



Project Piaba 2018 Trip Itinerary and Information (Saturday, January 20 – Friday, February 2, 2018)

*****Plan to arrive Saturday, January 20 and if you come in before this, there is a local hotel where you can make reservations and stay at a reasonable rate.*****

Arrival Manaus, Brazil -- January 20, Saturday

Most of the group will rendezvous in Miami (USA) for the overnight flight to Manaus (Brazil). We will be greeted there by Amazonia Expeditions staff. There will be a chartered bus to take us directly to our boat.

Day 1 (January 21)

In the wee hours of January 21st, we will depart up the Rio Negro.

Mo will likely take us out on a morning excursion for bird watching and fishing and snorkeling. We will also visit the small riverside town of Novo Airao. There is a great sustainable development project based there and operated by very good friends. We'll see their accomplishments of establishing this foundation that has been educating and empowering the next generation of Amazonians to improve their quality of life while maximizing value of preserving the environment. Also in Novo Airao there is a small population of pink river dolphins that has become habituated to people. We will be able to interact with them for a very unique and memorable experience.



Days 2 - 6 (January 22 - 26).

We will travel the remaining 450 km (nearly 300 miles) to our destination of Barcelos. Captain Mo will break up the journey with multiple excursions into the jungle and small streams, both day and night. We'll also spend at least a day on the Rio Branco – a large tributary of the Rio Negro with very different water chemistry. There will be a noticeable difference in the flora & fauna as a result of the higher nutrient load and pH of the water. Here, we will experience the insects that people often associate with the Amazon, so the difference in wildlife viewing will come at a bit of an expense (it's worth it though). We'll get back to the acid water of the Rio Negro soon enough to get away from the mosquitoes & no-see-ums.

During our time on the boat, some of the evenings that we'll be motoring over distances. There will be briefings by international experts, scientists, veterinarians, zoos, aquariums and the commercial industry leaders as well as members of the Project Piaba Brazil Team, and of course the Captain. We'll go over opportunities for upcoming excursions.



Day 6 (January 26)



We will arrive in Barcelos, the heart of the Rio Negro aquarium fish trade and center of Project Piaba's 20 years of research on the fishery. We will be able to explore the little town & interact with residents. Recently, Barcelos established wi-fi on plaza, so you can give a go at getting reconnected with the outside world if you choose. There is also spotty cell phone reception, so you may be able to phone home.

We often organize an afternoon reception for the Ornamental Fisher's Cooperative Association, ORNAPESCA, on this day. We will have the opportunity to get to know some of the professional aquarium fishers.



Day 7 (January 27)

The evening of January 27th will be the biggest night of the year for the region: The Ornamental Fish Festival of Barcelos. It is a spectacular event and one you are sure never to forget. You can see a video of one of the past festivals on You Tube look for "Barcelos Fish Festival".



Days 8 & 9 (January 28 and 29)

We'll do a head-count to make sure that everyone has made it back to the boat from the big party and we'll travel to our next destination: the small fishing community of Daracua. Sunday afternoon, we'll arrive and start to get acquainted with the people and the village. On Monday morning we'll get up early and accompany some of the fishers out into the streams to observe ornamental fishing activities.

** The Daracua village has been hard hit by recent changes in the export of aquarium fish. Project Piaba has been working this year to facilitate a return of this community's fishery and you will play an integral role on the Expedition.**

Days 10 – 11 (January 30 and 31)

We'll depart Daracua before sunset on January 30 and start down river.



Captain Mo will continue to break up the long travel distances with stops along the river to see more spectacular sights.

Day 12-13 (February 1 - 2)



We'll aim to reach the confluence of the Rio Negro and the Amazon River for sunrise on the 2nd. We'll see the "Encontro das Aguas" where the two rivers- of dramatically different color- meet & mix. After breakfast on the boat, we'll disembark and tour Manaus. We'll visit the municipal market & see the giant fish market as well as many varieties of fruits & vegetables from the Jungle. We'll also visit the famous Manaus opera house. Later in the day, we'll likely have a meeting with Brazilian Fisheries officials.

