



AQUA EXPEDITIONS

PERU CAMBODIA VIETNAM





## LETTER FROM FOUNDER FRANCESCO GALLI ZUGARO

2017 is a uniquely exciting year for Aqua Expeditions as we celebrate our 10-year anniversary. I feel deep gratitude to all our guests on the Amazon and the Mekong who have supported this incredible journey.

We started this company in 2007 to pioneer luxury small ship cruising on the Amazon River, adding the 16-suite Aria Amazon in 2011. When we felt confident we had set the benchmark on this fabled waterway, we set off to grow Aqua Expeditions internationally. The 2014 launch of the 20-suite Aqua Mekong, sailing seemingly back in time between Vietnam and Cambodia, brought unprecedented success with guests, many of whom previously traveled with us on the Amazon, our travel partners and the world's most discerning media.

To address the evolving needs and to exceed the expectations of today's sophisticated travelers, we committed 2015 to investing in strategic upgrades to our Amazon vessel. The refreshed, elegant look, indicative of our vision to deliver a unique world-class experience on every launch, received high praise from our very selective clientele. Sleek new skiffs have been added on the Aria while our expert naturalist guides expanded our adventures by kayak and cycling, among the mysteries of Amazonia, just as we do along the Mekong.

At this remarkable milestone, it is with great pride in our teams on the Amazon and the Mekong that we look forward to welcoming you aboard, on both sides of the world.

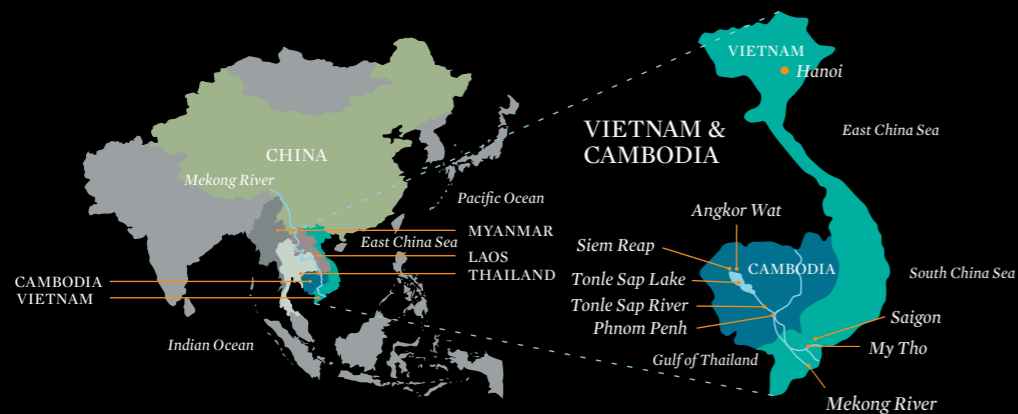


# THE MEKONG JOURNEY

*Connecting with remote cultures*



## SOUTHEAST ASIA



Following the success of our Amazon River cruises, Aqua Expeditions set off in search of our next exceptional adventure: the mighty Mekong River. From the inspiring bustle of modern Vietnam, the Aqua Mekong navigates deep into the timeless Cambodian countryside where few foreigners have ventured since the days of Dutch traders, Portuguese missionaries and the French explorers of Indochine.





VIBRANT

DIVERSITY



Where the Aqua Mekong cruises between Cambodia and Vietnam, the river forms an integral part of each distinct and rich culture, among them the Khmer, Lao, Thai and Vietnamese. It is on these fertile riverbanks that the Vietnamese people grow half their nation's agricultural product.





*Over 2,000 years of human history...*



...flow among these waters, from the high Himalayas of Tibet through provinces of China to the equatorial flood plains of Vietnam and Cambodia. It is even said that the rise and fall of the great Khmer civilization that built Angkor Wat was linked to the Mekong's tides.



