



MY Tucano, Rio Negro

# The Brazilian Amazon & Pantanal Wetlands

## With Amelia Dalton

### 7th – 22nd October 2015

The Ultimate Travel Company  
Escorted Tours



Mutum Lodge, Pantanal

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### Amelia Dalton

Amelia Dalton has created unusual itineraries in remote parts of the world for the past fifteen years, ranging from Scotland to Indonesia. Specialising in small ships operating on rivers or at sea, she has created specialised itineraries for various British charities with a focus on wildlife in remote regions including The Durrell Conservation Trust and Kew Gardens; her aim is to provide an experience characterised by purpose, adventure and joie de vivre, managed with competence and professionalism.



## Detailed Itinerary

After a brief stay in the charming city of Manaus, we will board the small and comfortable Motor Yacht Tucano, which we have chartered exclusively, to venture far up the Rio Negro, the least inhabited river in the Amazon Basin. Weaving in and out of small channels and exploring by river launches and rainforest hikes, we will discover untouched native forest which is the habitat of exotic birds such as parrots and toucans, howler monkeys, three toed sloth, frogs and snakes, peccary and tapir. On the water we will look out for giant river otter, king fisher, various species of caiman and pink river dolphin. There will be chances to fish for piranha, swim in the clear waters, and visit local villages.

We then travel to one of the most beautiful regions of the northern Pantanal, Mato Grosso, to stay at the simple but comfortable Pousada Rio Mutum Pantanal Eco-lodge. The lodge is located right on the banks of the Mutum River and is an ideal base from which to explore these remarkable wetlands. Following hiking trails through thick jungle and wetland or navigating through pristine rivers and lakes, we will have the opportunity to observe the great biodiversity of the area. It is home to over 650 different bird species including macaws, herons, cormorants, ibises, curassows, parakeets and wood ibises, 80 species of mammals including capybaras, Brazilian otters and monkeys, 50 reptile species including alligators, 262 fish species, 1,100 butterfly species and more than 1,700 species of plants.

The group size will be limited to an absolute maximum of 16 and we will be accompanied locally by highly skilled guides. All meals (bar two lunches and one dinner) are included as are drinks with meals.



Teatro Amazonas Manaus



Rio Negro

Day 1: Wednesday, 7th October

London / Sao Paolo

Evening departure from London Heathrow on a TAM Linhas Aereas flight to Sao Paolo.

Day 2: Thursday, 8th October

Sao Paolo / Manaus

In Sao Paolo connect to a TAM flight to Manaus arriving early afternoon.

Transfer to the Park Suites hotel on the banks of the Rio Negro where two nights are spent.

Afternoon at leisure. Dinner at the hotel.

### Day 3: Friday, 9th October

### Manaus

Morning walking tour of Manaus including visiting Palacio do Rio Negro, once the baronial residence of a rubber baron.

Lunch in a local restaurant. Afternoon at leisure. Dinner under own arrangements. Option to attend a performance at the Teatro Amazonas (subject to performance schedule).

### Days 4-10: Saturday, 10th October – Friday 16th October

### Rio Negro

Transfer Motor Yacht Tucano for a 7-night exclusive expedition charter on a full board basis (breakfast, lunch and dinner daily). Accompanied by knowledgeable guides, we shall explore far into the remote wilderness of the World Heritage site of the Rio Negro deep into the Amazonian forest. Using a combination of our comfortable ship plus launches and on foot, we voyage 200 miles up-river away from the main riverbank settlements to see the amazing variety of exotic birdlife, mammals adapted to the flooded forest and visit pioneering villages. We will see the three different types of forest, have informative talks and learn about the differing types of forest as well as local medicinal plants. There will be opportunities to fish and swim safely in clear water and go for night walks enhanced by the lack of light pollution.



Macaw Rio Negro



Jagua, Pantanal

### Day 11: Saturday, 17th October

### Rio Negro / Manaus/ Cuiaba / Pantanal

Disembark and transfer to Manaus airport for a flight to Cuiaba.

Lunch under own arrangements. Transfer to the Pousada Rio Mutum Pantanal Eco-lodge where four nights are spent on a full board basis (breakfast, lunch and dinner daily).

Tucked into the Northern Pantanal, Mutum Lodge has simple air conditioned accommodation, a small pool and excellent local guides. The grounds of the Lodge are a haven for local birds, including macaws, whilst at night capybara keep the lawns neat with their grazing. Meals have an emphasis on local fish, meat and locally grown vegetables.

Days 12-14: Sunday, 18th October – Tuesday 20th October

Pantanal

During our stay there will be an opportunity to see local villages, many bird species and begin to appreciate this wonderful ecosystem. The Pantanal is the world's largest freshwater wetland and we shall be based right on the river banks, connected to a maze of canals and lakes to be superbly placed to experience this unique environment. Each day we will have guided expeditions by jeep, boat or on foot. The Lodge has a network trails for walking and bird watching both out in the surrounding area and close to the Lodge. We can canoe or ride through the forest and, with more open vegetation than the Amazon, we can expect to see giant otters, mammals, reptiles, a vast range of bird species and, if we're very lucky, a jaguar.



