



DELFIN

CRUISE THE *Amazon*

Pacaya Samiria Wildlife Checklist



RELAIS & CHATEAUX

BIRDS

Birdwatchers will find in the Amazonian forest a true paradise full with 449 registered species, grouped in 288 genus and 61 families.



Black-collared hawk

Busarellus nigricolis

Seen on day:

In the Peruvian Amazon it is commonly called *mamá vieja* or “old mother”, for its head’s white feathers resembling white hair. It is a bird of prey that lives near the water, along rivers and swamp and lake banks, where it mainly feeds on fish and water insects. To capture them, the hawk skims the water surface and then dives on its prey.



Blue-and-yellow macaw

Ara ararauna

Seen on day:

One of the largest macaws, it can reach 86 centimeters from head to tail. Its colorful feathers stand it out. It feeds on fruits and seeds and for reproduction it settles into a life-long couple. It lives in small families or in groups with 20 to 30 individuals, near floodable forests and wetlands, especially aguaje or moriche fruit-rich areas.



Chestnut-eared aracari

Pteroglossus castanotis

Seen on day:

One of Peru’s most common tucans, aracari’s long and prominent beak stands out because of the black streak running along it. The bird uses its beak to feed on fruits, arthropods and eggs. Also known as *pinsha tabaquero*, *tucanillo* or *tucaneta parda*, it can easily be half a meter long and recognized for the blue skin around its eye. It lives in groups that usually fly in a line formation.



Cocol heron

Ardea cocoi

Seen on day:

Peru’s largest heron, cocois can reach 130 centimeters and are quite common in the Amazon region. Locally, they are also called *ushpa heron*. It is usually seen in swamps, lakes and wetlands, and it is often alone or forming very small groups. It flies slowly with its neck bent into a S-shape. It nests in the high and most external parts of the tallest tree canopy.



Crimson-crested woodpecker

Campephilus melanoleucos

Seen on day:

It is one of the largest woodpeckers of its type, with males sporting an intense crimson head and crest. Its long and sharp beak helps it catch larvae and insects that hide under dry tree barks and that are its main food along with a wide variety of fruits. It is generally seen in couples or small groups.



Great black-hawk

Buteogallus urubitinga

Seen on day:

A resident of the forests near water courses, where it can often be seen sitting on the low branches near muddy shores, the great black-hawk is a lonely bird that feeds on other birds, small mammals, reptiles, fish and crustaceans, although also on insects, fruits and dead animals, if needed. One of the most common dark feather eagles of Peru, and in particular of Amazonia, it can measure between 55 and 65 centimeters and weigh up to 1.3 kilograms.



Hoatzin

Opisthocomus hoazin

Seen on day:

This prehistoric-looking bird is today at the center of large debate regarding its scientific classification. It is locally known as *shansho* or "pig", due to the deep sounds and groutings it makes. A long crest, a blue-skinned face, red eyes and a long tail that it opens when flying characterize it. It has a unique digestive system among birds, that works through fermentation, similar to a cow's.



Horned Screamer

Anhima cornuta

Seen on day:

That particular bird belongs to a uniquely South American family which is related to ducks and which has two other species in it. They are large (92 cm, 3 ft); dark black, white belly; white wing patch in flight obvious; call a deep, throaty, far-carrying gulping. This immense bird graze on marsh vegetation, and also perch frequently in the tops of trees to make their loud call.



Jabiru

Jabiru mycteria

Seen on day:

This stork is the tallest flying bird in Central and South America and has the second largest wingspan in this area. The jabiru can measure up to 150 centimeters and its expanded wings can be 280 centimeters wide. It stands out for its black featherless head and the red pouch on its neck. It lives on the shores of rivers and lakes, where it feeds mostly on fish, mollusks and amphibians. In several Amazon regions it is also called *tuyuyú*.



Muscovy duck

Cairina moschata

Seen on day:

It lives in places with abundant quiet or slow flowing streams of fresh water, such as rivers and lakes. A distrustful and aggressive bird, it does not relate to other species and can even fight for its territory and food, mainly made of fish, insects, amphibians and crustaceans. It nests in tree holes and it hardly makes any sounds, which accounts for its "silent duck" moniker in some places. In the Amazon region it is known as *sachapato*, or "false duck".



