



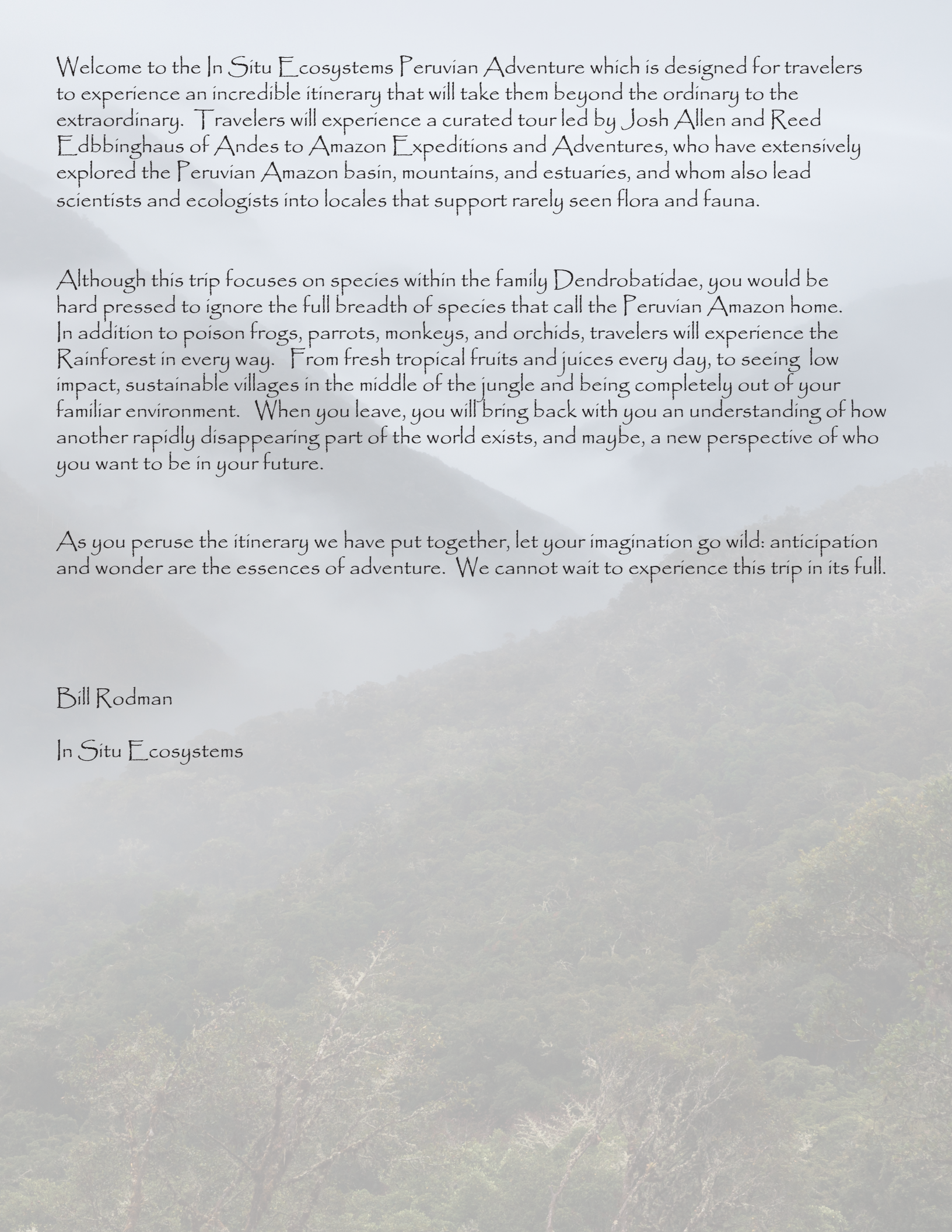
# Andes to Amazon

Expeditions and Adventures



*In Situ*  
ECOSYSTEMS





Welcome to the In Situ Ecosystems Peruvian Adventure which is designed for travelers to experience an incredible itinerary that will take them beyond the ordinary to the extraordinary. Travelers will experience a curated tour led by Josh Allen and Reed Edbbingshaus of Andes to Amazon Expeditions and Adventures, who have extensively explored the Peruvian Amazon basin, mountains, and estuaries, and whom also lead scientists and ecologists into locales that support rarely seen flora and fauna.

