TRAVELS 2014

AMAZON RIVER EXPEDITION
with Evolutionary Biologist Zarin Machanda
January 17 to 26, 2014
FEATURED STUDY LEADER

Zarin Machanda, Ph.D.
Lecturer on human evolutionary biology

Zarin received her Ph.D. from the Department of Human Evolutionary Biology at Harvard University. She teaches undergraduate and graduate courses on primate ecology, evolution, and behavior. Her research revolves around understanding the factors that shape the quality and development of social relationships among primates. On the Amazon program, Zarin plans to discuss the history of exploration of the Amazon, rainforest ecology, primates of the Amazon with a focus on evolution and natural selection, and what the hunters and gatherers of the Amazon can tell us about human evolution.

DETAILS
Activity level: Moderate
Group Size: 30 maximum

HIGHLIGHTS
- Travel with your Harvard study leader who will provide insight and context for your journey with an educational lecture program.
- Cruise aboard the newly refurbished La Amatista with highly trained, English-speaking naturalists who will guide you along the Amazon River and educate you about the region’s plentiful and unique flora and fauna.
- Gratuities to ship personnel, naturalists, and local drivers and guides are included.
- All beverages are included on board the ship.
- Interact with indigenous ribereños during a specially arranged visit to an Amazon village, where you will learn more about their culture, history and customs.
- See the fascinating Victoria amazonica giant water lilies and watch for pink river dolphins on a special excursion through the remote Pucate Basin.
- Enjoy a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to plant a tree in the rainforest and make a lasting contribution to the preservation of the endangered Amazon Basin.

WHAT TO EXPECT
This is an active program covering rugged terrain, with considerable walking and a number of rigorous travel days including early departures. Daily excursions involve a fair amount of walking on dirt or muddy trails or uneven and/or slippery terrain, and may require walking up river embankments with minimal assistance in warm to hot temperatures. If you are susceptible to altitude sickness, please be aware that Cuzco, the Sacred Valley and Machu Picchu (Post-Tour) are located at high altitudes—11,700 feet above sea level in Cuzco and 8,200 in Machu Picchu.

FOR DETAILED ITINERARIES VISIT ALUMNI.HARVARD.EDU/HAA/TRAVEL
AN UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCE...

THE MYSTERIOUS AMAZON RIVER BASIN IS ONE OF EARTH’S MOST EXOTIC NATURAL REALMS AND OUR PLANET’S LARGEST RAINFOREST ECOSYSTEM.

The longest navigable river, the Amazon winds more than 4,000 miles from its source in the Andes Mountains to the Atlantic Ocean, and its tributaries fan out over 1.5 million square miles to sustain the lush flora and extraordinary fauna of this fragile environment. Explore a boundless natural diversity from delicate orchids to transparent glass frogs and pink river dolphins, from the treetops of the lush rainforest to the depths of black water tributaries.

Your small expedition river vessel is uniquely designed to travel during this “high water” season along remote tributaries of the Amazon that are inaccessible at any other time of year, gliding into areas few other visitors have ever seen. The newly refurbished La Amatista is one of a limited number of passenger vessels allowed to cruise this portion of the Peruvian Amazon, and its craftsmanship evokes the 19th century’s age of discovery while providing comfortable accommodations.

Cruise beyond the confluence of the Río Ucayali and Río Marañón, the legendary inception of the Amazon River, where the primeval calls of birds and other wildlife echo across the rainforest. Travel far beyond civilization to the Pacaya-Samiria National Reserve, the largest wetlands refuge in the world, navigating black water rivers and walking in remote forests where the number of butterfly species climbs into the thousands, and many species have yet to be classified or even discovered.

Your Harvard study leader, evolutionary biologist Zarin Machanda, will provide an enlightening lecture program. She will also accompany you on daily excursions led by English-speaking, expert Peruvian naturalists where you will walk through the rainforest to search for rare indigenous species and board special excursion boats to reveal the Amazon’s secretive, sinuous tributaries. Also visit local villages to gain insight into the traditional way of life of the ribereños (river people) and see a shaman perform an ancient ritual.

This program also includes two nights in Lima, Peru, featuring a visit to its historic city center, a UNESCO World Heritage site; one night in Iquitos with an opportunity to experience its traditional market; and offers a magnificent Machu Picchu post-tour option.

FOR DETAILED ITINERARIES VISIT ALUMNI.HARVARD.EDU/HAA/TRAVEL

AMAZON RIVER EXPEDITION
January 17 to 26, 2014 (8 nights / 10 days)

MACHU PICCHU AND THE SACRED VALLEY POST-TOUR OPTION
SCHEDULE BY DAY

FRIDAY, JANUARY 17
U.S./LIMA, PERU
Depart for the cosmopolitan coastal city of Lima, Peru, located at the foot of the Andes Mountains, and arrive late today. In the upscale, cultural Miraflores district, located in the heart of the city, check into the deluxe Casa Andina Private Collection Hotel.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 18
LIMA
Enjoy a tour of Lima, Peru’s capital, and see the UNESCO World Heritage site of Plaza de Armas—the city’s main square, pre-Columbian temples and colonial mansions. Visit the magnificent Casa Aliaga, built in 1535 as the residence of Don Jeronimo de Aliaga, the co-founder of Lima. It is the oldest private house in continuous use in the western hemisphere and has been inhabited by the same Aliaga family for 17 generations. It is filled with original 16th-century Spanish art and furniture. Then, see the 17th-century Convent and Church of San Francisco, a brilliant combination of Moorish and Baroque styles and one of the finest colonial churches in South America.

