

Workshops and Pricing



Wildlife photography workshops and tours in some of the most untamed and least explored corners of the Planet. Our team of professional photography and logistics leaders, in collaboration with wildlife biologists and local nature conservation groups, will share with you the secrets to creating memorable images of wild nature, jaw-dropping landscapes and living cultures

(Improve Your Nature Photography Skills)

Rainforest Macro Photography Workshop



About the Workshop

Based in the Peruvian Amazon region of Madre de Dios, this 11-day workshop will take you through the tried and tested techniques used by photographers to showcase the small end of the natural world in the humid tropics. We will fine focus in natural and flash-based lighting conditions on insects, plants, reptiles, amphibians, and birds, with the aim of safely and respectfully capturing unique and detailed imagery of exotic species at the centimetre and millimetre level.

US\$3,500

What's included in the package

Lodging

The workshop will take place primarily at two deep jungle lodge locations, with accommodation in twin rooms with shared bathroom facilities. A qualified chef will provide nourishing meals, catering to all dietary requirements. Electricity from solar panels and/or generators is available for charging camera equipment



Equipment and software

Canon macro lenses (EFS 60 mm, EFS 100 mm), ring flashes, tripods, and lightbox equipment will be available for participants to use, at no extra cost. The image editing software that participants will learn to use, include: Helicon Focus, Lightroom, and Photoshop. Participants will cooperate with wildlife researchers in finding macro subjects during daytime and night time searches. Hennessy hammocks are also supplied for those intrepid enough to want to spend a night out under the rainforest canopy.

Workshop Map Routes

The workshop will start and end in the jungle town of Puerto Maldonado, the capital of the Madre de Dios region in south-eastern Peru. From here the route takes us by 4x4 all-terrain vehicle to the Las Piedras River, where our boat will then take us upriver to the Amazon Rainforest Conservation Center (ARCC) for the first phase of the workshop, with the Soledad Lake and tree canopy habitats offering great photographic opportunities. The second stage will take place at the rustic Las Piedras Biodiversity Station.

Day 1

Arrive in Puerto Maldonado and transfer to our hotel overlooking the Madre de Dios River. Our workshop leaders will lead a welcome talk and orientation session for participants to help everyone get used to their new surroundings and prepare them for the exciting journey and scheduled activities ahead. We will take a guided walk around the streets of this jungle town, the Biodiversity Capital of Peru no less, with chances to photograph the colourful market area, the thousands of tut-tut taxis, views across the Tambopata and Madre de Dios Rivers, and general street life in this hectic town. After a dinner of typical cuisine, we will turn in early - as we'll need to be up early the next morning to begin our travels into the deep Amazon. Night in Puerto Maldonado.

Day 2

Up early. After breakfast we will jump on our mini-bus for the 3-hour journey to the small settlement of Lucerna, located on the banks of the Las Piedras River, the longest river in the Madre de Dios department. Here, a boat will be waiting to whisk us upriver for a further 3 hours to the first of the two jungle lodges we will visit, the Amazon Rainforest and Conservation Center (ARCC). On route we will stop off to photograph waterfalls, eat our box lunch, and with luck focus our lenses on caiman, capybara, side-neck turtles, and other riverine wildlife. On arrival, we will be shown to our rooms overlooking the Soledad Lake, after which we will congregate in the main dining room for an introductory talk about the lodge, the lake, and planned activities. The first will be an afternoon lake excursion on a catamaran, followed by a short walk on one of the forest trails that borders the lake. During the walk we will set up a handful of camera traps, which we will pick up and review on Day 6. These are used to document the high species diversity at the site. Expect to see images and video of jaguar, tapir, deer, peccaries, trumpeters, and much more besides. Night at ARCC.



Day 3

After breakfast we will begin our first macro photography tutorial, with theory and practical sessions led by the team of professional photographers. This will introduce the basic principles and techniques that everyone will need to quickly master, with an emphasis on equipment set-up (e.g. tripod manipulation), lighting (natural vs. artificial), focusing, and safe-and-respectful handling of animal and plant subjects. After lunch we will go through the imagery we took and the leaders will give their expert feedback and recommendations on how to improve - with demonstrations as required. We will then go back out into the forest and practice what we have learnt. Before and after dinner we will participate in our first image processing learning session, where our leaders will show us how to use the main software products that we will be using during the workshop. After dinner there will be a scheduled night walk during which the nocturnal photography tutorial will be taught. Some interesting insects will be taken back to the lodge and correctly stored for tomorrow's morning macro session. After an activity-packed day, we will be glad to get to bed. Night at ARCC.