Although this trip focuses on species within the family Dendrobatidae, you would be hard pressed to ignore the full breadth of species that call the Peruvian Amazon home. In addition to poison frogs, parrots, monkeys, and orchids, travelers will experience the Rainforest in every way. From fresh tropical fruits and juices every day, to seeing low impact, sustainable villages in the middle of the jungle and being completely out of your familiar environment. When you leave, you will bring back with you an understanding of how another rapidly disappearing part of the world exists, and maybe, a new perspective of who you want to be in your future.

As you peruse the itinerary we have put together, let your imagination go wild: anticipation and wonder are the essences of adventure. We cannot wait to experience this trip in its full.

Bill Rodman

In Situ Ecosystems



## April 3rd, - Arrival - Tingo Maria

All clients must arrive to Tingo Maria by March 31st in order to be ready for day 1 of the tour starting tomorrow. We will be staying at the Madera Verde lodge, a very luxurious lodge.

## April 4th, Day 1 - Tingo Maria - Cordillera Azul

Breakfast will be had at the Madera Verde lodge after which we start a short, 1 hour drive to the cloud forests of the Cordillera Azul mountains. Here, we will search the mossy forests and hillsides for the emblematic "Sapo Peruano" or "Peruvian toad" as the locals like to call them because the colors resemble that of the Peruvian flag. We better know them as *Ameerega silverstonei*. After spending a few hours with the frogs, we can either head down to the Boqueron de Padre Abad to look for *Ameerega rubriventris* (weather permitting) or head back to Tingo Maria and check out the oil bird caves nearby. For anyone interested in tropical fish, there is a very nice killifish species found here called *Rivulus derhami* that we could look for.



The cloud forests of the Cordillera Azul boast a high diversity of interesting plants and amphibians.

## April 5th, Day 2 - Tingo Maria - Tingo Maria National Park or Carpish Cloud Forest Reserve

Our last day in Tingo Maria will be spent exploring either the Tingo Maria National Park or the Carpish Cloud Forest Reserve. In either of these two majestic protected areas, we stand a great chance at finding amazing plant species as well as animal species. The possibility of finding a new species here is a real thing. At the end of the day, we head back to Madera Verde Lodge and have a nice dinner. Tomorrow, we fly to Tarapoto!



April 6th, Day 3 - Travel day - Tarapoto

Today, we will hang around the lodge until the afternoon, when we will fly to Tarapoto from Tingo María.



The "sapo Peruano" (*Ameerega silverstonei*) in the Cordillera Azul, Tingo María Peru



## April 7th, Day 4 - Tarapoto - Cordillera Escalera

Our first day in Tarapoto, we will be traversing the lush Cordillera Escalera mountains. After breakfast, we will start in the Alto Shilcayo sector of the mountain where we can potentially see up to 9 species of poison frogs. Our target species here are *Ranitomeya summersi* 'white banded' and *Ranitomeya imitator* 'Tarapoto'. Other highlights are *Ameerega bassleri*, *trivittata*, *Hyloxalus nexipus* and several more. By mid day, we will have lunch and then shift our focus to the highlands of the Cordillera Escalera, hiking up to a ridgeline with a most incredible view of the Cajarache Valley. Here, we will see magnificent high jungle habitat adorned with thick carpets of moss, bromeliads, orchids and many other fascinating plants. This mossy landscape is home to a very healthy population of *Ranitomeya variabilis* 'highland'. In the late afternoon, we will start our descent toward Tarapoto, where we will stay at the Understory House just outside of the city.



*Ranitomeya summersi* 'white banded' in the Alto Shilcayo, Tarapoto Peru



*Ranitomeya variabilis* 'highland' on the Ridgeline of the Cordillera Escalera, Tarapoto Peru



## April 8th, Day 5 - Yurimaguas - Micaela

Our quest for today will be focused on *Ranitomeya fantastica*. And as always, there are always other highlights to be found. We will make our first stop at a patch of forest in the foothills of the Cordillera Escalera close to Pongo de Caynarache. Here, we will look for the famous *Ranitomeya fantastica* 'highland' as well as *Ameerega pongoensis* 'green'. Continuing along our route, we will find ourselves in the low, flat expanses of the amazon basin. For the next hour, we will be driving through palm plantations, cattle fields and very small patches of disturbed forest before reaching our destination of Micaela. In Micaela, we will have the opportunity to see the emblematic *Ranitomeya fantastica* 'nominal' within its last remaining forests. We will also see *Ranitomeya imitator* 'lowland striped' and a couple *Ameerega*. We will spend the rest of the day here before heading to Yurimaguas to get settled into our hotel for the night. Tomorrow, we have a very early start.