The cultural diversity along the Mekong is as striking as the surrounding topography. Soaring limestone mountains separate Vietnam from Cambodia, providing a natural boundary that split the two most powerful influences on this region. From India to the west came Hinduism into Cambodia, the state religion of the Khmer Empire at Angkor until the 13th century while Chinese monks from the north brought Buddhism along the ancient trade routes to Vietnam.





RIVETING CULTURES



MESMERIZING TRADITIONS





# AQUA MEKONG

20 suites - 40 passengers



ONE-TO-ONE STAFF-TO-GUEST RATIO



Taking guests into Aqua Expeditions next frontier, the 62.4 meter (205 feet) Aqua Mekong designed by Saigon based Noor Design embodies the aesthetic of a sophisticated five star hotel. Local sustainable materials and artisanal touches of the Mekong's multifaceted cultures round out these generous interior spaces that welcome guests in the utmost comforts between on and off shore excursions along this fascinating river.

Spacious and indulgent, yet intimate enough to feel entirely exclusive, the Aqua Mekong incorporates elegantly relaxed lounging and dining areas, and can accommodate a maximum of 40 guests plus crew. Modern navigation technologies and the highest cruise ship standards as well as our experienced river pilot and crew ensure smooth travel and safety on the water.





*The only Mekong river boat with a fleet of four private tenders for water-based excursions*



*Sixty million people live, work and play along the river*





# THE CULINARY JOURNEY

*World-class dining program with Consulting Chef David Thompson*



Under the guidance of the world renowned Thompson, the Aqua Mekong's dishes incorporate the timeless flavors and sustainable ingredients of the Mekong's fertile fields. Thompson built his international reputation on Southeast Asian recipes culled from historic sources, a delectable tradition he continues on board the Aqua Mekong. He brings together the finest recipes of Khmer and Vietnamese river cultures, incorporating the day's catch and the market's freshest produce, be it smoked fish, tapioca and vegetable dumplings, Vietnamese catfish minced with shallots, chilies and Thai basil, or grilled river prawns with peanut relish. Linger over lemongrass tea or something considerably more decadent, like a luscious Vietnamese artisanal chocolate fondant.

Awarded the first ever Michelin star for a restaurant serving Southeast Asian food, Australian chef David Thompson moved to Bangkok where his Nahm restaurant ranks at the top of the World's 50 Best Restaurants. As Consulting Chef of the Aqua Mekong, Thompson incorporates the diverse culinary traditions of Mekong River cultures.



# CHOOSE THE RIGHT CRUISE

## AQUA MEKONG HIGH WATER UP RIVER 7 NIGHT

DAY	MEAL	LOCATION	PROGRAM
Friday PM	D	Saigon   My Tho   Mekong River   Vietnam	Transfer to My Tho dock and check into your suite.
Saturday AM	B/L	Binh Thanh   Sa Dec   Mekong River   Vietnam	Meet mat makers or visit the home of Duras' legendary lover.
Saturday PM	D	My An Hung   Mekong River   Vietnam	Taste tropical fruits and watch for the monkey bridge.
Sunday AM	B/L	Chau Doc   Mekong River   Vietnam	From the markets, head up Sam Mountain to a Buddhist temple.
Sunday PM	D	Vinh Xuong-Ka'om Samnor border   Mekong River	Try a cooking class or history lecture during border crossing formalities.
Monday AM	B/L	Koh Oknha Tey   Mekong River   Cambodia	Admire the talented weavers among the Mekong's "Silk Islands".
Monday PM	D	Preah Prosop   Mekong River   Cambodia	Visit remote Preah Prosop, seemingly untouched by time.
Tuesday AM	B	Phnom Penh   Cambodia	Tour the Royal Palace, Silver Pagoda & National Museum. 4-Nighters depart.
Tuesday PM	D	Phnom Penh   Cambodia	Sip sundowners as 3-Nighters arrive; evening Khmer Apsara dance performance.
Wednesday AM	B/L	Koh Chen   Tonle Sap River   Cambodia	See craftspeople at work in the silversmith and bronze village.
Wednesday PM	D	Kampong Chhnang   Tonle Sap River   Cambodia	Experience traditional pot making in the village of Andong Russei.
Thursday AM	B/L	Chhnok Tru   Mouth of the Tonle Sap Lake   Cambodia	Slide into a floating ice factory in a floating town.
Thursday PM	D	Moat Khla   Tonle Sap Lake   Cambodia	Explore an isolated floating community in the middle of flooded forest.
Friday AM	B	Prek Toal   Tonle Sap Lake   Siem Reap   Cambodia	Visit Prek Toal, the largest bird sanctuary in Southeast Asia. Depart.

