



# Fishing Expedition to Bolivian Amazon

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An adventure that will heal your soul





The act of fishing transports us  
to a special world, and a state of  
mind, where **we are free...**

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Fennel Hudson





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# Welcome to Bolivian Amazon

Hi and thank you for your interest in the Fishing Expedition to Bolivian Amazon. Wild tropical rainforests of Bolivia won hearts of many fishermen, adventurers and life wonderers from allover the world.

By visiting Madidi National Park you have the chance to see the untouched, unspoiled wilderness of the Amazon. Located on the upper Amazon river basin of Bolivia, and completely unaffected by humans, the area still looks like it would have hundreds of years ago.

Our mission is to bring this paradise closer to true nature lovers and help preserve it in its original form.

Experiencing the wild Amazon from inside will bring you to a unique state of mind, full of awe, wonder, peacefulness and presence in the moment. Fishing in Amazon rivers will connect you to the source of life and heal your soul...

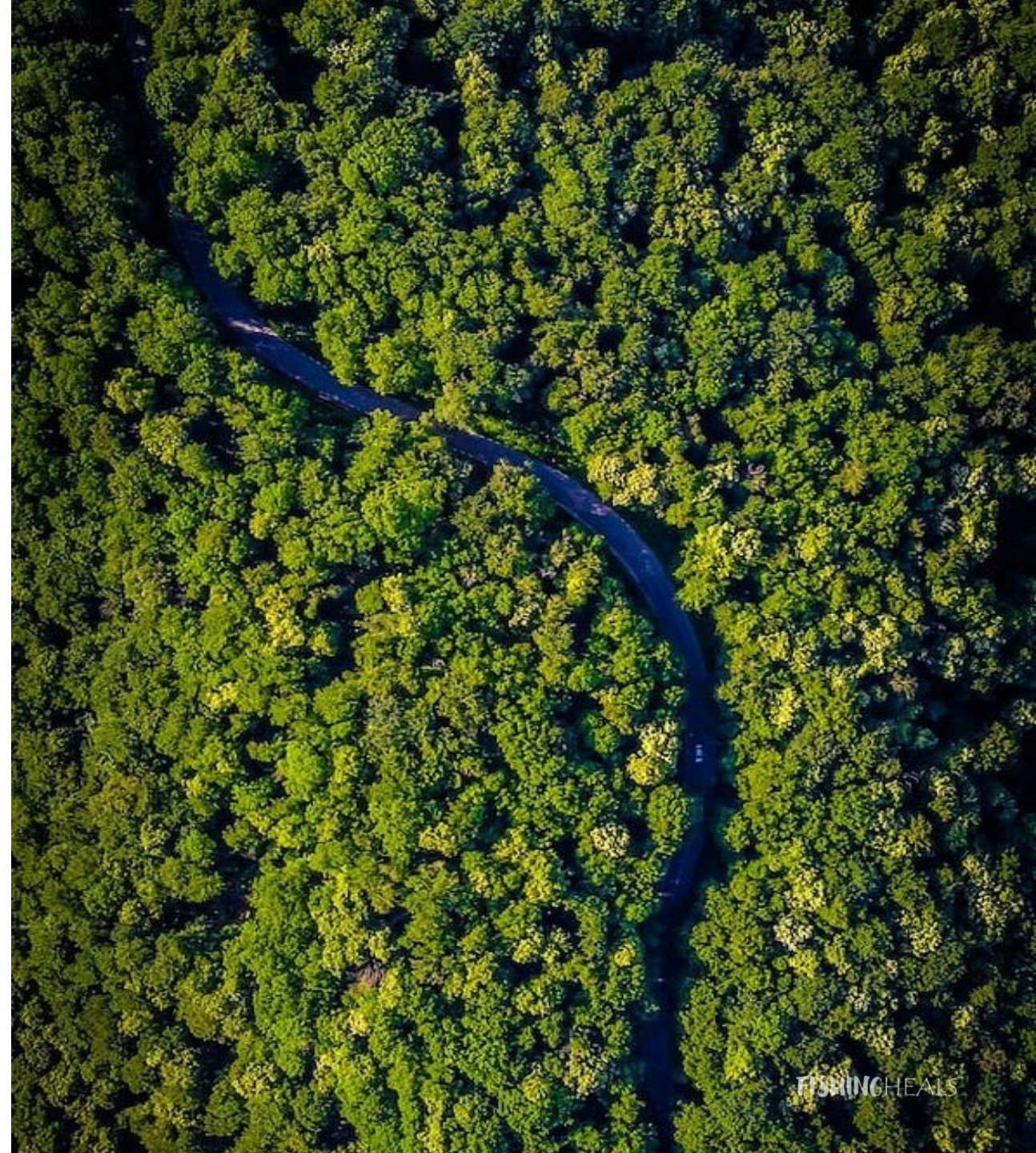
Join our expedition to become part of the most memorable adventure that may change you forever.