Neotropic cormorant

Phalacrocorax brasilianus

Seen on day:

This bird is the only fresh water cormorant in the world, it can also feed in the sea, near the coast, hunting mainly fish and tadpoles and water insects. It is locally known as *cushuri* or *patillo*, although it is widespread in South America and Central America. It is a monogamous bird that nests in colonies and makes sounds that are very similar to those of the sea lion.



Ringed kingfisher

Megaceryle torquata

Seen on day:

It is also known as "collared kingfisher" to reflect the white-feather collar around its neck. It is one of the larger kingfishers of its species and can reach 41 centimeters length. It is often spotted sitting on tree branches near river banks, from where it dives to get its food, made of fish, insects, amphibians and even small mammals and reptiles.



Short-tailed parrot

Graydidascalus brachyurus

Seen on day:

A social bird often seen in large noisy groups of as many as 50 individuals. Its wing flapping is deep and fast, while it moves searching for food, mainly fruits, seeds and flowers. It is small, not bigger than 23 centimeters tall, and lives near water sources, generally by river shores and humid forests.



Smooth-billed ani

Crotophaga ani

Seen on day:

It is locally known as *guardacaballo* (horse keeper) or *vacamuchacho* (cow boy) since it is often seen near cattle, that it follows to feed on its ticks and parasites. Its nests are big and shared with other individuals, built with leaves on trees, and can accommodate several couples. It is not very good at flying but quite good at running, which is why it is often seen feeding on the ground.



Turkey vulture

Cathartes aura

Seen on day:

1 2 3 4 5

A large scavenger with a wingspan of up to 180 centimeters. It has sharp sight and smell that allows it to easily spot the carrion it feed on. Its most remarkable trait is its red featherless head that takes this color during the bird's first year of life. It is used to flying in groups and lives in caves and tree holes.



Wattled jacana

Jacana jacana

Seen on day:

1 2 3 4 5

Locally known as *tuki tuki*, this bird is a common inhabitant of humid areas, such as swamps, wetlands, river banks and lakes. It stands out for its extremely long legs and fingers, which allow it to walk on floating vegetation while searching for food, mainly insects and small crustaceans. Its scientific name comes from the Tupí language word for "noisy bird", to reflect its song's similarity to barking.



Wing-barred piprites

Piprites chloris

Seen on day:

1 2 3 4 5

This small bird is about 13 centimeters tall and lives on the edge of wet forests. It is generally seen alone or in couples, flying in a flock with other species, hunting for insects, which are the main element of its diet, even though it also feeds on fruits. It has a very special song, made of a series of hollow whistles. Its scientific classification is still the subject of debate at present.



Yellow-headed cara cara

Milvago chimachima

Seen on day:

1 2 3 4 5

It is a very common bird that has expanded recently into the Amazon of Peru, probably due to forest felling and the creation of vast open areas - it is preferred habitat, they are all scavengers and nest robbers. The amount of bare skin on the side of the face of a species is often a reflection of how much scavenging it does. As with the vultures, fewer face feathers on caracaras makes accumulation of gore and blood less likely and the head easier to clean.



Yellow Rumped Cacique

Cacicus cela

Seen on day:

1 2 3 4 5

Medium-sized (30cm, 1 ft); males are noticeable larger than females (23cm, 9in) but identical in their color pattern; black with yellow wing patch, rump, and base of tail. They are usually in flocks of 5 to 25 in tall vegetation along lowland river and lake edges, open areas, and frequently near human habitation; also, at fruiting trees in primary forest canopy. Breeding colonies of caciques are often located in trees that contain or are near large bee or wasp nests.

FISH

269 fish species live in the Pacaya Samiria Natural Reserve.

Arapaima or paiche

Arapaima gigas

Seen on day:

1 2 3 4 5



Also known as piracurú, the arapaima fish can be more than 2.5 meters long and weigh more than 200 kilograms, which makes it the biggest freshwater fish in South America. It is a great predator that eats fish, crustaceans and even small animals and birds. Its scales are organized as to form a flexible shield that gives it mobility and protects it against attacks, even piranha bites.

Black carachama or orange cheek pleco

Pseudorinelepis genibarbis

Seen on day:

1 2 3 4 5



A pre-historical fish, carachama is characterized by its flat body protected by a stiff armour. It's frightening appearance has earned it the name of *pez diablo* or "devil fish" in the region. It lives in the bottom of rivers and swamps or in still waters, where it feeds on small crustaceans, algae and plant debris.

