



Zaltana Riverboat – Rio Negro

5 Days / 4 Nights Itinerary

Day 1 – Manaus | Embarkation | Rio Negro & Cultural Encounters

Your journey begins in Manaus, where you are welcomed by your host and transferred to the Zaltana Riverboat at Mirante Lúcia Almeida, in the historic center of the city.

As you step onboard, the rhythm of the river begins to set the tone. Settle into your panoramic suite and meet the crew before gathering on deck for a welcome moment overlooking the Rio Negro and a safety briefing.

As the boat begins its navigation, the vastness of the Amazon gradually reveals itself through shifting light, dark waters, and the first glimpses of wildlife along the riverbanks. Along the way, you pass the iconic Meeting of the Waters, where the dark waters of the Rio Negro flow alongside the sandy-colored Amazon River without mixing for several kilometers, a natural phenomenon created by differences in temperature, speed, and density.

One of the unexpected highlights of traveling along the Lower Rio Negro is the opportunity to connect with the ribeirinhos, the traditional communities who live along its banks. Visit a local indigenous family from the Tucano and Desana ethnic groups and learn about their efforts to preserve their cultural heritage, including medicinal plant knowledge and handcrafted traditions, during a short walk around the family's house.

After dinner, guests are invited to join a Zaltana Expert-Led Lecture, offering deeper insight into the Amazon's biodiversity, culture, and ecosystems.

Meals included: lunch, dinner

Day 2 – Exploring the Anavilhanas Archipelago & Cuieiras River

Navigate through the Anavilhanas Archipelago, one of the largest river island systems in the world.

Continue into the Cuieiras River, a quiet blackwater tributary of the Rio Negro, known for its calm waters, preserved forests, and intimate access to the rhythms of the Amazon. Here, the landscape becomes more secluded, offering a deeper sense of immersion.



The morning begins with a guided round-trip forest walk of approximately 1 hour inside the Três Unidos community, where guests gain insight into how forest communities are organized, including their social structure, local school, traditional celebrations, and community-led projects developed to improve quality of life while remaining connected to their territory and culture rather than moving to the city.

This afternoon is dedicated to wildlife observation and exploration. Explore narrow channels and flooded forests aboard electric-powered canoes, gliding silently through mirror-like waters that reflect the sky and forest canopy. There are opportunities to observe birds, primates, and aquatic life, including the iconic pink river dolphin. These canoe journeys offer close contact with the environment, allowing you to experience the forest from water level.

In the evening, optional night excursions reveal the hidden life of the Amazon — sounds, movements, and nocturnal species rarely seen during the day.

Return onboard for an evening of fine dining and quiet reflection beneath the Amazon sky.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner

Day 3 – Sunrise Wildlife Exploration & Rio Negro Beach Experience

Before sunrise, guests depart aboard our small expedition boats for an early morning wildlife observation experience, the moment when the Amazon forest is at its most active. As the first light emerges over the Rio Negro, there are opportunities to observe a remarkable variety of birdlife, including macaws, toucans, kingfishers, and other species awakening along the riverbanks and forest canopy. After the excursion, return onboard for breakfast and time to rest while the Zaltana continues navigating toward the next destination along the Rio Negro.

In the afternoon, guests can enjoy a slower pace surrounded by the tranquility of the river. Activities include canoeing through calm blackwater landscapes and the opportunity to swim and refresh in the warm waters of the Rio Negro while taking in the vast scenery of the Amazon.

As the day transitions into sunset, a specially prepared pop-up camp awaits on a secluded white-sand beach. Here, guests gather for a Zaltana Expert-Led Lecture in an intimate open-air setting, followed by a memorable dinner under the stars, surrounded by the sounds of the forest and the stillness of the river.

After an evening of shared stories, conversation, and reflection, return to the Zaltana Riverboat for the night.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner

Day 4 – Forest Traditions & Sunset Fishing Experience

After breakfast, we leave the riverboat for an immersive cultural experience centered around the voices and traditions of women from the forest communities. Through sustainable entrepreneurship, they have developed initiatives based on the extraction of essential oils and the creation of handcrafted natural cosmetics, generating income while preserving ancestral knowledge and the surrounding environment.

During the visit, guests are introduced to the culinary heritage of the Rio Negro region, learning about the preparation of cassava-based foods such as tapioca, tucupi, arubé, and other traditional flavors deeply connected to the identity of the forest peoples. As part of daily life along the river, families regularly produce cassava flour and tapioca for their own subsistence, and guests are invited to participate in this authentic family routine while enjoying fresh seasonal juices such as cupuaçu, açaí, and other Amazonian fruits.

