



AMAZONAS EXPERIENCE

24 October - 7 November 2026

AMAZONAS 2026 - THE ADVENTURE IS ON!

The Australasian College of Tropical Medicine is delighted to announce that Amazonas 2026 is officially underway.

*'On the four previous occasions that I have visited the Amazon, I have loved the excitement that being there gave me – initially petrified of the community living though I was. It was different, unique and a 'forever' experience: like-minded folk experiencing such a magnificent natural environment – without a polyglot of tourists. The lessons I learned about the Amazonas and its history in relationship to our world today are those for which I am forever grateful'. **Marc Shaw***

An update from Prof Marc Shaw, Amazonas Expedition Organiser

Interest has already exceeded our initial allocation of 20 expedition places, confirming what many of us suspected: opportunities such as this are exceptionally rare.



This will be ACTM's first dedicated Amazon expedition and represents a significant milestone in fulfilling one of the College's core aims—bringing members and friends into direct contact with some of the world's most remarkable environments. This is far more than a tour. It is an opportunity to immerse yourself in one of the most important ecosystems on Earth and to experience the Amazon firsthand, forming your own understanding of its people, wildlife, culture, and significance to the global climate.



Journey Into the Heart of the Amazon

Our expedition will be guided by a Manaus resident and highly experienced Amazon guide (Miguel Rocha) who has led me into the region on two previous occasions. Miguel's local knowledge, personal connections, and intimate understanding of the Amazon make him an invaluable companion for this journey.

Joining the academic leadership team will be:

- **Professor Charmaine Tate:** New Zealand, Expeditioner and Risk Management Expert
- **Professor Sundeep Dhillon,** MBE: Everest Summiteer and World Record Breaking Extreme-Environment Medicine Specialist
- **Professor Richard Franklin:** ACTM Chair, Head of Public Health at James Cook University, Wilderness Expert

Together, they bring a wealth of expertise and expedition experience that will add a unique educational dimension to this remarkable adventure.





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A Journey with Purpose

Amazonas 2026 has two distinct objectives:

- To explore and experience the Amazon region of Brazil in a meaningful and immersive way.
- To commemorate the 25th anniversary of the death of New Zealand yachtsman **Sir Peter Blake**, whose life and environmental legacy continue to inspire people around the world.

Manaus to the Rio Negro

Our adventure begins with two days in Manaus, the fascinating gateway to the Amazon. Here we will acclimatise, explore the city sample regional cuisine, and experience the vibrant culture of the Brazilian Amazon.

From Manaus we travel to the town of Novo Airão to board our river vessel and commence and commence an unforgettable voyage along the mighty Rio Negro. For eleven days we will travel through landscapes that few visitors ever truly experience.

Accommodation aboard the riverboat will include sleeping in traditional Amazon hammocks—surprisingly comfortable and an authentic part of life on the river.



Expedition Highlights

Among the experiences currently planned are:

- Guided exploration of Manaus, including the famous Opera House and local markets
- Sampling authentic Amazonian cuisine
- Witnessing the spectacular "Meeting of the Waters" where the Rio Negro and Rio Solimões flow side by side
- Visiting Novo Airão and the Almerinda Malaquias Foundation
- Travelling upriver to Velho Airão and the memorial site associated with Sir Peter Blake's final Amazon journey
- Visits to remote riverside Caboclo and Indigenous communities (subject to local conditions)
- Exploration of ancient petroglyphs near the mouth of the Rio Jaú and access to one of the world's largest protected rainforest regions
- A visit to the historic river town of Barcelos
- Three overnight jungle camps where we will construct shelters, gather around campfires, and experience the rainforest after dark
- An overnight stay on the white-sand beaches of the Rio Branco, offering opportunities to observe wildlife and experience the Amazon's extraordinary natural environment

River levels and local conditions will help shape the final itinerary, ensuring flexibility and allowing us to make the most of the opportunities presented by the Amazon itself.

