

AGUA BOA AMAZON LODGE & HOUSEBOAT PRE-TRIP INFORMATION

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THE AGUA BOA RIVER FISHERY

The Agua Boa Amazon Lodge (formerly the Royal Amazon Lodge) is located in one of the Amazon rainforest's last remaining tracts of uncut and uninhabited rainforest on a clear water peacock bass fishery. Their lodge and their upriver houseboat provides fishermen with a level of comfort, friendly service, and sense of privacy in the rainforest that will make anyone feel at home. Of course, one look out the window at Rex, the 18-foot black caiman waiting on the sandy beach in front of camp, and you will know immediately that you are someplace far from home.

The Agua Boa Amazon Lodge and Houseboat on the Agua Boa River is the Amazon's first and only fly fishing peacock bass operation. By regulation and for conservation purposes, the Agua Boa is a controlled and well managed fishery where catch and release and single barbless hooks are absolutely required.

The fishery on the Agua Boa River is perfectly suited to fly fishing. When at normal levels, the water is clear, most strikes are visible, and you can sight-fish much of the time if you choose. It should be noted, however, that the sight-fishing opportunities are dependant on light and water levels and, if you are after "numbers," more fish can be taken blind casting. Many anglers visit the Agua Boa strictly to sight-fish for peacock bass, arowana, pacu and a host of other jungle species. While spending time in the search for sight-casting targets does limit the productivity in terms of pure numbers of fish, the experience of sight-fishing to peacocks in clear water over sand is something every fly fisherman should experience.

Peacock Bass

There are three species of peacock bass present on the Agua Boa: the butterfly, spotted and temensis.

The Butterfly is the most numerous. Butterflies are aggressive takers on poppers and 3-4 inch streamers. They are great fighters and jump often. They range between 2 and 8 pounds with approximately a 3 pound average in the system. Butterfly Peacocks provide plenty of action between shots at larger fish.

The spotted and temensis peacock bass are both a totally different beast. These two species are the largest of the peacocks and can attain weights of 25 pounds. These

Peacocks are some of the most aggressive gamefish on the planet. They wander in schools of up to 40 fish and feed together working bait like bluefish. It is difficult to describe a school of these large peacocks in full feeding frenzy. Needless to say that 1 pound baitfish are flying everywhere in a desperate attempt to escape. In many cases, the baitfish will jump onto to dry land to escape. If you can get your fly into the action, the results are spectacular: a ferocious take, a blistering run, a jump and or a run into structure are just a few of the possible obstacles you might be confronted with.

The other jungle species are also well worth pursuing. The arowana looks and acts a lot like a tarpon. They have huge scales, are air breathers, frequently jump, and wander through the river in schools in search of baitfish. Arowana are a surface oriented fish and are often visible swimming near the surface providing exciting sight casting targets.

The Arowana are spooky and, like a tarpon, difficult to hook and land. Arowana have a split eye that allows them to see above and below the water. As a result they are very sensitive to false casting and unnatural movement to the fly. Smaller patterns stripped slowly and in short increments seem to be the most successful. Floater-diver type patterns can also be effective. Arowana have a jaw similar to tarpon and require a hard strike. Arowana average 4-8 lbs, but can reach nearly 15 pounds.

Pacu, also known as the silver dollar, are a fun fish and can be taken on trout patterns like Royal Wulffs, caddis, nymphs, and flesh flies. They are shaped like a permit and in the Agua Boa they reach weights of 5 pounds. In front of the camp there are pods of pacu rising nightly.

Pirarucu, the giant "tarpon" of the Amazon, reach weights well in excess of 200 pounds and have been reputed to be the largest fresh water fish in the world, reaching lengths of over 10 feet. These fish look and act a lot like tarpon, but are smart and are one of the most difficult game fish on the planet to land on a fly. Although not frequently hooked, it is possible to land one on the fly. They are acrobatic and excellent fighters. It is a real adrenalin rush seeing a six foot fish and trying to manage a cast to one.