Yvan Pancini

Founder of DNA Fishing Expedition

[www.dnafishing.ch](http://www.dnafishing.ch)







## Your voice matters

The Amazon rainforest is one of the most bio-diverse regions in the world. It is home to an estimated 10% of the world's biodiversity and is a crucial part of the planet's ecosystem as it absorbs carbon dioxide and produces oxygen, thus playing an important role in mitigating climate change. Since it covers over 5.5 million square kilometers, it is the largest tropical rainforest in the world. Madidi Park in Bolivia is one of the most untouched areas of Amazon, with rich flora and fauna that will win your heart.

In Centre La Cruz Verde, partner of DNA Fishing, we aim to conserve the local ecosystem, by following three principles:

- Nature preservation
- Health of indigenous people
- Education and support of local communities

By participating in the expedition with DNA Fishing, you contribute to our goal and help to save wild inhabitants of Bolivian Amazon.



Frederique Bordier  
Founder of Centre La Cruz Verde  
[www.lacruzverdebolivia.com](http://www.lacruzverdebolivia.com)



A close-up photograph of a leopard resting on the ground in a forest. The leopard is looking directly at the camera with a calm expression. Its fur is a mix of yellow, black, and white, with distinct rosette patterns. The background is filled with lush green foliage and trees, creating a natural, wild environment. The lighting is soft, highlighting the texture of the leopard's fur.

## Madidi National Park





## Untouched Rainforest of Amazon

One item on almost every traveler's bucket list is to experience the magical sights and sounds of the Amazon rainforest, the most biologically diverse ecosystem on Earth. National reserves of Amazon Basin due to their status as protected conservation areas are a popular destination for true wildlife lovers.

**Madidi National Park** is located in the northeast of the Department of La Paz and is one of the natural reserves with the greatest biodiversity of flora and fauna in the world according to National Geographic, since several ecosystems converge within it: humid montane forests, lowland humid forests, savannahs, mesothermic dry valleys, high Andean zones, etc.

**Area:** 18,900 square kilometers.

**Climate:** the average annual temperature is 26 °C but varies greatly depending on altitude. The climate is very warm in the low areas, temperate at middle altitudes and cold at high altitudes. The warmest months with average temperature of 33°C are October, November, December and January. The period between March and June is comfortably warm (17°C).

**Rainfall:** 1800 mm annual rainfall in the intermediate zones and 5000 mm at high altitudes and the rainy sub-Andean mountains. Madidi's wet or rainy season runs from November to March, with the heaviest rains in January and February. The dry season runs from April to October and is the best time to visit Madidi National Park.



## Wild Life

Among the thousands of species that call Madidi home are some of the most iconic and majestic creatures known to man-animals that capture the imagination of anyone who lays eyes on them.

**Fauna:** Madidi's biodiversity is astounding. The national park is known to be home to:

- 272 species of mammals
- 496 species of fish
- 213 species of amphibians
- 1,254 species of birds
- 204 species of reptiles
- 1,000+ species of butterflies
- 120,000+ species of insects

**Flora:** it is estimated that there are around 5000 species of plants in the park, 4838 of which have been recorded. Orchids, heliconias, kapok trees, rubber trees, and bromeliads abound. Look out for giant trees, with some growing more than 50 metres (165ft) high into the canopy. Plants compete for sunlight in the shady Amazon rainforest, creating a tremendous amount of leaf litter.



**Jaguar**  
*Panthera onca*



**Madidi Titi**  
*Callicebus aureipalatii*



**Ocelot**  
*Felis pardalis*



**Giant Otter**  
*Pteronura brasiliensis*



**Andean Cock-of-the-Rock**  
*Rupicola peruviana*



**White-Lipped Peccary**  
*Tayassu pecari albirostris*

...and many many more...





# Our Expedition



## Expedition Itinerary

Our journey will start in Madrid, from where we will fly to Santa Cruz, the Capital of Bolivia. Thereafter we will take a private jet to the authentic village of Rurrenabaque, situated on the picturesque river of Beni.

After one-night stay in a cozy hotel we will depart on boats to the remote rivers of Madidi National Park, where we will set up our camp.

From there our wild adventure begins! We will spend 12 days in the rainforest, surrounded by wildlife of Amazon. Every day will feel like a whole life!

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Expedition dates: **June-July 2024**

*\*Final dates will be defined once the groups are formed.*







## Camping, jungle trekking & fishing

Hunting for wild fish in the rivers of Madidi will take us on a journey. We will be moving up the rivers to explore new untouched spots and change camps every few days.

