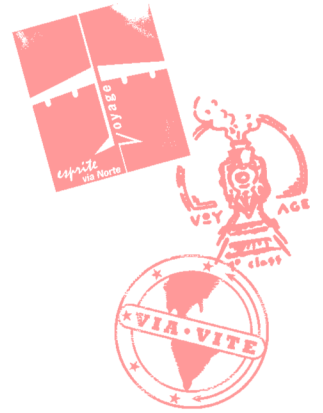


Amazonas

Exploring the Ucayali and Marañon

by Laurie Harris





Amazonas

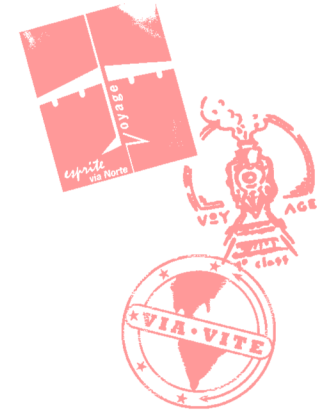
Exploring the Ucayali and Marañon



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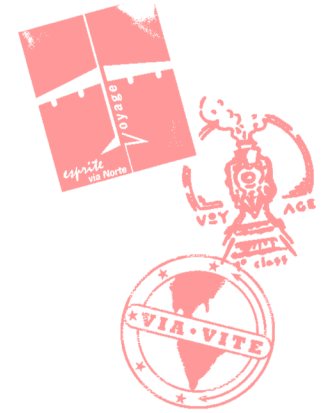


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Tamshiyacu & Esperanza

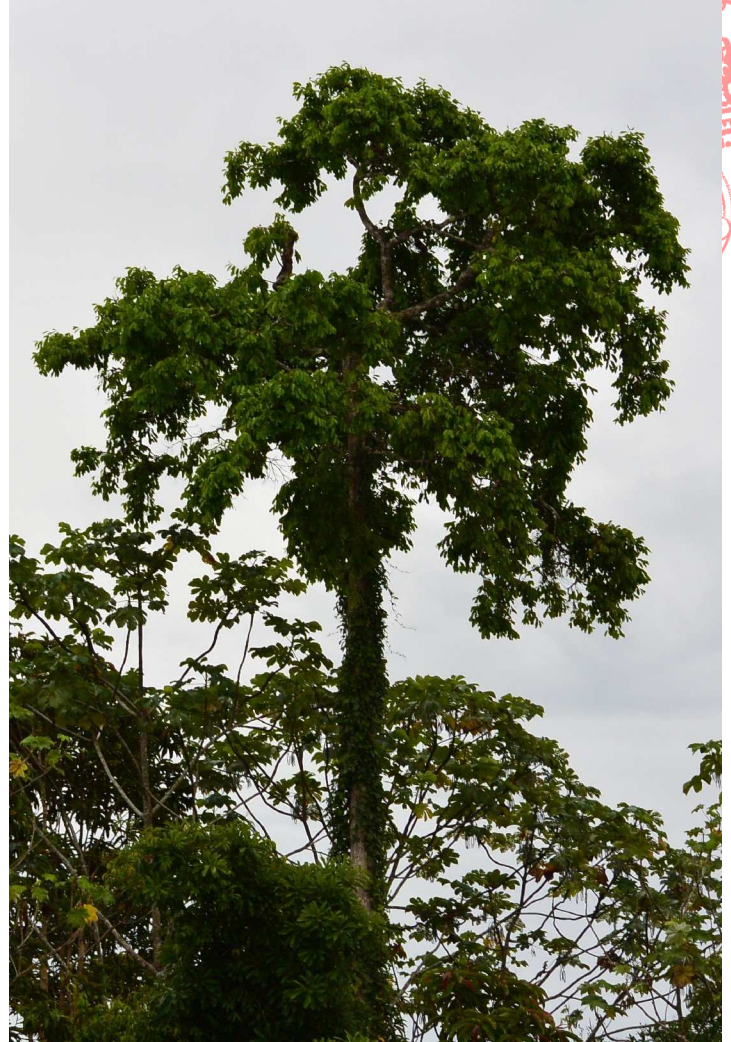
Our first skiff excursion after leaving Iquitos was the small river town of Tamshiyacu. On our way to the town our eagle-eyed guide was able to spot the Pygmy Marmoset, the smallest monkey in the world. Our morning excursion also gave us glimpses of a number of Green Tree Iguanas. In the afternoon we journeyed further south to Esperanza for some Amazon bird watching.







