



Dante Fenolio, Tom Crutchfield and Bill Lamar. Most folks know of one, or another, or perhaps all three, but to have them together on the same trip is an unheard of opportunity! These guys have a combined total of 130 or more years of experience with reptiles and amphibians from every corner of the Earth, and one or another of them has visited or done field work or lived in several dozen countries. They love the tropics and are just as excited about its flora, fauna, and people as they were at the beginning of their careers. They are happy to share their experiences and knowledge. Want great expert information about what you're seeing in the Amazon? Want excellent tips on how to obtain a great photo of that frog? Want to hear spellbinding and often hilarious stories about adventures with animals in far-flung places? Want to just relax, have the time of your life and forget about problems for a magical week? Then this is the trip for you.

Finding Reptiles & Amphibians in the rainforest is just like fishing in the sense that one location can be more productive than another. Drawing upon years of experience and counting, as one always must do, on luck and the weather, we go to places where currently good herping can be found. Success goes hand-in-hand with flexibility: depending on our experience in the immediate area, we may opt to remain there for more time, or we may shift to another spot. We stay adaptable and find the proof of our approach in the numbers of animals and species we encounter on our Herping Trips. What follows is a sample itinerary of just such a trip.



Our 2018 Herping Group

ITINERARY:

November 2, Saturday - States - Lima

Fly from the States to Lima. Evening or next morning arrival. (Optional lodging available in Lima if desired.)

November 3, Sunday - Day 1 - Lima - Iquitos - Explorama Lodge

Arrive to Iquitos on the mid-day flight from Lima. Reception upon arrival and transfer to the boat dock. Get cameras out at this point and essentially keep them ready for the rest of the trip as this place is one huge photo op! Fifty-mile journey down the Amazon River to our lodge, on Yanamono creek (a tributary of the Amazon). Afternoon hike along the "Lake Trail" through lowland rainforest which is seasonally flooded. After dinner, there is an opportunity to walk in the forest at night or visit the Lodge's "Bar Tahuampa" where local musicians play guitar and flute music. Or both! This is mature upland (non-flooded) forest and there is a network of excellent trails for herping. Alternatively, if water level permits, we can ascend a nearby creek and herp from the boat. This creek is good for sleeping Rusty Whipsnakes, Treeboas, Fer-de-Lances, Aquatic Coralsnakes, and amphibians. Overnight Explorama Lodge. (Lunch, Dinner)

November 4, Monday - Day 2 - Explorama Lodge

Optional early-morning birding trip, which also provides a good chance to see monkeys. After breakfast we'll hit one of the trails for a slow day hike. This offers a great chance to see mature, upland rainforest, which is a botanical wonderland as well as home to hundreds of reptile and amphibian species. This area was sampled years ago by identifying the species of trees in a 5-acre plot. There were almost as many as the species of trees in the entire lower 48 states of the USA! Geckos, anoles, swampsnakes, whipsnakes, poison frogs, leaf toads and numerous others are all good candidates for viewing on hikes like this. After lunch we'll either take another trail or else work the lodge grounds as the forest edge is a great place to find things and to take photographs. After dinner we'll take a night hike and this is when things really start to happen. Night walks, aside from being fun



EXPLORAMA LODGE



AMAZONIAN HORNED FROG
Ceratophrys cornuta



EMERALD TREEBOA
Corallus batesi

and entertaining, are the best way to locate not only secretive nocturnal herps but also to find those that are day-active as they sleep. Coralsnakes, snail-eaters, boas, tree runners, and everything from monkey frogs to treefrogs to laughing frogs are all likely candidates on this walk. The Tahuampa Bar will be open for those who prefer to rest as well as for everyone after the night hike. Overnight Lodge. (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

