

NEW SPECIES EXPEDITIONS

Brazilian Amazon: the Rio Aripuanã Basin

10 days

- March 27 – April 5, 2015
- August 11 – 20, 2015

Highlights

- Join us on an utterly unique Amazon adventure. This expedition is offered by no one else.
- Travel by air-conditioned Amazon riverboat and take canoe excursions into flooded forests and along remote tributaries.
- Search for the recently discovered second smallest monkey in the world, the black-crowned dwarf marmoset – which has the smallest home range of any Amazon monkey (and perhaps any monkey in the world).
- A once in a life time opportunity to look for *at least* two suspected new Amazon species: a river dolphin, and a dwarf manatee.
- Explore pristine rainforest in a rarely-visited area of the Amazon and experience caboclo (riverside community) village life.



The entire expedition is held aboard the Amazon riverboat, the Apurissaua. All accommodation (including the last night in the Tropical Manaus Ecoresort), all travel in Brazil, and all meals aboard the Apurissaua are included in the price of the expedition. Upon [booking](#) the expedition, we'll send you additional information about travel documents, vaccinations, items to bring for the field, etc. We'll also send a DVD of a documentary featuring Marc van Roosmalen searching for the dwarf manatee on one of his earlier research expeditions.

Please see the additional information about expedition policies at the end of the itinerary.

Itinerary

DAY 1 Board the Apurissaua

Take the late afternoon transfer from Eduardo Gomes International Airport in Manaus to the Apurissaua (about 25 minutes) for dinner on board, as the sun sets over the "blackwater" Rio Negro. The Apurissaua has six air-conditioned cabins each accommodating two people, all with private toilet and shower. We will get underway that evening and travel by night towards the Rio Aripuanã Basin.



The Apurissaua

DAY 2 River voyage to the Rio Aripuanã Basin

We wake to the spectacle of motoring along the vast expanses of the Amazon River and its larger tributaries. We travel east from Manaus along the mighty Rio Amazonas and then south-west onto the huge "whitewater" Rio Madeira. Along the way we'll see giant kapok trees extending above the forest canopy, and we may well see monkeys and sloths in the flooded forest as we motor by. We'll certainly see a wide range of birds from the boat, including good chances of macaws and toucans. As we steam upriver on the Madeira, towards the town of Novo Aripuanã, we should see floating islands of vegetation detached by floods from the riverbanks. After passing the town of Novo Aripuanã we branch off due south onto the "clearwater" Rio Aripuanã. Once on the Aripuanã, we'll have travelled along all three water types of the Amazon basin: black, white and clearwater systems. Within about 2 hours from the town of Novo Aripuanã we'll arrive at our first destination – the small caboclo (people of Indigenous Brazilian and European ancestry) community of Nova Olinda sitting on the west bank of the Rio Aripuanã. We moor overnight.



DAYS 3-4 Search for the Dwarf Marmoset & explore pristine rainforest

We might be greeted at first light by the snorts of river dolphins around the boat, and it's possible that these may belong to the suspected new species of river dolphin. After breakfast, we'll meet our long-time local guide, Damião, an experienced and talented guide. Among his many skills is flawlessly imitating the calls of another species of monkey that Marc discovered, the Prince Bernhard's titi monkey, which we also have a chance of spotting.

We'll follow Damião to sites that have the best chances of turning-up the dwarf marmoset. This might involve taking short hikes along trails radiating from the village to stake out their favored "gouge trees" – the trees from which they feed on tree sap. Or, we may get lucky and see them actually enter the village looking for



Young black-crowned dwarf marmoset (*Callibella humilis*)

trees with fruits that are at just the right stage.

You'll experience something of the day to day life of a typical caboclo village. You'll learn a little about local horticulture involving the unique Amazon "black earth" (*terra preta*) and you'll also find some famous trees in the village, ones that produce some very familiar products: chocolate, coffee, Brazil nuts and papaya – to mention just a few. (If you are interested in donating school supplies to the children of the village, today would be a convenient time.)