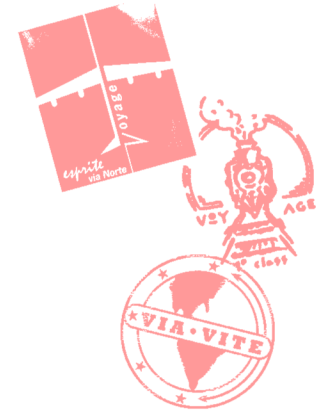




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Yarapa River

Our morning skiff excursion took us just beyond the Amazon Confluence where the Amazon river diverges into the Marañon and Ucayali rivers to the small Yarapa tributary. We were able to get our first glimpses of the Three-toed Sloth as well as a number of insect and bird species.





Kapok fruit



Aztec Ant nest



Paper Wasp nest





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White-headed Marsh-tyrant



Slate-colored Hawk



Three-toed Sloth



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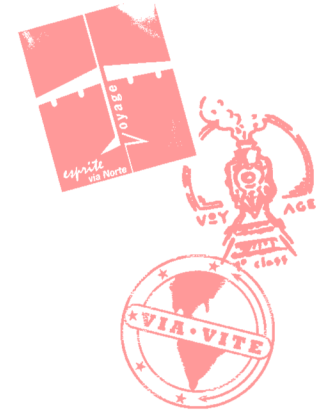
BIENVENIDOS

Comunidad de

28 de Julio

¡El Alcalde Trabajando con su Pueblo!

Tec. Eng. Mario Pacaya Pizango
Alcalde



Comunidad de 28 de Julio

In the afternoon of Day 3 we were fortunate to be able to visit the small village Comunidad de 28 de Julio (July 28th Community). This village had never before received tourist visitors and we were warmly greeted and given an impromptu performance by the village children in the local schoolhouse/church. We were also able to give the children school supplies and toys before departing.





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Dracula fish



Zebra fish



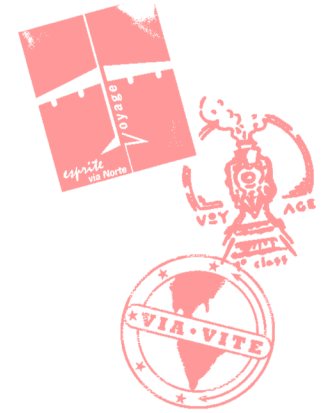
Red-bellied Piranha











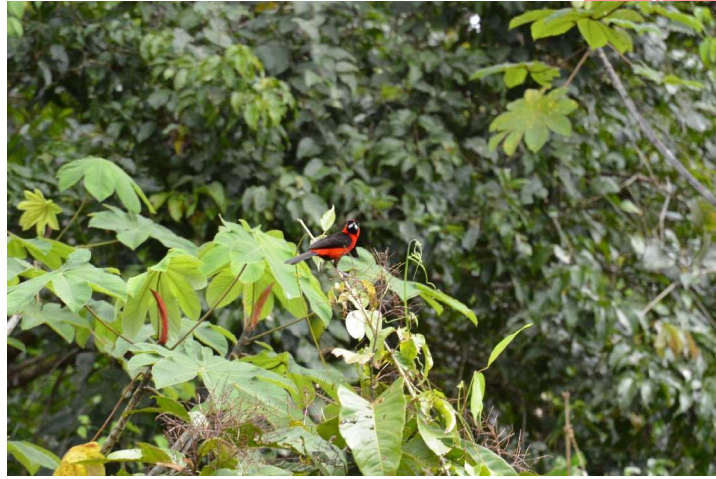
Yanallpa Creek

Early in the morning of Day 4 we enjoyed some piranha fishing in Yanallpa Creek (which would later turn into piranha dinner). On the way to our fishing spot we caught a glimpse of the prehistoric looking Caiman Lizard as well as a trio of nocturnal Night Monkeys.