Alligators, Pantanal



Heron, Pantanal

Day 15: Wednesday, 21st October

Pantanal / Cuiaba / Sao Paolo

Transfer to Cuiaba airport. Lunch under own arrangements. TAM Linhas Aereas afternoon flight to Sao Paolo and onward to London.

Day 16: Thursday, 22nd October

Sao Paolo / London

Arrive London Heathrow in the early afternoon.



## MY Tucano

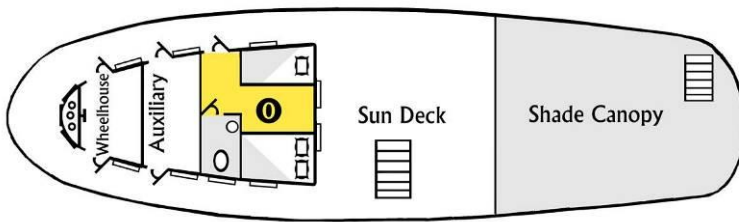
Whilst not a luxury vessel, the Tucano is a classic river boat built specially for travelling in these shallow waters. She provides plenty of space to observe the nearby river banks and abundant wildlife and is the ideal way to penetrate the varied waters of the Amazon basin. There is a comfortable Observation Deck with canopy shading and two further decks with a range of 9 cabins. The simple, but comfortable en suite cabins have air conditioning with individual controls, attractive wooden panelling, large windows and open onto the decks. The saloon is also air-conditioned; there is a Library and generous simple food using local ingredients prepared on board by the experienced crew.



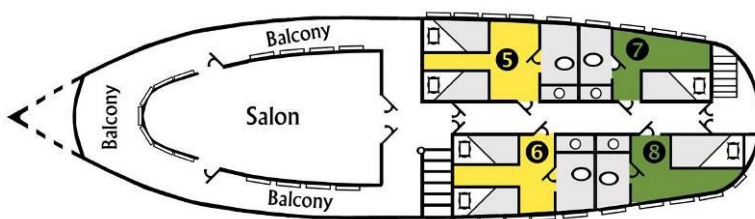
Yellow Category Cabin



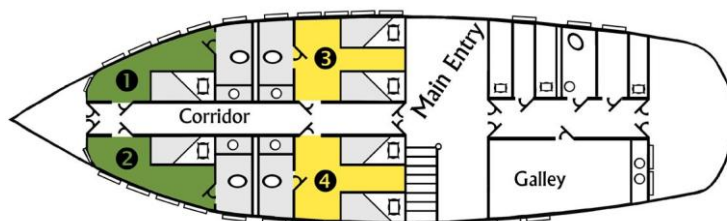
Salon / Dining Room



Observation Deck



Middle Deck



Main Deck

## Cabin Categories

Yellow category cabins 3, 4, 5 and 6 are significantly larger and have two single beds which can be placed together to form a queen bed.

Cabin 0 has a queen sized bed and a single bed.

Green category cabins, 1, 2, 7 and 8 have bunk beds with single sized mattresses.



# Tour Price

COST PER PERSON IN A GREEN CATEGORY CABIN: £5,995

COST PER PERSON IN A YELLOW CATEGORY CABIN: £6,395

COST PER PERSON IN YELLOW CATEGORY CABIN "0": £6,595

Single supplement: £695 (single occupancy in Green Category Cabins only)

Business Class upgrade: £1,625 (based on 2014 fares, subject to change for 2015)

A fee of £95 per person will be charged for those who would like to travel out or back separately from the main group.

## The tour cost includes:

- economy class scheduled flights
- air passenger duty, passenger service charge, airline security charges, airport taxes and fuel surcharges where applicable – currently £400 (liable to change without notice)
- accommodation throughout as shown in the itinerary
- breakfast daily; 11 lunches; 12 dinners
- soft drinks and beers with lunches; wine with dinners
- all visits and excursions as per the itinerary
- all transportation as detailed in the itinerary
- all entrance fees
- local English-speaking guide/s
- gratuities to driver/s
- gratuities in restaurants
- portage
- the services of your tour leader throughout

## The tour cost does NOT include:

- travel insurance
- items of personal expenditure (e.g. telephone calls / laundry etc.)
- gratuities to guide/s
- boat gratuities
- government levies or taxes introduced after costing and publication of this programme on 04/04/14

## Changes to the Itinerary

Please note, that certain elements of this itinerary, and/or the order of events, may well be subject to alteration due to circumstances beyond our control.



## Fitness to travel

Whilst we do not impose any age limitations on joining a tour, participants must be reasonably fit. The very nature of the sightseeing involved in our tours (and the difficulties of direct access by coach in various places) means that a considerable amount of walking and standing is unavoidable on almost all tours. We regret that our tours are not suitable for people who have difficulty in walking, may require wheelchair assistance at any time, or are unable to keep pace with the group. If you are in any doubt as to the suitability of a tour, please make this known to us before you book and we will advise you accordingly. The Ultimate Travel Company reserves the right to decline a reservation without necessarily giving a reason. Your tour leader may also decline to take participants on particular excursions if they feel that the rest of the group will be held up.