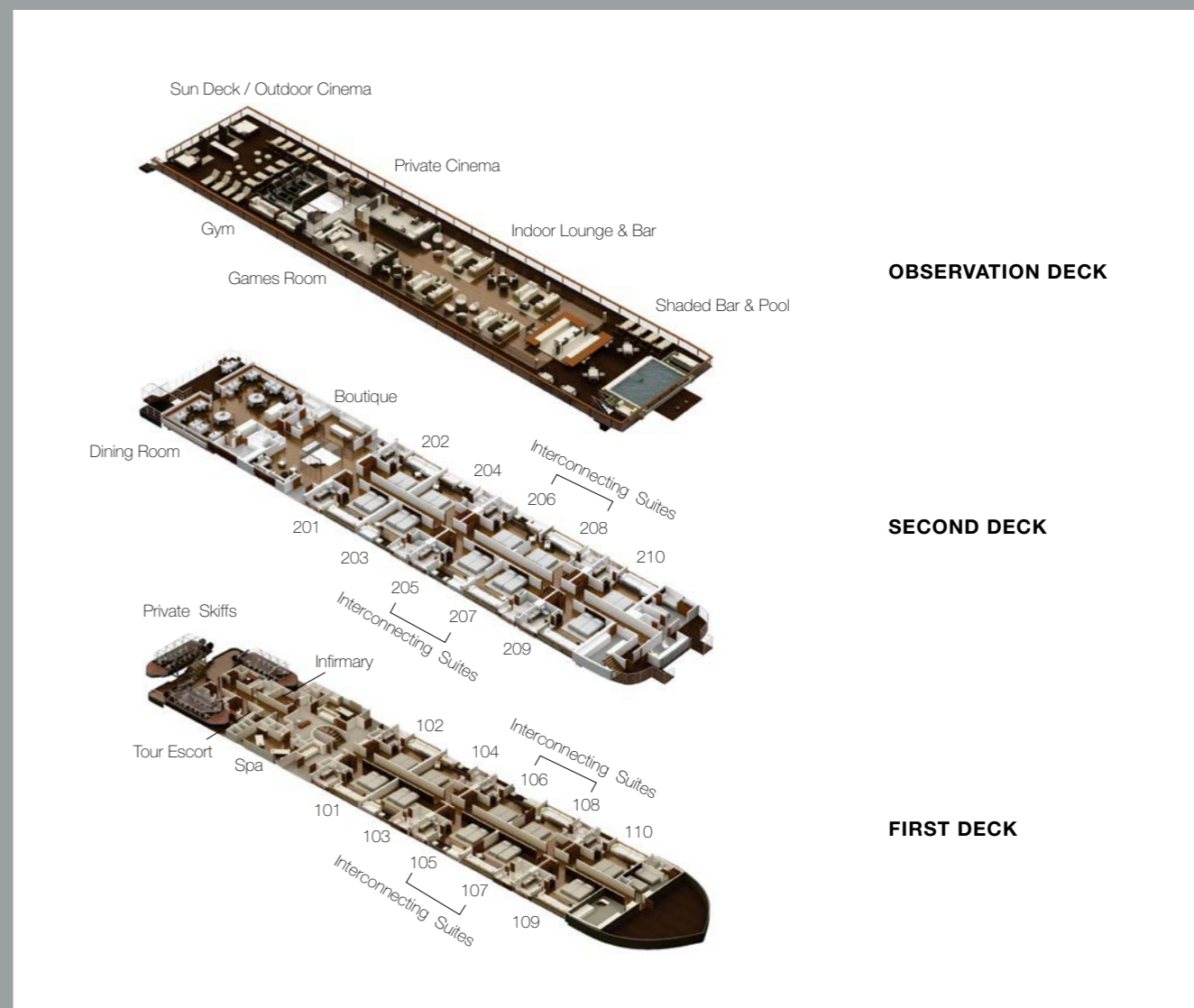
Please refer to our Expedition Maps Booklet for more detailed seasonal itineraries, up and downriver.