November 5, Tuesday - Day 3 - Rainforest Lodge

It all depends upon the herping. We stay where it's productive or move to another locale. It's all in the same gigantic rainforest. Should we decide to move, after breakfast, a boat ride down the Amazon and up the Napo River will take us to a 250,000-acre Amazon Rainforest Reserve and lodge on the Sucusari river. Afternoon visit to the ReNuPeRu Ethnobotanical Garden, where over 240 species of medicinal and useful plants are tended by a local shaman. This garden is used to show visitors rainforest plants used in modern medicine as well as examples of native plant remedies which science may utilize in the future. Herps abound in the garden and we have taken *Boa constrictors*, Emerald and Amazon Treeboas, Liana Snakes, Calico Snakes, several species of coralsnake, and *Bothriopsis taeniata* in the area, as well as *Ceratophrys cornuta* and a host of other amphibians. Evening excursion by open boat along the Sucusari River in search of caiman and treeboas, to enjoy the night sounds and, if it is a clear night, to see the incredible stars of the southern sky. Overnight Lodge. (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

November 6, Wednesday - Day 4 - Rainforest Lodge & Canopy Walkway, Day trip or overnight.

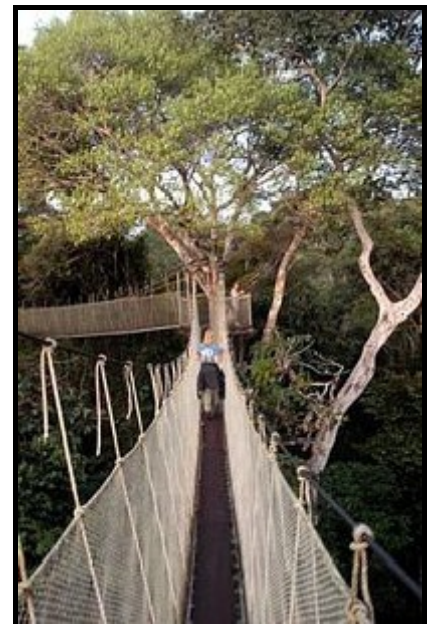
Morning hike to another lodge and the Canopy Walkway, a suspended bridge spanning 500 meters, connected by tree platforms and reaching a height of over 115 feet above the forest floor. Even if the herping at our first stop is good enough for a prolonged stay, we'll take a morning to visit the Canopy Walkway. Here there is time to observe a part of the rainforest rarely seen by man but accessible without any type of climbing skill or equipment. We'll store most of our gear at the main lodge and carry daypacks (assistance available if needed). Later in the afternoon we may hike along the Medicinal and Useful Plant Trail where your guide will point out the way that many of the plants, seen here growing in primary forest, are used by local residents in the construction of their homes, canoes and tools as well as describe some of their medicinal properties. If we



AQUATIC CORALSLNAKE
Micrurus surinamensis



WESTERN TWIST-NECKED TURTLE
Platemys platycephala melanonota



CANOPY WALKWAY AT ACTS

overnight here, there will be an opportunity to revisit the Canopy Walkway after dark and to see phosphorescent fungi growing on the forest floor not far from ACTS where when you turn off your flashlight, shining "stars" appear on the forest floor. Again, the herping can be excellent here. There are several good trails for night work and this is a site deep in virgin rainforest. We have taken *Philodryas argenteus*, *Oxybelis fulgidus*, three species of Calico Snakes, corals, fer-de-lances, and even a bushmaster in this forest. Bring plenty of batteries and the right kind of flashlights! Overnight Lodge. (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)



November 7, Thursday - Day 5 - Rainforest Lodge - Ceiba Tops Lodge

If we are in the area, maybe an early morning pre-breakfast visit to the Canopy Walkway, the best time for bird watching. This invariably (except in the rain) yields closeup views of Amazon Thornytails (*Uracentron flaviceps*) which live in the canopy. Not only is this a fantastic lizard, but also it is one seen by few people owing to its canopy habitat. Usually it is possible to approach them closely. After breakfast you will walk the trail out and board boats for the trip to our next lodge....Ceiba Tops. On the way you will pass the town of Francisco de Orellana, where a statue



POOL AT CEIBA TOPS LODGE

is erected to the intrepid explorer who in 1542 at the mouth of the Napo River became the first European to see and descend the Amazon River. At Ceiba Tops, private rooms with air conditioning and hot water showers provide a nice touch. Here you will also find a beautiful pool set in a garden of native flora... with a water slide! Enjoy relaxing in the pool while beautiful macaws come to drink from the water as it falls into the pool.

