



Welcome to the
TAMBOPATA RIVER:
Andes and Amazon

MEETING PLACE:	Jorge Chávez International Airport - Lima, Peru
ARRIVAL:	An O.A.R.S. representative will meet you at the airport on Day 1
DEPARTURE:	Overnight in Cusco on Day 15, depart from Cusco on Day 16
RIVER TRIP:	195 miles on the Tambopata River
AGE LIMIT:	Minimum age is 14
TRIP LENGTH:	16 days including travel
ACTIVITIES:	Rafting, hiking, sea kayaking, bird watching and wildlife viewing

Join O.A.R.S and the quest for the ultimate river trip in 2009 on a distinctive 40th anniversary adventure to Peru. From Lima to Lake Titicaca, from the Andes to the Amazon, Peru pleads to be seen by travelers with an eye for the exceptional. Beginning on the shores of the world's highest navigable lake, we'll cross the Andes to the upper reaches of the fabled Tambopata River and the beginning of an epic 6-day descent through cloud forests and deep into Peru's inland jungles. Along the way, we'll pass through an ultra-biodiverse region home to an astonishing percentage of the world's flora and fauna.

Peru is more than a land of mountains and jungle, more than the history evident in the renowned ruined cities of Inca and Pre-Inca civilization – it is quite simply one of the most enchanting countries on earth. This 16-day expedition is uniquely suited to providing intimate interaction with the people and rural authenticity of Andean villages, as well as the urban energy of Lima and Cusco. We'll add exquisite Peruvian cuisine and some of the best whitewater rafting in the region to the equation, demonstrating once again that the best in international adventure travel is best found in Peru.

Why Peru and the Tambopata?

Steeped in pre-Columbian history, Peru is a land of rich cultural heritage, archaeological treasures, astounding natural diversity and magnificent colonial cities. Add to all this the most strikingly familiar image of South America – Machu Picchu, the lost citadel of the Incas – and you have a destination unrivaled by any other in South America. (*Ask about our Machu Picchu extension!*)

TAMBOPATA NATIONAL RESERVE AND RIVER

- In 1990, the Peruvian government set aside 275,000 hectares to protect the watersheds of the Tambopata and Candamo rivers. The area, called the Tambopata National Reserve, is adjacent to the Bahuaja Sonene National Park and is located in Puerto Maldonado, Madre de Dios, Peru. This land contains some of the last untouched lowland and premontane

tropical humid forests in the Amazon. This Connecticut-sized area of pristine forest contains 1300 bird species, 32 parrot species (10% of the world's total), 200 mammal species, 1200 butterfly species and over 10,000 species of vascular plants.

- The Tambopata River, which flows from the eastern slope of the Andes along the border of the Puno Region and through the Tambopata National Reserve, offers thrilling Class II-IV Andean whitewater. The area passes through virgin tropical rainforest and some of the most pristine and unspoiled areas in the Amazon basin. Bordering Peru and Bolivia, the wild, remote and unspoiled river offers the only access to a spectacular display of tropical plants and animal species.

AMAZON

- South America is home to the largest contiguous tropical rainforest in the world – the Amazon rainforest. The Amazon spreads across much of South America, including Columbia, Ecuador, Peru, Boliva, Brazil, Venezuela, Guyana, Surinam, and French Guiana. The Amazon basin has been continuously inhabited for more than 12,000 years.

WILDLIFE

- The region includes more than 570 species of birds, 1200 butterfly species and many animal groups, like the howler monkey, tapir, capibaras, macaws, giant otters, black and white caiman, ocelot, and jaguar.
- The adventure visits the "Colpa of the Guacamayos" (Macaw Lick), the largest known Macaw Lick in the world. On any given morning, hundreds of Macaws and other parrots visit the lick for its salty rich clay. This is one of the greatest birding spectacles in the world and provides a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for photographers.

HISTORY

- For many, the first word that comes to mind when thinking of Peruvian history is "Inca". Certainly, the Inca civilization is the most studied and well recognized of South America's pre-Columbian cultures, but Peru's first inhabitants were nomadic hunters who are believed to have migrated across the Bering Straight and into the Americas about 20,000 years ago.