The afternoon is at leisure. The Welcome Reception is in the hotel this evening. (b,r)

SUNDAY, JANUARY 19
LIMA/IQUITOS
Following breakfast, fly to the 19th-century rubber boom city of Iquitos, today a vibrant, culturally diverse international city.

Enjoy lunch in the hotel followed by a city tour highlighting the Plaza de Armas, home to the Iron House, designed by Gustave Eiffel for the International Exposition of Paris in 1889 and still considered one of the finest examples of civil architecture in Peru. Continue to the Amazon riverfront and along the beautiful Malecón Tarapacá. See majestic views of the river and the city’s architectural legacy of 19th-century European-Amazonian-style mansions built with Baroque and Rococo influences and stunning ceramic tiles imported from Italy and Portugal. Overnight in the El Dorado Plaza Hotel. (b,l)

MONDAY, JANUARY 20
IQUITOS/NAUTA/ RÍO AMAZONAS
After breakfast, visit the colorful, traditional Belén Market before transferring to Nauta to embark the expedition vessel in time for lunch.

Early this afternoon, leave the modern world behind and begin your journey of discovery into one of the world’s most remote regions. Gather on the ship’s observation deck and watch as civilization fades and the vast Amazon River unfolds before you. (b,l,d)

Please note: Itinerary may vary based on wildlife sightings, water levels and navigability.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 21
RÍO AMAZONAS/ RÍO MARAÑÓN/AMAZON NATURAL PARK
Awake in the heart of the Amazon Basin, where the dense jungle teems with the greatest diversity of plant and animal life on Earth and the perfect serenity of the river is broken only by the occasional fisherman paddling by in a traditional dugout canoe.

Journey beyond the confluence of the Ucayali and Marañón rivers, further along the Marañón. A team of expert naturalists will share their insight into this rich and complex ecosystem and help you identify fascinating species like the gray and pink river dolphins, which often swim alongside the vessel, and the South American oriole. Look for a three-toed sloth moving between trees in a slow-motion ballet, while hawks, kites and turkey vultures glide overhead and jabiru storks methodically search for food in the shallows.

This afternoon, visit a typical village to experience the timeless way of life of the ribereños (river people), who have inhabited the shores of the Amazon for generations. Enjoy a unique opportunity to interact with villagers and learn more about their special relationship with this remarkable environment.

Later this evening, take a special night excursion through the rainforest of the Amazon Natural Park in search of elusive nocturnal creatures such as caiman and bats, and admire a universe of stars. (b,l,d)

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 22
AMAZON NATURAL PARK/ RÍO MARAÑÓN
A morning canoe ride across one of the park’s enchanting black water lakes introduces you to a riveting world of rare animals like the endearing capybara, a comically large, semi-aquatic rodent native only to South America. Watch for wildlife including macaws, egrets, oriole blackbirds and purple gallinules as you walk through a spectacular rainforest of soaring ceiba trees that reach as high as 200 feet to form a vast canopy, and a profusion of palms, orchids and other tropical plants.
Machu Picchu and the Sacred Valley

POST-TOUR OPTION

$2,495 double occupancy
$3,195 single occupancy

Enjoy a once-in-a-lifetime experience featuring Machu Picchu, the “Lost City of the Incas,” the colonial and Incan traditions of Cuzco, and the lush Sacred Valley.

Located high in the Peruvian Andes, Machu Picchu was obscured from humankind for 400 years until Yale Professor Hiram Bingham literally stumbled upon it in 1911. A century of extensive research and study still has not revealed the secrets of its purpose, its residents or its abandonment; nevertheless, this UNESCO World Heritage site has been carefully excavated and preserved.

The rushing Urubamba River flows through the beautiful Sacred Valley, where ancient engineering marvels, such as the fortress of Ollantaytambo, stand as lasting testimony to the powerful and far-reaching Inca empire. Here, village craftsmen employ age-old techniques to weave intricate tapestries and sculpt colorful pottery.

In the historic Inca capital of Cuzco, a UNESCO World Heritage site, the Incan stone fortress of Sacsayhuamán and grand Baroque- and Renaissance-style churches provide a fascinating mix of pre-Columbian and colonial influences.

Post-Tour Option is available at additional cost. Details will be provided with your reservation confirmation.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 24
RÍO UCAYALI/RÍO AMAZONAS/NAUTA

Enter a virtually uninhabited portion of the Amazon where the river narrows. Board excursion boats and cruise up narrow tributaries while the vessel’s naturalists point out captivating animal and plant life rarely detected by the untrained eye. Enjoy a final afternoon of cruising the Amazon en route to Nauta. Gather on the vessel’s upper deck for a festive farewell dinner as the sun sets over the lush flora of the passing rainforest.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 25
NAUTA/IQUITOS/LIMA

Following breakfast, disembark La Amatista and transfer to the Iquitos airport. Fly to Lima and check into day-room accommodations in the Hotel Costa del Sol Ramada. Late tonight, board your return flight to the U.S. or stay overnight in Lima and continue on the Machu Picchu and the Sacred Valley Post-Tour Option.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 26
U.S.

