

SWALLOWS and AMAZONS

A River and Rainforest Tour Company

INTRODUCTION

Thank you for your enquiry about a Negro River and Amazon Rainforest tour. **Swallows and Amazons**, operated by Tania and Mark Aitchison, is prepared to organize an Amazon adventure tour for you when you visit the historic city of Manaus, Brazil. **Swallows and Amazons** has been operating authentic and adventurous Negro River and Amazon Rainforest tours since 1992. No other company has the contacts **Swallows and Amazons** have, and none offer such a variety of exciting and competitively priced tour programs here in Amazonia.

In the Amazon the weather is always changing and there are special things to see and do at different times of the year. Normally the rainy season from January to July is best for boat travel and canoeing- the weather is cloudy and cool, and there are short rain showers each day. The dry season between August and December may be hotter but this is a good time for trekking and fishing, and there are beautiful white sand beaches along the Negro River to enjoy. Whatever time of year you visit there is always lots to see and do in Amazonia. **Swallows and Amazons** is here to help travelers see the most of this wonderful world.

Following these introductory remarks you will find: a press release describing our Houseboat tours, a per item/per day price list for short visits of 1-7 nights, a day-by-day itinerary for Riverboat and Houseboat tours, a list of references, a catalog of package tours if you have more than 7 nights to travel here, and a copy of our one week introductory tour brochure. Riverboat and Houseboat tours feature classic boat travel upon the Amazon and Negro rivers of Brazilian Amazonia. Travelers will explore a variety of ecosystems looking for wildlife and exotic plants, and enjoy daily trekking and canoeing excursions along the way. Riverboats offer nightly accommodations in hammocks (or simple daybeds). The average cost is US\$195 per person per day based upon a two person minimum booking. Houseboat tours offer comfortable accommodations in air-conditioned cabins. The average cost is US\$245 per person per day based upon a two person minimum booking. Both types of boat offer shared bathrooms with shower, captain, cook and English-

speaking/professional guide. All food and drink (except alcohol), activities, camping and fishing equipment are included.

Always included on a **Swallows and Amazons** boat tour is a visit with Tania Aitchison's family, a traditional "caboclo" river family who live on the Negro River 60 kilometers from Manaus just before the Anavilhanas Archipelago (a protected Ecological Reserve) and gateway to the Rio Negro State Park.

For travelers who only have a few days in the region we suggest a stay at **Malocas Jungle Lodge** located just two hours from Manaus on the Rio da Preta River. This Lodge features private apartments with single and double bedrooms, bar, lounge, and dining room etc. Around the lodge there are quiet places to canoe and fish. Guided treks take place on rainforest trails behind the Lodge. The average cost for a Lodge tour is US\$145 per person per day based upon a two person minimum booking.

As an introduction to the region **Swallows and Amazons** suggests a 7 night all-inclusive Houseboat (US\$1795 per person), Riverboat (US\$1395 per person) or Lodge (US\$995) program. Shorter Houseboat, Riverboat or Lodge tours may be put together using our rate sheet on page 5 ("x" days tour + airport transfers + hotel + optional city tour). Note: with a Houseboat or Riverboat you will travel farther and see more. If you have more than a week to travel here, or wish to do something more specialized (ie. bird-watching, sport-fishing, trekking-only, canoeing-only etc), please consult our tour catalog on page 8.

We hope you like what our company has to offer. If you have any further questions or wish more information please call, fax or (best) email **Swallows and Amazons** in Brazil.

Warm regards

Tania & Mark Aitchison, Directors

P.S. Reservations may be confirmed and guaranteed with credit card payment (+ 5% service charge) or by wire transfer to our Brazilian bank account. Photos of boats and lodges may be seen at www.swallowsandamazonstours.com.