## AQUA MEKONG HIGH WATER DOWN RIVER 7 NIGHT

DAY	MEAL	LOCATION	PROGRAM
Friday PM	D	Siem Reap   Cambodia	Transfer to dock, embarkation and check into your suite.
Saturday AM	B/L	Prek Toal   Tonle Sap Lake   Cambodia	Visit Prek Toal, the largest bird sanctuary in Southeast Asia.
Saturday PM	D	Moat Khla   Tonle Sap Lake   Cambodia	Explore a floating village deep in the flooded forest.
Sunday AM	B/L	Chhnok Tru   Mouth of the Tonle Sap Lake   Cambodia	Slide into a floating ice factory in a floating town.
Sunday PM	D	Kampong Chhnang   Tonle Sap River   Cambodia	Experience traditional pot making in the village of Andong Russei.
Monday AM	B/L	Koh Chen   Tonle Sap River   Cambodia	See talented craftspeople at work in the silversmith and bronze village.
Monday PM	D	Koh Oknha Tey   Mekong River   Cambodia	Admire the hardworking weavers among the Mekong's "Silk Islands".
Tuesday AM	B	Phnom Penh   Cambodia	Visit the Royal Palace, Silver Pagoda and National Museum. 4-Nighters depart.
Tuesday PM	D	Phnom Penh   Cambodia	Sip sundowners as the 3-Nighters arrive; evening Khmer Apsara dance performance.
Wednesday AM	B/L	Ka'om Samnor-Vinh Xuong border   Chau Doc	Hop on a rickshaw to visit local outdoor market.
Wednesday PM	D	My An Hung   Mekong River   Vietnam	Taste tropical fruits and watch for the monkey bridge.
Thursday AM	B/L	Binh Thanh   Sa Dec   Mekong River   Vietnam	Meet mat makers or visit the home of Duras' legendary lover.
Thursday PM	D	Cai Be   Mekong River   Vietnam	Explore by sampan; visit a candy factory and historic home.
Friday AM	B	My Tho   Saigon   Mekong River   Vietnam	Disembarkation. Visit a Mahayana pagoda en route to Saigon.

Please refer to our Expedition Maps Booklet for more detailed seasonal itineraries, up and downriver.

# THE FACTS: AQUA MEKONG



**Capacity:** 40 passengers  
**Departures:** Fridays and Tuesdays  
**Itinerary:** Mekong River; Cambodia and Vietnam

### LUXURY EXPEDITION VESSEL

- Passengers are accommodated in 20 Design Suites:
- First Deck: 10 Design Suites each measuring 30 sqm / 322 sq. ft.; 4 with balcony and 6 without balcony.
  - Second Deck: 10 Design Suites each measuring 30 sqm / 322 sq. ft.; 4 with balcony and 6 without balcony.
  - Interconnecting Suites: 4, each measuring 60 sqm / 640 sq. ft.
    - All Design Suites feature panoramic, river facing floor to ceiling windows.
    - Design Suites without balconies all have river facing panoramic windows and an interior daybed.
    - Design Suites with balconies all have panoramic windows and an exterior daybed.
    - For the ultimate luxury, passengers may select a pair of interconnecting suites, either for families or with one suite configured as a private living room, the other a master bedroom, plus his-and-hers bathrooms.
    - All Design Suites are air-conditioned, with en-suite bathroom.

