

Feral Human Expeditions

Presents



Expedition Dugout

Amazonas, Peru

Paddling a dugout canoe in the Amazon is a bucket list activity for many people. Why not go all in and build the canoe yourself, then paddle it through the jungle for multiple days? At FHE going all in is what we do best, and that's what we've done with Expedition Dugout.

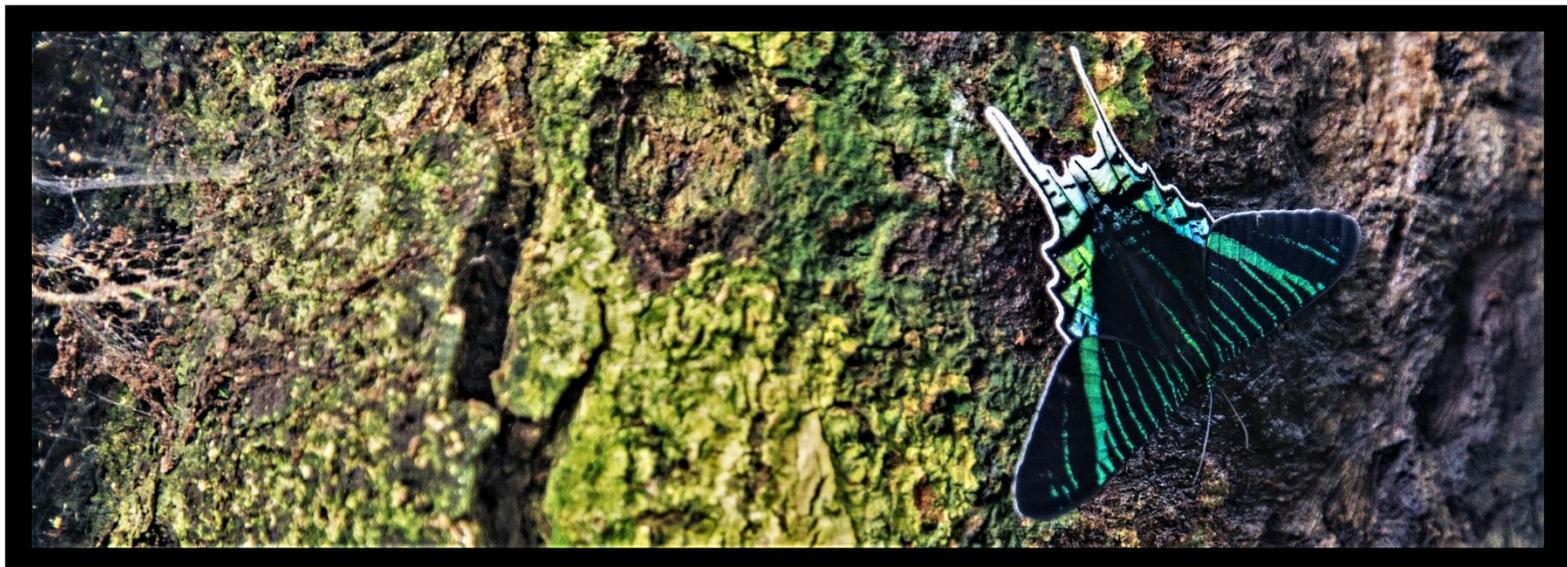
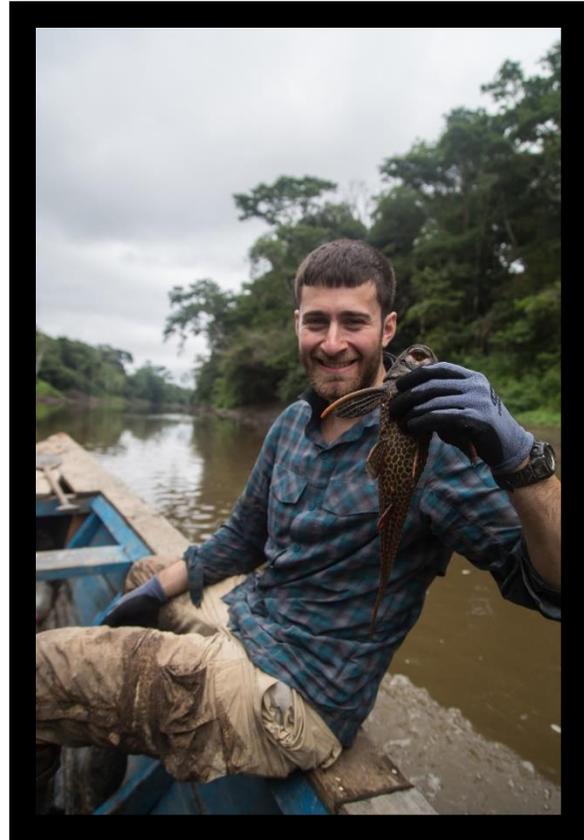
Our primary objective is to learn about and participate in the construction of a dugout canoe using techniques commonly used by rural Peruvians under the instruction of experienced locals.