Domestication of the llama, alpaca and guinea pig began by about 4000 BC and, around the same time, people began planting seeds and learning simple horticulture methods. Various forms of the Andean staple, the potato, began to be grown as a crop around 3000 BC and weaving and fishing became commonplace.

Between 2000 and 1000 BC, ceramics began to evolve from basic, undecorated pots to sculpted, incised and simply colored pots of high quality. Weaving and fishing also improved, as well as horticulture due to the development of irrigation. Toward the end of this period, agricultural terraces began to be constructed in the highlands.

Between the initial years of civilization in Peru and the rise and fall of the Inca Empire, many cultures shared in the development of weaving, pottery, agriculture, religion and architecture. But for all its greatness, the Inca Empire existed for barely a century. Beginning in the 1430s, the Inca conquered most of the cultures in the area stretching

from southern Colombia to central Chile. Like the Wari before them, the Incas imposed their way of life on the peoples they conquered and created magnificent cities with impressive urban developments. Thus, when the Spanish arrived, most of the Andean area had been politically united by Inca rule. *(For more information on the history of Inca and post-Inca civilization in Peru please refer to our recommended reading list).*

ARCHAEOLOGY

- Peru is unequalled in South America in its archaeological wealth and many experts find the ancient sites and cultures as exciting as those of Central America, Egypt and the Mediterranean. Learning about and visiting these centuries-old ruins is an extraordinary supplement to this program.

CULTURE

- Peru is multi-cultural society, with one part containing predominately white and mestizo middle and upper classes, and the other made up of mostly poor Amerindian campesinos. Ninety percent of the population is Roman Catholic, and soccer and bullfighting are among the most popular pastimes.

Traditional Andean music is popularly referred to as *musica folklórica* and is frequently encountered at street fairs and fiestas. The most representative wind instruments are *queñas* and *zampoñas*. Although string instruments were introduced by the Spanish, *musica folklórica* groups make use of the *charango*—a tiny 10-stringed guitar with the box traditionally made of an armadillo shell. Percussion instruments include drums made from hollowed-out tree trunks and stretched goatskin and rattles of goat hooves.

Peruvian crafts are based on pre-Hispanic necessities such as weaving, pottery, and metallurgy. Today, beautifully colored woven cloth is seen in traditional ponchos, belts, rugs and tapestries. Pottery and jewelry are based on ancient designs.

GEOGRAPHY

- Peru lies in the tropics, just south of the equator, and can be divided into three distinctly different geographical regions: the Pacific coastal strip, the Andes Mountains and the Amazonian lowlands. On the coast, the capital city of Lima and the world-class Pacific surf are mainly desert, extending south to Atacama Desert, one of the driest places on earth.
- Second only to the Himalaya, the Andes rise to over 18,000 feet just miles from the Peruvian coast with year-round glaciers above 15,000 feet. This rugged Andean landscape boasts dramatic jagged ranges separated by deep, vertical canyons, rewarding you with the incredible mountain scenery that is the backdrop for much of our adventure.
- The eastern slopes of the Andes are cloaked in green cloud forests receiving abundant rainfall as they drop into the fabled Amazon Basin. Over half of Peru lies within the vast wilderness of the Amazon Basin, penetrated by few roads and houses and less than 5% of the country's population. However, there are thousands of animal and bird species that call the remote jungle home, making Peru one of the most biologically diverse nations on the planet.

Sample Itinerary

We pride ourselves in running a relaxed and always flexible schedule. Every trip is different depending upon the group, lodge availability and sometimes the weather. The following is a sample of what your trip might be like.

Day 1: Arrive Lima, Peru

- Upon arrival in Lima, an O.A.R.S representative will greet you in the arrival lounge outside of the baggage claim area. Transfer to our hotel in the modern Miraflores District.