We will depart on the evening of February 2nd and arrive in Miami (or other international destination) on the 3rd.

If you plan to stay in Manaus after February 2nd, there is a local hotel where you can make reservations and stay at a reasonable rate.

Photographs taken by Keith Heberling during 2015 Expedition

**Expedition Cost: \$2,600 per person, double occupancy if paid in full before September 1, 2017
After September 1, 2017, cost is \$2,750 per person, double occupancy**

The trip cost includes:

- 2 weeks on a well-appointed live-aboard boat (air conditioned, private in-room bathrooms)
- Visit biological hotspots in small boats; view fish in their wild habitat when you snorkel
- Visit home aquarium fishing communities
- Participate in the Ornamental Fish Festival of Barcelos
- Visit home aquarium fish export facilities
- All meals, mineral water, juices, coffee, are included

The cost does not include:

- Bar drinks such as beer/alcohol, carbonated drinks, bottled water. You maintain a tab for this during the trip (honor bar) and pay the bar bill at the end.
- The crew tip is not included and is usually pooled at the end of the trip. We encourage participants to tip at their personal comfort level. Most participants tip between 5% and 10% of the trip cost.
- Roundtrip airfare is not included and we can give advice on arrangements
- Passport and visa applications and costs are not included; you'll need to apply before Fall

Bank Information SWIFT for Wire Transfers

- Available upon request

OR Payment by Check

- Checks can be made out to **Project Piaba** and mailed to Scott Dowd c/o NEAq, One Central Wharf, Boston, MA 02110. Please include your name as it appears on your Passport.

Suggested Packing List:

- Hat with a brim to shade face and back of neck.
- Sun glasses, plenty of sun screen & insect repellent are a must; this is the equator!
- Small day pack for water bottle, cameras, binoculars for canoe excursions.



- Lightweight rain jacket or poncho and small towel
- Sneakers or light-weight hiking boots
- Light-weight, fast-drying long and short pants and long & short-sleeve shirts.
- Sweatshirt or light-weight jacket
- Swimsuit and Beach towel if you want a large towel
- Sandals/flip-flops
- Wet shoes or sandals
- Binoculars
- Mask & snorkel
- Flashlight or headlamp with extra batteries (dive lights are useful and often inexpensive)
- Drybag/Ziplock/plastic bags for camera, etc.
- Journal/notebook, writing material
- Books/reading material (very limited internet)
- Favorite snacks & candy
- Most people bring \$200 USD to \$300 depending upon how much shopping you want to do
- Money can be exchanged on the boat with no fees and an ATM is at the Manaus airport
- There are few fishing rods and reels on board; you can bring your own if you like



Gifts

People often bring along small gift items to local people and children. We will likely give any gifts to the fishing community of Daracua that will be hosting us for a couple days after the fish festival. If you'd like to do this, you might consider bringing some school & art supplies and small toys for children. New or slightly worn clothes are most welcome. Fishing line and hooks are always appreciated by local fishers. Basic health and first aid supplies can also be very helpful: tooth brushes, band aids, etc. It's best not to give any items with English directions or that require batteries or power.

Additional Details

- Be sure that your passport is up to date
- Residents of the US need a Brazil Tourist Visa (ask for a pdf of the application for contact info in Brazil) Here's a link to the Boston office of the Brazil Consulate: http://boston.itamaraty.gov.br/en-us/visa_general_information.xml
 - o We have a pdf with the information for you to fill out the application; contact us if you need that information.
- We suggest you see your doctor or travel clinic for up to date immunizations and health resources for this area
- You may want to consider travel insurance. We understand Insure My Trip has helpful information about travel insurance and also provides a variety of quotes from different companies: here the link for your convenience: <https://www.insuremytrip.com/>
- Please send your flight information so that we can anticipate your arrival to Manaus.
- The Brazil Coast Guard requires that the boat has a manifest. Please send us your name as it appears on your passport, date of birth and passport number and country of issue.