Piranha

Pygocentrus nattereri

Seen on day:

1 2 3 4 5



Contrary to a well-rooted popular belief, these fish rarely hunt in a party. They swim in schools to defend themselves from their predators. They feed mostly on other fish, although they will also eat insects and worms, and water plants. They may however attack mammals and birds that may fall into the water. Their teeth are triangle-shaped and arranged in a jigsaw pattern to easily tear their preys apart.

Tambaqui or black-finned pacu

Colossoma macropomum

Seen on day:

1 2 3 4 5



With a length of 90 centimeters and weighing as much as 30 kilos, tambaqui is one of the largest scalefish living in the Amazon basin. It feeds on insects, worms and zooplankton, but when rivers swell it hides in flooded forests looking for seed and fruits, including its favorite *gamitana huayo* fruit that gives the fish its common Spanish name in the region (gamitana).



Wrasse or barred sorubim

Pseudoplatystoma fasciatum

Seen on day:

1 2 3 4 5

A fish of the catfish family, it gets its name from the short beards and mustache growing on its head that give it a feline appearance. Its body can reach 150 centimeters length and weighs 45 kilograms. It owes its common Spanish name (*doncella* or damsel) to its elegant, oscillating way of swimming sideways, as an old-fashioned feminine stroll.

AMPHIBIANS & REPTILES

58 endemic species of amphibians, approximately,
live in Pacaya Samiria.



Amazon Tree Boa

Corallus hortulanus

Seen on day:

1 2 3 4 5

Mid-sized snake with body slightly flattened from side-to-side; gray or brown, usually with distinct dark brown circular or oval-shaped markings outlined with cream; some individuals are solid yellow, pink, or red; cream to tan belly with scattered darker markings, scales on upper and lower lips have obvious, deep, heat-sensing pits; to 1.25 m (4 ft).



Black caiman

Melanosuchus niger

Seen on day:

1 2 3 4 5

Measuring up to 6 meters long and weighing as much as 400 kilograms, caimans are the largest predators in the Amazonian system. It eats mostly fish and amphibians, but it can also hunt big mammals, that it holds under water between its jaws until they drown. Because of widespread poaching for its skin, since the 1970s it has been regarded as a seriously endangered species.



Caiman Lizard

Dracaena guianensis

Seen on day:

1 2 3 4 5

The total length may approach 3 feet (90cm). The body and tail may vary from olive brown to forest green, and the head from olive brown to orange. Females usually lay only a few (occasionally as many as 8-15) large, parchment-shelled eggs. The Caiman Lizard is a species of the flooded forest, where it may be seen basking in patchy sunshine or comparatively open sites along blackwaters and riverbanks.



Green iguana

Iguana iguana

Seen on day:

1 2 3 4 5

A predominantly herbivorous reptile that lives on trees, even if one can often find it lying on rocks under the sun while digesting. It can measure over 2 meters, from head to tail tip, and weigh around 15 kilos. Despite its name, the color of its skin can range from blue to orange. In case of danger, it has the ability to separate its tail from its body and grow it again.



Rainbow boa

Epicrates cenchria

Seen on day:

1 2 3 4 5

Its name describes the iridescent properties of its skin when reflecting sunlight. A very large terrestrial boa, it can measure up to 2 meters and live over 25 years. An animal of nocturnal habits, it is naturally shy. Its heat sensors help it detect its prey, including mammals, birds, amphibians and lizards that it kills by constriction, by choking them with its body.



Red-backed poison frog

Ranitomeya reticulata

Seen on day:

1 2 3 4 5

Despite its small size, under 20 millimeters, it is the second most poisonous frog of its type. The red on its back serves as a warning of its toxicity for its predators. As all frogs in its family, it does not produce its own poison: it absorbs the toxins of certain ants and other insects, stocks them in glands under its skin, and segregates them in case of danger.



Yellow-spotted river turtle

Podocnemis unifilis

Seen on day:

1 2 3 4 5

A widespread inhabitant of the Amazon basin, these turtles can be recognized by the yellow spots on either side of the head. When young, they like to eat the meat of small fish and invertebrates. In their adulthood they feed on fruit and algae. While males are approximately 40 centimeters long, females can reach 80 centimeters long. And although they are amphibians, they prefer life in the water.