Day 4

The morning activity will involve an introduction to using Lightbox technology, a technique which is frequently used in commercial and scientific macro photography where the objective is to draw attention just to the subject matter and eliminate background distractions. We will use insects kept over from last-night's walk as our subject matter for this tutorial. With participants split into two groups, we will practice using the two lightbox set-ups in the lodge's dining room, as well as the photo editing software learnt the day before. Once again, the leaders will provide critical feedback throughout. After lunch, there will be an opportunity to ascend to the canopy platform to marvel at the expanse of forest reaching the horizon and looking down onto the surface of the lake below. Once again, a night walk will be taken with macro lenses and flashes at the ready to capture close-ups of sleeping butterflies, katydids, tree frogs, tarantulas, and so forth. Night at ARCC.

Day 5

Today we will head out on a small adventure, with cameras always at the ready. We will hike light the 5 km-long trail to the Huascar River, our heavier equipment and lunch having made the trip before us by boat. At and around the small camp on the banks of the river we will search out



more macro subjects. Tree trunks here will be the place to find lizards, stingless bee colonies, and a variety of cicada species. After lunch we will take a refreshing swim in the river. We will then hop into the boat and float down the river in silence, with outboard motor switched off, with eyes peeled for wildlife. Once we reach the mouth of the river, we will head back up to the lodge, stopping briefly on a white, sandy beach in search of multi-coloured tiger beetles. We will be protecting our equipment whilst on this river trip using numerous air-tight Pelican cases. Back at the lodge we will begin our image editing process, in readiness for image presentation and critique session after dinner. Night at ARCC.

Day 6

Now that we know the area around the lodge quite well, we will have the whole day to concentrate on the macro subjects of our choice, with the leaders available to provide one-on-one assistance when required. To find our ideal subjects, we can walk the trails, use the catamaran and canoes on the lake, climb to the canopy platform, walk along nearby beaches, and reserve time on one of the Lightboxes. Leave enough time to edit your best shots, as these will be presented after dinner, along with the camera trap footage that the leaders will have readied for this event. A night time excursion on the lake will close out our last day at ARCC. Night at ARCC.

Day 7

After breakfast we will pack up, say our goodbyes, and head back to the boat with all our equipment for the 2-hr journey downriver to our next location - the Las Piedras Biodiversity Station, a research station catering to biologists, adventure travellers, and photographers like ourselves. On arrival we will meet the resident researchers and be shown around our new, rustic home. Having settled in, we will head out for an afternoon excursion to get to know the lay-out of the trail network. After dinner, the leaders will present the main activities and objectives to be reached at this location. For the really intrepid amongst us, we have the option of setting up Hennessy hammocks in the forest in readiness for tomorrow morning's first activity. Night at PIE.

Day 8

Up before dawn, and with a cup of coffee in hand, we will get into place on the bank of the Las Piedras River opposite a parrot and macaw clay-lick, an area of exposed, salt-rich clay on a bluff



(cliff) overlooking the river that attracts salt-starved birds and other animals on most mornings. Having captured sufficient images and video of this colourful yet noisy Amazonian spectacle, we will head quietly back to the lodge for a late breakfast. After breakfast we will head back out to site our camera traps, some at the local mammal clay-lick and some overlooking the parrot and macaw clay-lick (the birds having moved off by this time). Whilst at the parrot and macaw clay-lick we will try and pick up some colourful feathers for some macro work later. On the way back for lunch, we will stop off for some macro action in a swamp, where ferns, dragonflies, frogs, spiders and their webs, and many other creatures hang out. In the afternoon, we will cool down with a swim under a waterfall, and return by boat in search of capybara. After dinner there will be an opportunity to return to a swamp neighbouring the one we visited earlier, with the aim of some close-focusing on caiman and snakes. Night at PIE.