High endurance activities will become a true test of your physical and mental abilities in extreme conditions.

However, our crew is committed to ensure your comfort and security in the wild. We will set up tents and take care of all camping conveniences, including electricity, water and food supply, sanitation utilities and first aid kits.

Clients are still recommended to thoroughly prepare personal essentials, such as trekking clothes, hygiene kits or fishing gear as well as ensure appropriate health condition and physical fit (*also see Your Security section, page 16*)



## Our Crew at your Service

Committed to make our expedition most memorable and safe experience for you, we have put together a team of passionate professionals who will assist you in every way possible:

- The *boat crew* consists of local fishermen who know the Madidi area inside out. Three boats, ready to accommodate group of 6 clients (2 per boat), will be guided by the captain with more than 30 years of experience in Amazon rivers of Bolivia.
- *Fishing guides* will advise you on optimal gear, lures or technique for local conditions, no matter if you practice fly fishing, spinning or would like to explore local methods.
- *General service* team will take care of all camping conveniences, utilities and supplies to ensure you have everything needed to enjoy the expedition to the fullest. We will capture the best moments of the journey on video so that you live through them again once you come back.
- Finally, a *local cook* will prepare most tasty and nutritious meals for you so that you are fit to fully embrace the immersive fishing and trekking experience in Amazon jungles.



**Yvan**  
*Founder & Expedition leader*



**Don Elmer**  
*Chief guide*



**Bohdan**  
*Partner*



**Denir**  
*Boat Driver*



**Chama**  
*Boat Driver*



**Alex**  
*Local guide*



**Fatima**  
*The Cook*





## Book now!

DNA Expedition to Madidi National Park covers 12-day experience of jungle trekking and fishing with professional guides. Your package covers the following services:

- Internal flights\* (Santa Cruz-Rerrenabaque), all transfers, travel guides;
- Accommodation in Rurrenabaque, 2 persons per room (can be changed to single occupancy on your demand);
- Accommodation in the rainforest: a 2-person tent with mattresses (sleeping bag not provided);
- Three boats for commuting in Madidi rivers, 24/7 available with drivers;
- Water & meals (breakfast, lunch and dinner / drinks, snacks during the fishing trip);
- Fishing Guides (English-, French-, Spanish-, Italian-, German- and Russian-speaking);
- Fishing license, a permit to visit the national Park, entrance tickets where necessary;
- Travel & camping equipment;
- First-aid kits;
- The fuel supply for boats and generator (to charge equipment)
- Service and maintenance personnel;
- All loading and unloading services on the route, including installation/removal of camps

To receive an offer, contact [www.dnafishing.ch](http://www.dnafishing.ch) or directly Yvan Pancini (see contacts on page 18)

\* Airline tickets to Santa-Cruz are not included



A fisherman wearing a tan hat, sunglasses, a red neck gaiter, and a tan fishing vest with a 'SHIMANO' logo is standing in a river. He is holding a fishing rod and reel. The riverbank is rocky and covered with lush green vegetation. The water is calm and reflects the surrounding forest.

## Fishing Experience





## Golden Dorado

*Salminus maxillosus* or *Salminus brasiliensis*

Despite having *Salminus* in its name, the Dorado is not related to any species of salmon, nor to the saltwater fish also called dorado. Referred to as the "Tigre de Rio" or jaguar of the river, Dorados are piscivores, eating a wide variety of prey fish. The aggressive nature of the dorado, its high jumps, and great fighting strength and stamina have created a great demand among anglers from all corners of the world. It is, however, extremely difficult to find and catch. They attack flies with tremendous power and ferocity and jump violently several times in efforts to break off.

## Yatorana

*Brycon moorei*

Very few fisherman have heard of the Yatorana. Those who are familiar have likely caught one themselves. Pound for pound, the Yatorana fish fights harder than even their close cousin, the Golden Dorado. Despite rarely exceeding 5kg, they often fight harder than any other species in the Amazonian headwaters! Once hooked, Yatorana go crazy. As strong runners, Yats are also jumpers and put on quite a display!



## Pacu

*Piaractus brachipomus*

It is the biggest fish of piranha family known for its lust for blood. But unlike its "cousins" and despite a strong and massive body, Pacu prefers plant food and belongs to herbivorous fish class. By visiting deeper pools of a river during mornings or sunsets, when pacu hunts sardina, you will have an opportunity to experience the ultimate power of this fish with your fly or spinning rod! They are so strong, your fishing gear will get exposed to a real stress test, raising your adrenaline to top levels.