Most of the work will be done with axes, a few other hand tools, and fire. Once finished, we'll paddle the canoe through the Amazon rainforest surrounded by pink dolphins, howler monkeys, macaws, caiman, and much more.

You'll also experience intimate cultural immersion in the small community of Yarina on Rio Yanuyacu, where jungle and village life converge. This will be our base of operations during the construction process where we'll stay with local families in their homes. Our stay in Yarina will present opportunities for more than just observation of the villager's daily lives, but also participation and education of their crafts. Learn to make jewelry with palm fibers and seeds, catch a variety of fish including piranha, explore the surrounding jungle, play volleyball in the evenings, and learn some skills that many of us take for granted like how to pluck a chicken or cook on a fire.

At the end of the expedition, we will donate the canoe back to the village of Yarina. This will help to reduce our environmental impact by reducing the need of the community to make another canoe.





Facts at a Glance~

When~ See feralhumanexpeditions.com for dates. 16 days during the dry season, when we are most likely to have fair weather and dry land for camping.

Where~ Amazonas, Peru. Fly in and out of Iquitos, Peru. We'll build the canoe near Yarina, a small village of a few families on Rio Yanuyacu within the Pacaya Samiria National Reserve.

What is included~ Lodging, most food beginning with dinner on day 1 and ending with breakfast on day 16, local guides and interpreters, daily entrance fees and permits for the Pacaya Samiria Reserve, and all ground and water transportation. This also includes labor, materials, tools, and instruction from the village of Yarina for the construction of the canoe and other lessons. Hammocks, sleeping bags, PFDs, ponchos, and other gear is available.

What is not included~ Airfare, 5 meals in Iquitos, beverages between meals while in cities, alcoholic beverages, laundry service, unscheduled activities, additional days, personal travel insurance, and anything not listed as included.



Level of Difficulty- Moderate to high. You should have the desire to learn and work on the canoe for 4-6 hours a day using axes and other hand tools. You will work, camp, and paddle in the jungle in both sun and rain. Our purpose is not to push anyone to their limits so you don't need to be an athlete to join this expedition. You should, however, have a basic level of fitness to keep up with daily activities, and be able to take small hardships with a smile on your face.

Food- In cities we will eat in a variety of restaurants. In the village of Yarina we will have a cook prepare all meals. We'll all share cooking duties while camped in the jungle.

Lodging- Rustic. Shared rooms in cities and hammocks or tents in in villages and jungle. You don't join an expedition to build a canoe in the Amazon for the luxury of your sleeping quarters.

Visa Requirements- Citizens of the USA do not need a visa before arriving in Peru.

Health and Safety- For a list of recommended vaccinations, medications, and travel advisories visit the CDC website at wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel or visit your travel doctor.

Price- See feralhumanexpeditions.com. There is a minimum of 4 and maximum of 8 participants.



Itinerary

Day 1-

Fly into Iquitos, Peru. Iquitos is the largest city in the world with no road access, so everything coming in or out requires a flight or a long boat ride. The evening will be spent exploring the city and recovering from your flight. We'll spend the night in a hotel.



Day 2-

We'll do last minute checks to make sure everyone is ready to go up the river. This is our last chance to buy anything until we come out of the jungle. You'll also get to see Belen and the market. During the annual flood, the lower part of Belen will be underwater forcing people to use only the upper levels of their houses. We will be there during the dry season so we'll be able to walk it all. The market can be an assault on your senses with stimuli coming from everywhere. You'll see the witches market complete with many potions, monkey heads, jaguar bones, snake skins and more as well as strange meats, fish, fruit, and other foods in the rest of the market. If you aren't used to this kind of market it can be a little overwhelming for some, but it's an experience that should not be missed.