Day 9

Now that we know the trail network well, we will be free to wander, almost where we please, in pursuit of our favourite macro shot. We can also tag along with the resident researchers, for instance if close-ups of birds is what you are after. Researchers regularly capture birds in mist nets for short periods as part of population monitoring projects. As before, we will get assistance as required from our leaders, and towards the end of the day we will evaluate and appraise each other's work. After dinner we will gather for a drink around a small bonfire on the beach as part of our slow farewell to the Las Piedras River, as tomorrow we head back to the city. Night at PIE.

Day 10

After breakfast we will load up the boat once again, say our goodbyes, and then head down river to our awaiting mini-bus - which will take us back to our hotel in Puerto Maldonado. Here there will be an opportunity for more image editing before the leaders collect up the imagery that participants want to share on the workshop's Dropbox folder. We will join the leaders at a good restaurant in town for a goodbye meal and prize-giving ceremony. Night in Puerto Maldonado.



Day 11

Breakfast, followed by goodbyes and transfer to the Puerto Maldonado airport. End of workshop!

High Andes to Machu Picchu Tour



About the Workshop

Accompanied by our experienced team of photographers and biologists, this tour starts in the Peruvian Andes gateway city of Cusco and proceeds to snow-covered peaks, Alpaca-dominated *puna* grasslands and highland lakes or *cochas*, down through orchid- and tanager-rich cloud forests, with a fantastic finale of two full days among the archaeological and landscape wonders of Machu Picchu

US\$6,000

What's included in the package

Lodging

The workshop will use 3-Star and 4-star hotels in Cusco, Ollantaytambo, and Aguas Calientes (aka Machu picchu village), and a well catered for rural Homestay or Lodge in the cloud forest area of Santa Teresa, with accommodation in twin rooms with en suite bathroom facilities. Qualified chefs will prepare our meals and all dietary preferences are catered for. Electricity from solar panels and/or generators will be available for charging camera equipment when required.



Equipment and software

Canon macro lenses (EFS 60 mm, EFS 100 mm), ring flashes, tripods, and lightbox equipment will be available for participants to use, free of charge. The image editing software that participants will learn to use, includes: Helicon Focus, Lightroom, and Photoshop. A small selection of dry bags and carry cases for all this equipment will keep things dry.

Workshop Map Routes

The tour will start and end in the Andean city of Cusco, located a short 1-hour flight from Lima. Having visited some of the locations within and overlooking the city, the team will transfer to the ancient Inca fort town of Ollantaytambo on the banks of the Vilcanota River in the Sacred Valley of the Incas, with a detour to the Maras Moray area to image the impressive agricultural terracing. After thoroughly covering the main archaeological sites and side valleys in and around Ollantaytambo, we will head off up into the mountains, make our way over a high Andean pass, and then slowly descend through elfin and cloud forest to the Santa Teresa area, where we will stay for several days. The finale to our tour will be two full days exploring and photographing the wonders in and around the Inca citadel of Machu picchu.

Day 1

Arrive in Cusco and transfer to a 3 Star hotel (4 Star optional). Afternoon excursion around the historic central plaza, with a unique opportunity to image the area from interesting vantage points - including near the bell tower of one of the cathedrals. We will call in and visit a local family within two blocks of the plaza, who will serve us a healthy cup of steaming coca tea to help us acclimatise to the thinner air at this altitude (11,000 feet), after which we will taste a variety of delicious Peruvian coffee and chocolate options, the raw materials of which we will see and pick straight from the tree later in the tour. After dinner, there will be a chance to view some of the images we have taken earlier, and to receive feedback from our workshop leaders to help us improve our technique. We recommend an early night, but for those interested there is the opportunity to attend a colourful, cultural dance show in a local theatre (US\$30, not included). We recommend participants do not eat too much (or consume alcohol) on this first day, as part of a normal altitude acclimatisation process. Night in Cusco.