### SOCIAL AREAS

- Indoor dining room and outdoor private dining
- Indoor and outdoor bars
- Outside shaded lounge with single / double day beds
- Observation deck with outdoor sunbeds

- Forward-facing infinity plunge pool with private cabanas
- Outdoor cinema under the stars
- Top deck exercise room overlooking the river
- Two spa treatment rooms, one single and one double
- Private screening room with theater-style seating
- Private library / games room
- Antique and artisanal boutique
- Lobby lounge

### TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

- Length: 62.4 meters / 205 feet
- Beam: 11.5 meters / 38 feet
- Draft: 1.5 meters / 5 feet
- Cruising Speed: 12 knots
- Carley float life rafts
- Lifejackets: In all cabins
- Crew: 37
- Guides: 4
- Cruise director
- Automated defibrillator
- Launch boats: 4, each with a capacity of 10 passengers, guide, and launch pilot
- 12 adult bicycles and 1 kid bicycle
- 8 Double kayaks
- Complimentary Laundry Service
- Wireless internet throughout
- Video-on-demand entertainment system onboard

**OBSERVATION DECK**

**SECOND DECK**

**FIRST DECK**

Note: Itineraries are subject to change due to weather conditions and time of year. River and tributary levels may vary, and thus navigation times and excursions may need to be modified at the captain's discretion.

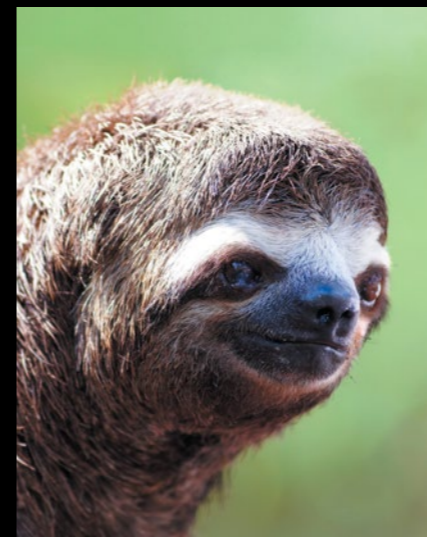


# THE AMAZON JOURNEY

*Up close among exotic wildlife*



## SOUTH AMERICA



Originating in the Andes Mountains and considered the longest river on earth, the Amazon flows at least 6,400 kilometers (4,000 miles) through Brazil, Peru, Colombia, Venezuela, Ecuador, Bolivia, Guyana, Suriname and French Guiana. A wondrously abundant natural world thrives among Amazonia's lush riverbanks.





*Aqua Expeditions naturalists bring guests*



*this close to hundreds of wildlife species.*

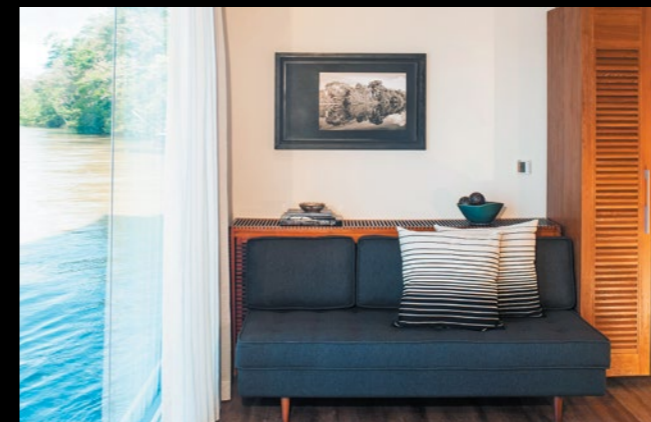


Enter this natural, timeless world of undulating strangler vines wrapped around ancient ficus trees and brilliant bromeliads that pop against the jungle's spectrum. Parrots call out from the dense tree canopy, squirrel monkeys play all day, and pink Amazon dolphins roll their dorsal fins above the dark waters as neon-brilliant colored tanager, kingfisher and oriole birds soar across the clear cerulean sky.