Your flight arrives in the U.S.
AMENITIES
Each of La Amatista’s newly refurbished, comfortable, outside cabins has two twin beds or one double bed, private bathroom and individual climate control. Onboard dining features plentiful Peruvian and international cuisine. The vessel features a specially designed, spacious open-air Observation Deck offering panoramic viewing by day, spectacular stargazing at night and a large bow that is also equipped with excursion boats, ideal for shore visits into the most remote reaches of the Upper Amazon. Two highly trained, English-speaking naturalists provide expert insight into the Amazon’s amazing array of biodiversity, wildlife and the culture of the indigenous peoples during lectures, small boat excursions and nature walks.

LA AMATISTA

TO BOOK A TRIP CALL 800-422-1636 OR VISIT ALUMNI.HARVARD.EDU/HAA/TRAVEL
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JANUARY 31-FEBRUARY 11, 2014

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EXPLORING MYANMAR:
LAND OF THE GOLDEN PAGODA
MARCH 10-23, 2014
Peter Bol

GRAND SOUTH AFRICA
WITH ROVOS RAIL
MARCH 24-APRIL 5, 2014

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MARCH 2014

GERMANY: BERLIN & LEIPZIG
APRIL 2014

TURKISH TREASURES
APRIL 25-MAY 9, 2014

MOROCCAN ODYSSEY
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TANZANIA: A FAMILY ADVENTURE
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James Simpson

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AEGEAN SEA ON VARIETY VOYAGER
JULY 23-AUGUST 1, 2014
Harvey Cox & Nina Tumarkin

ICELAND TO GREENLAND: VOYAGE TO THE ARCTIC CIRCLE ON M.S. L'AUSTRAL
AUGUST 12-14, 2014

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SEPTEMBER 2014

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INDIA’S HOLY RIVER GANGES ON BENGAL GANGA
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Diana Eck

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APRIL 29-MAY 10, 2014
Robert Kiley

PORTUGAL & SPAIN: THE ENCHANTING DURO RIVER ON AMA VIDA
MAY 5-13, 2014

WATERWAYS OF RUSSIA: MOSCOW TO ST. PETERSBURG ON VOLGA DREAM
JULY 16-26, 2014
Julie Buckler

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SEPTEMBER 8-16, 2014

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CRUISES

COSTA RICA & PANAMA (FEATURING THE PANAMA CANAL)
JANUARY 19-31, 2014

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JANUARY 31-FEBRUARY 13, 2014
David Aguilar

TAHITI AND FRENCH POLYNESIA
MAY 17-24, 2014

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JULY 7-15, 2014

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HUNTERS & GATHERERS TANZANIA:
JUNE 2014
Catherine Mckenna

Discover Wales
JUNE 7-14, 2014
Michael Weishan

LandscaPes & literatures of ENGLISH gardens
JUNE 2014
Jeffrey Quilter

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To register, fill out this form and return to HAA travels with your deposit of $1,000 per person, plus $200 per person Machu Picchu Post-Tour. Please note that for some programs an additional deposit may be requested after you book.

Please return this form by mail to:
HAA Travels, Harvard Alumni Association
124 Mount Auburn Street, 6th floor, Cambridge, MA 02138

Or by FAX: 617.496.4011

Please call with any questions: 800-422-1636 or 617-496-0806

I AM NOT ABLE TO MAKE THIS TRIP, BUT PLEASE ADD ME TO YOUR MAILING LIST

First Person Name on Passport

Date of Birth

Email Address

Street Address

City / State / Zip or Postal Code

Home Telephone

Work Telephone

Second Person Name on Passport

Date of Birth

Email Address

Street Address

City / State / Zip or Postal Code

Home Telephone

Work Telephone

Method of Deposit

Check (please enclose check)

Visa

Mastercard

PAYMENT OPTIONS

Card Number

Expiration Date

3 Digit Security Code

Name as It Appears on Card

I have read and accept the general information for this tour, including Refunds and Cancellations and the Responsibility Clause at alumni.harvard.edu/haa-travel.

Signature

Accommodations

Category Preference

Double Room

Single Room

Share a Room With: 

Roommate

Extension Program

I would like to register for the post-tour to machu picchu

$2,495 double occupancy

$3,195 single occupancy

Registration Form

I am not able to make this trip, but please add me to your mailing list.

Program Name

Start Date

First Person Name on Passport

Date of Birth

Email Address

Street Address

City / State / Zip or Postal Code

Home Telephone

Work Telephone

Second Person Name on Passport

Date of Birth

Email Address

Street Address

City / State / Zip or Postal Code

Home Telephone

Work Telephone

Method of Deposit

Check (please enclose check)

Visa

Mastercard

Card Number

Expiration Date

3 Digit Security Code

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