About The Agua Boa River

The Agua Boa River offers anglers the only exclusive access fly-fishery in the entire Amazon. The Agua Boa Amazon Lodge is the only lodge or settlement on the river and, in cooperation with the Brazilian Institute for Protection of the Amazon, has placed the Agua Boa into an area of permanent protection. This protective state has eliminated both commercial and native netting in these waters, a critical element in the success of the fishery. It is one of the few areas of the Amazon that you will probably not see another inhabitant during your entire stay. The river is small and flanked by a combination of upland forest, flood forest and savanna. This combination makes for scenic fishing and, best of all, clear water and lots of sand.

Many of the fish you catch on the Agua Boa will be sighted before your cast. The boats are fitted with poling platforms strictly for the purpose of sight fishing. In deeper areas, a sinking line works well and is the best way to find fish over 15 pounds.

Peacock Bass Fishing

Peacock bass fishing is a complicated affair that requires some patience initially to catch and land the larger fish. Smaller fish are not nearly as difficult and will provide solace for those that seem to be losing their big fish. Here are a few fishing tips that we think

will help you on your trip.

To understand peacock bass, you need to first consider their habitat. Most everything in the Amazon is being eaten, or is in the process of eating something else. As a general rule, fish in the Amazon are built tough with razor sharp teeth or brutal strength. This makes for interesting fishing as some fish will cut you and others will pull you straight into the structure and tangle you up. Peacock bass do not have the razor sharp teeth, but there is not a fish that is tougher in fresh water. They will break rods and the toughest mono to get away.

Peacock habits vary to a large degree depending on the size of the fish. Small to mid-size peacocks tend to congregate around structure for both food and protection. Large peacocks tend to feel a little more comfortable in not getting eaten by predators. Over time they become bullies and roam the lagoons and river channels in packs.

Peacock bass are a pursuit predator, which means that they will keep after their prey until it is either in their belly or on the shore. It is not uncommon to have large peacocks drive shoals of baitfish onto the shore. Peacocks have been seen flying out of the water in unsuccessful attempts to get small birds.

Fishing Tips

Fish everything...structure, shoreline, middle of the lagoon etc. Don't get keyed into just casting at the bank. Also if your partner gets a strike, throw in the same area. Remember these fish are attracted to commotion. The most important tip we can give you is trust your guide's instincts. The guides are experienced on the rivers they fish and will do their best to get you into fish. If you order them around, your fishing will probably suffer. That is not to say that if you are curious about an area, that suggestions aren't welcome.

The rivers are divided into beats so that anglers do not see anyone else during their day. Guides and beats are rotated daily so that you get a chance to see the entire river. Please remember that we have well over a hundred miles of fishable river. A good deal of the fishing on the Agua Boa is sight fishing. Stay alert and be ready to throw at likely targets. In some cases, you will be able to see the fish from a good distance...often as much as 50 yards. Remember that this is not dry fly fishing...just get a cast to the fish with minimal false casts and get the fly moving.

When retrieving, strip rapidly in medium length (say 6-10 inches per strip) and focus less on the speed of the strip than on keeping the slack out of the line between strips and keeping your rod tip pointed at the fish and low to the water. Strip at a comfortable yet rapid pace until you either see the fish eat or feel the fish hit. Keep a sharp hook, hit them hard, strip down and hit them again...then hang on tight!!!

Sighted river fish can be spooky and certainly will see you if you false cast too much. It is better to throw a fast cast than a perfect cast with twenty back casts. If they are feeding, it is a different story. Peacocks on the feed are a sight to behold. They will run up onto shore and even bump into the boat in their pursuit of baitfish.

Fighting Tips

When you have hooked a big peacock, don't try to muscle him or you will lose your fish and possibly break your tip and/or rod. Once hooked, be sure to let large and small

peacocks run. Remember to let your drag do the work. With peacocks, you will want to be sure to keep your fingers away from the reel handle on any run. If you forget, bruised knuckles will help you remember on future fish.