Day 2

After breakfast we will attend a formal presentation by our workshop leaders where we will be updated on the activities planned for each day, the route we will take, the recommended photo-



graphic themes to focus on during each leg of the journey, the vehicles at our disposal, the accommodation arrangements for each night, and the scheduled periods for the leaders to provide tips and recommendations that will help us take the best possible images during your time in Peru. After the presentation, and with camera gear ready, we will board our private minibus for a 45-minute trip to a spectacular vantage point on a mountainside from where we will have a bird's eye view of the city and also of the Vilcanota River winding its way along the base of the Sacred Valley, a perfect place for our first "mountain landscapes" learning session. Having explored the photography opportunities here, eaten a high-altitude box lunch, we will return to Cusco via the Huacarpay Lake, with the aim of catching sight of waterbirds and imaging lake scenes. After a short rest at the hotel we will head out for a late afternoon excursion of the Sacsayhuaman fort above the plaza, a place of giant stones and friendly llamas. We will take the minibus back down to the hotel, in time for an early dinner, followed by the usual image appraisal and editing session. Night in Cusco.

Day 3

After an early breakfast, and with most of the city still asleep, we will take our mini-bus and wind our way out of the Cusco valley and head across the Chincheros plain to the Sacred Valley of the Incas. On route we will spend a couple of hours exploring two unique and picturesque places, Moray (circular agricultural stone terracing) and Maras (salt ponds). We will lunch in Urubamba, overlooking the upper Vilcanota River, before continuing on to our hotel near the small town of Ollantaytambo. To take advantage of the late afternoon light and clean air, we will head to the upper terraces of the nearby Inca-built fort and train our lenses on the spectacular rock terracing and the landscapes below us - dominated by distant fields of maize and quinoa, riparian trees lined along the riverbanks, and groups of stone houses and domestic animal enclosures that denote the hamlets and farms of the area. Night in Ollantaytambo.

Day 4

After breakfast we will head a little down the valley, beyond the town center, before heading up one of the smaller side valleys. This is dominated by small, clear-water brooks fed by melt water from the snow-capped mountains up above. With a boxed lunch in hand we will have the freedom to walk as far or as short a distance up the valley as we like. Huge agave cacti, fields of



multi-coloured quinoa, maize and barley, grazing livestock, and Andean birdlife will parade before us. The further up the valley we go, the more wild and steep the terrain, ending in rocky scree slopes that lead right up to the snowline of the mountains that make up the Veronica Main-tain Range. We will see how far up we get! We will return to our hotel in Ollantaytambo for a well-earned rest, food to remember, and a leader-run image processing session. Night in Ollantaytambo.

Day 5

With a GoPro strapped to the front of the minibus, a destination in the valley way below us but with a high Andean pass to cross in order to get there, we will head up a side valley on a good road towards the Abra Malaga pass at a height of 4100 m (XX ft), stopping briefly at some Inca terracing and a search for the White-capped dipper and Torrent ducks in a nearby stream. From the pass, on a clear day, the view through our lenses will be dominated by snow, ice, rock, tufts of Puna grass, and isolated Alpaca enclosures made from stone. Some of the peaks rising in front of us reach heights of 5,800 m. A walk around the pass area will reveal ponds and small swamps where Andean waterfowl congregate. The twisty road now descends into the warm humid cloud-forest, and through fields of shade-coffee and tea – both of which we'll be picking, smelling, and tasting by the end of the day. Where the road hits the Vilcanota River once again we will turn a sharp left onto a bumpy dirt road and head up through a gorge, just beyond which we will de-scent to the banks of the river where we will find the charming and homely Yellow River Lodge (aka Quellomayo in the local Quechua language), an adorable homestay run by a British-Peru-uvian couple and their family. Over plates, bowls, and mugs of real, organic home-cooked cuisine, including home-roasted coffee that comes from the garden beyond the window and home-pressed juice from the trees that shade your room we will quickly relax into our new surround-ings. After our customary photo review at the end of the day, we will fall asleep to the gentle roar of the Vilcanota River as it rushes over an army of multi-coloured boulders. Night at Yellow River Lodge.

Day 6

With the proprietor of Yellow River as our guide, we will be shown around the family's impres-sive landholdings, including coffee, banana, pineapple, avocado, mango, and cacao plantations, which are teeming with other plants and birdlife. After this we will head down to the river, walk



among massive river-sculpted boulders, and then cross the river on a quaint, wooden suspension bridge with the objective of capturing images of the raging white water from above, the gorge we saw the day before, hummingbirds, flocking parrots, and flowering bromeliads. After lunch, we will be free to explore the area at our own leisure, promising to be back by dinner time to show everyone your day's work. Night at Yellow River Lodge.