## Arapaima

*Pirarucu*

Arapaima is possibly the largest freshwater fish in the world, reaching up to 200 kg and 10 feet (3 meters) in length. In Brazil, they are also known as 'pirarucu' which translates as "red fish" because of the spectacular color of its scale. Fishing arapaima is second-to-none experience in any angler's career. You and your fishing gear will never forget the *fight of your life!*



# Fish to catch

No other fishing destination offers a more visceral immersion into the jungle than fishing in Bolivia. We can tell you from personal experience that Bolivia is one of the most incredible, unique, one-of-a-kind places in existence. It's jungles are still completely wild, and the wildlife probably has never been seen by a man.

The number of fish species recorded in Madidi National Park and Natural Integrated Management Area (PNANMI), Bolivia has increased with as many as 35 species new to science—according of a study conducted as part of the Identidad Madidi expedition led by the Wildlife Conservation Society.

The largest number of species are found in the order Characiformes (139 species; 41.7%), followed by Siluriformes (137 species; 41.1%), and Cichliformes (19 species; 5.7%), which together represent 88.6% of species richness. The remaining 11.4% is distributed in 10 other orders.

In the remote rivers of Madidi National Park you can catch **Pacu**, **Yatorana**, **Sabalo**, **Surubi**, **Stingray**, **Tucunare**, but certainly the most desired trophy for fishermen from all over the world is **Golden Dorado**, and **Arapaima**, so passionately sought after by professional anglers for its fighting ability







## Fishing gear

Amazon rivers are inhabited by various species that will surprise you with their intelligence, power and sharp teeth. No matter which fishing method you practice, there will always be a trophy waiting for you round the corner. Both Fly Fishing and Spinning techniques can be used to hunt local fish, such as Pacu, Yatorana and of course, the elite of trophy fishing – Golden Dorado. For Arapaima only the strongest fishing gear is required.

**Fly fishing:** A fast action rod from a 7 wt to a 8 wt will keep fly fishing sporty! A 9 wt will help you feel more confident when fighting a trophy. Both Dorado and Yatorana will eat big flies and streamers or small terrestrial fly patterns. Once hooked, these fish will jump and rip line! As they might actually run into your backing, the reel does matter. A good saltwater 7/8 reel with a solid drag system will work great in local conditions. Fly lines are important, too! A floating weight forward line 7-8 will be the ticket for success. Finally, stock up with only strongest single hooks and leaders (min 40 Lb).

**Spinning:** Medium- or fast-action rod up to 70-100g will help you land a trophy and still enjoy fights even with mid-size fish! Equip it with a 4000 reel, 0.25mm braid, and ensure strong shock leaders. We recommend trying various hardbaits (wobblers, spoons and spinners) with strongest sea hooks. For Arapaima go for the strongest you have on the market (rod up to 300g, 6000+ reel, 0.40 mm braid)

You can also learn the local traditional method of **handline fishing** with live baits to catch all predatory fish, including catfish.





A large, dense swarm of bees is captured in flight against a blurred background of green foliage and tree trunks. The bees are concentrated in the center and right portions of the frame, creating a sense of intense activity. The lighting is soft, highlighting the individual bees and the textures of the forest environment.

# Your Safety and Security



## Prepare in advance!

Our team is committed to make your 12-day adventure\*\*\* in the rainforest as safe and secure as possible. Preparing yourself is also key to a successful expedition. Please consider our below recommendations to ensure you are fully equipped.

First on your list is obtaining yellow fever vaccination if you haven't got one yet. It's also a good idea to consult your doctor and discuss whether you are fit for the adventure or should get any additional medication before entering the jungle. Preparing your body and do some physical training is another good idea!

As to the must-have list, most people will want to bring the following items\*:

- Long-sleeved insect-shield shirts, light fast-dry pants, gloves, neck gaiters, a hat big enough to block the sun
- Quality trekking boots and wet wading boots
- Raincoat, water-resistant bag(s) and backpack
- Insect repellent
- Sunscreen and sunglasses
- Sweater or other warm clothing for cooler nights
- Your personal medicaments and hygiene kits\*\*
- Tools (flashlight, pliers, knife etc) and your fishing gear
- Some cash (you will not be able to use bank cards in many places)

\* total luggage weight should not exceed 20-23kg to meet airlines' requirements

\*\* In Rurrenabaque at a local drugstore you may buy special soap for use in rainforests.

\*\*\* In case a participant would like to terminate the expedition or feels sick, on demand our boat drivers will bring him back to the village of Rurrenabaque next day.







## Contact Us!

No word will describe the richness and intensity of fishing and trekking experience in Amazon jungles! Committing to this adventure, you are up to something that can probably change your life perspective forever!

Hurry up! The group for next expedition will be formed soon!

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DNA Fishing Expedition to Bolivian Amazon





Thank You!



FISHING EXPEDITION

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