SWALLOWS and AMAZONS A River and Rainforest Tour Company

2009 Prices

2 pax minimum/ pleased enquire about special family & group discounts

Transfers	US\$25 per pax (Renault Scenic or Toyota Van with a/c)
City Tour (3 hours)	US\$75 per pax (with museum entrances, a/c van and guide)
Mini Tour (6 hours)	US\$100 per pax (the "meeting of the waters" with lunch, guide and activities)
Boat tour (12 hours)	US\$235 per pax-Rio Negro, US\$235-Rio Amazonas (with lunch and dinner, guide and activities)
Amazon River (3 days/2 nights)	US\$495-Jungle Lodge, US\$595-Riverboat, US\$795-Houseboat (all inclusive as above)
Negro River (4 days/3 nights)	US\$595-Jungle Lodge, US\$795-Riverboat, US\$1095-Houseboat (all inclusive as above)
Combination (6 days/5 nights)	US\$795-Jungle Lodge, US\$1195-Riverboat, US\$1595-Houseboat (all inclusive as above)
Package Tours (8 days/7 nights)	US\$995-Jungle Lodge, US\$1395-Riverboat, US\$1795-Houseboat (6 day tour PLUS 2 nights hotel and 2 transfers)
Tropical Hotel	US\$295/ double executive (5 star outside center w/ breakfast)
Tropical Business	US\$225/ double executive (5 star outside center w/ breakfast)
Taj Mahal Hotel	US\$185/ double (4 stars in the center w/ breakfast)
Best Western Hotel	US\$165/ double (3 stars in the center w/ breakfast)
Saint Paul Hotel	US\$135/ double (4 stars in the center w/ breakfast - BEST VALUE)
Krystal Hotel	US\$125/ double (2 stars in the center w/ breakfast)
Central Hotel	US\$105/ double (2 stars in the center w/ breakfast)
Ana Cassia Hotel	US\$90/ double (1 star in the center w/ breakfast)
Brasil Hotel	US\$55/ double (1 star in the center w/ breakfast) - BEST SMALL HOTEL

As prepayment we accept credit cards (+ 5% service charge) via www.paypal.com, cash by Western Union , or bank to bank wire transfers (+ bank charges).

Adults pay 20% less with 4+ persons.

Students (13-19 years) pay 25% less with 2+ adults

Children (12 years and under) pay 50% less with 2+ adults.

* Houseboat tours (usually) operate on a fixed schedule...Riverboat tours with 2 persons minimum are available any day of the week.

SWALLOWS and AMAZONS **A River and Rainforest Tour Company**

Day by Day Itinerary

Day 1

Amazon River

Boat travel to Parana (inlet) of Iranduba
Visit Amazon Banana & Papaya plantation
Piranha Fishing, Alligator Hunting (night canoeing)
Sleep on the Boat

Day 2

Lake Januaca (depending on river conditions)

Boat travel to Lake Januaca
Rainforest Walk to Identify Medicine Plants
Canoeing & Monkey Search

Day 3

Negro River

Meeting of the Waters, Lake Januari/ Victoria Regia Water Lilies
Canoeing on the Aripuanã River and Lake Acajatuba
Nighttime Canoe Trip in Jacaré (Alligator) Creek

Day 4

Rio Negro State Park

Rainforest Walk to study Forest Architecture & Biodiversity
Visit with Community of Caboclo (River people)

Day 5

Anavilhanas Archipelago Ecological Station

Canoeing & Birdwatching in Anaconda Bay
Overnight Rainforest Camping (optional)

Day 6

Cuieiras River

Canoeing and Trekking
Sport fishing for Peacock Bass/Tucunare (in season)

Days 7-10

Other Tributaries of the Negro River
Apuau River
More of the Anavilhanas Archipelago Ecological Reserve
Town of Novo Airão
Jau National Park

Days 11-14

Branco River
Town of Barcelos
Mariana Archipelago

* activities and destinations may be changed without prior notice due to river and weather conditions

SWALLOWS and AMAZONS A River and Rainforest Tour Company

Tania and I speak various languages:
English, Portuguese, Spanish, French and Italian

We are recommended in numerous international guidebooks:

Bradt's Brazil (ENG)
The South American Handbook (ENG)
Le Guide du Routard (FRA)
Hunter's Amazon Up Close (USA)
Lonely Planet (AUST)
Quatro Rodas (BRA)
The Rough Guide (ENG)
Gio Globetrotter (JAP)
British Automobile Association (ENG)
Cadogan Guide (ENG)
Fodor's (USA) – new this year
Frommer's (USA) – new this year
Insight Guide to Amazon Wildlife (ENG)
Let's GO (USA) – new this year

We have been featured in a number of magazines, websites and newspapers:

Outside Magazine(USA)
Terra Magazine (BRA)
Cape Cod Times Newspaper (USA)
Bennington College Magazine-Quadrille (USA)
Travel Smart (USA)
International Travel News (USA)
Folha Sao Paulo (BRA)
Latin American Travel Advisor (ECU)
Washington Post (USA)
Familia Aventuras (BRA)
Houston Chronicle (USA)
A Critica (BRA)
Jornal do Comercio (BRA)
Newsweek Magazine (USA)
The Cape Codder Newspaper (USA)
[The New York Times](#) (USA)
[Doctor's \(Travel\) Review](#) (CAN)
[GoNomad.com](#)
[Global Rhythm Magazine](#) (USA)
[University of West Virginia College of Law](#) (USA)
[Houseboating Adventures](#) (USA)

