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PEACOCK BASS FISHING ON THE AMAZON RIVER IN BRAZIL

Welcome to one of the most exciting fishing adventures anywhere - a week exploring the fabled waters of the Amazon River in Brazil with Westside Adventures.

Your quarry is the awesome peacock bass, not only one of the most beautiful of all fresh water fish, but also one of the strongest and most acrobatic fish in the world. You should encounter fish in the 10 to 20 pound class, and topping 20 pounds. Hooking them isn't too difficult; the hard part is getting them to the boat!



Don't think in terms of largemouth bass when you're in the Amazon. Even the pros are amazed to the ferocity and explosive power of these fish! Peacock bass regularly break 20 and 40 pound test lines and rip the hooks from 7-inch plugs. If their initial topwater strike doesn't scare you out of the boat, then they'll try to pull you out. They are fierce, territorial monsters that jump and dive like nothing you have ever experienced! Veteran anglers describe the peacock bass as the greatest game fish in fresh or saltwater. Their electrifying strikes and aerial acrobatics have to be experienced to be believed.

THE OTTER - "YOUR HOME IN THE JUNGLE"

Your home in the jungle will be a very nice, diesel-powered, triple deck houseboat with air conditioned cabins and private baths. There are many nice houseboats available to us in Manaus, but we are currently using the OTTER due to its shallow draft and its ability to enter the more remote fishing areas. You will enjoy three meals daily featuring a mixture of American and native Brazilian dishes, have access to an open bar each evening where you can relax and discuss the day's fishing with your new friends, and end your trip with a barbecue steak dinner on the houseboat's open-air top deck while you listen to a myriad of sounds coming from the rain forest. It's so comfortable that many anglers bring their wives!



FISHING PACKAGE

Itinerary - Tours depart Miami for Manaus, Brazil on a comfortable LAB International Airline flight every Friday, with return travel back to Miami the following Sunday morning. The trip duration is 8 days / 7 nights, with 5 days of unforgettable peacock bass fishing.

Tour cost - Only \$3,995.00 (flights and all tackle included!)

The Price Includes: All accommodations, transfers, and services from Miami, all in-country flights to various regions of the Amazon to be fished (in these situations the yacht is already waiting for the groups arrival at the village in the region to be fished), all transfers in villages from plane to the yacht. All baggage handling. All accommodations, based on double occupancy, aboard the yacht and in the Tropical Hotel throughout your 7 nights stay in Brazil. All meals and beverages aboard the yacht; including hearty American-style breakfasts, boat lunches and a cooler full of drinks while fishing each day, and delicious dinners combining memorable local favorites and American selections. All alcoholic/non-alcoholic beverages, included. Guided fishing with 2 fishermen per one knowledgeable local fishing guide in spacious bass boats with trolling motors and all tackle (rods, reels, line, lures, ect.).

Not Included: Round-trip airfare from your home to Miami. Tourist visa expenses and Gratuities (about \$150.00 total)

Schedule - All trips begin on Friday and end on Sunday for the 2005-2006 Season. (\$1500.00 deposit required) Call to check availability!!

Travel documents - You will need a valid passport and a visa to travel to Brazil. As a passport takes several weeks to process, it may be advisable to fill out an application now, if you do not already own a passport or if yours is nearing it's expiration date. We will send you a Brazilian tourist visa application form with your Pre-trip information packet after receiving your trip deposit.

Inoculations - No inoculations are currently required for entry to Brazil. We advise that you consult your physician and follow their recommendations. You may take malaria medications or receive yellow fever vaccinations, etc. if you choose.

THE FISHING

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Don't think in terms of largemouth bass when you're in the Amazon. Even the pros are amazed to the ferocity and explosive power of these fish! Peacock Bass makes for a formidable adversary. They regularly break 30-lb mono and super braids of 50-lb and greater strength, in addition to destroying lures, straightening hooks and split rings, even breaking rods and exploding reels. If their initial topwater strike doesn't scare you out of the boat, then they'll try to pull you out. They are fierce, territorial monsters that jump and dive like nothing you have ever experienced! Veteran anglers describe the peacock bass as the greatest game



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The houseboat moves up and down the remote rivers opening as much as 100 miles of the river and its tributaries for fishing. The mobility insures that you will always have the very best fishing available regardless of the water conditions. You could actually be the very first angler to ever fish a particular are of the river or remote lagoon.