MAMMALS

In the Pacaya Samiria Natural Reserve, 132 species of mammals have been registered, among which rodents and monkeys stand out for their numbers, even if some are threatened with extinction.

Amazonian manatee

Trichechus inunguis

Seen on day:

1 2 3 4 5



Related to the elephant, the manatee is also called a “river elephant”. A very large animal measuring up to 2.8 meters and weighing up to 500 kilograms, manatees are docile and slow-moving creatures that live in murky river waters and feed only on plants. It is one of the rare mammals that is completely adapted to life in the water and never leaves it.

Brown-throated sloth

Bradypus variegatus

Seen on day:

1 2 3 4 5



It is the most common species of three-toed sloth. Its long and sharp nails allow it to move slowly on the highest part of trees, where it lives most of the time. It sleeps between 15 and 18 hours each day and spends the rest of the time engaged in moderate activity, principally feeding on leaves and tender sprouts of different species. It is a good swimmer but its movements on the ground are quite clumsy.

Capybara

Hydrochaeris hydrochaeris

Seen on day:

1 2 3 4 5



Large mammal (body length 1.2 m, 4 ft) Brown rodent most likely to be confused with a pig. Naturally diurnal with some feeding at night, but has become nocturnal where intensively hunted; terrestrial; family groups of 2 to 6, or in open grassland in herds of up to dozens. They feed on grass and browse, especially aquatic vegetation. Capybaras are always found along Amazonian lowland lakes and rivers.

Giant River Otter

Pteronura brasiliensis

Seen on day:

1 2 3 4 5



It is an animal with a huge size (up to 2 m, 6.5 ft, and 34 kg, 75 lb) and noisy vocalizations in family groups of 5 to 8. Otters are active both during the day and at night, hunting in streams, rivers and lakes for fish and crustaceans such as crayfish, but they will kill and eat other vertebrates such as snakes and small caiman. Although otters always remain in or near the water, they spend their inactive time in burrows on land.



Greater fishing bat

Noctilio leporinus

Seen on day:

1 2 3 4 5

A quite small mammal, this 13-centimeter-long and 40 to 70 grams heavy bat is a night hunter that feeds on fish, crustaceans, insects and small invertebrates that it catches by skimming over the water. As all fisher bats, it has large powerful rear legs, with claws to hunt. Another distinctive feature is its elastic cheek pouches, useful for holding its food.



Long-nosed bat

Rhynchonycteris naso

Seen on day:

1 2 3 4 5

Small mammal (body length 4 cm, 1,5 in); grizzly-white; distinctively long pointed snout lacking noseleaf. They roost in groups up to 30 or more on the underside of logs and along banks of rivers and lakes. They hang in a line, evenly spaced but so well camouflaged. Most Neotropical bat species specialize in eating insects at night low over nearby water surfaces.



Monk Saki

Pithecia monachus

Seen on day:

1 2 3 4 5

Silent and shy by nature, the monkey is also monogamous and mates for life. It lives in dense vegetation and in the highest trees, at about 10 to 35 meters. It feeds on fruits, seeds, leaves and flowers, although it also eats insects and, on some occasions, even bats. The young hold on to its mother's belly and then goes to its back as weaning approaches.



Night monkey

Aotus vociferans

Seen on day:

1 2 3 4 5

Its scientific name means "without ears", since it apparently does not have any, although they are hidden behind its head fur. It is a primate of nocturnal habits with big reddish eyes. It measures between 24 and 37 centimeters and weighs around one kilogram. Its diet is composed of fruits, leaves, seeds, insects, birds and small mammals. It is also called *mono nocturno vociferante* (vociferous night monkey).



Pink river dolphin

Inia geoffrensis

Seen on day:

1 2 3 4 5

It is the world's largest river dolphin, since it can be up to 2.7 meters long and weigh up to 160 kilograms. It breathes through lungs, as ours, that compel it to go regularly to the surface for air. The vertebrae in its neck are not fused, which gives it great flexibility to move around the flooded forest and capture its prey, mostly fish. It lives almost all along the Amazon river.



Pygmy marmoset

Cebuella pygmaea

Seen on day:

1 2 3 4 5

It owes its Spanish name, *mono leoncito* or “small lion monkey”, to the mane around its head. It is barely 14 to 18 centimeters long and weighs around 120 grams, which makes it the world’s smallest monkey. Its tail, that is not prehensile and can be longer than its body, has a series of dark rings on it. It tends to live in small groups and is omnivorous, feeding on a variety of foods that range from tree sap to small fruits and insects.