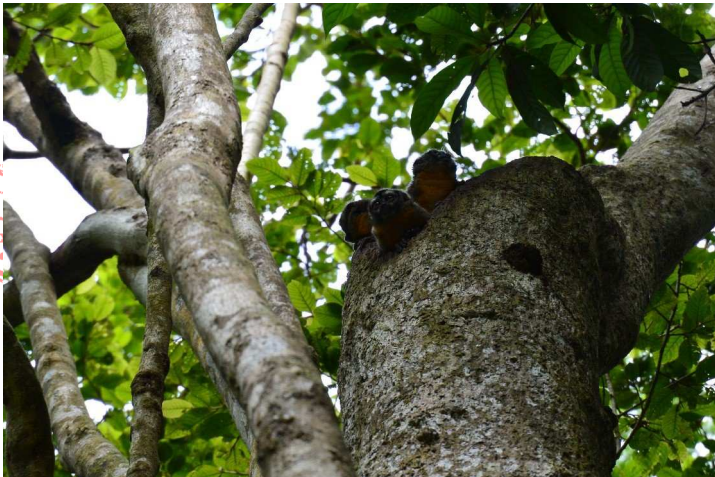




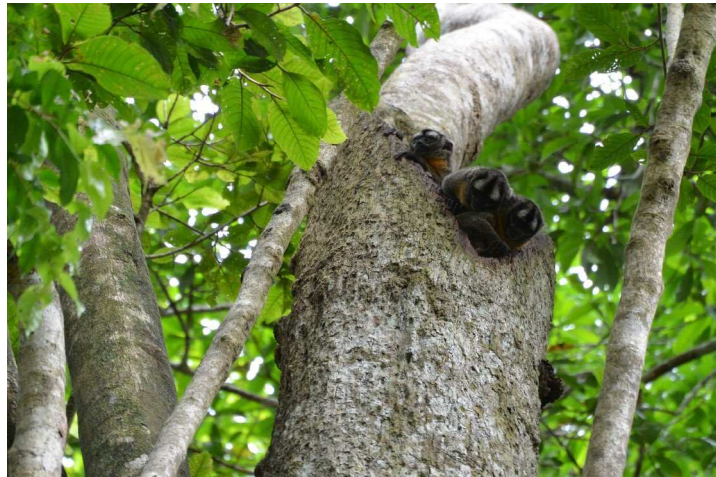
Caiman Lizard



Masked Crimson Tanager



Night Monkeys



Night Monkeys





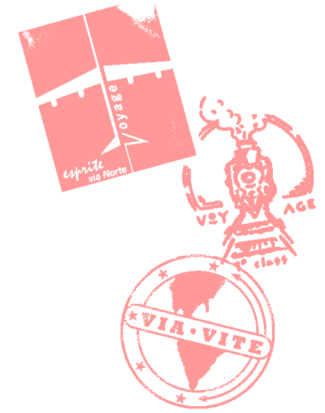
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Red-bellied Piranha