You will begin each morning with a 5 a.m. wake-up call and a cup of steaming coffee just in time to see sunrise on the Amazon and watch the jungle awaken. After breakfast, your guide will meet you, ready to begin the day's fishing adventure.



What will it be? Lagoons? River points? A small tributary stream? A flooded backwater? They are all here and each produces exciting peacock action! You will have until noon to fish your choices.

Back on the houseboat for lunch, you will also have time to check lines and sharpen hooks, or simply relax in your cabin. The in mid-afternoon, you will head out again for several more hours of tackle-testing excitement for this is when many of the biggest fish are caught!

Sunset will find you returning to the houseboat for a refreshing shower, a cocktail, an excellent dinner, and the chance to once again surrender yourself to the enescapable thrill of the rain forest.



Tucunaré (too-coon-a-ray), as Peacock Bass are locally known, is only one of a long list of species which you can catch in the Amazon Basin. The tucunaré is known as Brazil's freshwater ambassador, because it's fierce top water strikes and tackle busting power has attracted adventurous fishermen from all over the world. Reaching sizes over three feet long and upwards of 25 pounds, the beautiful Peacock Bass makes for a formidable adversary.

Many consider it to be the ultimate fresh water sport fish. The tucunaré (Peacock Bass) is not really a bass, as the English name implies, but a cichlid. In the Amazon region, local scientists have identified a total of 14 different species of tucunaré. A more commonly known cichlid is the aquarium fish, Oscar, which like the Peacock is known for its aggressive behavior.

However, tucunaré are far from the only sport fish which you will be able to catch. The Amazon is home to over 2500 species of fish (some scientists say closer to 3000) many of which are not yet catalogued. About a third of these are Amazon catfish, which merited the number one rating in In-Fisherman magazine's survey of the world's toughest freshwater sports fish. Amazon catfish include the giant Piraibas, beautiful Pirararas (Red Tailed Catfish), large migratory Jaús and top water lure striking Surabims (spotted, striped and tiger varieties).

In addition to catfish, you will have the opportunity to catch piranhas, a variety of other cichlids (peacock bass cousins), aruanas (another prehistoric hold out), traira (like walleye with teeth and an attitude), cachorras (Brazilian name for the fanged Payara) and many other species. Some anglers in the 2000/2001 season caught upwards of 15 different species in a single day of fishing. In order to increase the enjoyment and success of your dream fishing trip, we will provide you will a tackle list optimized for conquering the Peacock Bass and other Amazon exotics.

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Peacock Bass Fishing Equipment List

Peacock Bass are considered one of the hardest hitting and most aggressive gamefish in the world!! Explosive top-water strikes are their "claim to fame". Landing Peacock Bass will require using tough equipment. To give you the advantage, we are providing this "tried-and-true" equipment list for Peacock Bass fishing.

For fishermen bringing their own Peacock Bass tackle, We recommend:

Rods : Casting- (3+) Med.-Hvy. to Hvy. Action 6'6"- 6'9" rods.

Note : Best rods also have a long handle. When retrieving a large prop-bait, such as a Big Game Woodchopper, it is best to position your rod butt on your hip to gain leverage and assist in pulling the bait through the water. Short aggressive jerks allow the prop-bait to throw more water and attract more strikes!

Spinning : You may fish for peacock bass with spinning equipment if that's what you are comfortable fishing with. Bring 7ft Med.-Hvy. rods with good quality light-saltwater reels, lined with 50-60lb braided line. To be honest, the casting rod's stiffness, castability, accuracy, and balance make it a much better choice for peacock bass fishing. The Amazon is the perfect place to learn and master bait casting techniques; the days are beautiful, the fishing is hot, and you will be rewarded for your efforts.

Reels : Casting- Good quality, strong drag, fast retrieve ratio (6.0:1-6.3:1)!

We recommend:

- 1) Top-of-the-line. . .(Shimano Chronarch)
- 2) Top-of-the line. . .(Diawa Millionaire CV253A)
- 3) Less expensive, but still capable is (Abu 6500 C4)

Line : 80lb braided fishing line, made by Tuffline or Magibraided.

Lures : Large Prop-baits- The large prop-baits were specifically designed for peacock bass and other species that really "turn-on" to a bait that causes a big top-water commotion. The large prop-baits are the best lures available for bringing big peacock bass to the surface.