Day 7

After an early breakfast we will board our minibus for a 30-min drive to the headwaters of the nearby Quellomayo stream, an area of relatively untouched montane forest, replete with waterfalls, orchids, butterflies, mossy embankments and outpourings of ferns and hanging tree-lichens. Tropical montane forest landscape photography is the name of the game today, so wide-angles at the ready. But have the telephoto handy in case you spot a Mountain tanager or three! Our box lunch will be eaten beside the upper Quellomayo stream, after which we will head to the hot-springs of Cocalmayo for a well-earned soak in warm volcanic waters. On the return road to Quellomayo, we will stop off at a viewpoint to capture images of the Vilcanota River valley in the slanted, late afternoon light. Dinner will be served around a communal BBQ area lit by a warm outdoor fire. Night at Yellow River Lodge.

Day 8

This morning we will take our faithful mini-bus to the end of the railway line, 2hrs away and a little beyond the small town of Santa Teresa, for the subsequent short ride to the village of Aguas Calientes, the gateway to the Machu Picchu citadel, where we will find and settle in to our impressive hotel. The afternoon will be spent readying our gear for the two days to be spent up at one of the New Seven Wonders of the World, with time also set aside to tour the hotel's remarkable orchid garden. A large buffet dinner will be served, after which we will check that everyone's equipment is ready and all batteries well charged, before we turn in early for bed. Night in Aguas Calientes.

Day 9

We will awake before dawn, eat a hearty breakfast, don our backpacks full of camera gear, grab our maps of the trail network in and around the ruins, and head out to catch one of the many minibuses which will take us to the very door of the citadel (a 20-min journey along a very windy



road that ascends the mountain). Once through the gates, we will head to our central meeting point before commencing our introductory tour of the ruins with our registered guide-for-the-morning. Those of us signed up for the climb up to the top of the Wayna Picchu rock will head off for this 3-hr adventure, while the rest of us will ascend the less inclined Inca trail towards the sun-gate to the south of the ruins. From both of these vantage points, spectacular panoramic views of the ruins will be our prize. Along route there will be innumerable focal subjects, including chinchillas, giant hummingbirds, begonias, llamas, caracaras, orchids, cloudscapes, and much more besides. Having met up once again for lunch in the Ruinas Hotel & Restaurant that borders the ruins, followed by an image-critique and problem solving session, we will head back to the ruins as a group to a half dozen pre-identified locations. Here the leaders will continue to teach composition, metering, Gigapan, and other techniques that will help us improve our digital photography skills. By sundown, we will be heading back to the minibus for the return journey to the hotel, and a well-earned meal, followed by a useful image editing session. Night in Aguas Calientes.

Day 10

Much like Day 9, but each of us can decide which parts of the ruins to concentrate on not forgetting the outlying areas and hidden corners that are full of photo, depending on our specific interests - just do not get lost, do not fall off a cliff, and do not get spat at by the resident llamas - it is difficult to clean llama spit from a lens! Back at our hotel, and after our last Machu Picchu dinner, the leaders will begin collecting participant's donated images and videos for upload to the workshop's Dropbox folder - an easy way for us all to share our images for your video of our experience. Night in Aguas Calientes.

Day 11

After breakfast we will catch the train back to Ollantaytambo, where our minibus will whisk us back to Cusco, with a sightseeing and optional handicraft purchase stop at Pisac en route. We have a special end-of-workshop event at our hotel, before we turn in for our final night at high altitude. Night in Cusco.



Day 12

After a leisurely breakfast, we will say our goodbyes, and board our transfer taxi to the Cusco airport. End of workshop!

Deep Amazon Expedition Photography



About the Workshop

Based in the Peruvian Amazon region of Madre de Dios, this 13-day tough-but-exciting expedition and wilderness photography experience will take its intrepid participants to a little visited corner of the forest where wildlife is still bountiful. Accommodation will be mainly in Hennessy hammocks under full forest canopy; the team will carry its own equipment and most of its own food into the jungle, with only a few scheduled resupply drops; the expedition chef will require assistance from time to time when it comes to preparing food; toilets will be au naturel and bathing will be in rivers and streams; close encounters with wildlife will happen; and plenty of insect repellent is recommended. This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, very much away from day-to-day comforts, to get your camera into a completely new and inspiring, if tough, wilderness location where jaguars and anacondas still roam free and unmolested by humans. This expedition is for those people of strong mind and body.