We are in-field operators for these and other ecotourism and adventure travel companies:

Travel Innovations (USA)
Easygoing (BRA)
Forum International Travel (USA)
Amazon Tours and Cruises (USA)
Brazil Travel (BRA)
Paulo Boute Expeditions (BRA)
Surtrek (PER)
Freeway (BRA)
Pacific Passage (USA)
Latin Discover (UK)

SWALLOWS and AMAZONS

A River and Rainforest Tour Company

Seven Night Complete Tours

1. The Caboclo (family stay with traditional river family, Arara River)	\$895
2. The Lodge (Malocas Lodge)	\$995
3. The Hiker (trekking plus jungle camping)	\$1065
4. The Canoeist (canoeing plus riverside camping)	\$1135
5. The Caverns (waterfalls and caverns of Presidente Figueiredo/ birding too)	\$1265
6. The Riverboat (our classic riverboat and lodge combination tour)	\$1395
7. The Fisherman (fishing trip for Tucunare/Peacock Bass)	Starting at \$1350
8. The Houseboat (Negro River boat tour with cabins, beds and a/c)	\$1795
9. The Birdwatcher (Riverboat tour with bird lists, field guides and naturalist)	\$1525
10. The Lost World (trekking to Mount Roraima, Venezuelan border – 8 nights)	\$1675
11. The Pantanal (multi-lodge tour of Brazil's premier wildlife sanctuary)	\$1725
12. The Sleeping Beauty (mountains, indigenous peoples, Upper Negro River)	\$2335

Eleven Night Complete Tours

13. The Diver (riverboat tour + snorkeling to see tropical fish, Middle Negro River)	\$2335
14. The Riverboat Plus (riverboat to Jau National Park, canoeing & trekking)	\$2465
15. The Canoeist Plus (canoe trip between Jau Nat'l Park & Branco River)	\$2595
16. The Angler (longer fishing tour, Barcelos & Santa Isabel, middle Negro River)	Starting at \$2735
17. The Houseboat Plus (longer houseboat tour with a/c cabins to Jau Park)	\$2995
18. The Border (Indigenous peoples, Cucui Rock, Upper Negro River)	\$3135
19. The Climber (Sao Gabriel, trekking and climbing Pico da Neblina Mountain)	\$4950

Fifteen Night Complete Tours

20. The Rio Branco (Negro Riverboat tour to Jau Park and Branco River)	\$3135
21. The Trekker (Negro Riverboat trip + trekking in Jau National Park)	\$3265
22. The Upper Rio Negro (Sleeping Beauty + Negro River + Cucui Rock)	\$3950
23. The Explorer (Upper Negro River, Cucui Rock, Casiquiare Canal)	\$3950

Add-On Four Day Modules

- A. The Riverboat
- B. The Lodge (family stay with Rio Negro family)
- C. The Hiker
- D. The Canoeist
- E. The Fisherman
- F. The Houseboat
- G. The Jungle Hotel (Araras Lodge, Negro River)
- H. The Headwaters (rustic fishing camp, Cuieiras River) **NEW**
- I. The Birdwatcher
- J. The Caverns (caves and waterfalls in Presidente Figueiredo, 107 kms by car north of Manaus)

! Each module costs \$665 per person complete except F. and G. which cost \$795.

SWALLOWS and AMAZONS A River and Rainforest Tour Company

COPY of 7 Night Tour Brochure – No. 6, The Riverboat & No. 8, The Houseboat

Directors: Mark and Tania Aitchison

Web: www.swallowsandamazonstours.com

Rua Ramos Ferreira, 922
Manaus, Amazonas, BRAZIL 69010-120
Tel/Fax: 55-92-3622-1246
Email: swallows@internext.com.br

Embratur (Brazilian Tourism Bureau) Reg. # 1446100413

"Let us show you why we're the best!"

Swallows and Amazons is a river and rainforest tour company offering the very best Negro River and Amazon Rainforest tours available- at any price- in Brazilian Amazonia. The company is owned and operated by the young husband and wife team of Tania and Mark Aitchison. Swallows and Amazons specializes in small group, multi-day, guided Riverboat and Houseboat tours of the Negro River and Amazon Rainforest beyond the historic city of Manaus, capital of the Brazilian state of Amazonas. The Negro River is the second largest tributary of the Amazon River which lies twelve kilometers below Manaus.