Peacocks usually make unstoppable runs. When they stop, apply heavy pressure. When a peacock takes off, you must let him run. Don't worry about the fish getting wrapped up in cover. If you think you can keep him away from it by applying pressure late in the fight that is fine. Once they get into cover, give the fish slack and let your guide help get the fish out with the boat. Many times the fish will swim back in the direction it came and get you untangled. In a worst case scenario, your guide may swim down to untangle the fish.

The Fishing Boats

The fishing boats are 20 foot aluminum skiffs with poling platforms and four stroke motors. They will accommodate either one or two people fishing at a time. When sight fishing, one fisherman can cast to the deeper shore with a sinking line and the other can cast to fish that you see. This is the best combination.

If you are interested in fishing alone, please let us know. We do offer a single fishing supplement.

About Water Levels In The Amazon

The reality of fishing in the Amazon is that water conditions are the most critical factor. It does take lots of rain to make a rainforest! In the Amazon, water level can fluctuate as much as 35 feet in a year. When water is too high, fish push up into the forest and feed and fishing suffers.

In a ten year cycle, most years the lowest water of the year coincides with January, February, and March. It should be noted that in a normal ten year cycle there will be weeks, months or even seasons where the water levels don't drop to the point where sight fishing is possible. During these times, the fishing can still be good with catches ranging from 6 fish a day per boat to over 100.

When the water is dropping, despite its level, the fishing can be great. But, even when the waters are at a very low level, if water level rises rapidly, the fishing can shut off. Water level fluctuation is one of the risks associated with fishing the Amazon. There is always the risk of the river levels being high or too low during your trip. There are no refunds for water conditions that may not meet your expectations. The Agua Boa Amazon Lodge and Fly Fishing Adventures cannot be held responsible for changes in climatic conditions such as heavy rains or storms which may interfere with the fishing during your stay. However, it is the general policy of the Agua Boa Amazon Lodge to offer you the opportunity of a postponement and rebooking of your trip if enough advance notice of unfavorable water conditions is available.

A Note About Fishing Numbers

The Agua Boa has the finest fishing anywhere in the Amazon for peacocks from 6-18 pounds. We catch fish every year up to 23 pounds, but would caution that if you are strictly after a world record that you consider a blackwater, and not a clearwater river. Blackwater Rivers produce the largest peacocks, but are very poor fishing. Simply put they do not have a high density of fish, birds or wildlife. In our estimation, the blackwater fisheries of the Amazon are overrated and oversold. You will see what we mean on the

return flight from Miami. We prefer to focus on quality fishing, great accommodations, and a pristine jungle experience rather than having a client catch one twenty pound fish and few other fish in a week.

If you are after quality or quantity fishing, the Agua Boa is your best option anywhere in the Amazon. A fairly normal day would be 15-30 peacock bass per rod. If you want to catch 75 fish a day, that is always possible. Please just let us know your interest. There are inland lakes where you literally can catch fish until you are tired.

That said we hope that while you are here that you won't keep count of your peacocks. At the end of the week it won't really matter if you have boated 142 or 600 peacock bass, but you will remember great fish or a single shot at an 18 pounder over white sand! If you do keep track of your numbers, please keep it to yourself. That way everyone will enjoy the results of their day.

Typical Fishing Day

Clients will fish two to a boat. If you would like to fish alone in a boat, there is a single supplement price available. At the Agua Boa Amazon Lodge, you can spend the entire day on the river with a picnic lunch or return to the lodge for a lunch prepared by the chef. Either way, you may want to take a break in the middle of the day. If you stay out on the river, the guides will hang soft cotton hammocks under trees for you to rest in. It is a nice way to relax in the hottest part of the day. Your fishing will not suffer as the mid-day heat generally makes the fish spooky and unreceptive. If you want to fish through the day without a break, that is not a problem. In the evening you will return to the lodge for drinks, dinner and the night's accommodation.

