

# *Feral Human Expeditions*

*Presents*



## Matis: People of the Amazon

Amazonas, Colombia and Brazil

The Matis are masters in the jungle, implementing skills, beliefs, and ceremonies which have been developed over generations. Walk with them and learn as they skillfully hunt with 12 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 their needs. If observation alone isn't enough for you, you'll have the opportunity to participate in certain ceremonies and rituals, but be warned, some of these are painful.



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, and two nights in bungalows at La Arenosa. You will be given a crash course in jungle familiarization and good practices before we go to meet with the Matis. You will also have an opportunity to do a canopy tour and will spend two nights in Bogota, the capital of Colombia.

## Facts at a Glance

**Price-** See [FeralHumanExpeditions.com](http://FeralHumanExpeditions.com).

There is a minimum of 4 and maximum of 8 participants.



**When-** See [FeralHumanExpeditions.com](http://FeralHumanExpeditions.com), 11 days

**Where-** You'll first fly into Bogota, Colombia where we will spend one night. The next day we fly to Leticia, Colombia as a group, which is our jumping off point for all 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, we fly from Leticia back to Bogota for a night and from there you'll fly home.

**What is included-** Lodging, most meals 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, canopy tour, payment and travel expenses for 20-30+ Matis.





What is not included- Airfare, beverages and snacks between meals while in cities, alcoholic beverages, unscheduled activities, additional days, personal travel insurance, Brazilian Visa, gifts for the Matis, up to two meals, and anything not listed as included.

Travel Concerns- For a list of recommended vaccinations, medications, and travel advisories visit the CDC website at [wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel](http://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/](http://miami.itamaraty.gov.br/en-us/).



# Equipment

Your choice of hammock or tent, sleeping bag, and sleeping pad will be provided for sleeping in the jungle. Ponchos and other miscellaneous items are available to borrow if needed.

## Packing List

This list is not exhaustive, but merely a set minimum.

	Headlamp
	Appropriate clothing for being in the sun all day such as light long sleeve shirts and pants, 3 pair
	Hat for sun protection
	Sunglasses
	Sunscreen
	Head net
	Insect repellent
	Rubber Boots (or purchase in Leticia if you are size 12 or less)
	Shoes for in camp (crocs or sandals are fine)
	Knee high wool or synthetic socks, 4 pair
	Pack Towel, Wash Cloth
	Tooth Brush and Tooth Paste
	Rain gear (poncho is best)
	Small day pack (waterproof or with dry bag)
	Shorts to swim/bathe in
	Jacket for Bogota







## About the Matis

First contacted in the mid 70's, estimates of the Matis 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 rebounded to 400 or 500 Matis. Occasional trips to Atala and regular contact with other Brazilians and foreigners has left the Matis with immune systems that are less susceptible to 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 out of the reserve to our meeting point.

### Matis Involvement in this Expedition

It's important to know that these meetings with the Matis are done with not only their consent, but their wish, and under their control. We have direct participation of tribal representatives and leaders who believe these meetings are a way for the Matis to have some control over their future, and it is one way they are exercising their right to self-determination.

We've all heard stories in the media of outsiders pushing their way into an area and instigating change or bringing problems to people who don't want this outside involvement. The problem with assuming this narrative is always true for all tribes is that it doesn't take into account the complexities of the Amazon and the people who live there.

The Matis have individual rights and group rights, which we take great care to respect. Everyone at these meetings, both Matis and visitors, meet voluntarily at a camp in the jungle for what we always want to be a positive interaction for everyone involved. All Matis attending are there by choice and can leave at any time, but this has not happened. In fact, every meeting we've had ends in them asking us to come again with more people.

In short, this is what the Matis are asking for. We hope to maintain this relationship with the Matis for as long as they see fit, and as long as it is not damaging or in violation of their wishes.



# 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 will spend 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 may have an opportunity to meet with a Yacuna shaman and learn how to make mambe from dried coca leaves. The shaman may also offer to blow powdered tobacco up your nose through the hollowed out bone of a harpy eagle. We'll spend the night in a jungle house called Uaco.





## 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 bungalows.

## 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 our meeting point with the Matis. After introductions and getting settled in, we may be offered a culturally significant drink called Tachik. We'll camp here for the next four nights.

## 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 ours. 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 12 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

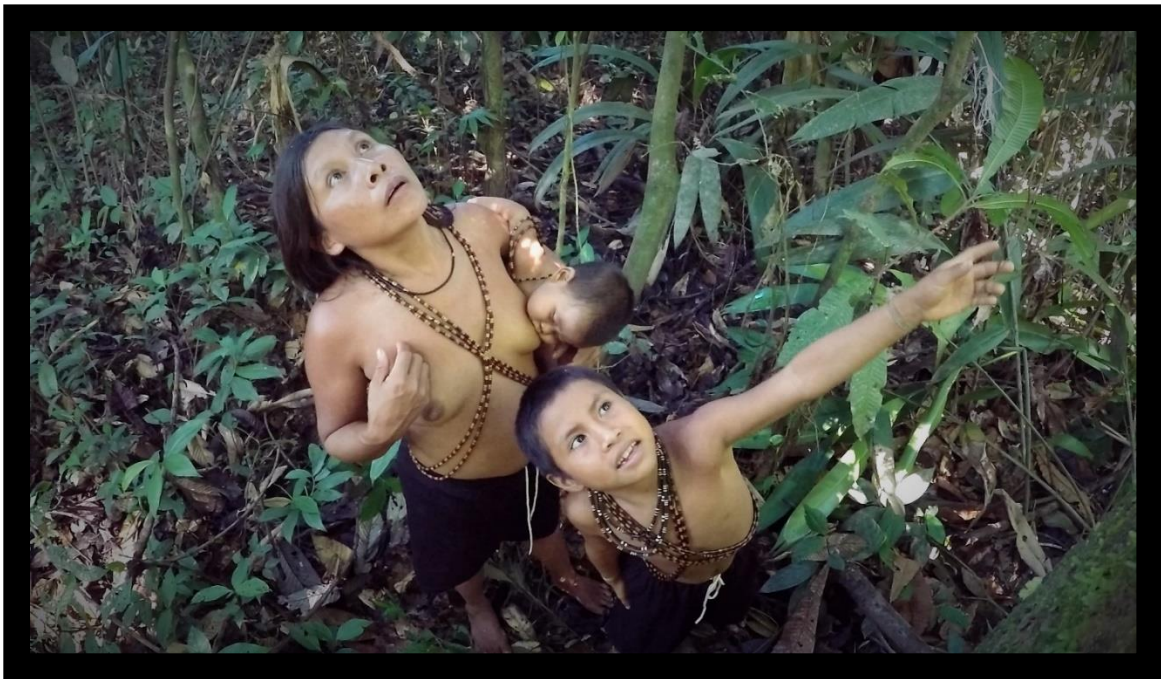
Say goodbye to the Matis. Depending on water levels, they have a four to six day journey ahead of them to get back home. On our way back to Leticia we'll stop in Atalaia Do Norte for lunch. We will then get our passports stamped to re-enter Colombia. After dinner in Leticia we'll go back to the cabins 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!*

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