Casa Andina Miraflores or similar

Day 2: Lima to Juliaca and Lake Titicaca in the Puno Region

- After breakfast, transfer from our hotel back to the airport and board a one-hour flight to Juliaca. We will transfer to a hotel on the shore of Lake Titicaca and share a welcome dinner in Puno, the capital of Peruvian folklore.

(B,L,D) Hotel Rosario del Lago or similar

Day 3: Lake Titicaca and Taquile Island

- After a short transfer to the community of Llachon, we'll set out in our kayaks to explore the famous Llachon peninsula. This community has just 1,300 inhabitants and, since it receives very few tourists, it is a great place to see the traditional way of life of the locals living around Lake Titicaca.
- We'll then enjoy an easy, three-hour paddle across Lake Titicaca to Taquile Island, which was once used as a prison during Spanish colonial rule and well into the beginning of the 20th century. It wasn't until 1970 that it became the property of the Taquile people. There are Pre-Inca ruins on the highest part of the island and stone agricultural terraces running up the hillsides. The main town features a textile and handicrafts cooperative in addition to some small restaurants
- We will visit the small indigenous community that still preserves the traditions of the Inca. We hike to Taquile village for lunch and introductions to the local way of life. There are approximately 3,000 residents on this island who live without electricity. Their colorful and exquisitely hand-woven textiles reflect their traditional customs and beliefs.
- Begin boat trip back to hotel, visiting Uros - floating root islands - en route. Overnight at lakeshore hotel.

(B, L, D) Hotel Rosario del Lago or similar

Day 4: Juliaca – Cuyo Cuyo

- We will depart early in the morning and transfer by bus across the Altiplano from Juliaca into the Cordillera Carabaya. This scenic drive is alive with bird life and scattered Quechuan villages.
- Crossing a pass at 15,000 feet, we will begin our descent into the cloud forest, stopping to camp at the Pre-Inca town of Cuyo Cuyo.

(B,L,D) Camping

Day 5: Cuyo Cuyo – Putina Punku – Curva Alegre

- Continuing our drive into the cloud forest, we arrive at the headwaters of the Tambopata River. Here just below Putina Punku, at the village of Curva Alegre, we set up camp for the evening.

(B,L,D) Camping

Day 6: Curva Alegre Village, Tambopata River Put-In

- After an early breakfast, we hike for approximately two hours through the forest until we reach the Tambopata River. We search for monkeys around the natural clay lick found near the river. Following a full safety briefing, we don our life jackets and helmets and descend into the rainforest by way of the river – the only gateway deep into the Amazon forest. In the evening, we set up camp on a sandy beach and enjoy the sounds of the jungle.

(B,L,D) *Riverside Camping*

Day 7: Tambopata River

- We travel through the pristine rain forest, splashing through fun Class II-III rapids during our first two days on the river (allowing us plenty of time to practice our paddling skills for more exciting rapids that follow). The river's path takes along the border between Peru and Bolivia and we're surrounded by lush vegetation where monkeys, capybaras, tapirs, and giant river otters make their home.

(B,L,D) *Riverside Camping*

Day 8: Tambopata River, Colorado River Confluence

- Today is filled with numerous Class II-III rapids. We encounter the confluence where the muddy Colorado River, flowing from high Bolivian mountains, joins the normally clear Tambopata River. The river increases in volume as tributary after tributary joins the Tambopata. We say goodbye to the last of the Andean mountains and hills as we move down river.
- After setting camp, we have the opportunity to explore trails made by people native to the region, search for nearby creeks and identify the birds around us.

(B,L,D) *Riverside Camping*

Days 9-10: Tambopata River

- We descend the river through a beautiful tropical canyon, surrounded by lush vegetation, navigating many unnamed Class III rapids. as well as the infamous Class IV 'Owls Net' and 'Monsters I, II, III'. We will scout the Class IV rapids and there is time to take photos here.
- We float into the heart of the Baguaja Sonene National Park, which is considered to be the "world's best-preserved tropical rainforest reserve" and the "last human-free jungle on the planet." It is home to jaguars, tapirs, giant otters and capybaras as well as over 800 species of birds and 1200 different species of butterflies. Our rafts are perfect platforms for wildlife viewing.