# ARIA AMAZON

16 suites - 32 passengers



REDESIGNED TO EXCEED THE EXPECTATIONS OF TODAY'S MOST SOPHISTICATED TRAVELERS



The year 2015 saw the strategic refreshment, from bed linens to state of the art lighting, of the 45 meter (147 foot) long Aria Amazon which first set sail in 2011, designed by innovative Peruvian architect Jordi Puig. Extremely generous dining and lounging areas include an outdoor river facing Jacuzzi. Floor to ceiling windows face the Amazon River in the Aria Amazon's 16 Design Suites, each measuring 23 square meters (250 square feet).

Four of these can interconnect for families. Upgrades in the floating spa include new decor for enhanced relaxation. The striking black hulled ship accommodates a maximum of 32 guests plus 27 crew including the paramedic and four English speaking naturalist guides. Aqua Expeditions highly experienced river pilots and the most rigorous cruise ship standards ensure smooth travel and safety on the water.





## THE CULINARY JOURNEY

*Pedro Miguel Schiaffino's Amazonia cuisine has earned global recognition*



Hailed by the Wall Street Journal as one of “Peru’s top chefs” and recognized in The New York Times for his “rare” cooking talent, Pedro Miguel Schiaffino has also attracted the attention of The World’s 50 Best Restaurants at both his Malabar and Amaz restaurants, as well as on board the Aria Amazon.

“The Amazon constantly offers up tastes and flavors I’ve never imagined,” says Aqua Expeditions Executive Chef Pedro Miguel Schiaffino. Though Peruvian cuisine has made its way around the world, many of Schiaffino’s delectable ingredients grow only in the Amazon jungle, inspiring his novel dishes like hearts of palm soufflé, plantain and yucca gnocchi, and grilled paiche with huatia potatoes. Menus on board also stay true to local traditions like Peruvian ceviche, with its succulent ranches of just caught river fish, juicy onions, cilantro, coriander and corn kernels the size of South Sea pearls.





*Endless adventures on and off the river*





# CHOOSE THE RIGHT CRUISE

## ARIA AMAZON EXPEDITION CRUISE 7 NIGHT - HIGH WATER

DAY	MEAL	LOCATION	PROGRAM
Friday PM	L/D	Iquitos   Amazon River	Transfer to the dock, check into your suite; embarkation.
Saturday AM	B	Amazon River   Yarapa River	Explore the Yarapa River by skiff and fish for Amazonia's piranhas.
Saturday PM	L/D	Nauta Caño	Evening wildlife excursion on the black waters of Nauta Caño.
Sunday AM	B	Nauta Caño   9 de Octubre Town	Jungle walk on the firm soil forest "Casual" while looking for flora and fauna.
Sunday PM	L/D	Yanayacu Pucate River	Swim, canoe or kayak while looking for pink dolphins.
Monday AM	B/L	Nauta Town   Iquitos	Visit a local market; 3-Nighters disembarkation.
Monday PM	D	Iquitos   Nauta	Visit the birthplace of the Amazon; 4-Nighters arrive.
Tuesday AM	B	Yanallpa River	Adventure on the Yanallpa River and Amazonian rain forest walk.
Tuesday PM	L/D	Dorado River	Dusk excursion in search of exotic nocturnal wildlife.
Wednesday AM	B	Pacaya River	Breakfast picnic on the river followed by fishing.
Wednesday PM	L/D	Ucayali River   Tapiche River	Search for pink river dolphins while sailing alongside native banana boats.
Thursday AM	B	Clavero Lake or Yarapa River	Jungle walking, canoeing, kayaking or swimming on the river.
Thursday PM	L/D	Amazon River	Sail by skiff to visit a remote Amazonia village.
Friday AM	B/L	Iquitos	Peruse Bellavista Nanay market; disembarkation and visit to Manatee Rescue Center.

