Ohio University Alumni Association

Amazon River Expedition

Cruise aboard the Amazon River Expedition Vessel
the Exclusively Chartered, All-Suite

ZAFIRO

February 17 to 25, 2018
Dear Alumni and Friends,

Visiting the mysterious Amazon River Basin, one of Earth’s most exotic natural realms and our planet’s largest rainforest ecosystem, is an unforgettable and once-in-a-lifetime experience. The longest navigable river in the world, the Amazon winds more than 4000 miles from its source in the Andes Mountains to the Atlantic Ocean, and its tributaries fan out over 1.5 million square miles to sustain the lush flora and extraordinary fauna of this fragile environment. Explore the boundless diversity of nature’s most wondrous offerings from delicate orchids to transparent glass frogs and pink river dolphins, to the treetops of the verdant rainforest and the depths of blackwater tributaries.

Join us for this phenomenal natural history voyage aboard this ideal small expedition river vessel, uniquely designed to cruise the remote tributaries of the Amazon and into areas few other visitors have ever been. The deluxe, all-Suite Zafiro offers a first-class experience in the world’s most extraordinary untouched rainforest and is one of a limited number of passenger vessels permitted to navigate this portion of the Peruvian Amazon known for its colorful wildlife and culture. In an authentic atmosphere of exploration, cruise past the confluence of the Río Ucayali and Río Marañón—the legendary inception of the Amazon River—where the primeval calls of birds and wildlife echo across the rainforest.

Far beyond civilization in the Pacaya-Samiria National Reserve, the largest wetlands refuge in the world, the ship’s expert, English-speaking Peruvian naturalists will lead you through the rainforest to see rare indigenous species and guide you along the Amazon’s sinuous tributaries and serpentine blackwater rivers. Walk through remote forests where the number of butterfly species climbs into the thousands, and observe an incredible array of birds in this avian paradise. The Amazon is home to more plant and animal species than anywhere else in the world, and many have yet to be classified or even discovered. You will also visit local villages to gain insight into the culture and traditional way of life of the ribereños (river people) and watch a shaman perform an ancient ritual.

In addition to the mystifying reaches of the Amazon, this unique program also includes two nights in Lima, Peru, featuring a visit to its historic city center, a UNESCO World Heritage site, and lunch in Iquitos with an opportunity to experience its traditional market. The perfect complement to your Amazon expedition is the awe-inspiring Machu Picchu and the Sacred Valley Post-Tour Option featuring the eponymous UNESCO World Heritage site.

This outstanding small group expedition is a great value and sells out quickly. We encourage you to reserve now as space is limited and Early Booking Savings are only available through July 7, 2017.

Sincerely,

Your Ohio University Alumni Travel Team
Depart for the cosmopolitan coastal city of Lima, Peru, located at the foot of the Andes Mountains. Arrive late this evening in the heart of the upscale, cultural Miraflores district, check into the deluxe Casa Andina Private Collection hotel.

Lima
Sunday, Day 2
Following a morning at leisure, enjoy a tour of the historic center of Lima, Peru’s capital city and a UNESCO World Heritage site. See pre-Columbian temples and proud colonial mansions amid modern architecture, and the colorful buildings lining the Plaza de Armas—the city’s main square. Tour the magnificent Casa de Aliaga, built in 1535 as the residence of Don Jerónimo de Aliaga, the co-founder of Lima. Filled with original 16th-century Spanish art and furniture, it is the oldest private house in continuous use in the western hemisphere and has been inhabited by the Aliaga family for 17 generations. Then, visit the 17th-century colonial Convent and Church of San Francisco, a brilliant combination of Moorish and Baroque architectural styles and one of the finest churches in South America.

Gather for the Welcome Reception in the hotel this evening.

Lima/Iquitos/Nauta/Río Amazonas
Monday, Day 3
This morning, fly to the vibrant international city of Iquitos, an important rubber boom city during the late 19th century that attracted thousands of immigrants from around the globe to the Amazon River Basin hoping to build their fortunes in the rubber industry.

After lunch in a local restaurant, visit Plaza de Armas and see the Casa de Fierro—or Iron House—designed by Gustave Eiffel for the International Exposition of Paris in 1889 and still considered one of the finest examples of civil architecture in Peru. Continue to the Amazon waterfront and stroll along the lively Malecón Tarapacá riverwalk. Admire impressive views of the river and 19th-century European-Amazonian-style mansions built with Baroque and Rococo influences and beautiful ceramic tiles imported from Italy and Portugal.

