guides cater to foreign language speaking guests on the Aqua Nera?

Our naturalist guides speak fluent English and Spanish. You can request guides speaking German, French, Italian, Japanese and Chinese. If you wish to request a specific language guide for your expedition, please let us know no less than 30 days prior departure. Do note all non-English-speaking guides are subject to availability at an additional fee, except for Spanish-speaking guides. We recommend that groups requiring any other language bring a translator, if necessary.

Which itinerary do you recommend, and why?

We offer three-, four- and seven-night itineraries. The three- and seven-night itineraries embark every Saturday and the four-night itinerary every Tuesday. Which itinerary you choose will really depend on how much time you have, and how long you want to spend exploring the Amazon region. That said, we recommend the seven-night itinerary, since you will be able to experience our complete Amazon offering. This itinerary will voyage on the Amazon River itself, as well as on two powerful tributaries: the Marañon and the Ucayali, and to hidden black water lakes.

The three-night high water season itinerary will take you from Iquitos along the Amazon River, followed by the Ucayali River and its estuaries, while the four-night low water season itinerary also starts in Iquitos, but you will be transported to Nauta by land transportation where you will board our vessel, which will explore the Marañon River and its tributaries.

For both four-night high and low water season itineraries, the voyage will begin in Iquitos where you will be transported to Nauta by land transportation. From there, you will embark Aqua Nera and explore the Ucayali River for low-water voyages, or the Marañon, the Amazon River and its tributaries for high-water voyages. The seven-night journey is the sum of the three- and four-night itineraries.



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If you wish to extend your time in Peru, we will be happy to recommend our preferred tour operators to arrange your pre- or post-expedition land packages at the time of booking.

What can I expect of an Amazon expedition aboard Aqua Nera?

An Amazonian expedition is like no other, but a voyage aboard Aqua Nera is even more special. You will be transported into a new world, where every day brings brand new discoveries as you explore remote locations, spot unusual wildlife, and meet with native Amazonians. The Aqua Nera itself is a luxurious respite from the outdoors with ample and diverse social areas and sleek, welcoming private spaces. If there are days when you choose not to go onshore for an exciting jungle expedition, you can stay onboard the Aqua Nera. Lie back on a lounge chair, breathe in the pure Amazon air, soak up the sun, read a good book, watch the ever-changing view, and simply experience total relaxation in the heart of the Amazon jungle.

What services are available onboard Aqua Nera?

Our rates include complimentary laundry service onboard. If you need to contact your home or office for any emergency, the Aqua Nera is equipped with a satellite phone. The cost of your call can be paid directly on board. We will inform you, prior to calling, of the current price of an international call. For cellular phone contact, you may need data roaming or a local sim. However, keep in mind that most areas outside Iquitos are so remote that you will be unable to get a signal. We have a Health and Safety Officer on board who also serves as a paramedic, plus first aid trained staff who can handle minor scrapes, bites or sprains. There are no handicapped facilities.

Is there WiFi available on board?

Aqua Nera offers free access to SpaceX's high-speed Starlink Satellite internet for all guests. Aqua Expeditions is the only small-ship expedition line to offer this groundbreaking technology on its voyages.

Do you have safety equipment on board?

Once all passengers have embarked, our crew will conduct a mandatory safety drill. This will help familiarize you with the vessel and safety precautions such as emergency routes from your cabin, as well as the location of life vests in your design suite and embarkation/disembarkation procedures. Life vests are also

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required to be worn while onboard the skiffs. Please consult your Cruise Director or guide regarding any questions you may have.

How should I protect myself against mosquitoes?

DEET remains the most effective repellent on the market. Look for products with at least 30 per cent (10 per cent for children) of the active ingredient, such as Ultrathon lotion. DEET should not be used on irritated skin or under clothing. For a natural alternative, you may use a citronella mosquito repellent. For non-chemical insect protection, cover up with long-sleeve shirts, long pants, and netted hats.

Do you have insect repellent and sunscreen protection available?

We provide insect repellent but recommend that you bring your own. These products will also be available for sale onboard.

How do I pay for purchases on board? Do you accept cash?

