

Feral Human Expeditions

Presents



Matis: An Amazonian Indigenous Experience

Amazonas, Colombia and Brazil

Simply put, this is the most authentic indigenous experience you will likely ever have the opportunity to participate in. The Matis are masters in the jungle, still implementing the skills, beliefs, and ceremonies which have been developed over generations. Watch as they skillfully hunt with 14 ft. blowguns and curare tipped darts, climb trees and vines to retrieve their kill, and utilize plants, bones, clays, and everything else in their environment to meet all their needs. This is not a reenactment of a people's history, this is the Matis today in a jungle environment which they have always been a part of. If observation alone isn't enough for you, you'll have the opportunity to participate in certain ceremonies and rituals, but be warned, several of these cause pain.

In addition to spending five days with the Matis, you will spend a night in a comfortable tree house, a night in a jungle house called Uaco, visit an indigenous traditional house of the Makuna culture called a Maloka, and you will have a chance to learn about the jungle and practice walking in it before we go to meet with the Matis. You will also have two nights in Bogota, the capital of Colombia.

Facts at a Glance-

When- Dates TBD 11 days



Where- You will first fly into Bogota where we will spend one night. The next day fly to Leticia Colombia which is our jumping off point for all our other activities. When we visit the Matis we will cross the border into Brazil and travel up the Javari River. At the end of the trip, fly from Leticia back to Bogota for a night and from there you will fly home.

What is included- Lodging, most food and drink starting with lunch on day 1 and ending with lunch on day 11, local guides and interpreters, ground and water transportation including transfers to and from airports, tourism tax in Leticia, city tour, payment and travel expenses for 20-30+ Matis.

What isn't included- Airfare, no more than 4 meals in cities, beverages between meals while in cities, alcoholic beverages, unscheduled activities, additional days, personal travel insurance, Brazilian Visa, gifts for the Matis, and anything not listed as included.

Price- \$5,000 with a minimum of 4 and a maximum of 8 participants.



Equipment-

Your choice of hammock or tent, sleeping bag, and sleeping pad will be provided for sleeping in the jungle. We can rent out headlamps (\$15), head net (\$5), quality poncho (\$15), and dry bags (\$5-\$10) if you don't already own them and you don't wish to purchase them.

Packing List-

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| | Headlamp |
| | Appropriate clothing for being in the sun all day such as light long sleeve shirts and pants |
| | Hat for sun protection |
| | Sunglasses |
| | Sun screen |
| | Head net |
| | Insect repellent |
| | Rubber Boots (or purchase in Leticia if you are size 12 or less) |
| | Shoes for in camp (sandals are fine) |
| | Rain gear (poncho is best) |
| | Pack Towel, Wash Cloth |
| | Tooth Brush and Tooth Paste |
| | Camera |
| | Small day pack |
| | Shorts to swim/bathe in |
| | Jacket for Bogota |

For a list of recommended vaccinations, medications, and travel advisories visit the CDC website at wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel.

Visa Requirements

Americans do not need a visa in advance before entering Colombia, however a **Visa is required to enter Brazil**. You must purchase your Brazilian visa well in advance. For more details visit miami.itamaraty.gov.br/en-us/.



About the Matis

First contacted in the mid 70's, estimates of their population varied widely ranging from 150-1,000. Whatever their pre-contact population was, disease and conflict quickly and dramatically reduced the Matis population to as few as 87 in the years following contact. Today, the population has recovered to 400 or 500 Matis. Occasional trips to Atala and contact with outsiders has left the Matis with immune systems that are less susceptible to western disease.

The Matis live within the boundaries of the massive Valle do Javari Indigenous reserve, which is said to protect the highest concentration of uncontacted tribes in the world. We cannot enter this reserve but the Matis can travel four days down river and out of the reserve to our meeting point.

Itinerary

Day 1

Fly to Bogota where you will be picked up at the airport and brought to our hotel. What time you arrive will determine what we do in Bogota but some possibilities include visiting the *Museo del Oro* or gold museum, climb Monserrate for a view of the city, or just relax in town and enjoy some good food and excellent hot chocolate.

Day 2

We'll take a short flight to Leticia at the southern tip of Colombia. From the airport we'll go straight to the Tanimboca Reserve where we will have lunch. A short walk into the jungle will bring us to our tree house where we're spending the night. After dinner get your headlamps ready because we're going out for a night walk.

Day 3

Today you will learn more about the jungle environment including a few tips on how to walk through it which will be useful for when we meet with the Matis. We'll make our way to an indigenous traditional house of the Makuna culture called a Maloka. If you are lucky, and you accept, the chief might offer to blow powdered tobacco up your nose through the hollowed out bone of a harpy eagle. We may choose to swim in the nearby stream before making our way to a jungle house called Uaco where we'll spend the night.





Day 4

After breakfast we'll walk back to Tanimboca, then head into Leticia. We will stamp passports and exchange money for Brazil. This is your chance to buy presents for the Matis like machetes, fishing hooks and line, flashlights, etc. We will have lunch at a restaurant in Leticia or in neighboring Tabatinga on the Brazilian side of the border. In the evening we'll return to Tanimboca and go to La Arenosa where we'll have dinner and sleep in comfortable cabins.

Day 5

Wake up for an early breakfast because we have to get back to Leticia where we'll take our private boat up the Javari River and smaller tributaries to where we will be camping for the next four nights. This is your first meeting with the Matis.

Days 6, 7 and 8

These are full days with several Matis families. We will camp separately from the Matis but we will visit them in their camp and they will visit us. There is plenty to do with the Matis and we might help make clay bowls and masks, make curare, or practice using blowguns. We'll also go

on walks with the Matis to watch them hunt with fourteen foot long blowguns, find plants for various purposes, and more.



You will also have the opportunity to watch and even participate when appropriate in certain ceremonies, rituals, dances and shows. Some are mostly for fun, some are meant to cause pain in order to overcome fear of pain, one is meant to augment the vision of a hunter which is also painful, and one even involves

being burned on the arm and having poison from a frog rubbed into it. You are not required to take part in any of these.

Day 9

Say goodbye to the Matis, they have a six day journey ahead of them to get back home. On our way back to Leticia we'll stop in Atalaia Do Norte for lunch. We will then get our passports stamped to reenter Colombia. After dinner in Leticia we'll go back to the cabins at La Arenosa for the night.

Day 10

After breakfast you'll have a chance to do the canopy tour and zip line at Tanimboca Reserve and have a city tour of Leticia. Catch the flight back to Bogota in the afternoon and enjoy your last night in Colombia.

Day 11

What time you fly home will determine what you have time to do in the city. There is no shortage of places to go and things to see in Bogota. You will be provided transportation to the airport. Return home with many new experiences, memories and stories to tell.



We Hope to See You in the Amazon!

For more information contact Garrett Cooper at
info@feralhumanexpeditions.com or call him at (518) 637-7559

*All the Best,
Garrett*