(B,L,D) *Riverside Camping*

Day 11: Tambopata River, Amazon Basin

- The flora around us changes significantly as we watch the Andean range disappear far behind us. As we enter into the Amazon basin, the river turns flat and wide.
- Eventually the river relaxes and for the last few days, our rafts float silently through the calmer stretches, giving us unparalleled opportunities to observe and photograph wildlife. Here we have our best opportunity to see families of capybaras - the world's largest rodents - and herds of peccaries. Lone tapirs have also been known to walk through the campsite at night and monkeys watch us pass from their tree-top hideaways. Jaguars, jaguarondis, caiman ant-eaters and giant river otters have also been spotted as well as countless species of rare birds and butterflies. Time is spent exploring beautiful side

creeks and, if you wish, you can fish for the amazing dorado or catfish.
(B,L,D) *Riverside Camping*

Day 12-14: Tambopata Research Center

- Our river journey concludes at the Tabara River where we board an outboard motor canoe. We transfer to the Tambopata Research Center and our lodge for the next two nights. The lodge is located near a macaw lick. We explore the jungle and find wildlife on numerous hikes.
- At the crack of dawn we watch parrots, macaws and parakeets converge in a delightful fusion of noise and bright colors to eat the clay in the cliffs, which is an essential part of their diet. This is South America's largest clay lick.
- Later in the day we enjoy a ride in a dugout canoe that will take us to our jungle lodge in Puerto Maldonado.
(B,L,D) *Jungle Lodge*

Day 15: Puerto Maldonado to Cusco

- After breakfast we'll transfer to the airport for our flight out of Puerto Maldonado to Cusco. Once in Cusco we will transfer to our hotel and enjoy an afternoon tour of the city and archeological remains. After a farewell dinner we spend the night in Cusco.
Casa Andina Koricancha or similar (B,D)

Day 16: Cusco

- After breakfast, we transfer to the airport for our flights home. (B)

What's Included?

- Skilled professional guide service
- 7 nights lodging (based on double occupancy) and 8 nights catered camping
- All meals as outlined in the itinerary
- All activities, transfers and equipment as outlined in the itinerary
- Expedition equipment, including 2-person shared tent, sleeping bag & sleeping pad and dry bags
- High quality inflatable rafts and related river equipment including paddle and helmet and personal flotation device
- Cross-country travel with private guide and driver

What's Not Included?

- Flights to/from Lima, Peru
- In country flights Lima-Juliaca/Puerto Maldonado-Cusco/Cusco-Lima US\$440
- Domestic airport security taxes approximately US\$10
- Airport departure tax US\$28.24
- Single supplement US\$900
- Excess baggage charges
- Meals not covered in itinerary
- Insurance of any kind, including travel or mandatory medical evacuation insurance
- Cost of immunizations (if necessary)
- Alcohol and personal items (a complete packing list will be provided)
- Gratuities

Why Visit Peru?

- For 40 years we've led travelers of all ages and abilities to some of the most beautiful places on Earth, never losing sight of one of our foremost goals: to make the joys of the wilderness accessible to everyone—no matter how experienced.
- This year we're excited to have created this one of a kind itinerary showcasing the Tambopata River and the Amazon Basin.
- Our Peruvian connection couldn't be better as we team up with long-time friend Pepe Lopez from Apumayo Expediciones. Well-trained in health, safety, and environmental matters, we abide by the highest standards of quality and environmental responsibility, thereby preserving Peru's natural environment and ancient treasures.
- We believe it is a fundamental part of eco-tourism to work with local guides while at the same time bringing our wealth of experience to the table. We've chosen our partners carefully, so you can rest assured you will be in good hands. We hope you have an opportunity to join us for the journey of discovery and adventure in Peru.

Why O.A.R.S.?