THE LODGE AND HOUSEBOAT OPERATIONS

The Lodge

The Agua Boa Amazon Lodge was built in 2001 by the former owner, Dr. Jan Wilt. The lodge is a spacious facility with a large dining room, a living room, bar and game room. The game room has a snooker table, ping pong table, darts and an endless array of games from chess to backgammon.

There is also an entertainment area with a DVD player, and satellite TV. The lodge also has a great porch with an eating area, hammocks and sitting area. Outside there is a 20 meter swimming pool and bar area and a volleyball and soccer field. When you combine the overall facilities and fishing environment with the relatively small capacity at the lodge or houseboat, it makes the Agua Boa Amazon Lodge simply the finest facility in the peacock bass fishing world.

Individual Bungalows

Clients stay in well-furnished air-conditioned bungalows. Each bungalow has a large front and back porch, hammock and sitting area. Inside there is a 30 foot by 30 foot main room with two double beds, a reading area, frigobar, TV, and table. The bathroom is large and well designed. A ten inch shower head will let you know that you are in the land of water. The bungalows have hot and cold running water, flushing toilets and enough storage for even the best packed fishermen. The hot water is provided by solar panels. Starting in 2007, there is satellite wireless internet available for a modest charge to offset the cost of installation. Most bungalows have this available.

There is daily laundry service to reduce your packing needs.

The Houseboat

The boat has 6 small bedrooms with one bed and one bathroom with a shower in each. All private accommodations. There is one room with a bed that may sleep two people. The beds are about 1 1/2 the size of a regular single bunk. Every room has its own a/c unit and the dining area is also air conditioned. There is daily laundry service. Upstairs, there is a covered sun deck. There are lots of big fish upriver and it's received very little fishing pressure over the last few years.

Electricity

Electricity is provided by diesel generator supplying 24 hour 110 volt electricity. It is fine to charge your electronic devices. Unlike other Amazon operators, the air conditioning runs all night long.

The Trail System

There is an extensive trail system at the lodge. The trails wind through savannah, gallery and flood forest. They are well maintained and are well marked so that guests can wander without worry of getting lost.

The bird and wildlife is absolutely spectacular if you take your time. The best hours to walk the trails are in the early morning and late evening. In the middle of the day, most jungle animals rest. In a normal year we have had up to 25 jaguar sightings. During the prime hours, jacamars, parrots, macaws, parakeets, toucans, aracarís, ant birds, cotingas, flickers, manakins, woodpeckers, hummingbirds are among some of the birds you might expect to see on the trails. Tapir, nutria, agouti, peccary, bands of squirrel and howler monkeys and collared peccary are also a common sight on the trails of the Agua Boa.

Insects

There are relatively few insects on the Agua Boa due to its acidic waters, but there are a few hours in the day when you will want to make sure you are extra cautious. In the evening and early morning, the no see ums will be a problem. You won't feel them bite, but you may feel them itch. Some people are allergic to no see ums so please take caution your first few days. With repellent, long sleeved shirts, and long pants, you will hardly notice them. If you take care during these hours of the day, you will not have problems.

Gratuities

Tips are left to the discretion of the angler. The most common range is a tip of \$350-450 for the lodge staff and guides. Tips are split evenly among the guides and support staff. You do not need to leave any additional tips. This is only a rough guideline for planning purposes. The lodge manager will collect the tips.

Drinks At The Lodge

The lodge has beer, wine, and local 'cachaca' (for caipirinhas). If you want other liquor, we advise that you bring some with you. It is very hard to find brand name liquor in Manaus, so it's better to obtain it from a duty free shop enroute.

GETTING THERE - TRAVEL INFORMATION

Sample Itinerary

Note: The lodge week runs Sat to Sat while the houseboat week runs Sun to Sun. In the following example, move everything one day later to see a typical houseboat itinerary – i.e., if you were on the houseboat trip you would depart Miami on Saturday rather than Friday as listed.