The two main choices of large prop-baits are :

- 1) The Big Game Woodchopper
- 2) The Amazon Ripper

The 3 colors we prefer are: Perch, Fire Tiger, and Black/Orange. In addition, the Clown and Red/White will at times produce good strikes. Note: Big Game Woodchoppers have a louder more aggressive sound, but Amazon Rippers are a little easier to retrieve.

In conclusion, bring 6-10 large prop-baits in a combination of models and colors, for example: (2) Big Game Woodchoppers each in Perch and Fire Tiger
(1) Big Game Woodchoppers each in Clown and Red/White
(2) Amazon Rippers in Black/Orange
(3) Amazon Ripper in Fire Tiger

Smaller Prop-baits (called The Peacock Special)- The smaller prop-baits will rise Peacock Bass, often of smaller size, and are easier to retrieve than the larger prop-baits.

Bring 1 each of the Peacock Specials in Black & Orange, Blue, and Fire Tiger.

Jerkbaits: (2-3) large 7" or medium 6" Redfins (chrome w/blue dorsal), also Bomber Long-A lures

(6"): 1ea in clear body w/red head or silver flash w/blue back. Rat-L-Traps: (2) chrome/blue back in ¼ oz size.

Other: Bucktail jigs in ½ oz. (white color works best).

Peacock Bass - Fly Fishing Equipment List

Peacock Bass love to hit big flies! The good news is that on the average, an experienced fly fisherman will land more peacock bass than an equally skilled fisherman using casting equipment! The fly fisherman's peacocks will be slightly smaller in size, but larger in numbers. The peacock bass that will normally hit a fly are in the 2-8 pound range, although 10-20 pound fish are often taken and the world record (all tackle) on the fly is a 24 pound peacock! While fishing for peacock bass, you will need to bring heavy weight fly fishing rods and fish with large streamers and top-water poppers.

Below is a list of recommended fly fishing equipment for peacock bass:

Rods : Fly rods should be from 8-11wt, with either a 9wt or 10wt being the best weight if you were only bringing one rod.

Reels : Good quality with a strong drag and capacity for a lot of 30lb backing, designed for the weight rod you are bringing.

Line : Any good quality floating, weight forward, line will work best. I prefer to use a shooting head system because peacock bass are definitely not line shy. If you are bringing a second rod, I recommend a 5ft #6 sinking-tip line for the second outfit.

Leaders : A very quick and easy method is to simply cut a 5-6ft section of 40, 50, or 60lb "hard mono" and tie it on as a strait-leader. If you are interested in fishing for line class records for peacock bass, you will need a leader with a heavy butt section, followed by your IGFA approved line class section between two bimini twists, ending in a 20lb, 30lb, or 40lb fluorocarbon tippet. Be sure to check on the current IGFA record for the line class that you are fishing, so you will know if a record breaking fish has been caught.

Flies : Peacock bass flies should be tied on large sharp, 3/0-4/0 hooks. Peacock bass will hit top-water poppers, but large streamers will produce more strikes. All colors will attract peacocks to strike, especially combinations using yellow, green, red, olive, and blue. Smaller 3"-4" streamers are easier to cast and will produce a lot of strikes from fish in the 2-6 pound range. For really large peacock bass, you will need to fish with a streamer that is from 5"-8" in length.

Recommended flies for peacock bass are:

Streamers -

- 1) Wool flies (or can be tied with Bozo hair)
- 2) Rabbit tail slider
- 3) Deceivers

Poppers -

- 1) Dahlsberg divers
- 2) Foam poppers

OVERVIEW OF THE TRIP

Itinerary - Tours depart Miami for Manaus, Brazil on a comfortable LAB International Airline flight every Friday, with return travel back to Miami the following Sunday morning. The trip duration is 8 days / 7 nights, with 5 days of unforgettable peacock bass fishing.

Your trip begins in Miami where you board a wide body jet for the five hour direct flight to Manaus deep in the heart of the Amazon. After a good night's sleep, you will take a special charter flight across the rain forest which includes a fascinating aerial view of the famous "meeting of the waters." This is where the "black," tannic acid waters of the Rio Negro join the "chocolate," muddy waters of the Amazon River.

After landing in a small village approximately 300 river miles from Manaus, you will board your air conditioned houseboat home for five action-packed days! When the fishing ends, you will return to Manaus with time for shopping and sight-seeing in this famous city. One of our American trip leaders will be with you every step of the way.