Afternoon open boat excursion along the Amazon in search of either of the two species of freshwater dolphin. Visit a Yagua indigenous village, where your guide will show you a way of village life where people's day-to-day activities depend on the mighty rivers surrounding them. Ceiba Tops has an extensive trail system that we will herp and it has yielded bushmasters, fer-de-lance, boa constrictors, Amazon



AMAZON RIVER DOLPHIN
Inia geoffrensis



COMMON ANACONDA
Eunectes murinus

mudsnakes, anacondas, Amazon watersnakes, iguanas, Golden Tegus, and enormous Smoky Jungle Frogs. Perfect for more night herping! Overnight Ceiba Tops. (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

November 8, Friday - Day 6 - Ceiba Tops Lodge - Iquitos
A morning walk in the beautiful primary rainforest reserve around Ceiba Tops including a visit to the huge Ceiba Tree for which the lodge is named. Afternoon return to Iquitos and transfer to the Garden House Hotel. Iquitos is loaded with interesting sites, shops are filled with handicrafts, beautiful hand-painted or woven textiles, exquisite pottery, hammocks, and the like. This evening dinner is NOT included in the price, but we will all gather for dinner at one of the many colorful Iquitos restaurants, after which we can enjoy the fun Iquitos nightlife. Overnight at Garden House Hotel. (Breakfast, Lunch)



Making new friends.

November 9, Saturday - Day 7 - Iquitos - Lima - States
Late morning transfer from your hotel to the Iquitos airport to board your early afternoon flight to Lima. (Note a flight out of Iquitos later in the day will require you to check out of your hotel room around noon and store your luggage at the front desk. Transportation to the Iquitos airport will be provided at the appropriate time.) In Lima, make your evening or early next morning flight back to the States. (Breakfast)

November 10, Sunday - Arrive home.

END SERVICES

FLIGHTS REQUIRED:

SEE <https://www.greentracks.com/Amazon-Herping-Flights-First.html>
for suggested airlines and routes.

November 2	States - Lima	Evening or next morning arrival.
November 3	Lima - Iquitos	LA 2240 10:05 - 12:05
November 9	Iquitos - Lima	LA 2241 13:00 - 14:45
November 9	Lima - States	Evening or next day departure.

Please use LATAM Airlines for your internal Peru flights. See www.LATAM.com for schedule and prices.

PRICE per person in DOUBLE accommodation with minimum of 10 people:

10 - 12 people @ \$2206 per person

13 - 14 people @ \$2075 per person

15 + people @ \$1929 per person

Price per person as shown above will be based upon the TOTAL number of people participating in that tour... 10 - 12 or 13 - 14 or 15+ people.

Single Supplement: +\$210

NOTE to Single Travelers: If you would rather NOT lodge in SINGLE accommodations, it may be possible to share a room with another Single Traveler. This option is subject to availability. Please request.

FLIGHTS are NOT included.

SEE [November 2 - 9, 2019 Flight Suggestions](#)

for suggested airlines and routes.

INCLUDED: Transfers by car, bus, boat, lodging at lodges and hotel, meals as listed in the Itinerary, guided wildlife excursions, the fun company of Tom, Bill and Dante, and your fellow travelers. Free 24 hour Wi-Fi at most of the lodges we stay.

NOT INCLUDED: Personal expenses. Gratuities to local guides (NOT hosts) and lodge staff. Meals not listed in the Itinerary. Drinks and snacks at the lodge and hotel bars. Extra excursions not mentioned in the Itinerary.

OPTION to extend your travel in Peru by several days with a tour to Cuzco and Machu Picchu. Please ask us.