Bienvenidos a Requena

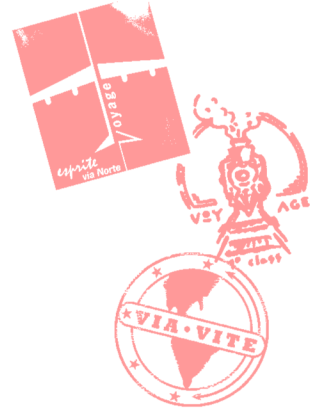
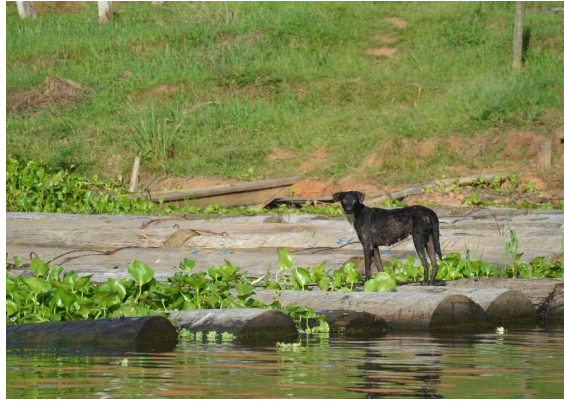
Les Desea Hospedaje y Discoteck "El Muelle"



Tapiche River

In the afternoon our travels down the Tapiche River took us past the sizeable town of Requena. We were greeted by waves and smiles from the happy children of the town and saw a glimpse into the daily activity of the Riberenos (River People). At the edge of the town we saw a dozen of the tiny Long-nosed Bats.









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Long-nosed Bats



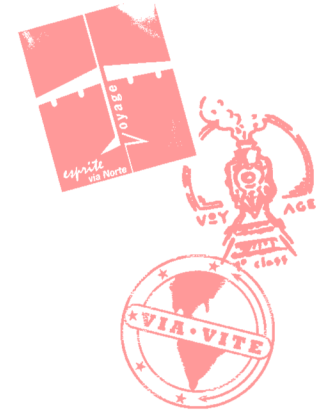
Turkey Vultures



Snowy Egret



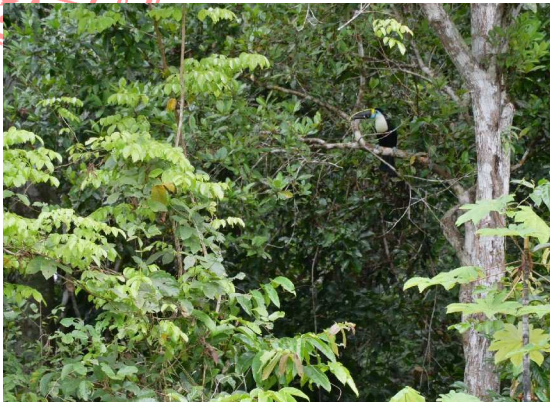
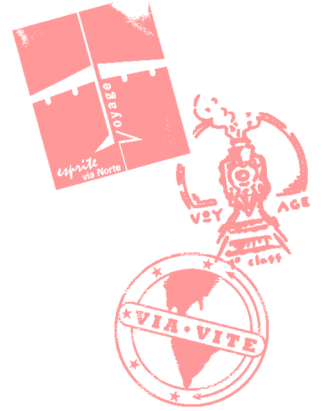
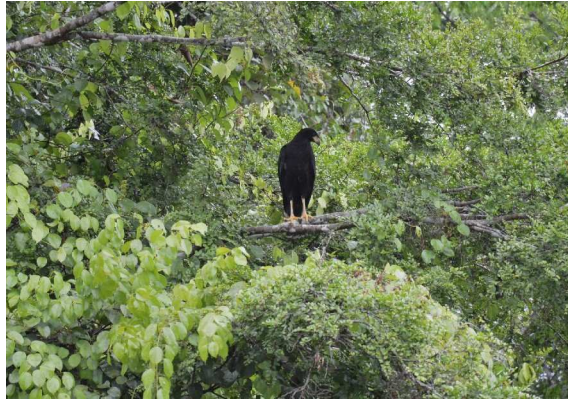