During our stay, we'll take a longer hike into pristine rainforest. As we leave the village behind we move into rich primary rainforest where the trees become taller and the interior becomes shady. True Amazon rainforest. Damião will lead us on a long loop trail that passes a "salt lick" – an open muddy pool – that attracts animals from miles around. Here, we may set up motion-sensing trail cameras which we'll leave in place until our last day. There's an excellent chance of capturing images of a range of Amazon mammals that are extremely difficult to see in any other way. These might even include priceless evidence of one of the several suspected new species of the area. Marc will recount details of these potentially major finds. (Depending upon local reports, we may instead choose to set-up the trail cameras at our next site below.)



Cacao (source of chocolate)

DAY 5-7 Search for the new River Dolphin & Dwarf Manatee

From Nova Olinda we head back upstream to the Rio Madeira, and then upstream on the Madeira towards the Rio Mariépaua, a tributary on the south bank. If we haven't already had good views of the suspected new river dolphin, our boat and canoe trips in the clear-water wetlands of the Mariépaua Basin provide excellent opportunities. This suspected new dolphin is intermediate in size between the famous pink river dolphin and the much smaller grey dolphin, both of which we're almost certain to see.



We'll take a series of canoe sorties along these beautiful clear water lakes and streams – which with fair certainty have never been visited with a group like ours before (Marc's research expedition in 2012 could easily have been the first). The water is so clear in this pristine area you could drink it (Marc has – but officially we don't recommend it!) and you can see all the way to the bottom in places. It gets narrower and shallower as we head further into the watershed and we'll see dazzling fish darting away from the canoes.

Marc has previously temporarily detained an adult male dwarf manatee in a make-shift coral in the streambed, and collected important details about its ecology, but much more information is needed. Even if we don't sight the manatee – it is secretive and difficult to find – there will nevertheless be plenty to see. We're quite likely to spot freshwater stingrays, electric eels, a species of smaller caiman, and .. anacondas – basking on lake or stream banks. Marc has found otter dens in this area too, and these otters may represent yet another new species: a giant otter that is a little smaller, and darker, than the known species, with a different social organization. Regardless, finding any giant otters will be a coup since they are very uncommon and have a "endangered" conservation status.



A "periscoping" giant otter (*Pteronura brasiliensis*) from a previous expedition.

DAY 7-8 Return journey & Paranã do Cambixe

On our last morning in the area, we'll hike into the rainforest to collect the trail cameras and see what visited the salt-lick over the last few days. We're hoping for surprises! And these hikes always have the potential of turning up great sightings, including additional species of monkeys.



We are then on our way back towards Manaus. Along the way we plan to stop at a riverside village or town for a further taste of Amazon riverside culture, and then close to Manaus, we'll head along a waterway called Paranã do Cambixe, off the south bank of the Rio Solimões. Although less out in-the-wilds compared to where we've been, this area has a rich array of wildlife that is easily viewed, including usually large numbers of basking spectacled and black caimans. The bird life is also spectacular. With its open top-deck, the boat acts as a giant, slow moving, observation platform – allowing us to get closer to wildlife than we could on foot. This area is also a great site for the iconic, and ridiculously large, Amazon giant water lilies. We moor overnight, almost in sight of Manaus.

DAY 9 Meeting of Waters and disembark at Tropical Manaus Ecoresort

As we make our way towards Manaus in the morning, we'll pass the world-famous Meeting of Waters (Encontro das Águas). We'll pause along this abrupt boundary between the whitewater Rio Solimões and the blackwater Rio Negro (with this meeting the huge river is now called the Rio Amazonas), and Marc will tell you a little about this remarkable phenomenon – which persists for up to 4 miles downstream.

By noon we will dock at [Tropical Manaus Ecoresort](#), our starting point, where you have rooms for the night. Once you're booked-in and rested you may want to join us to explore the wonderful grounds of this landmark hotel and resort. Many species of birds are easily encountered here as are both three-toed and two-toed sloths. And two more species of monkeys are found in the grounds: the golden-headed saki (*Pithecia chrysocephala*) and the pied bare-face tamarin (*Saguinus bicolor*). The tamarin is a very distinctive monkey, and not only in coloration: it is perhaps the most endangered of all Amazon primates.



Pied bare-face tamarin (*Saguinus bicolor*).

DAY 10 Departure

Transfers to Eduardo Gomes International Airport.

Thank you for joining us. We would greatly value any feedback on the expedition.

Please note that we offer a 5% discount for taking any additional expeditions with us. We also offer a \$150 "recommendation fee" for those who have taken an expedition with us, and based upon their recommendation a person new to Ceiba Expeditions joins us for an expedition (and that person also receives a \$150 discount).