*Ranitomeya fantastica* 'nominal' within its last remaining forest, Micaela Peru

## April 9th, Day 6 - Cuiparillo - Lago Cuipari

Our day starts with a 1 hour boat ride to Cuiparillo and then a short drive to Lago Cuipari. From here, we start our roughly 1.5 to 2 hour hike to our forest destination. Here, we will hopefully be blessed with the presence of the blessed poison frog, *Ranitomeya benedicta* 'Shucushyacu'. It is a very common frog here and shouldn't be too hard to find a few of them. We may also be 'blessed' with the presence of the blue morph of *Ameerega pongoensis*, a truly beautiful representation of the species. In the mid afternoon, we will make our way back to town to catch a ride back to Cuiparillo and then a boat ride to Yurimaguas where we will stay the night.



*Ranitomeya benedicta* 'Shucushyacu' within its last remaining forest, Lago Cuypari, Peru



## April 10th, Day 7 - Lagunas - Pacaya Samiria - Gloria

Our day starts at 4am as we have to be at the boat dock at 4:30am in order to catch our boat to Lagunas. Our arrival to Lagunas will be around 10:30am where we will be met with our team who will be accompanying us into the national park. After breakfast, we will take a 20 minute ride to the border of the park. For the next 3 days, our only mode of transportation will be paddling in wooden canoes deep within the flooded varzea forests of Pacaya Samiria National Park. Our destination for today is Gloria Lodge. On our way, we will see monkeys, macaws, parrots, sloths, fishing eagles and if we are lucky, river dolphins, giant river otters and anacondas. An optional night excursion to look for caimans, snakes and go spear fishing is an option.



Paddling through the flood forests of the Pacaya Samiria National Park, Peru

## April 11th, Day 8 - Pacaya Samiria - Gloria

Today, our day will be spent exploring the river around Gloria looking for the wide variety of wildlife that Pacaya Samiria has to offer. At some point in the day, we will go to a section of forest that is not flooded and will be able to stretch our legs and take a short hike on dry land. On our way back to Gloria, we will stop and do some piranha fishing. Upon arriving back to Gloria, we will eat a nice lunch before relaxing, taking a swim in the river for the next few hours. Come night fall, we head back on the water to look for caimans, snakes and frogs.





An anaconda (*Eunectes marinus*) found near the Gloria Lodge, Pacaya Samiria National Park, Peru



Our lodge, Gloria, in Pacaya Samiria National Park, Peru



April 12th, Day 9 - Pacaya Samiria - Lagunas

Our last day within Pacaya Samiria National Park. We will start our journey back to Lagunas after breakfast. Of course, we will be looking for wildlife along the way. We will arrive to Lagunas in the late afternoon and get settled into a hotel, get cleaned up and then take a walk or just relax until dinner time. Tomorrow, we head back to Yurimaguas and then make the drive to Tarapoto.



A black caracara (*Daptrius ater*), Pacaya Samiria National Park, Peru



The incredible scenery of the majestic flood forests of Pacaya Samiria National Park, Peru



April 13th, Day 10 - Tarapoto

We will arrive to Yurimaguas from Lagunas by boat at around mid day. From here, we make the two hour drive back to Tarapoto where we will relax for the rest of the evening. For those of you who leave tomorrow, have a safe trip home! For those of you who choose the 1 day extension trip to Tununtunumba waterfall, We will see you bright and early tomorrow!



Smooth-fronted caiman (*Paleosuchus trigonatus*), Pacaya Samiria National Park, Peru