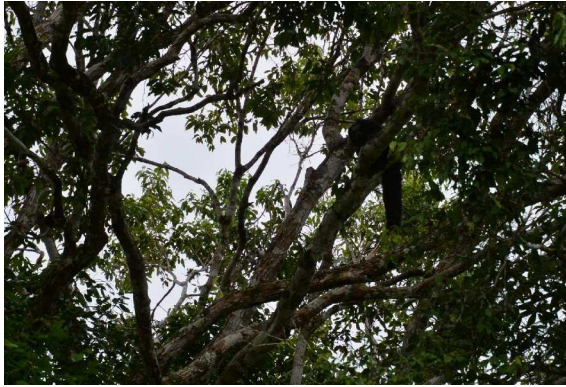


Zapote River

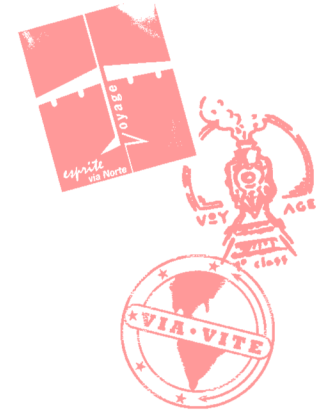
On Day 5 we awoke early in the morning before breakfast to travel along the Zapote River. We saw our first glimpse of the famous Amazon Pink River Dolphins. After a picnic breakfast on the skiff we saw a number of birds including the Black-collared Hawk, a Great Black Hawk, a Great Kiskadee, a Horned Screamer, a White-throated Toucan and a flock of Neotropic Comorants. We spotted two more monkey species including the Monk Saki Monkey and a Squirrel Monkey.







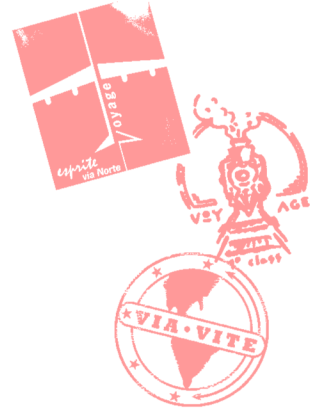




Tamana Lake

In the evening we prepared for a late night excursion within the Pacaya Samiria National Reserve. We were greeted with a host of nocturnal animals from the Great Potoo, Sand-colored Nighthawk, Ladder-tailed Nightjar to the Clown Tree Frog and the transparent Glass Tree Frog. Our guide narrowly missed catching an Amazon Water Snake but made up for it by giving us a close encounter with a young White Caiman.