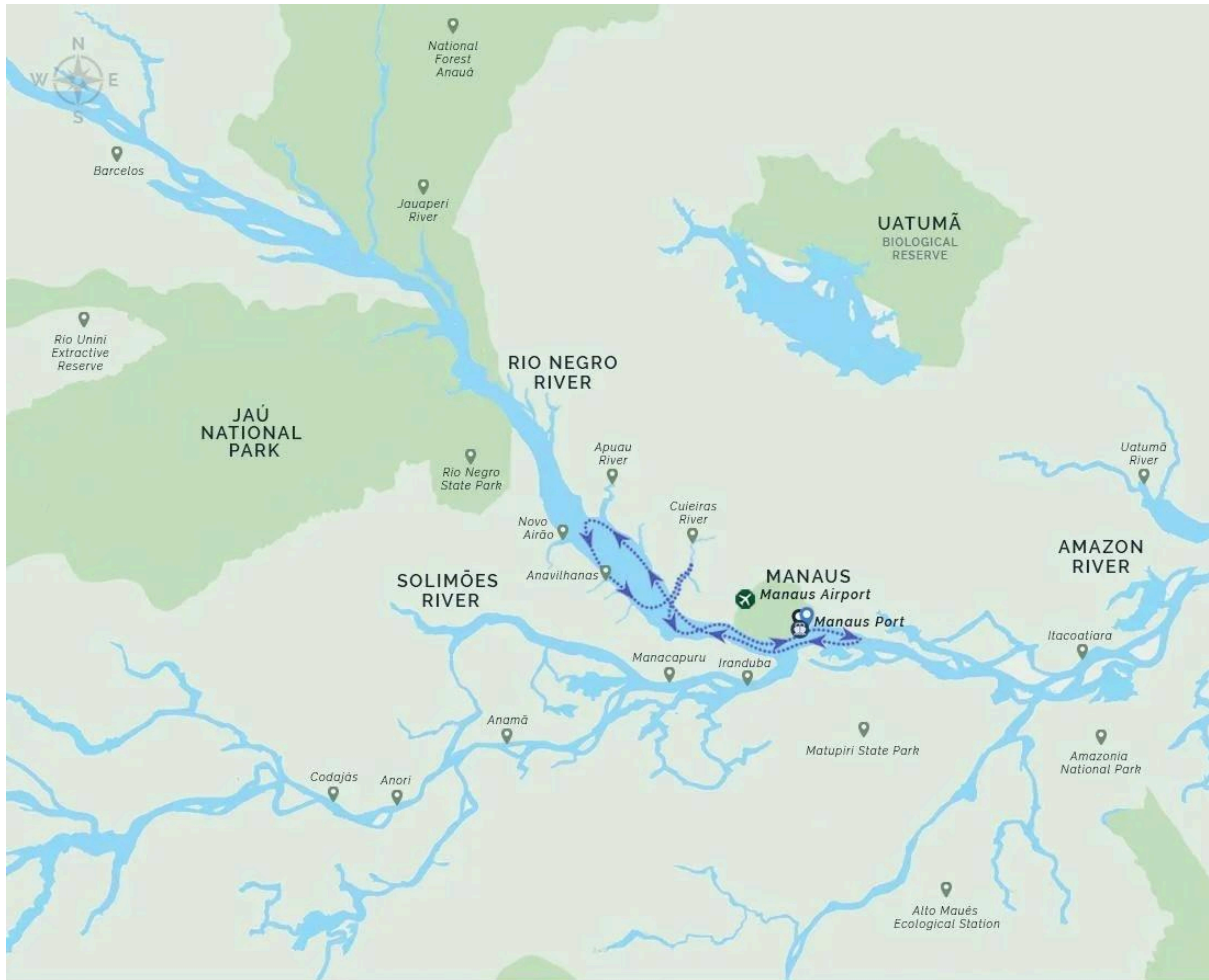
After returning to the Zaltana Riverboat for lunch and time to relax onboard, the afternoon unfolds with another small-boat excursion. Guests are introduced to traditional artisanal fishing techniques practiced for generations by local communities, offering insight into the ancestral relationship between the people and the river. The experience concludes at sunset, as golden light reflects across the calm dark waters of the Rio Negro.

Day 5 – Return Navigation | Manaus

Enjoy a final morning searching for more wildlife, especially birds and monkeys, while immersed in the tranquility of the Amazon. As the Zaltana Riverboat makes its way back toward Manaus, there are opportunities for photography, wildlife observation, and quiet moments on deck to absorb the final impressions of the forest and river landscapes.

After lunch onboard, guests disembark and are transferred to the airport or hotel in Manaus.

Your journey comes to an end leaving you with a deeper understanding of the Amazon, not only as a destination, but as a living, breathing system shaped by nature, culture, and the people who call it home.



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