The most often airline route used between the USA and Manaus is the non-stop, 5 hour TAM airlines flight between Miami and Manaus. It departs Miami daily at 8:30am and arrives in Manaus at 1:30pm. The return departs Manaus at 3:10pm and arrives in Miami at 8:20pm. The schedule can vary from time to time. Reservations can be made through your own travel agent or TAM direct at 888-235-9826.

Note: Delta is now flying non-stops between Atlanta and Manaus. For information, you can check with Delta direct or a travel agent at 866-338-1531.

Friday: Depart Miami on the TAM Airlines flight non-stop from Miami to Manaus, an approximately 5 hour flight. Pass customs in Manaus. Arrive Manaus in early afternoon and check into your hotel. Do not lose your entrance card to Brazil! This is a small white piece of paper. You will need it for you return. You will be met by a lodge representative with a sign. This afternoon and evening are free on your own to see Manaus and dine out. (Note: meals and lodging on Friday are not included in the package and must be paid on your own).

Saturday: The charter flight to the lodge departs Manaus at 6:00am. The flight is one and half-hours over some of the Amazon's most pristine rainforest. The plane will land at the lodge's private air strip. After a brief look at the lodge and breakfast, the guides will help you with your bags to your accommodations and you can get gear set up to fish.

Sunday - Friday: Full day fishing river channel, inland lakes and lagoons. Lunch on the river or at the lodge. Overnight at the lodge or the houseboat.

Saturday: Transfer to Manaus by private charter departing the lodge at 9:00am. Arrival into Manaus is scheduled by 11:00am. You should be able to make the afternoon Tam flight to Miami.

On the houseboat itinerary, you would spend Saturday night at the lodge so you would be there to meet the charter flight back to Manaus on Sunday morning.

This schedule is subject to change as we have no control over airline itineraries. Please keep in mind that Brazil is a third world country where life moves to a slower beat. You'll especially notice this when attempting to clear customs.

Overnighting In Manaus

To make hotel arrangements, we suggest you contact the Agua Boa Amazon Lodge transfer agent in Manaus, Ray Santos. Ray will be in charge of meeting you at the airport, transfers to hotels, dinner reservations (suggest you try Bufalo's for dinner) charter flights, and he has some special rates for ABAL travelers. His phone is 092-96-140004 (mobile) and e-mail raybsantos@yahoo.com.br We stayed at the Tropical Hotel which is a pleasant resort hotel on the banks of the Rio Negro with a good restaurant and pool. Standard room single or double - \$148US, including breakfast. reservas.manaus@tropicalhotel.com.br The cost of the hotel is not included and you would pay the hotel directly.

Other hotel options include:

Century Hotel (single U\$ 123,00) (double U\$ 150,00)

Saint Paul Hotel (single U\$ 89,00) (double U\$ 108,00)

Adrianopolis Hotel (single U\$ 105,00) (double U\$ 132,00)

Emergency Contact Numbers In Brazil

Your Manaus transfer agent is Ray Santos – +55 92 8120 5960 (mobile) and e-mail raybsantos@yahoo.com.br Ray can arrange almost anything including tours, recommending restaurants, etc.

Leonard Roy Kolschowsky (“Rodney”)

Ecotur Turismo Limitada

Rua SDPM Jacinto JS Silva #92

Carana, Boa Vista, RR, BR Cep 69313-572

Phone + 55 95 3627 1193 (business); + 55 95 9905 5172 (mobile)

Visas

Brazil requires a tourist visa for US citizens and you must obtain one before you leave – they will not issue you a visa on arrival at the airport. Allow at least two weeks for processing and request the visa at least two months before the trip, but no earlier than 90 days prior to the end of your stay in Brazil. Your visa will say: First entry within 90 days (which means you must use your visa into Brazil within 90 days of the date you acquire your visa – if not, your Visa becomes invalid. You will need a copy of your flight itinerary to apply for the visa.