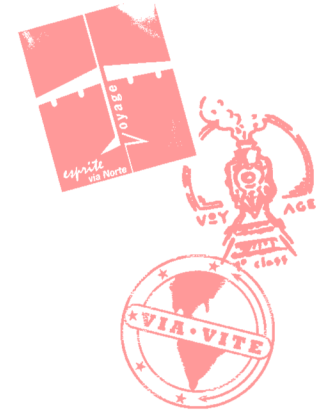


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Juvenile White Caiman

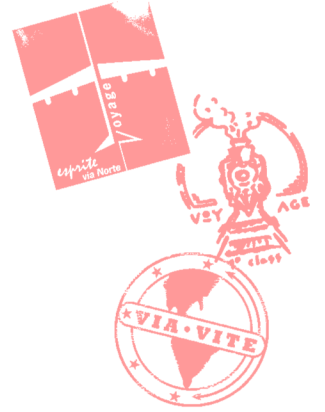




Yanayche River & Dorado Creek

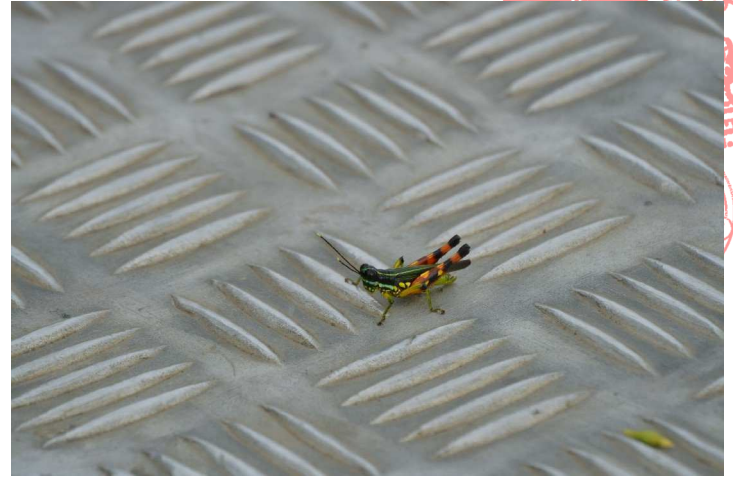
Today's activities took us to Yanache River where some had the opportunity to swim while Pink River Dolphins cruised nearby. The afternoon brought us to Dorado Creek where some guests kayaked while others had a close look at a family of Hoatzin. Like most evenings we were greeted with spectacular rainforest sunsets.



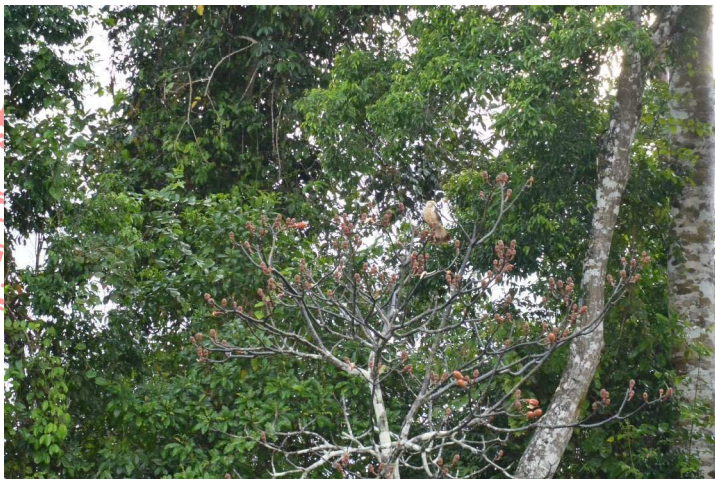




Pink-toed Tarantula



Rainbow Grasshopper



Albino Black-collared Hawk





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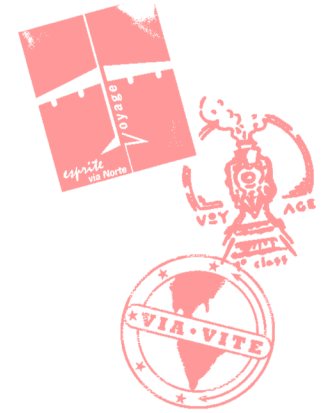
Family of Hoatzin





ESTRELLA
AMAZONICA





San Jose

Our final day on the river was packed with activities starting with a visit to San Jose where we met with local Shaman Maestro Juan. We took part in a blessing ceremony before heading to the nearby "Amazon Walmart" to purchase hand-crafted souvenirs.





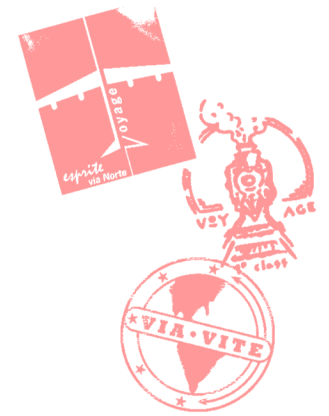
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Shaman Maestro Juan



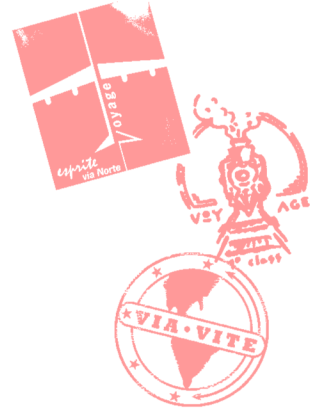




Casual

From San Jose we headed over to the Marañon river past the large town of Nauta to set foot on terra firma, one of the only truly dry spots in the Amazon during the flooded rainy season. In Casual we trekked through the rainforest to view some of the various animals, insects and plants that inhabit the dense jungle.