Visit the colorful Upper Belén Market, the largest traditional market in the Peruvian Amazon. Then, transfer to Nauta and embark the Zafiro.

Leave the modern world behind as you begin your voyage of discovery into one of the world’s most remote regions. Gather on the ship’s observation deck and watch as civilization fades away and the vast Amazon River unfolds before you.
A team of expert naturalists will share their insight into this rich and complex ecosystem and help you identify fascinating species like the colorful large-billed toucan, pink river dolphin, and South American oriole. Look for a three-toed sloth moving between trees in a slow-motion ballet, while hawks, kites and turkey vultures glide overhead and jabiru storks methodically search for food in the shallows.

Río Amazonas/Río Ucayali Tuesday, Day 4
Awaken in the heart of the Amazon Basin, where the dense jungle teems with the greatest diversity of plant and animal life on Earth and the perfect serenity of the river is broken only by the occasional fisherman paddling by in a traditional dugout canoe.

This afternoon on the shores of the Amazon, meet with ribereños (river people) in their village, which has been inhabited for generations. Here, the villagers maintain conservation efforts to raise several of the thousands of butterfly species that live in the Amazon’s unique ecosystem, including the rare electric-blue morpho.

Please note: Itinerary may vary based on wildlife sightings, water levels and navigability.

Río Amazonas/Río Ucayali/Río Marañón Wednesday, Day 5
This morning, embark one of the vessel’s small excursion boats to explore the Pacaya-Samiria National Reserve, the largest wetlands reserve in the world. This area is home to rare animals like the endearing capybara—a large, semi-aquatic rodent endemic to South America—and a profusion of palms, orchids and other tropical plants that flourish at ground level. Watch for pink and gray river dolphins swimming alongside your boat.

After lunch, board a small river skiff in search of exotic wildlife, including toucans and saddleback tamarin monkeys, and marvel at the giant Victoria amazonica water lilies.
Thursday, Day 6

Early this morning, enjoy a picnic breakfast under the shade of a magnificent rainforest canopy while you watch for white-necked heron and wattled jacana dipping into nearby shallow waters. Explore this mysterious realm as you walk through the spectacular rainforest of soaring ceiba trees that reach as high as 200 feet. Listen for endangered scarlet macaws chattering in the canopy and watch for egrets, oriole blackbirds and purple gallinules.

This afternoon, by special arrangement, meet a local shaman, or medicine man, who will perform a traditional ritual and explain how the ribereños have used indigenous medicinal plants and herbs to cure ailments for centuries. Participate in a traditional Amazonian tree-planting ceremony dedicated to ensuring the longevity and well-being of the rainforest.

This evening, enjoy a special nighttime excursion into the Pacaya-Samiria National Reserve in search of elusive nocturnal creatures such as caimans and bats, and admire the vast blanket of stars that seem to shine brightest here, close to the Equator.

Friday, Day 7

Enter a virtually uninhabited portion of the Amazon where the river narrows. Board excursion boats and cruise along serpentine blackwater tributaries while the vessel’s naturalists point out captivating animal and plant life rarely detected by the untrained eye. Then, try your hand at catching a red-bellied piranha during a fishing expedition.

This afternoon, stop in a local village for a demonstration on how to prepare Amazonian specialties, including juanes, a regional favorite made of chicken and rice wrapped in banana leaves.

Later, visit another Amazonian village to experience the timeless way of life of the ribereños. This is a unique opportunity to interact with the villagers and learn more about their special relationship with this remarkable environment.

Enjoy a final evening of cruising the Amazon. Gather on the vessel's upper deck for a festive farewell as the sun sets over the lush flora of the passing rainforest.
MV ZAFIRO

The deluxe, all-Suite ZAFIRO, launched in 2015, is specifically designed to navigate the waters of the Upper Amazon River and its tributaries. Carrying only 36 guests, this spacious yet intimate expedition river vessel offers a unique way to experience the colorful wildlife and cultures within the most extraordinary, remote and untouched rainforest in the protected Pacaya-Samiria National Reserve.

Throughout the cruise, English-speaking, highly trained naturalists provide expert insight into the Amazon's amazing biodiversity—including its wildlife and the local culture of the indigenous peoples during lectures, small boat excursions and nature walks.