Day 3-

We'll wake up early to travel by land to Nauta where we will board a motorboat. This will take us to Yarina on Rio Yanuyacu within the Pacaya Samiria Reserve. The Pacaya Samiria Reserve lies between the Marañon and Ucayali Rivers which converge to form the Amazon River and is a massive inundated forest during the annual flood. If we are lucky and leave on time, we'll make it to Yarina before dark.



Day 4-

Today we'll go into the jungle to see the tree we are using for our canoe. We then cut a ring around the base of the tree so the fluids can drain out. This makes it easier and safer to work with later. It won't take long so we we'll go for a walk in the jungle and have time to get familiarized with the village.

Days 5 to 10 (estimate)-

Orlando, our lead boat builder, will fall the tree and we can get to work. We'll work on the canoe 4-6 hours a day until completion. Exactly how many days it takes will depend on the size of our log and how much we are able to complete each day. Depending on group size, we may work in shifts. Every day we will enter a new phase of construction but most of the work is done with axes. It's a fascinating process all the way to the end. Time permitting, we will also make our own paddles.

With the rest of your time during the day, you'll have opportunities to learn other things from the villagers such as cooking, fishing, and making jewelry. We'll also make some day trips to see some of the amazing jungle nearby, do night walks to experience the jungle life night shift, and do a night on the water to find caiman.

Yarina is involved in an interesting turtle conservation project we can learn a bit about. This project both helps to protect the turtles of the area, while simultaneously providing an income for some of the villagers. We may



even get the opportunity to transplant turtle eggs into a safe nest where they will be protected until hatching.

Volleyball is a favorite evening pastime in the village and they enjoy playing with new opponents so bring you're A game. After volleyball we usually go for a swim and take time to relax in a hammock before dinner.

On the last day of constructing the canoe, we light a fire under it. It can be nerve racking to watch something you poured so much sweat into burn, but it is necessary. Once the wood has burned a bit and the wood is hot all the way through, we pry the sides open to increase the canoes width by roughly 30% so it's slightly more stable. Then, we'll take it for a test run and hope it doesn't sink.

Day 11-

Most of the day will be spent traveling upriver by motorboat, towing our canoe. Along the way we will take a break at a hole that always has an abundance of pink dolphins. Further upriver, we'll find a place to camp.

Day 12-

Time to start paddling down the river. We'll take turns paddling the canoe in teams two. Everyone else will either paddle canoes borrowed from families in Yarina or an inflatable packraft. The canoes can feel very unstable for some paddlers so we will have rafts available as well. Depending on where we are and how far up the river we were able to make it, we'll either camp again or spend another night in Yarina.



Day 13-

Continue down the river. We may decide to explore one of the small tributaries or lakes connected to the Yanuyacu along the way. There can be a lot of wildlife in these areas so paddle quietly to see more. We'll likely camp tonight, though there is another very small village we could sleep in.

Day 14-

This is our last day of paddling. We can paddle out of the reserve and take a motorboat to Nauta, or we'll paddle into the much larger Rio Marañon and follow it to Nauta. The decision will be made based on time and the desires of the group. Either way, we'll hand the canoe off to someone so it can be brought back to Yarina to be donated to a family. From Nauta, we'll take land transportation back to Iquitos and our hotel.

Day 15/Contingency Day-

This is a contingency day. It could be used as an additional day to work on the canoe, to paddle, or to do and see more around Iquitos. If we made it to Iquitos on day 14, spending Day 15 in Iquitos is a good option to visit the indigenous museum, swim at the beaches, shop for souvenirs, or just recuperate from the expedition. There is no shortage of things to do around Iquitos.

Day 16-

Fly home with lots of new memories, great experiences, stories to share, and maybe a botfly.



Packing List-

Passport
Sleeping bag*
Sleeping pad*
Tent or hammock with net and rain fly*
PFD*
Headlamp*
Appropriate quick drying clothes for being in the sun all day such as light long sleeve shirts and pants. 2 Pair.
Full brim hat
Sunglasses
Sun screen
Head net
Insect repellent
Shoes that can get wet (not neoprene)
Rubber boots (size 12 and under can be purchased in Iquitos)
Rain gear (poncho is good)*
Pack Towel, Wash Cloth
Toiletries
Camera
Small day pack
Dry Bags*
Other clothing for in Iquitos

Items marked with a * are available to borrow or rent.

Contact us for details.



We Hope to See You in the Amazon!

For more information contact us at
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or call (518) 637-7559