O.A.R.S. has been in business since 1969 and that is no accident. Great trips on some of the world's best rivers, coastlines and mountains are the recipe for this success. Always focused on our clients and their vacations, it is our genuine—if not biased—belief that river trips and wilderness vacations are extremely valuable life experiences. That said, we have committed ourselves over the years to providing the best trips available, always with an eye on improvement. Here are a few things we believe set our trips apart:

EXPERIENCE

- In 1969, O.A.R.S. became the first exclusively oar-powered rafting outfitter to offer river trips through the Grand Canyon. The immediate success of these trips inspired founder and president George Wendt to expand his business into the largest and most geographically diverse rafting, sea kayaking, and multi-sport company in North America.
- Over the last 40 years, the family-owned and operated company has shared in the world's waterways with more than 450,000 guests. With more than 75 itineraries on over 35 rivers and coastlines worldwide, four decades of experience in the industry, and some staff members who have been with the company since nearly the beginning, O.A.R.S. is routinely recognized for serving up some of the "Best Trips on the Planet," and for setting the standard for top-notch guides, expertise and superior customer service.

STAFF

- Our employees are the single most complimented component of our organization and the number one reason over 60% of O.A.R.S. travelers return for additional trips or are referred by past guests each year. Our reliable, responsible and experienced guides are some of the best anywhere. All are qualified in CPR and First Aid; many have earned credentials in Wilderness First Responder, swift water rescue and Leave No Trace. They are friendly, open, and approachable, and they want to share and learn along with you. Their vast experience and knowledge of not just the river, but also the entire region, virtually guarantees an in-depth adventure and that your questions will be answered. So

that our guests can take the best advantage of our guides' skills and personalities, we maintain the best guide-to-guest ratio in the business: only four guests for every guide.

The heart and soul of O.A.R.S. – from the president and founder to the more than 300 dedicated guides and employees on our team – is that we are all genuinely invested in every passenger, every trip and every lifetime memory.

MEALS

- The meals we serve are hearty and sumptuous, complete with fresh fruits and vegetables throughout your entire journey. Our menu features great camp cooking in a wilderness atmosphere. Wake up to pancakes, omelets, or eggs cooked to order, complemented by bacon or sausage, juice, and plenty of fresh-brewed coffee, tea and cocoa. Sate your appetite at lunch with a delicious spread of cold cuts and cheese on assorted breads, hummus and veggies in soft pitas, or tasty taco salad wraps. At the dinner table, our guides' cooking skills truly shine. You may snack on hors d'oeuvres while waiting for fresh green salads, vegetables, pasta, rice and the main course: steak, grilled salmon, Baja tacos, sizzling fajitas or perhaps a delicious Dutch oven lasagna. Vegetarian options are available if you tell us of your preference ahead of time. And, if you can find room, there will always be something for dessert. Expect to eat as well – or better – than you do at home, without having to do any of the work.

EQUIPMENT

- O.A.R.S.' boats, equipment and gear is top-of-the-line and rigorously maintained. Rest assured knowing that we use only the best and most reliable equipment. All river-related gear is included and we offer many accessories to ensure your comfort on dry land as well. Sturdy tents, warm sleeping bags and thick sleeping pads give your camp by the river most of the comforts of home.

ECOTOURISM

- For nearly four decades O.A.R.S. has been a leader in eco-tourism. Our goal isn't simply to be one of the most environmentally responsible tour operators in the world, but to continually raise the bar and challenge other companies to raise their standards as well. From escorting congressional staffers, eco-celebrities, and politicians on the waterways of the Western U.S. to establishing a model business for eco-tourism operators in Fiji, O.A.R.S. is professionally committed to the cultural and environmental well-being of the places we visit. Our main office operations in Angels Camp, California, and our warehouse and office in Flagstaff, Arizona, run on 100% solar energy, and we offset all of our carbon emissions with *NativeEnergy* Travel Offsets. Through partnerships with environmental organizations such as the Grand Canyon Conservation Fund, Idaho Rivers United, Alaska Wilderness League, American Whitewater, The International Ecotourism Society and Leave No Trace, O.A.R.S. is committed to reducing our impact on the natural world. We actively support awareness, deeper appreciation and the preservation of rivers and wild places.