Items to send with the visa application

- Passport – must be valid for at least 6 months from the end of your trip.
- One passport photo – 2 x 2 photo with a white background
- Copy of airline ticket
- Postal money order for \$100 for processing visa
- Postal money order for \$10 for handling fee on mail-in processing
- USPS self addressed Priority or Express Mail return envelope

Use this address on your visa application:

Agua Boa Amazon Lodge

Leonard Roy Kolschowsky

Ecotur LMTA

Rua SPDM Jacinto JS Silva #92

Carana, Boa Vista, RR, BR. Cep 69313-572

Business: 55-95-3627-1193

Cell: 55-95-9905-5172

You can request a 90 day or 5 year visa. Since the price is the same, suggest you request a 5 year visa.

To request a visa, contact the consulate with the jurisdiction for your legal residence. The contact info for the Brazilian Embassy in D.C. is 202-238-2700 or www.brasilemb.org

The easiest method of getting a visa is by utilizing a document service company. They charge a fee for their services, but simplify the process. Two such services are:

TDS: 888-874-5100

DMS Visa - Dastagir Samee (goes by Samee) Telephone: 202-745-3815

E-mail: dsamee@dmsvisainternational.com

Health Matters

Among the health hazards in Brazil are both malaria and yellow fever. Very few Americans contract these diseases, primarily because they are well prepared. Please do take the appropriate precautions. We strongly suggest you contact your doctor about your personal situation and The Center For Disease Control (CDC) – they update health advisories regularly.

Contact the CDC at: “Travelers Hot Line” – 888-232-3228; website www.cdc.gov

Some vaccines can take up to two weeks or more to become fully effective so this is something to be treated in a timely manner.

These are vaccinations that are often recommended:

Tetanus: should be up to date. The shot is good for ten years.

Hepatitis A or Hepatitis B: This shot should be kept current.

Yellow Fever: this is a shot you should consider as in 2001, for the first known time, an American angler did contract yellow fever while in the Manaus area.

Malaria pills: I haven't seen any mosquitoes in the area of the lodge; however they are certainly in Manaus. Malaria pills can cause allergic reactions so consult carefully with your doctor.

Travel Insurance

There are options for evacuation, medical, and trip cancellation insurance on the home page of our website – www.flyfishingadventures.org These choices (or another form of travel insurance) are optional, but highly recommended.

SUGGESTED PACKING LIST

Rod And Line Choice

A tropical saltwater floating line like the bonefish or tarpon tapers are the line of choice. This is essential as coldwater lines for steelhead and salmon turn to chewing gum in the heat.

There is no question that in deeper lagoons and in the deeper portions of the river, a sinking line can make a big difference. You'll want to have two rods rigged for action - a good combination would be an 8 weight with a floating line and a 9 weight with a 300 grain sink tip (the Teeney 300 is perfect). If you want to rig three rods, I would add another 8 weight with a 200 grain sink tip. When the sun is high, using a 300 grain sink tip can have some advantages over a 200 grain tip.

Optional: bring a 5 wt with floating line with a small selection of trout flies and leaders for smaller fish. May want to bring some light wire leader, sleeves, and appropriate pliers for crimping for fish with serious teeth.

Bring spare lines. These fish can take the coating off a floating fly line in no time and the

piranha seem to enjoy nibbling on the sink tip portion.

Flies

Bring roughly 3 dozen total flies, six should be top water flies like the banger, 6 of the big baitfish patterns similar to the Puglisi Mackerel or Keliher Herring, 2 dozen should be of the deceiver or lead eye variety.

- Deceivers 2/0, 3/0 (on another similar baitfish pattern 4 & 6 inches in length. Colors: Tan/white, Red/white, Red/yellow)
- Peacock bass deceivers 1/0 and 3/0 (red/white, brown/white)
- Puglisi Tinker Mackerel 3/0
- Keliher Herring 3/0
- Popovic's Banger 4/0 (Silver, Orange, Chartreuse)
- Whitlock's Swimming Baitfish, a floater-diver pattern, with the red and yellow head in 1/0 can be a productive pattern for Arowana.
- Generally, the biggest fish prefer bigger flies.