You will be asked to sign for every drink at the time of ordering so that we can keep track of any consumption of alcoholic beverages to avoid any confusion at the end of the trip. You will be able to pay your bar bill, as well as any purchases in the boutique or massage services, either in U.S. dollars or with Visa, American Express, MasterCard and JCB. For cash payments, we can accept only U.S. dollar bills in good condition. This is because torn and well-used dollar bills are not accepted at financial institutions in Peru.

Is the food onboard worthy of all its accolades? What if I have dietary requirements?

Yes, the dining experience onboard is world class. Guests aboard the Aqua Nera will enjoy an innovative menu of fresh Peruvian-continental fare. Noted Chef Pedro Miguel Schiaffino, one of Peru's top chefs, has created our gourmet menus, skillfully incorporating sustainable produce and ingredients from the Peruvian Amazon. If you have special dietary requests, you will need to inform Aqua Expeditions at the time of booking, or at least by 30 days prior to embarkation. Every effort will be made to cater to special dietary needs, and to accommodate special requests, subject to a given products' availability in Peru.

Is room service available? What if I prefer privacy during mealtimes?



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Room service is not available but will be provided in the event of guest illness. If you wish to dine discreetly or move to another table, please speak with your Cruise Director. They will make every effort to seat you with more compatible dining companions in an understated and polite manner.

Will I have access to a safe deposit box?

Yes. All cabins have safe deposit boxes with instructions for their use.

Is water aboard the Aqua Nera potable?

You cannot drink the water from the faucet. When you board the vessel, you will be supplied with a complimentary water bottle to refill throughout your journey and to keep as a souvenir from your trip. Water refill stations are available throughout the vessel.

Is motion sickness ever a problem?

Even though the main Amazon River looks more like open sea complete with some waves, the Aqua Nera will be sailing on some of the calmest waters in the world. In addition, ship stabilizers provide comfort at rest and while sailing, and advance availability of accurate weather information decreases the incidence of motion sickness.

What meals will be served on the last day of the cruise?

Breakfast will be served on your last day prior to disembarkation.

What about tipping etiquette?

We are often asked what gratuity is appropriate for guides and crew, and our response is that the quality of service should determine the amount of any tip. From experience, we recommend an amount in the range of US\$70 - US\$95 per day for the crew. Per passenger, the total tip would therefore be somewhere between US\$210 - US\$285 for the 3-night cruise, US\$280 - US\$380 for the 4-night cruise, and US\$490 - US\$665 for the 7-night cruise.

For private charters, the recommended tip ranges from 7% - 10% of the total amount paid.

Please bear in mind that this is merely a suggestion, since we believe that gratuities are a very personal matter. Tips can be

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paid by credit card or cash using the envelopes provided or the designated boxes. This will be explained in greater detail by your cruise director on board.

Are there smoking areas on the vessel?

Smoking is forbidden inside the Aqua Nera including e-cigarettes. Smoking is allowed only at the outdoor lounge and on the observation deck. If you would like to smoke at the outdoor lounge, please ask the bartender for an ashtray. We kindly ask that you do not throw your cigarette stubs or ash into the water.

What is the drinking age on the Aqua Nera?

You must be at least 18 years old to legally consume beer, wine, and other alcoholic beverages in Peru and on the Aqua Nera.

Who should I contact if I have a special request while on board?

Please contact the Cruise Director, they will be the best person to attend to your requests.

What is there to do in Iquitos?

The port city of Iquitos is the largest city the world that is unreachable by road access, with access only by river or air. It is considered the gateway to the Peruvian Amazon and the country's largest jungle town. This bustling city, complete with a house built by Gustave Eiffel, was once a rich center of the Peru's rubber industry. For itineraries during the high water season, you will tour the historic city of Iquitos on your first day before embarkation. However, you will spend very little time in Iquitos, since you will be voyaging the Amazon River and its tributaries onboard the Aqua Nera.

What is Peru's time zone?

The time zone in Peru is UTC-5:00.

What currency is used in Peru?

The sol is the official currency of Peru, however all charges aboard the Aqua Nera will be in U.S. dollars.