



The Amazon basin in Brazil must rank as one of the fishiest places on earth. For the fly fisher, the protected, clear water, catch and release Agua Boa watershed is the most unique fishery in the Amazon. For starters, it's the only "fly fishing only, catch and release" area in the Amazon. Fly Fishing Adventures does book all the primary operations in the Amazon, but for a fly fisherman, nothing matches the Agua Boa. It is one of those rare places where a fly fisher can get both numbers and size on a daily basis.

Annie Kubicka, Greg Schuerger, and Alisa and Jim Andras recently returned from a week on the Agua Boa where they released collectively over 800 peacock bass plus other Amazon species. Over 30 of the peacocks were over ten pounds with several more in the 8 to 10 pound range.



Jim (above, right), who was on his fifth trip to the Amazon (this was his first one on the Agua Boa), commented: "Alisa (above, left) and I both had a wonderful time. The fishing was exceptional given the higher than normal water conditions. Most days, each boat caught 60 to 80 fish per day, and more fish could easily have been caught if we were focusing on (the smaller) 2 to 4 pound fish."



Annie (left above) took the biggest fish – see very bottom. Greg (above right), an experienced globe hopping fly rodder, said, "the overall adventure of being in the Amazon was an important part of the trip. Everyday there would be different experiences and we fished different areas...from clear water, white sand bottomed river channels to small lagoons and coves in the forest. When we spotted cruising fish, they would aggressively attack the fly. Most of the bigger fish were singles, but our coolest experience was coming across a school of about 20 big fish from 8 to 15 pounds. They were swimming together in about 3 feet of clear water – it looked like the bottom was moving. We hooked two fish over 10# from that school."



Above center, the group is ready to embark from Manaus, the jump off point, on their charter flight over the Amazon rainforest, directly to the lodge's private air strip. Left, above, is the Agua Boa and on the right is the main lodge. After landing at the lodge, the group was motored upriver to the houseboat, their home for the week. The houseboat hosts a maximum of six anglers a week making it ideal for small groups or families who want a private experience just for their party.

Annie, on her first international fly fishing adventure, had these comments: "The trip was great. Travel went smoothly and the fishing was excellent. I think we were lucky with the weather. Although it did rain some, the temp stayed below 80 degrees the whole week. And although the water was on the high side, we caught lots of fish, plenty over 10 pounds. Our guides were excellent. Polite and worked hard for us. The lodging at the houseboat was quite adequate. The food was good. The fish were awesome. Great colors and size."



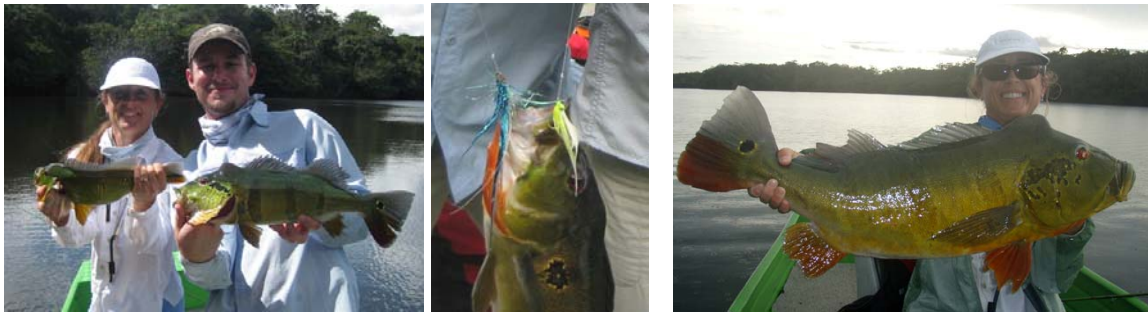
While the aggressive, large peacocks are the primary target, the other Amazon species provide some variety. L to R, starting above, piranah, arrowana, oscar; and below, jacunda, spotted peacock, and one of the many species of Amazon catfish.



The Amazon crocodile, the caiman (left below), is sometimes found trying to steal a hooked peacock. The world's slowest mammal, the three toed sloth, spends virtually their entire life in trees, but Jim got this photo of one as it climbed out of the river.



“Double header” can have different meanings. Annie and Greg display one of many. The middle photo shows a butterfly peacock who ate one fly. While it was thrashing, a second fly was cast to other fish who were accompanying it.....and he raced over and ate that fly too. Aggressive enough? Annie took the biggest peacock of the trip during the last hour of the last day – the way it should happen!



Logistics: There is a non-stop, 4+ hour, flight almost daily from Miami to Manaus. The charter flight from Manaus to the lodge is included in the price (\$4,600 for the houseboat and \$5,500 for the lodge).

Timing: Water levels are the key to successfully fishing the Amazon. January, February, and March are generally considered the most dependable for stable water levels with the rainy season beginning in April. The Agua Boa's season runs from October through mid-April.

Getting Space: This has become one of the world's most popular fly rod destinations and the prime time is generally booked full very early.