Leaders

For the sink tip lines, use a level piece of 20# or 30# mono 6 - 7 feet long. Bring a spool of each 20# and 30# tippet material (I like Hard Mason because it is very abrasion resistant). For the floating line, either use the level leader of 20# or 30# material or, if you prefer, bring some 9 or 10 foot tapered leaders with 20# tippet. Fish are not leader shy.

Clothing

- Pants, shirts - for both sun protection and no see'um avoidance, you'll want to wear long sleeve shirts and pants – not shorts. Tropical pants with zip-off legs are a good tropical choice allowing you to convert to shorts for the mid-day or wading. Light weight, tropical fabrics are critical for comfort.
- Shorts and swimsuit
- Hat with wide brim for sun protection or the traditional flats hat with a long bill in front with fabric hanging from the sides and back to keep the sun off the ears and neck.
- Breathable, light weight, tropical rain suit
- Shoes – laceless shoes or topsiders for fishing in the skiff. For wading, quick drying tennis shoes, wet wading sandals, or some form of flats boots or “marl walkers” are ideal.
- Airline tickets
- Shoes – laceless shoes or topsiders for fishing in the skiff. For wading, quick drying tennis shoes, wet wading sandals, or some form of flats boots or marl walkers. Comfortable, casual shoes for lodge wear.
- Baggage – soft luggage and duffel bags are preferred for remote travel.

Personal items

- Passport
- Copy of passport
- Toiletries, personal medications, and small first aid kit (band aid, antibiotic ointment, etc)
- Reading glasses
- Airline tickets

- Medical-evacuation insurance?

Other Equipment

- Waterproof boat bag
- Camera (film, batteries, filters, etc.)
- Sun gloves...if you use them
- Long nosed pliers
- Hook sharpener
- Line nipper
- Bug repellent, non-aerosol. DEET most effective.
- Sunscreen & chapstick – lip protection
- Stripping sleeves or glove
- Small flashlight (just in case there is a power outage at night)
- Binoculars
- Boga Grip – for handling and weighing fish

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Do I need to change U.S. dollars? No. Most everyone in Manaus accepts dollars or credit cards. You may want to bring smaller bills for tipping purposes.

Is there a weight limitation for luggage on the charter flight? No. However, please remember that we have daily laundry service. It is picked up in the morning and is done by your return at the end of the days fishing. Packing reasonably is always appreciated as it allows us to bring in much needed camp supplies.

Should I bring a 10 weight? Not unless you enjoy casting one or want to spend a lot of time looking for a pirarucu. (Note: some of our clients on trips this year felt they were outgunned by the bigger peacocks with a 9 wt and felt having a 10 wt along was worthwhile).

Are spey rods appropriate? There is a lot of stripping and fast casting required so a spey rod is not a great tool for peacocks.

Is there anything I can bring for the guides and camp that would be appreciated? Please don't feel obligated. A tip is plenty. However if you feel like you want to bring something, guides loves things like tool kits, pliers, Polaroid glasses, etc. Other ideas are t-shirts, toys and hats. Again though, there is no need to bring anything at all.

Do I need to tip my guide or anyone separately? No. We pool tips so that everyone works as a team and gets their fair share.

What is the best color lens for seeing fish on Agua Boa? Amber.

Are there non-fishing activities or is it a good trip for a beginner? Yes and yes. There is great birding, hiking and wildlife viewing. There is also a pool and plenty of wonderful places to visit. Even a non-fisherman will catch plenty of fish. The Agua Boa River is a perfect place to start a long fishing career.

Is the Agua Boa a small fish river? If someone tells you this, please ask if they have fished it. We have landed peacocks to 25 pounds. The only difference in terms of the size of the fish is that that the Agua Boa River has a healthy population of all age classes.

