



**DELFIN**  
CRUISE THE *Amazon*

# About the Peruvian Amazon Rainforest



## The Peruvian Amazon Rainforest

### 1. Its Coverage

The Peruvian Amazon covers 60% of the country yet only about 5% of its population lives here.

### 2. Its Biodiversity

The Amazon is home to more species of plants and animals than any other terrestrial ecosystem on the planet. Its biodiversity is astounding; a single bush in the Amazon may have more species of ants than the entire British Isles, while a lone hectare of forest may have more than 480 species of trees. The Peruvian Amazon has the largest number of bird species in the world and the 3rd largest number of mammals.

## The Amazon River

### 1. Its Name

The Amazon Rainforest gets its name from the Amazon River, the life force of the Amazonias region. It meets the Atlantic Ocean at Belem du Para in Brasil.

### 2. Its Length

The principle Amazon River is about 6,440 kilometers (4,080 miles) long and accounts for 1/5 of the total world's river flow to the ocean.

### 3. Its Distribution

28 billion gallons of the Amazon's waters flow into the Atlantic Ocean every minute, diluting the salinity of the ocean for more than 100 miles offshore. During the high water season, 500 billion cubic feet of water flow into the Atlantic Ocean every day. To put this into perspective, its discharge into the Atlantic during this time is enough to supply New York City's fresh water needs for 9 years!

### 4. Its Volume

The Amazon carries more volume of water than the top 10 largest rivers flowing into the Atlantic Ocean combined. It carries 5 times more volume of water than the Congo River in Central Africa, and 12 times more than the Mississippi River in the USA.

### 5. Its Depth

The river's deepest point is near the Atlantic Ocean where it reaches about 37 meters (121 feet).

### 6. Its Sources

The Amazon River has over 1,100 tributaries, with 17 of them almost 1,000 miles long.

### 7. Its Color

The Amazon's rivers carries tons of suspended sediment all the way through the Andes which is what gives the water a muddy white water appearance.

## The Pacaya Samiria National Reserve

### 1. Its Name

The name Pacaya Samiria comes from the names of river basins that can be found within: the Pacaya River basin, the Samiria River basin, and the Yanayacu-Pucate River basin.

### 2. Its Classification

Although the reserve is located within the tropical Amazon Rainforest, its nature functions more like a flooded forest.

### 3. Its Biodiversity

Within the the Pacaya Samiria National Reserve alone (as opposed to the entire Peruvian Amazon), there can be found 132 types of mammals, 527 types of birds, 120 types of reptiles, 250 types of fishes, and 1024 types of wild and cultivated plants grouped in 118 families including 22 types of orchids.

### 4. Its People

Amazonia's native populations have lived in the tropics for thousands of years. Their lifestyle and culture is well adapted to the environment they inhabit. And quite the contrary to some beliefs, their survival methods do not affect the environment. Their daily life comprises of methods of survival such as fishing, small scale agriculture, hunting, and gathering.