US\$2,800

What's included in the package

Lodging

This expedition will use hotels in Puerto Maldonado and a jungle research station for only four nights. The rest of the time expedition participants will be sleeping in Hennessy hammocks (supplied by Untamed Photography) or their own tents. During all phases, including camping, we



will have food prepared for us by an experienced local chef, though assistance with food preparation may be required at times. Electricity from solar panels and/or generators will be available for charging camera equipment. Electricity from solar panels and/or generators will be available for charging camera equipment.

Equipment

Canon macro lenses (EFS 60 mm, EFS 100 mm), ring flashes, tripods, and lightbox equipment will be available for participants to use, free of charge. A small selection of dry bags and carry cases for all this equipment will keep things dry. Hennessy hammocks are also supplied for the expedition.

Workshop Map Routes

The workshop will start and end in the jungle town of Puerto Maldonado, the capital of the Madre de Dios region in south-eastern Peru. From here the route takes us by motorised dug-out canoe up the Las Piedras River to the mouth of the Loboyoc Stream where we will establish the first of our four expedition camps. During the eight days of camping we will be exploring flood-plain forest, mammal clay-licks, Brazil-nut forest, small oxbow lakes, stream-side habitats, and swamps. On Day 10 we will make our own balsa rafts on the banks of the main river, and travel downstream to the Las Piedras Biodiversity Station. Here we will recover our strength and composure before returning to Puerto Maldonado.

Day 1

Arrive in Puerto Maldonado and transfer to our hotel overlooking the Madre de Dios River. Our expedition leaders will lead a team talk to help orientate new members and get everyone emotionally prepared for the journey that awaits. We will take a guided walk around the streets of this hectic jungle-frontier town, the Biodiversity Capital of Peru no less, with the aim of buying last-minute supplies and to photograph the colourful streets and inhabitants. After a dinner of typical fayre, we will turn in early - as we'll need to be up early the next morning to begin our journey into the deep Amazon. Night in hotel in Puerto Maldonado.

Day 2

We will be woken early for breakfast, and having packed our 4x4 vehicles we will head off on a short 1-hr journey to the port settlement of Sabaluyo on the Las Piedras River, where our boat will be waiting. Having taken the GoPros off the exterior of the vehicles, we will attach these to the boat to help record our journey upriver. Having transferred everything else to the boat, we will head slowly upriver for 3-4 hours until we reach the trail-head that we will later follow,



marked by a clear-water stream that enters the main river at this place. We will disembark all the equipment and food supplies and walk these the 200 m to the first camp site. Our leaders will demonstrate the tricks for setting up the Hennessy hammocks, after which we will set up our own personal sleeping and equipment storage sites, whilst the rest of the team set up the electric charging area, the kitchen area, and cut a path to the stream that we will use for bathing. Our deep Amazon expedition is certainly well underway! Night in Hennessy hammock at Camp 1.

Day 3

After breakfast, we will head out with our leaders in search of wildlife subjects to photograph. These may be found in swamps, stream banks, bamboo thickets, half way up giant fig trees, or even below the hammock you slept in last night. One or two of us will have a GoPro attached to ourselves, to record those embarrassing moments and other slip ups, not to mention the wildlife as it bounds away ahead of us. We will be back at camp for meals, but we expect to be pretty active getting our shots and getting pretty dirty in the process. We will have the freedom to improvise as much as we like, with the aim of impressing our fellow team members at the end-of-day photo sharing session around the campfire. Night in Hennessy hammock at Camp 1.

Day 4

We will be up early today, as after breakfast we will be packing up and hiking out of the flood-plain forest and up onto the expansive terra firme forest, where giant Brazil nut trees rule the scenery. We will be searching for a few small isolated lakes, near to which we will pitch our second camp. We may or may not find these before lunchtime, so a box lunch will be provided just in case. We will have a few hours before nightfall to explore the area in readiness for the photography sessions tomorrow. We will now be quicker at setting up our hammocks and personal spaces, including the tricks to keep the ants off, which equates to more time for exploration photography. Night in Hennessy hammock at Camp 2.