Aquatic false coral snake (*Hydrops martii*), Pacaya Samiria National Park, Peru

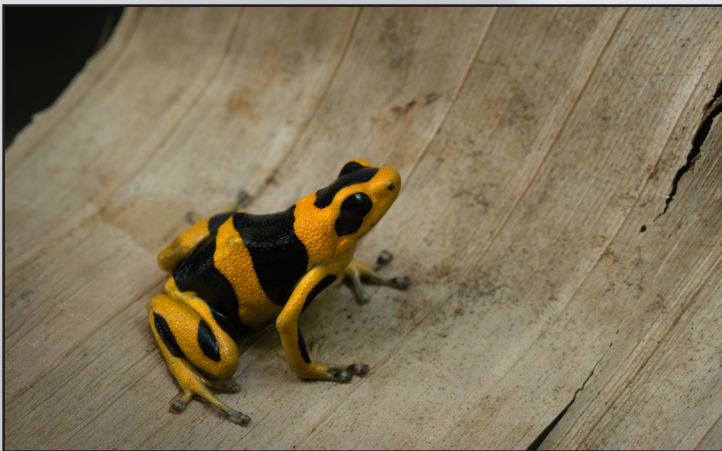


April 14th, - Departure - Lima

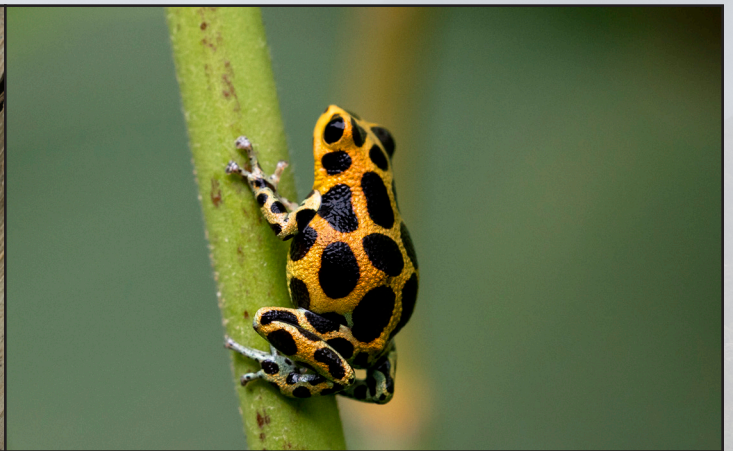
Today, for those of you who go, you catch your flights to Lima and then back home! Safe travels and thank you for a wonderful experience!

### Chazuta - Tununtunumba Waterfall (Optional extension day)

We must get an early start in order to beat the heat as we have a pretty good hike ahead of us. After our 1 hour drive to Chazuta, we will embark on a 1.5 to 2 hour hike into the Cordillera Escalera, this time further to the southeast. On our way up, we will stop at a couple small patches of forest where we can see *Ranitomeya imitator* 'Chazuta' and if we are lucky, *Ranitomeya summersi* 'Chazuta'. This is also a great place to see *Ameerega cainarache*. Upon arriving to the river far in the hills, a very much needed swim in the crystal clear waters full of tropical fish will be a much needed refreshment. By mid afternoon, we will start our journey back to Chazuta and then back to the Understory House to get cleaned up and head out for dinner. A packed lunch will be necessary for this day. Tomorrow, you fly home!



*Ranitomeya summersi* 'Chazuta'



*Ranitomeya imitator* 'Chazuta'



Travelers enjoying the river at Tununtunumba Waterfall, Chazuta, Peru



## Total cost for this 10 day itinerary - \$2,500 USD

\*For travelers who choose to join the trip on day 3, April 6th, total cost for 7 day itinerary is \$1,750 per person\*

\*For those of you who choose the optional extension day, the cost will be an additional \$200 per person\*

\*This itinerary includes all national flight, food, lodging, and transportation. Alcohol and personal items are your responsibility. Andes to Amazon and InSitu Ecosystems are not responsible for any last minute flight schedule changes or cancellations. In the event that unforeseen problems arise, Andes to Amazon and InSitu Ecosystems may substitute parts of the itinerary with other destinations, hotels, or experiences.\*

This is a custom itinerary from Andes to Amazon Expeditions and Adventures and InSitu Ecosystems and may hold sensitive locality information of vulnerable and/or endangered species. Locality information of any endangered species found on this trip should not be shared with anyone. Should locality information get into the wrong hands, it could be devastating for specific species populations due to smuggling. It is **YOUR** responsibility to not share locality information with **ANYONE** and help protect the future of these endangered species.

Collecting of plants and animals without a permit will **NOT** be tolerated and anyone found collecting will have their trip immediately terminated with no refund and they will be reported to the Peruvian authorities!

A 50% deposit will be collected once a minimum number of committed travelers are booked. Final payment is made in cash upon arrival in Tarapoto. Memories you bring back are priceless!

Sincerely,

Bill Rodman

*InSitu*  
ECOSYSTEMS



Andes to Amazon  
Expeditions and Adventures