Juvenile Anaconda



Juvenile Anaconda



Bullet Ant



Pink-toed Tarantula



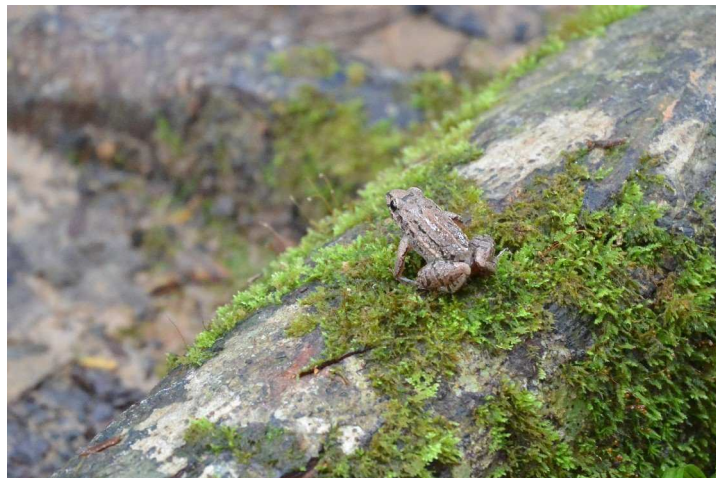
Red-backed Poison Frog



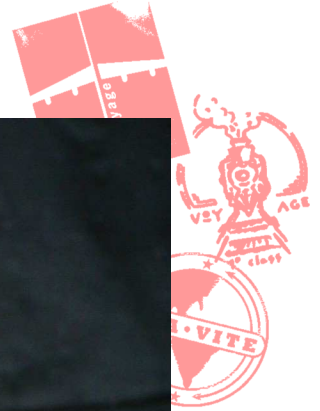
Spotted-thighed Poison Frog



Crested Forest Toad



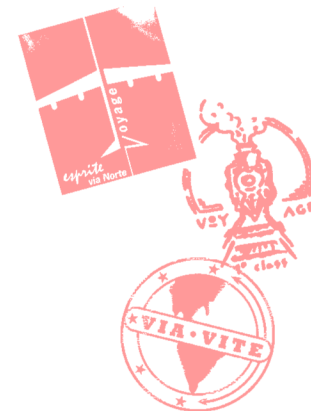
Smoky Jungle Frog







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Confluence

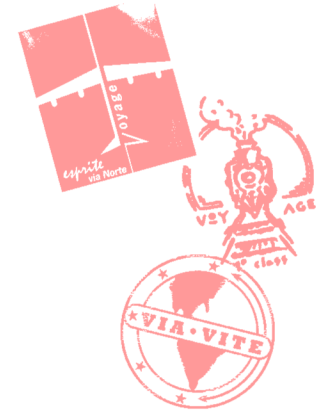
Due to the fact that our riverboat had experienced engine trouble from the first day (and we were pushed by a tugboat for the entire trip), International Expeditions provided all guests with a floatplane tour giving us an amazing aerial view of the Amazon Confluence.











Centro America

Our final day on the river ended in the Centro America region where we once again were treated to a beautiful Amazon sunset as we bid farewell to this lush and diverse environment.





Enjoy the breathtaking beauty of the largest river in the world - the Amazon. This photo-journal captures the flora, fauna and peoples that inhabit this great rainforest during International Expeditions' Amazon River Cruise aboard La Estrella Amazonica.