Each deluxe, river-view Suite has a private balcony or floor-to-ceiling panoramic window, two twin beds convertible to one king bed, private bathroom with shower, air conditioning, minibar, safe and hair dryer.

Onboard dining features Peruvian and international cuisine prepared each day from the freshest local ingredients. The backdrop for every meal is an ever-changing vista of the Amazon's exotic beauty viewed through the floor-to-ceiling panoramic windows in the dining room.

The ZAFIRO features a specially designed, spacious open-air Observation Deck offering scenic views by day, spectacular stargazing at night and a full bar and lounge. Public areas also include an indoor reading lounge, fitness room and massage room. The vessel is equipped with small excursion boats ideal for shore visits into the most secluded reaches of the Upper Amazon River.

Nauta/Iquitos/Lima

Saturday, Day 8

Following breakfast, disembark the ship and continue to the Manatee Rescue Center for a fascinating, up-close encounter with young, orphaned Amazonian manatees. After your visit, transfer to the Iquitos airport. Fly to Lima, where day-room accommodations have been reserved in the Wyndham Costa del Sol Hotel. Stay overnight near the airport to continue on the Machu Picchu and the Sacred Valley Post-Tour Option. Or, late tonight, board your return flight to the U.S.

U.S.

Sunday, Day 9

Your flight arrives in the U.S.

Right: Marvel at the largest species of water lily, Victoria amazonica, which grow up to nine feet in diameter.
Included Features

In Lima
- Two nights in the deluxe Casa Andina Private Collection hotel.
- Full breakfast each morning.
- Welcome Reception in the hotel.
- Private guided tour of Lima’s historic colonial district, a UNESCO World Heritage site.
- Day-room accommodations in the Wyndham Costa del Sol Hotel on Day 8.

Flights round trip between Lima and Iquitos.

In Iquitos
- City tour, including lunch in a local restaurant.
- Visit to the lively, traditional Upper Belén Market.
- Visit to the Manatee Rescue Center for an up-close encounter with these endangered, gentle animals.

Transfers round trip between Iquitos and Nauta.

On board the exclusively chartered, deluxe, all-Suite Zafiro
- Five-night cruise round trip Nauta on the Amazon, Ucayali, Marañón and Pucare Rivers and their tributaries.
- Deluxe, all-Suite, air-conditioned, river-view accommodations, each with a private bathroom.
- All meals aboard ship served at single, unassigned seatings.
- Visit to a butterfly conservation farm owned and operated by local ribereños.
- Naturalist-led small boat excursions along blackwater rivers and flooded forests in search of exotic Amazonian wildlife.
- Boat excursion into the Pacaya-Samiria National Reserve to encounter pink river dolphins.
- Small boat excursion to see the fascinating giant Victoria amazonica water lilies.
- Nature walk through the virgin rainforest led by expert naturalists who identify the unique flora and fauna.
- Exclusive presentation by a Jibaro shaman, who will perform traditional spiritual rites and demonstrate ancient medicinal practices.
- Nighttime excursion in search of nocturnal rainforest animals, such as caiman, bats and capybara.
- Exotic red-bellied piranha fishing expedition.
- Specially arranged visit to an Amazon village to learn more about the traditional culture, history and customs of the indigenous ribereños.
- Once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to make a lasting contribution to the preservation of the endangered Amazon Basin by planting a tree in the rainforest.
- Cooking demonstration of Amazonian specialties in a local village.

Enhanced Travel Services
- Transfers and luggage handling abroad for participants whose arrival(s)/departure(s) coincide with the scheduled group transfer(s).
- All excursions and visits, as outlined above, with experienced local guides.
- Gratuities to local guides and drivers in Lima and Iquitos.
- Complimentary refillable water bottle and purified water stations aboard ship.
- Hospitality desk in the hotel and aboard ship.
- The services of an experienced Gohagan & Company Travel Director throughout the travel program.
- Travel document wallet, name badge and pre-departure information.
- Automatic $250,000 flight insurance policy for each participant ticketed on flights by Gohagan & Company.
Plaza de Armas is the magnificent center of historic Cuzco, a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Machu Picchu and the Sacred Valley Post-Tour Option

Delight in this extraordinary opportunity to experience Machu Picchu, the majestic “lost city of the Incas,” the lush Sacred Valley, and the colonial and Inca traditions of Cuzco.