How Do I Get to Peru?

Lima, Peru is the meeting place for your Tambopata River adventure. Consult your travel agent or your favorite online booking site for your travel arrangements. For your reference, American Airlines offers direct service from Miami, Continental Airlines from Houston, Delta from Atlanta

and Lan Peru from Los Angeles, New York JFK and Miami. Connections through other Central and South American cities are also available.

A Few Important Details

Reservations & Deposit

- \$800/person deposit is required at the time of reservation. The balance is due 90 days prior to departure.

Cancellations & Refunds

- If you find it necessary to cancel your trip, notify us as soon as possible. All payments are nonrefundable and we regret that we cannot make exceptions for personal emergencies. For this reason, we strongly urge our participants to investigate trip cancellation insurance (see Insurance).

Medical

- Under most circumstances, if you are of an adventurous spirit and in reasonably good health, you should have no problem enjoying a Travel Outdoors trip. People with heart trouble and pregnant women should have their physician's approval before taking an adventure travel trip Insurance
- Although every effort is made to ensure a safe trip for all, **we require that you purchase medical emergency evacuation insurance** and also strongly recommend that you protect yourself, your belongings, and your vacation through the purchase of a short-term traveler's policy. A trip cancellation policy covers your non-refundable payments in most cases, should you have to cancel your trip at the last minute due to illness or injury. Trip participants should realize that in the event of illness or injury, evacuation could be prolonged, difficult, and expensive. Personal belongings and cameras are carried entirely at the owner's risk, and we accept no responsibility for lost, damaged, delayed, or stolen property.

Liability Waiver

- Everyone is required to sign a standard liability release before the trip, acknowledging awareness that some risks are associated with the trip. Safety is of the utmost concern on our trips. However, due to the nature of the activities, a condition of your participation is that you will sign this form before the trip begins. Anyone who refuses to sign the form will not be allowed to participate, and consistent with Travel Outdoors, Inc. cancellation policy, there will be no refund of the trip fees at that time. Copies available. Please call.

Responsibility – An Important Notice

- Travel Outdoors, Inc., Apumayo Expediciones S.A.C. and cooperating agencies act only in the capacity of agent for the participants in all matters relating to transportation and/or all other related travel services, and assume no responsibility however caused for injury, loss or damage to person or property in connection with any service, including but not limited to that resulting directly or indirectly from acts of God, detention, annoyance, delays, and expenses arising from quarantine, strikes, theft, pilferage, force majeure, failure of any means of conveyance to arrive or depart as scheduled, civil disturbances, government restrictions or regulations, and discrepancies or change in transit over which they have no control. Reasonable changes in itinerary may be made where deemed advisable for the comfort and well being of the participants, including cancellation due to water fluctuation, insufficient bookings (this trip requires a minimum of 4 guests), and other factors.
- You could be swept overboard. Your guide will make every attempt to assist, but you must be strong and agile enough to "self-help" without further endangering yourself or others. We reserve the right not to accept passengers weighing more than 260 pounds or with a waist/chest size exceeding 56 inches. We may decide, at any time, to exclude any person or group for any reason we feel is related to the safety of our trips. We are experienced at accommodating people with various disabilities. Please give us an opportunity to make you feel welcome. We need to discuss any special requirements ahead of time. On advancement of deposit the depositor agrees to be bound by the above recited terms and conditions. Prices and itinerary are subject to change without notice.

Apumayo Expediciones:

- Apumayo Expediciones, a travel partner of Travel Outdoors, Inc. is the operator of this trip. Upon arrival, a representative will meet you and escort you throughout the program. These staff members are the very best and will strive to ensure your complete satisfaction.

Contact Information:

- For more information on this or any of our over 75 rafting, sea kayaking, or multi-sport adventures, please call us at **800-446-2411** or email us at info@oars.com and one of our knowledgeable Adventure Consultants will be happy to help you.

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