Day 5

Full day in and around the lakes, nearby stream, and steeper forest slopes to be found in this area. If we find big mounds of freshly moved earth, it's probably a foraging spot for Giant armadillos - so we'll need to get a camera trap or two up and ready for tonight. Plant stems poking through



the surface of one of the lakes will be a perfect place to focus on darting dragonflies, robber flies, and maybe even one of the many water spiders. We also won't forget to search the shallow, dead leaf-filled edges of the lakes, as here we may find adult Giant water beetles, an insect to be reckoned with, as it has pincer-like forelegs that even Tailless whip scorpions would be proud of! If we don't get lucky with these, then a white-light at night may do the trick, as well as attracting a myriad of other invertebrates (moths, mantids, cicadas) within macro range. We will eat our meals around a campfire, and we'll taste wild Brazil nuts collected earlier off the forest floor. If we collect enough of these nuts, we could later pile a few up and train a camera trap on them, as sooner or later an agouti, paca or red squirrel will try and scatter hoard them. For those of us with strength still remaining, a night walk around the nearest water bodies should yield a few Dwarf caiman specimens, which can be approached closely with the aid of a powerful flashlight. Night in Hennessy hammock at Camp 2.

Day 6

After we break camp once again we will head south-east in search of a clear-water stream. Once we reach it we will follow it upstream a little before making our next camp. The further into the deep Amazon we go, particularly during the dry season, the more precious does water become. Not only will we take advantage of the water's clarity to fill our water-bottles (not forgetting to add our purification tablet nonetheless), but this water course will attract wildlife to it throughout the day and night. The secret is stealth and reading the signs. At places we will notice animal paths crossing the stream, or fallen logs across the stream that are surefire routes used by big cats and Short-eared dogs. If we find crabs or small freshwater crayfish in the stream, that means there is a good chance that Crab-eating raccoons, Water opossums and Grison will be present - rare species in their own right and a splendid photographic prize if we are patient enough to wait for them to appear. Night in Hennessy hammock at Camp 3.

Day 7

Having rolled out of the Hennessies, we will have a full day of photography activities at this location, where sitting tight for an hour or so at a handful of well-picked locations should pay off. We will also collect our urine in bottles today, mix it with the juice of rotting fruit, and later on strategically place a few drops of the concoction on low hanging leaves and fallen tree trunks, virtually the only means of attracting down from the canopy some of the flying jewels - namely



leaf-shaped butterflies. The expedition leaders and local camp hands will share with us these and other tricks that should help us get the shots of the animals and plants we each want. We will certainly be quite used by now to the rough conditions, covered in sweat most of the time, and the sound of mosquitoes and stingless bees will not be quite so off-putting as when we first started the trek. Capturing these physical human expedition conditions will now be possible, including themes such as expedition cooking, expedition medicine, expedition camping, expedition bathing, and so forth. Don't forget that sweaty, face-bitten selfies to show the family. We might be able to eat our ration of chocolate around the fire tonight, unless we already went through our supplier earlier! Night in Hennessy hammock at Camp 3.

Day 8

We will break camp early once again, download the camera trap footage for later analysis, and with packs weighing us down we will trek upwards to find the very source of the stream we have been following, a journey that might take us 4-5 hours at the very least. We will likely pass giant webs of social spider colonies, which will deserve a few moments of our time as we rehydrate. If we find any recently fallen tree giants, we will make an effort to scramble through the broken debris in search of flowering orchids. Most of the orchids down here in the lowland rainforest grow on the upper side of thick branches thirty metres above the forest floor, where light levels are highest. Tree fall gaps also provide plenty of light, so we probably won't need to use our flash equipment in these instances. Once we've settled on an appropriate camp site, we will head off to find water - which by now will be scarce, as the stream will be but a trickle at most, unless we have been lucky and we've been able to collect rainwater from our Hennessy hammock sheeting. In this part of the forest, the two sources of clean drinkable water are Guadua bamboo stems and sections of certain types of liana. Night in Hennessy hammock at Camp 4.

Day 9

Whole day spent exploring this area, which will likely be dominated by yet more giant Brazil nut, Ironwood and Fig trees. If we find a mammal clay-lick within a mile or so of camp we will stake it out with camera traps, and if possible build a makeshift platform in a tree overlooking the clay-lick and man it all night armed with a telephoto and powerful directed flash in the hope of getting images of tapir, peccaries, brocket deer, and other nocturnal creatures. Night in Hennessy hammock at Camp 4.