Shopping for native crafts in the Mercado Municipal, gift stalls around Centro, or gift shops near the Opera House is a favorite activity for many on their afternoon in Manaus. Precious and semi-precious jewels mined in Brazil, either un-mounted, or in beautiful custom jewelry pieces, are another favorite purchase for many of our clients. Amethysts, aquamarines, emeralds and topazes are among the best buys in this area, often being had for 1/3 to 1/2 of their stateside price.

The groups often meet up for dinner together at a local Brazilian churrascaria (barbecue restaurant) or a restaurant serving local fish and seafood dishes. After dinner options include an open air show of regional Boi-Bumba dancers, or a visit to a local club to experience some live Brazilian music and dancing. Whatever your desires for your day in Manaus, our manager (who is not only a resident of the area, but married to a local Brazilian girl) will be glad to give you some advice on the local hot spots for shopping, eating and entertainment. If the schedule allows for it, he will even accompany you into town to help with money changing, shopping and choosing from your evening options.



THE AMAZON RIVER

The immensity of the Amazon Basin shows itself as soon as you leave Manaus. The Amazon is the largest river in the world, and has 10 tributaries larger than the Mississippi. In many places, even these tributaries are several miles wide.

The houseboat moves up and down the remote rivers opening as much as 100 miles of the river and its tributaries for fishing. This mobility insures that you will always have the very best fishing available regardless of the water rconditions. You could actually be the very first angler to ever fish a particular area of the river or remote lagoon.

What will it be? Lagoons? River points? A small tributary stream? A flooded backwater? They are all here and each produces exciting peacock bass action! You will all day to fish your choices.

We actually fish two different regions according to the rainy season. From early September through early November, we concentrate several hundred miles east of Manaus on major Amazon tributaries that have regularly produced peacock bass over 20 pounds. Charter flights from Manaus take us to our houseboat where we begin fishing within a few hours.

In January and February, we switch to the Rio Negro, the largest of the Amazon's tributaries, where a 27-lb world record peacock bass was caught in 1994. Again a charter flight from Manaus takes us directly to the houseboat.





TRANSPORTATION

Itinerary - Tours depart Miami for Manaus, Brazil on a comfortable LAB International Airline flight every Friday, with return travel back to Miami the following Sunday morning. The trip duration is 8 days / 7 nights, with 5 days of unforgettable peacock bass fishing.

We recommend Varig Airlines. It flies once a week to Manaus.

Approximately \$900.00 +/- per person from Miami to Manaus return trip.

Note : Airfares are subject to change and confirmed only at time of ticketing.

According to data from international aviation organizations, Manaus International Airport is the safest in Brazil. It is an international airport with connections to neighboring countries, making travel arrangements easier. The people of the Amazon have much to be proud of, and seem to enjoy sharing their culture and unspoiled beauty of their homeland with us, their visitors.

Not Included - Round-trip airfare from your home to Manaus, Brazil. Tourist visa expenses. Your personal fishing equipment. Gratuities. Last days city tour and lunch/dinner in Manaus (in many situations, this is a free day for sightseeing/souvenir shopping and is impossible to get all of the group together to plan for meals, etc).

Travel documents - You will need a valid passport and a visa to travel to Brazil. As a passport takes several weeks to process, it may be advisable to fill out an application now, if you do not

already own a passport or if yours is nearing it's expiration date. We will send you a Brazilian tourist visa application form with your Pre-trip information packet after receiving your trip deposit.

Inoculations - No inoculations are currently required for entry to Brazil. We advise that you consult your physician and follow their recommendations. You may take malaria medications or receive yellow fever vaccinations, etc. if you choose.

Pre-Trip Information - After you have decided on the trip dates that you wish to travel, please contact our office toll free and we will be happy to reserve them for you, after receiving your trip deposit of \$1,500. At that time we will send you a Pre-trip information packet containing your Brazilian visa application, recommended tackle and clothing lists, and forms to process additional vital information for your travel to Brazil. Final payment is due no later than 60 days prior to the date of your departure.

RECOMMENDED TRAVEL AGENT:

William's Burg Travel

ask for Bonnie

800-764-8808

Mention Westside Adventures for special rates

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kent" followed by a stylized flourish.

800-840-8781 (office)