Trip extensions are available to explore the historic and dynamic city of Manaus. Please ask for details.



Teatro Amazonas (Amazon Theater).

Additional information

- **Prices, inclusions & exclusions**

All prices are in US dollars and are for double accommodation. Single occupancy, at additional cost, may at times be available (please enquire).

Prices include

Transport to and from the airport at the beginning and end of the expedition (always in the company of a guide or guides from Ceiba Expeditions); all accommodations (the boat cabins and a single night in a hotel at the end of the expedition); all meals on the boat or in the field; all transport during the expedition; all entrance fees to reserves. (*Please note:* meals following disembarking from the boat at the end of the expedition are not included, and any elected travel costs after disembarking are also not included. But a single night in a hotel at the end of the expedition is included.)

Prices do not include

International or domestic airfare and associated fees of either (domestic flights are *not* currently part of our itineraries); traveler's insurance, passport and visa, gratuities, personal items, telephone calls, alcoholic beverages, and snacks and drinks outside of meal times.

- **Booking, payments & cancellation policy**

We have a simple payment and refund policy. And we don't require a long lead-in time for deposits and payments.

A place on an expedition is confirmed upon receipt of a completed [booking form](#) (sent as an email attachment to ceibaexpeditions@gmail.com), a 50% deposit of the fee for the expedition (sent by bank wire transfer: please see the booking form), and a signed [Assumption of Risk and Liability Waiver](#) (sent by mail to 230 Kings Mall Ct. # 206, Kingston, NY 12401, USA).

The 50% balance of the fee is due 30 days prior to the first day of the expedition. There are no handling fees or proration of a refund for a cancellation, as long as the cancellation occurs greater than 30 days prior to the start date of the expedition. (All cancellations must be made by email to ceibaexpeditions@gmail.com.) Cancellations greater than 30 days to the start date of the expedition receive a 100% refund of all monies sent. However, because of outlays to suppliers, there is no refund for a cancellation made 30 days or less of the start date of the expedition. We think you will find that this is one of the most permissive payment and cancellation policies available for expeditions of this type.

- **Trip cancellation insurance and emergency medical insurance & changes in itinerary**

We strongly recommend that you purchase trip cancellation insurance (that includes emergency medical insurance) as protection against unexpected occurrence preventing you joining the expedition, or occurrences on the expedition. Medical insurance coverage is entirely the responsibility of the participant. We reserve the right to cancel an expedition if a minimum number of participants is not met to make the trip economically feasible. A cancellation prior to departure by Ceiba Expeditions will result in full refunds of all monies paid and will constitute full settlement to the participant. Because of typically very restrictive refund policies by airlines (i.e., often no refund), you may wish to wait to purchase your ticket until we contact you by around 30 days (at the latest) prior to the start date of the expedition with confirmation that the minimum number of participants is met. In the unprecedented event of needing to cancel an expedition underway due to an unforeseen and significant event, refunds will be prorated based upon the days elapsed on the expedition and this will constitute full settlement to the participant. (And for this great inconvenience we will offer a future expedition at a steeply discounted rate.) Electing to leave an expedition currently underway and proceeding will result in no refund. Expedition itineraries are open to change but every effort is made to adhere to the advertised itinerary. Emergency substitution of an expedition guide is also reserved.

- **Other**

Health requirements

For our expeditions you must be in good health. The tropics are hot and humid (!) and everyone is affected by these conditions differently. If you are a regular hiker or walker and you don't mind heat and humidity you should be fine, but if you have any doubts, please consult your doctor before the expedition. Please let us know ahead of booking if you have any concerns or questions.

Smoking

We find most expedition participants prefer a smoke-free environment. If you do smoke you are nevertheless certainly welcome on our expeditions, but we request that you are considerate of the group and avoid smoking at meals and at other times when the group is gathered. Thank you.

Finally

Once you have a confirmed place on the expedition, we'll send you additional information about accommodations, documents for travel, vaccinations, safety in the field, and clothing and personal equipment for the expedition. But of course, do feel free to contact us ahead of time with any questions you may have (by email preferably: ceibaexpeditions@gmail.com, or otherwise by phone: 215 800 0358).