Day 10

Today, having broken camp, we will travel gently downhill heading to one of the bends in the Las Piedras River, way upriver from our starting location. On reaching the river we will all cooperate, with machetes and knives in hand, in making a handful of balsa rafts. This process, which we will photograph and film at the same time, will take a couple of hours, after which we will lash our equipment to it and with two people per raft, and each with a long pole for punting and steering purposes, we will navigate together the waters of the La Piedras down to civilization - the Las Piedras Biodiversity Station. We will have our trusty and rugged set of GoPros to record this trip, which could take around 3 hours depending on the speed of the water at the time. On arrival at the Station we will be welcomed to our comparatively luxurious new quarters, and share a well-earned beer or two with the staff and resident biologists. Here we can begin reviewing in earnest the imagery taken over the last week and a half, and share it with colleagues and others. Night at Las Piedras Biodiversity Station.

Day 11

We will have the whole day to relax at the Station, with opportunities to splash and swim under a waterfall that spills majestically into the Las Piedras River. We will gorge ourselves on the excellent food provided, and generally recuperate from our expedition experience (including sleeping on proper mattresses), in readiness for our return tomorrow to Puerto Maldonado. If we have been unlucky enough to have been impregnated with botfly larvae, this will be the time to begin extracting them. Night at Las Piedras Biodiversity Station.

Day 12

After a leisurely breakfast, the staff will help us take all the equipment and bags down to the boat, and once everyone is onboard and ready we will commence our return to true civilisation. On arrival in Puerto Maldonado, we will check back into the same hotel. We will meet up in a good restaurant to have our end-of-expedition meal and to reminisce on what we have been through and achieved. The leaders will then request a dozen or so images from each of us, and along with the imagery they took during the journey, upload all this to the expedition's Dropbox, so that when we all get home we can download and keep a permanent record from each of our



perspectives of this fascinating if tough Amazon expedition experience. Night in hotel in Puerto Maldonado.

Day 13

After breakfast we will say our goodbyes and board our taxi for the short ride to the Puerto Maldonado airport. End of expedition!



To Come – Pantanal Wildlife Photographic Expedition

Set in the biggest fresh water source on earth, Untamed Photography is working hard on a photographic expedition/workshop that will get you close and personal to Jaguar, Capybara, Tapir, Caiman and other species that inhabit the Brazilian Pantanal, the worlds largest tropical wetland area. As in all our workshops we will go through photographic skills and techniques to improve your every shot. For those seeking extra adventure clients will also have the chance to get close and personal to Brazils slithery giant, the Green Anaconda where wading through the wetlands with your camera equipment is an unforgettable and unique experience.

To Come - Deep Amazonian Rafting Expedition

Heading deep into the heart of the Peruvian Amazonian Rainforest, Untamed Photography is excited to announce and provide a unique experience that also includes adventure and exploration. Beginning our journey in Puerto Maldonado, a small gold mining city, we are transported for two days by motor vehicle upstream of the Las Piedras River where we will be camping and at our destination given the rare opportunity to build a large balsa tree raft from scratch. With our equipment on board, utilising the current we paddle down stream, returning to Puerto Maldonado over a number of days. En route our stealth enables fabulous opportunities for viewing jaguar, puma and anything that the vast jungle has to offer in this remote location. On our return journey down stream, combined with photographic tuition we will spend two days at each stop off and will have the opportunity to learn the ways of the native people of the river.

To Come – Yasuni Insect Photographic Workshop

Set in the heart of the Yasuni National Park in Ecuador, Untamed Photography is currently planning an entomologically based photographic workshop. Our journey begins in Coca west of the National Park with transportation to our accommodation at the Yasuni Research Station. Here staff will educate clients on the areas flora and fauna together with the threats posed by the local intrusion and development of the oil industry. As in all our workshops as your days with us progress, your photographic techniques will too creating rewarding portfolios to be proud of and share with friends. Our plans are also to enable clients to be included in cultural events with the local people, increasing knowledge and understanding of the Yasuni region and the threats posed by Western development to this lush forest.