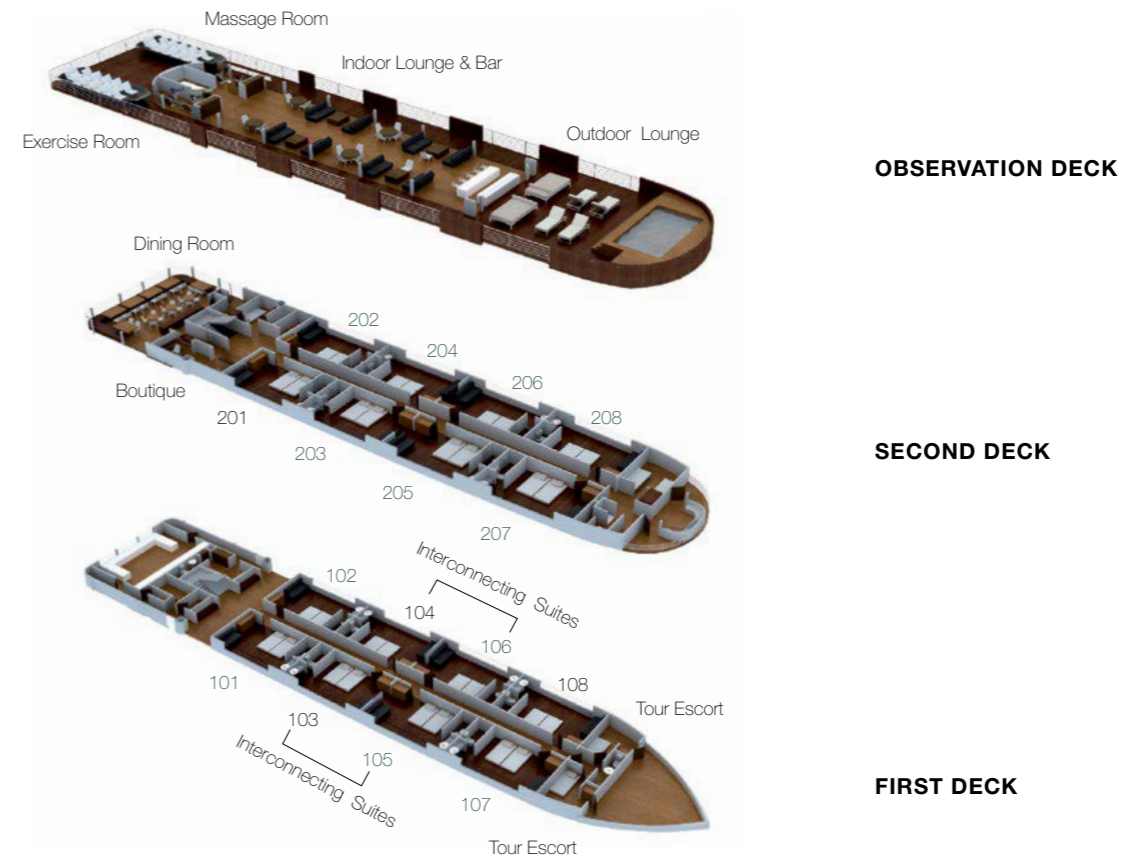
Please refer to our Expedition Maps Booklet for more information about our other itineraries.

## ARIA AMAZON EXPEDITION CRUISE 7 NIGHT - LOW WATER

DAY	MEAL	LOCATION	PROGRAM
Friday PM	L/D	Iquitos   Nauta	Transfer to the dock, check into your suite; embarkation.
Saturday AM	B	Yanayacu Pucate River	Kayak, canoe or swim in the Yanayacu River.
Saturday PM	L/D	Marañon River	Visit a remote Amazon village to learn about traditional customs.
Sunday AM	B	Samiria River	Head out by skiff to go fishing on the Samiria River.
Sunday PM	L/D	San Regis	Jungle walk across the high Amazon rainforest.
Monday AM	B/L	Nauta   Iquitos	Peruse a morning market; 3-Nighters disembarkation.
Monday PM	D	Iquitos   Nauta	Visit the birthplace of the Amazon; 4-Nighters arrive.
Tuesday AM	B	Ucayali River	Cruise alongside farmers and fishermen watching for pink dolphins.
Tuesday PM	L/D	Pacaya River	Dusk excursion in search of exotic nocturnal wildlife.
Wednesday AM	B	Pacaya River	Breakfast picnic on the river followed by fishing.
Wednesday PM	L/D	Ucayali River   Tapiche River	Search for pink river dolphins while sailing alongside native banana boats.
Thursday AM	B	Clavero Lake or Yarapa River	Canoeing, kayaking or swimming in the black water.
Thursday PM	L/D	San Jose de Sarapanga	Walk in the San Jose de Sarapanga forest to see the giant water lilies.
Friday AM	B/L	Nauta   Iquitos	Nauta city tour; disembarkation and visit to Manatee Rescue Center.