If a unique and intimate river and rainforest tour of Amazonia is what you're after Swallows and Amazons is the tour company you've been looking for.

Amazonia is still one of the wildest, most beautiful places on earth to visit. And with Swallows and Amazons you're guaranteed the finest tour available of this remarkable world.

Q. How much does a Swallows and Amazons tour cost?

A. "Our most popular seven day combination tours (advertised here) are called The Riverboat (No. 6 in our catalog) @ US\$1395.00 per person and The Houseboat (No. 8 in our catalog) @ US\$1795.00 per person. All our tours are guaranteed with a 2 person minimum booking. The prices cover airport transfers in Manaus, two nights hotel in Manaus, and the complete river and rainforest tour with all food and refreshments (except alcohol) included. Swallows and Amazons is registered with Embratur (the Brazilian National Tourist Bureau), and is a member of ABAV (the Brazilian Association of Travel Agents) and ABETA (the Brazilian Association of Ecotourism and Adventure Tour Companies)."

Q. Who are the guides and operators of Swallows and Amazons tours?

A. "Our guides are the best local guides available. They are friendly, certified and multi-lingual- they are enthusiastic and know their stuff!"

Tania Aitchison was born in Manaus and grew up on the Negro River near a village called Arara. She knows the rivers and rainforest of this fascinating region as well as anyone. She began as a guide in the Amazon fifteen years ago and worked for a number of Manaus tour companies before creating Swallows and Amazons with her husband in 1992.

Mark Aitchison is a writer from Cape Cod, Massachusetts (USA). He was born in London, England and grew up in Toronto, Canada. After graduating from Bennington College in Vermont in 1985 Mark traveled throughout Latin America before meeting Tania in Manaus in 1992. Mark is also the Director of Incoming Tourism for the ABAV-Amazonas chapter.

The Aitchisons have two young daughters, Kelly, aged fourteen, and Stephanie, aged eight."

“Between us we speak several languages- English, French, Spanish, Portuguese and Italian. We'll do our best to ensure you have a safe and rewarding tour of Amazonia. We have many friends and family on the rivers and you will have an opportunity to meet many wonderful people here in the Brazilian state of Amazonas.”

Q. What is a Swallows and Amazons tour?

A. We want you to experience the Amazon as we experience it. That means spending as much time as possible touring the Negro River and Anavilhanas Archipelago by boat, canoeing deep in her smaller tributaries, and trekking in the surrounding rainforest. When you arrive in Manaus we'll meet you at the airport, check you into your hotel, and discuss last minute tour details. Early the next morning you will depart from the port of Manaus in a classic Amazon Riverboat (or comfortable Houseboat) complete with your Captain, his wife the Cook, and your English speaking professional Guide- all part of our extended Amazonian family. Your adventure has begun!

Because of seasonal rains conditions in Amazonia change constantly month to month with the rise and fall of the rivers. On tour you'll spend the first day exploring the Amazon River itself, the fertile flood plain called the *Varzea* (in the dry season) and flooded forests called the *Igapo* (in the rainy season). Most of your tour though will be spent on the tranquil, picturesque and mosquito-free Negro River. You'll see how different and unique the two legendary river systems are. The focus of your tour is the virgin rainforest of the Negro River and the beautiful islands and beaches of the Anavilhanas Archipelago (one of the largest groups of freshwater islands in the world...now a protected biological reserve and soon-to-be a National Park).

You'll spend most nights sleeping in large cotton hammocks or upon simple camp beds (or in your own private air-conditioned* cabin with bed aboard the Houseboat). An optional night camping in the rainforest is possible too.

* nighttime use only at guest's request

Each day exploration includes activities such as canoeing, trekking, swimming and visiting with local river families for a real insiders look at things. The food is varied and well prepared, and features fresh native river fish, delicious tropical fruits and fresh regional vegetables. Mineral water, soda and fruit juices are included too. On your final day in Manaus we'll show you around the city, the bustling capital of the state of Amazonas. You'll learn something about the history of Manaus, and the history of the Amazon. And you'll learn about what's happening there today- at the museums, in the markets, and on the streets. With comfort, style, and adventure Swallows and Amazons guarantees you one of the most beautiful and peaceful vacations of your life.

Q. What sort of wildlife is there to see with Swallows and Amazons?

A. Amazonia is full of life- in the jungle, in the air, and in the water. You will usually see Pink and Grey River Dolphins, several species of Monkeys, Alligator, Tree Sloths and a rich variety of Birdlife including Kingfishers, Herons, Toucans and Macaws. Larger mammals such as Jaguar, Tapir and Deer are here but they very elusive. Note: the attraction of the Amazon is the rainforest, remember; animal sightings cannot be guaranteed though with Swallows and Amazons your chances are that much better.