Perched on an awe-inspiring mountain range in the Peruvian Andes, Machu Picchu was obscured from humankind for 400 years until Yale Professor Hiram Bingham literally stumbled upon it in 1911. A century of extensive research and study still has not revealed the secrets of its purpose, its residents or its abandonment; nevertheless, this UNESCO World Heritage site has been carefully excavated and preserved.

Admire the spectacular archaeological sites of the beautiful Sacred Valley, where ancient engineering marvels, such as the fortress of Ollantaytambo, stand as lasting testimony to the powerful and far-reaching Inca Empire. Here, village craftsmen employ age-old techniques to weave intricate tapestries and sculpt colorful pottery.

In the historic Inca capital of Cuzco, a UNESCO World Heritage site, see the Inca stone fortress of Sacsayhuamán and grand Baroque- and Renaissance-style churches that provide a fascinating mix of pre-Columbian and colonial influences.

Day 1  Lima, Peru
Day 2  Lima/Cuzco/Sacred Valley
Day 3  Sacred Valley/Scenic train ride to Machu Picchu
Day 4  Machu Picchu/Transfer to Cuzco
Day 5  Cuzco
Day 6  Cuzco/Lima/Depart for the U.S.
Day 7  Arrive in the U.S.

The Post-Tour Option is at additional cost. Details will be provided with your reservation confirmation.

Plaza de Armas is the magnificent center of historic Cuzco, a UNESCO World Heritage site.
LEARN HOW GENERATIONS OF AMAZONIAN RIBERENOS HAVE LIVED IN HARMONY WITH THEIR UNIQUE ENVIRONMENT AMID THE LUSH RAINFORESTS ALONG THE BANKS OF THE AMAZON RIVER AND ITS TRIBUTARIES.

AMAZON RIVER EXPEDITION RESERVATION FORM

Please make my/our reservation(s) in Suite Category:
1st Choice ______ 2nd Choice ______
- Double occupancy (two twin beds).
- Double occupancy (one king bed).
- Single accommodations.
- I am reserving as a single but prefer to share accommodations and will allow you to select my roommate (shares cannot be guaranteed).

Please make my/our reservation(s):
Machu Picchu and the Sacred Valley Post-Tour Option
- Double at $3295 per person.
- Single at $4195 per person.
- I am reserving as a single but prefer to share accommodations and will allow you to select my roommate (shares cannot be guaranteed).

- I/We want you to book my/our air from ________________
  (fill in departure city) to and from Lima, Peru, at additional cost to be advised.
- Economy Class
- Upgraded Economy
- Business Class
- First Class

Panoramic view, floor-to-ceiling sliding glass doors with private balcony. 226 sq. ft. Lower Deck.
Master Suite Largest Suite with 180-degree front-facing window, Jacuzzi and sitting area with sofa and chair. 480 sq. ft. Upper Deck.

Program reservations require a deposit of $600 per person and $200 per person Machu Picchu Post-Tour Option. By reserving and depositing on this program, I/we agree to the Release of Liability, Assumption of Risk and Binding Arbitration Agreement as printed on the outside back cover of this brochure.

Enclosed is my/our check(s) for $______ as deposit.
Make checks payable to Thomas P. Gohagan & Company.
I/We authorize you to charge my/our deposit of $_____ to:
- Visa
- MasterCard

Card Number Exp. Date

Note: Airfare is subject to change and availability and is nonrefundable.
I/We will make my/our own air arrangements.

All FINAL PAYMENTS are required to be made by check or wire transfer by November 14, 2017.

Learn how generations of Amazonian ribereños have lived in harmony with their unique environment amid the lush rainforests along the banks of the Amazon River and its tributaries.
Listen for the throaty call of the red howler monkey, one of the Amazon’s most commonly sighted species.

RELEASE OF LIABILITY, ASSUMPTION OF RISK AND BINDING ARBITRATION AGREEMENT

RESPONSIBILITY: Thomas P. Gohagan & Company, the sponsoring association, its members, subsidiaries, affiliates, officers, directors or trustees, successors, and assigns (collectively “Gohagan”), do not own or operate any entity which is to or does provide goods or services for your trip including, for example, lodging facilities, airline, vessel, or other transportation company, guides or guide service, local ground operators, providers or organizers of optional excursions, food service or entertainment providers, etc. All such persons and entities are independent contractors. As such, they are not agents of Gohagan and Gohagan is not responsible for any injury, loss, death, inconvenience, delay, or damage to person or property in connection with the provision of any goods or services whether resulting from, but not limited to, acts of God or force majeure, acts of government, acts of war or civil unrest, insurrection or revolt, strikes or attacks by animals, insects or pests, strikes or other labor activities, criminal or terrorist activities of any kind or the like. All such matters are to be borne at your own expense and at your own risk.