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Expedition Cost



The anticipated cost: AUD \$4,850, based on a minimum group of 16 participants, and a maximum group of 20. (plus four people from the academic leadership team)

As with any expedition, costs may increase depending on final numbers, foreign currency fluctuations and logistical considerations.

A 50% deposit will be required by 30 July 2026.

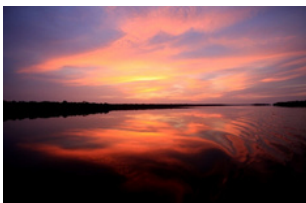
Once the expedition is confirmed, deposits will become non-refundable.

INCLUDED in Expedition Cost

- Group transfers and transport
- 3 nights hotel accommodation in Manaus
- Breakfast, lunch, dinner while in Manaus
- 11 nights on board the river ship including 3 meals a day
- Purchase of hammocks, mosquito nets and blankets (for sleeping on board the river ship)
- 3 meals on board the river ship and bottled water with meals
- Tipping

EXCLUDED from Expedition Cost

- International flights to/from Manaus.
- Travel insurance (it is a mandatory requirement for all participants to have comprehensive travel insurance)
- Drinks (soft drinks, juice, beer and wine will be available to purchase on the river ship)
- Personal expenses
- Credit card fees



Is this tour for me?

While we take care of the logistics, you'll need a good level of fitness, mobility and stamina to get the most out of the experience.

We advise an assessment of your health needs from a travel medicine specialist prior to travel. This is important not just for your enjoyment of the tour, but so that you can keep healthy and keep up with the group.

As with any extended trip, this tour requires a certain level of endurance. There may be early starts, long travel days, and varied weather conditions, including daytime heat and nighttime cold.

It is important to recognise that the conditions on board the boat are basic; you will have a comfortable hammock to sleep in (open air) at night, and the basic bathrooms will be shared with the group. Food will be mainly based on fresh local ingredients (fish, beef, vegetables, etc.).

If you have very specific dietary requirements, these may be possible to cater for. Please let us know if you have any specific needs so we can check whether they can be accommodated.



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How to book your place on this tour.

Click the link below to visit a secure website to register your place. You will be asked to provide relevant personal information. We have partnered with Calder & Lawson Tours, a bonded travel agency based in New Zealand who will be processing registrations.

[Click here to book](#)

Join Us

“This is not simply a holiday. This is an experiential involvement in Amazonas’ It is an expedition into one of the last great wilderness regions on Earth. It is an opportunity to travel with experienced expedition leaders, learn from distinguished academics, engage with local communities, and experience the Amazon in a way few travellers ever do.



Whether your interest is adventure, environmental stewardship, tropical medicine, exploration, wildlife, history, or simply the desire to witness one of the world's greatest natural wonders, **Amazonas 2026 promises to be an unforgettable journey.**

It seems of paramount importance now to investigate the most critical of all earth's rivers and watersheds, and with a certain haste. Here in Amazonia we can evaluate a freshwater-dominated environment where human encroachment is only beginning to change, and slightly so far, the web of natural systems established over millions of years by evolutionary processes'

Jacques-Yves Cousteau; Amazon Expedition 1982

Further details will follow on a regular basis to those involved.

Such excitement is building as we look forward to welcoming you aboard.

For ACTM AMAZONAS 2026 Expedition Leader

Professor Marc Shaw MNZM

College of Public Health, Medical and Veterinary Sciences, James Cook University, Australia

Consultant in Geographic & Expedition Medicine

Optional Post Expedition Extension

For those wishing to continue their South American adventure, an optional one-week extension is being planned.

- **Two days in** Rio de Janeiro
- Two days at the spectacular **Iguazu Falls**
- Three days in **Buenos Aires**

Accommodation during the extension will be somewhat more luxurious than Amazon hammocks, providing a comfortable conclusion to an extraordinary expedition.

Costs for this extension will be determined according to participant numbers.

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