Insects: There are relatively few insects on the Agua Boa due to its acidic waters, but there are a few hours in the day when you will want to make sure you are careful. In the evening and early morning hours, the no see ums can be a problem.

INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT THE AMAZON

- The Agua Boa is located in the northeast corner of the Amazon Basin in the state of Roraima. Roraima, which is as large as England, is less than 7% of the land area of the Amazon.
- The Amazon Basin covers nearly half of South America, over 2.7 million square miles in size. The Basin is almost as large as the contiguous United States.
- The Amazon is the largest of the world's rivers based on volume of water – it dumps 28 billion gallons of water daily into the Atlantic. The second largest river by volume is the Congo and the Rio Negro, one of the tributaries of the Amazon, rivals the Congo in volume.
- The rivers of the Amazon vary in color. The main Amazon and the tributaries that flow from the Andes are light brownish yellow, carrying suspended silt. The tributaries which form in the ancient rock where there is little sediment left are “black,” actually very clear water that's stained black by dissolved plant material that's acidic. The Agua Boa River is a rare clear river that is neither stained nor silt-laden.

CANCELLATION, REFUNDS AND LIABILITIES

Deposit/Cancellation/Refund Policy

A 50% deposit is required within two weeks of making reservation to secure a fishing confirmation. Deposit/payment is non-refundable unless space is subsequently booked. Final payment due 90 days prior to trip. There is no refund for any unused portion of the land package due to missed flights etc. Trip cancellation insurance is recommended. Receipt of deposit/and or final payment is acknowledgement that registrant has read and accepts cancellation/refund and responsibility clauses.

Fly Fishing Adventures acts solely as an agent for the Agua Boa Amazon Lodge. Fly Fishing Adventures is not responsible for trips not delivered by the outfitter in the event of death, political unrest or discontinuation of the business due to bankruptcy or health reasons. We strongly recommend Travel insurance for all travelers to Brazil.

Responsibility And Release Of Liability, Please Read Carefully

The client understands that fishing is dangerous and that it includes risks of injury from, but not limited to: wading, boating, wild animals, walking on the uneven terrain, lack of immediate medical help, etc. The client acknowledges that their stay at the Agua Boa Amazon Lodge may result in serious injury or death from these and other risks and accepts such risks. In consideration for each and every day from arrival to departure at Manaus the client hereby releases, holds harmless, and agrees to indemnify the Agua Boa Amazon Lodge, Fly Fishing Adventures, and its employees and agents from any and all liability for damage or personal injury resulting from these risks described herein.

Note About Flights

Please be advised that flights schedules do change; plane connections can be missed resulting in a missed charter to the Agua Boa Amazon Lodge. Please keep in mind that

these things are beyond our control. Neither Fly Fishing Adventures, the Agua Boa Amazon Lodge, nor any of its affiliated agents will be responsible for any additional costs incurred due to missed flights or schedule changes.

SUGGESTED READING

The Ecotraveller's Wildlife Guide - Brazil, Amazon and Pantanal, David Pearson and Les Beletsky, A comprehensive guide and handbook to the flora, fauna, and habitats of Brazil, with a focus on the Amazon and Pantanal. It features color illustrations of commonly encountered birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and insects.

The Rivers Amazon, Alex Shoumatoff

Sierra Club Books, Copyright 1986

Great starter Amazon Ecology book written about the Amazon Basin and its settlement and changes.

Tropical Nature, Adrian Forsyth and Ken Miyata

New York: Scribners, Copyright 1984

Introduction to rainforest ecology. A clear, readable explanation about the complex plants and animals of the neotropics.

The Fishes And The Forest, by Michael Goulding, Berkeley, University of California Press. The best book about the fishes of the Amazon and their interaction with the rainforest.

*** Thanks to Jeff Vermillion, the original outfitter for the Royal Amazon Lodge, for much of the information in this pre-trip document.