LUGGAGE: Any transfer(s); any overnight on land due to flight schedule(s); meals, on day(s) of arrival and/or departure if you are arriving earlier or later than the scheduled group transfer(s); any overnight on land due to flight schedule(s); meals, alcoholic or other beverages and all other services not specifically mentioned in the “Included Features” section.

AIRFARE: Airfare is subject to change and availability and, depending on the fare basis, may be non-refundable. Your air ticket constitutes a contract between you and the airline, even if purchased through Gohagan.

LUGGAGE: Luggage allowance policies are set by the airlines and may change without notice.

PHYSICAL ACCESSIBILITY: All programs require physical mobility and mobility. Any physical or mental condition that may affect your ability to travel should be brought to the attention of your physician. Your doctor will be responsible for handling equipment.

DISCOUNTED RESERVATIONS: Discounts apply only to those reservations in an office of Gohagan in writing or to those reservations in an office of Gohagan in writing accompanied by the required deposit, by July 7, 2017. In the event a “discounted” reservation must be canceled, the “replacement” reservation can be substituted at the discounted rate. A “replacement” reservation is a new reservation and can be substituted only at the full-fare tariff. Cancellation penalties may apply.

CANCELLATIONS: Cancellations for all or any part of the trip planning, Prewed Program(s) reservation(s) will not be effective until received in writing in the offices of Gohagan. Should you have to cancel, the following terms will apply: reservation cancellation(s) are subject to a $200 ($50 Pre/Post Program) per person administrative fee from the time of booking through 120 days prior to departure; from 95 through 119 days prior to departure, $450 ($220 Pre/Post Program) per person; from 45 through 94 days prior to departure, 50% of the published fare, regular tariffs; cancellations 44 days or less prior to departure, a no-show, or early return from the trip will result in forfeiture of 100% of the published fare, regular tariffs. In addition, any applicable airline cancellation fees, optional excursion cancellation fees and administrative fees may apply.

TRAVEL INSURANCE: We strongly recommend that you purchase trip cancellation insurance. In the event that you must cancel your participation in a travel program, trip cancellation insurance may be the only source of reimbursement. Trip cancellation insurance is available for comprehensive coverage of such expenses in conjunction with cancellation due to illness or accident, and damaged or lost luggage.

RATES: Prices quoted are based on fares in effect at the time of booking and are subject to change at any time. On land and/or cruise programs, even after full payment, Gohagan reserves the right to increase the tour price in the event of cost increases due to changes in taxes, costs, currency fluctuations or fuel or energy surcharges and all such increases are to be paid to Gohagan upon notice to the tour participant of such increases. On programs which include Gohagan purchased interstate or international air (which originates or returns to the United States), no increased costs will be passed on after final payment except for subsequent imposed governmental tax increases.

REGISTRATION: CST#: 2031868-40, WST#: 601 767 666, OTS#: TA 0905.

BINDING ARBITRATION: Any dispute concerning, relating or arising out of, this Agreement, the brochure or any other literature concerning the trip, or the trip itself, shall be resolved exclusively by binding arbitration. All such arbitrations will be governed by substantive (but not procedural) Illinois law and will take place in Chicago, IL. The arbitrator and not any federal, state, or local court or agency shall have exclusive authority to resolve any dispute relating to the interpretation, applicability, enforceability, conscionability, or formation of this contract, including but not limited to any claim that all or any part of this contract is void or voidable. Please understand that by agreeing to these terms and conditions, the participant and Gohagan are waiving the right to a trial by jury.

ACCEPTANCE OF CONTRACT: By forwarding of deposit, the participant certifies that he/she does not have any mental, physical or other condition of disability that would create a hazard for themselves or other participants and accepts the terms contained in this Release of Liability, Assumption of Risk and Binding Arbitration Agreement.

Photo Credits: AGF, Fotostock, Alamy, Avalon, Frans Lanting, Minden Pictures, Robert Harding, Shutterstock, Superstock; all images are rights managed and cannot be used without permission.