Please refer to our Expedition Maps Booklet for more information about our other itineraries.

# THE FACTS: ARIA AMAZON



**Capacity:** 32 passengers

**Departures:** Fridays and Mondays

**Itinerary:** Pacaya Samiria Reserve, Iquitos, Peru

- Boutique
- Observation Deck
- Exercise Room
- Outdoor Jacuzzi
- Massage Room

### LUXURY EXPEDITION VESSEL

Passengers are accommodated in 16 Design Suites:

- First deck: 8 Design Suites each measuring 23 sqm / 250 sq. ft.
- Second deck: 8 Design Suites each measuring 23 sqm / 250 sq. ft.
  - All Design Suites feature panoramic, river facing floor to ceiling windows.
  - All Design Suites with twin beds that can be converted to a California king size bed.
  - Interconnecting suites for families.
  - All Design Suites are air-conditioned, with en-suite sitting area and bathroom.

### TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

- Length: 147 feet / 45 meters
- Beam: 29.5 feet / 9 meters
- Draft: 5 feet / 1.5 meters
- Cruising Speed: 10 knots
- Two engines, generators, and hot water plants
- Lifejackets: In all cabins
- Crew: 21
- Guides: 4
- Cruise director
- Full time paramedic and automated defibrillator
- Launch boats: 4, each with a capacity of 8-10 passengers, guide, and launch pilot
- 6 Double kayaks
- 10 Bicycles
- Video-on-demand entertainment system onboard

### SOCIAL AREAS

- Indoor Bar-Lounge
- Dining Room
- Outside Lounge

Note: Itineraries are subject to change due to weather conditions and time of year. River and tributary levels may vary, and thus navigation times and excursions may need to be modified at the captain's discretion.



# PERU

Explore the Lost City of the Incas and its colonial gateway



A masterpiece of Inca civilization, 15th century Machu Picchu was rediscovered in 1911, remarkably well preserved because the Spanish conquistadores never came upon it. Marvel at architectural feats including the Temple of the Sun, with a narrow window perfectly situated to frame the sun on the first day of winter, and the Temple of the Condor. Observe how native traditions in Peru intersect with Spanish colonial heritage in Cusco, the gateway to Machu Picchu, at 3,400 meters (11,150 feet) above sea level.

At 12,500 feet (3,800 meters), Lake Titicaca is the highest navigable lake in the world, gloriously surrounded by the mountains that divide Peru and Bolivia. Explore the Uros Islands here, woven from reeds that grow along the shoreline.

# VIETNAM & CAMBODIA

Discover sun kissed beaches and Angkor Wat, the world's largest religious complex



All Aqua Mekong cruises travel into Cambodia, best known for the 300-plus ancient Khmer temples of Angkor Wat, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Also fascinating, Phnom Penh, the capital of Cambodia with its royal architecture and French colonial quarters is well worth exploring, as are isolated Cambodian villages where people still live in wooden houses built on stilts over the river.

In Vietnam, cruise from the stimulating chaos of modern Saigon to blissfully remote Buddhist monasteries alive with the sacred rituals of saffron robed monks and panoramas of lush paddy fields seemingly untouched by time. Cruise past traditional fishing villages, bustling local markets and vestiges of colonial Indochine made famous by writers like Marguerite Duras who grew up here along the Mekong.





AQUA EXPEDITIONS



AMAZON RIVER PERU

MEKONG RIVER CAMBODIA & VIETNAM

 ARIA | AMAZON

 AQUA | MEKONG

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