Depending on the season Swallows and Amazons goes where you'll have the best chances of seeing wildlife and other phenomena of Amazonia, such as parts of the *Igapo* flooded forest between January and July, seldom visited rivers for fishing such as the Cuieiras and Apuau, and island beaches for camping and fish BarBQs. Apart from exploring the rivers and islands of the Negro River Swallows and Amazons will take you trekking and camping in the rainforest. And you'll spend time along the way with several wonderful river families.

“Swallows and Amazons river and rainforest tours go to the heart of the Amazon. Our tours are true explorations in search of the best Amazonia has to offer. Each tour is a little different from the last because we want to take you where the action is. And while our specialty may be Riverboat and Houseboat tours on the lower Negro River Swallows and Amazons is also able to organize a variety of customized tours on the middle and upper Negro River. Our catalog lists a wide variety of specialized tours for you to consider: fishing, birding, canoeing, trekking, climbing, Indigenous peoples etc. Enquire- let us know your interests- and we'll put together a program for you.”
- Mark and Tania Aitchison

SWALLOWS and AMAZONS
A River and Rainforest Tour Company

Seven Night all-inclusive Riverboat & Houseboat Tour Program Itinerary (Sunday to Sunday)

Day 1- Manaus
Airport Pick-up
Overnight at Hotel

Day 2
Amazon River
Boat travel to Parana (inlet) of Iranduba
Visit Amazon Banana & Papaya plantation
Piranha Fishing, Alligator Hunting (night canoeing)
Sleep on the Boat

Day 3
Lake Januaca (depending on river conditions)
Boat travel to Lake Januaca
Rainforest Walk to Identify Medicine Plants
Canoeing & Monkey Search

Day 4
Negro River
Meeting of the Waters, Lake Januari/ Victoria Regia Water Lilies
Canoeing on the Ariau River and Lake Acajatuba
Nighttime Canoe Trip in Jacare (Alligator) Creek

Day 5
Rio Negro State Park
Rainforest Walk to study Forest Architecture & Biodiversity
Visit with Community of Caboclo (River people)

Day 6
Anavilhanas Archipelago Ecological Station (UNESCO World Heritage Site)
Canoeing & Birdwatching in Anaconda Bay
Overnight Rainforest Camping (optional)

Day 7
Cuieiras River
Canoeing and Trekking
Sport fishing for Peacock Bass/Tucunare (in season)
Return to Manaus Port 6 pm
Overnight at Hotel

Day 8 – Manaus
Airport drop-off

SWALLOWS and AMAZONS **A River and Rainforest Tour Company**

In conclusion:

Swallows and Amazons has a reputation for operating the most authentic, small-group tours in the Brazilian Amazon. It is also our goal to offer the most exciting adventure tours possible in the region.

Please contact us if you are interested in tour schedules or programs other than those advertised, ie. Bird-watching, Sport fishing, VIP lodges, VIP Cabin or Yacht Boats, Indigenous Peoples, Trekking, Canoeing, Student or Senior Tours etc.

In 2007 we began to operate tours to Mount Roraima (11 nights), the Gran Sabana (11 night) and Angel Falls (15 nights) in Venezuela. In 2008 we plan to offer the first canoeing-only camping tours in the Anavilhanas Archipelago (7 nights) and snorkeling tours to study aquatic wildlife (11 nights). And in future we hope to begin operating the first multi-sport tours (4-wheel drive + mountain biking + kayaking + trekking + mountaineering) in Amazonia.

Please enquire for more details about these new tours.

Cancellations and Refunds

Naturally we hope you won't have to cancel your tour. If you must cancel your tour money will be redeemed as follows:

- * One month or more before tour - 100% of monies received less a 25% non-refundable deposit made at the time of booking
- * 14-31 days - 50% of monies received less the deposit
- * 7-13 days - 25% of monies received less the deposit
- * 1-6 days - Sorry, no refunds for last minute cancellations under any circumstances; by that time we've already made too many arrangements in Manaus to get the money back.

Responsibility

SWALLOWS and AMAZONS cannot be held responsible for accidents or injuries resulting from unauthorized wandering. Please make sure you have travel, accident and injury/death insurance of your own. We cannot be held responsible for inclement weather (such as excessively flooded or extremely dry or muddy conditions) during the river portion of our tour that may result in unexpected alterations to the program. Listen to your guide's advice at all times.

Payment represents an acceptance by you of our terms and conditions.