Saddleback tamarin

Saguinus fuscicollis

Seen on day:

1 2 3 4 5

It is also known as *mono bebeleche* or “milk-drinking monkey” due to the white fur around its mouth. Like other primates of its type, it reduces its heart beat frequency and its body temperature when sleeping, which makes it vulnerable to attacks. However, it sleeps in large groups that look like termite colonies and help protect it from predators. It feeds on berries and insects, although it also eats fruits, flowers and small animals.



Squirrel monkey

Saimiri sciureus

Seen on day:

1 2 3 4 5

This small primate is easy to identify because of the white-fur mask that surrounds its black head and muzzle. It is extremely agile and lives in the forest at mid-height, where it moves by jumping from branch to branch. It rarely descends to the ground. It can be observed in groups of a few individuals or with hundreds of them. It feeds mainly on fruits, seeds, insects and small vertebrates.



Tucuxi or gray dolphin

Sotalia fluviatilis

Seen on day:

1 2 3 4 5

Although its habitat is similar to the pink dolphin’s and these two tend to look alike, they belong to different families. The tucuxi is one of the world’s smallest cetaceans. When it is born, it measures around 70 centimeters and it can reach 1.5 meters when it reaches adulthood, and weigh about 45 kilos. It lives in groups of about 10 to 15 individuals and it usually feeds with other dolphin species, on fish and crustaceans.

INSECTS

The characteristic background buzz of the Amazon forest combines the noises made by its abundant fauna including insects.

Lesser giant hunting or conga ant

Paraponera clavata

Seen on day:

1 2 3 4 5



The scientific name of this ant species comes from the Greek *ponerina*, that means "pain", since this ant's sting is 30 times stronger than that of a bee or wasp, and those who have experienced it compare it to the impact of a bullet. This characteristic gives it also its other common name: "bullet ant" (*hormiga bala*). The ant can be up to 25 millimeters long, is black and has a prominent jaw for injecting venom.

Menelaus morpho

Morpho menelaus

Seen on day:

1 2 3 4 5



Its great size of about 15 centimeters and its vibrant blue made it popular among locals. The bottom side of its wings is dark brown, allowing it to camouflage when closed. The blue morphos uses its tongue to drink tree sap and the juice of fermenting fruits. It lives on treetops and is rarely seen near the ground.

Phasmatodea or stick insects

Phasmatodea sp.

Seen on day:

1 2 3 4 5



This family of insects is comprised of around 2500 species. Its scientific name comes from the Greek *phasma*, that means "ghost". These insects usually look like dried tree or scrub branches, although some species look more like leaves or pieces of bark. Thanks to their plant mimicry, they can easily camouflage and protect themselves from their predators. They don't abandon the plant where they live and eat from. They have nocturnal habits.

Pinktoe tarantula

Avicularia avicularia

Seen on day:

1 2 3 4 5



It has black hair and reddish streaks on the abdomen, as well as pink hair below the paws, which gives it its common name. It lives hiding in trees, waiting for its prey in a sort of trance that it only comes out from when it attacks. It can be as big as 15 centimeters long and, although it is not aggressive, it can bite or project its own feces in self-defense.

Tityus

Tityus silvestris

Seen on day:

1 2 3 4 5



It is one of the approximately 50 types of scorpions that exist in Peru. The tityus is small, grows up to 35 millimeters, and is harmless to humans. Its body is yellowish and spotted, explaining its common Spanish name (*escorpión moteado* or "spotted scorpion") and the end of its tail, containing the stinger, is darker. It has nocturnal habits and during the day it hides beneath leaves and branches, or in tree trunks.

PLANTS

The Peruvian Amazon region is considered the largest pharmaceutical reserve in the world with 965 species of wild plants and 59 cultivated plant species that local people use to cure and to prevent many illnesses.



Attalea palm or shapaja

Attalea moorei

Seen on day:

1 2 3 4 5

This palm tree can be 30 meters high and reach 50 centimeters diameter. It is well known for its many uses. Its leaves are used locally in-house thatching and its heart is extracted for food. The peel of its fruit is used as domestic fuel, and the almond inside exudes an oil that is highly appreciated in the cosmetics industry.



Banana passion fruit

Passiflora tripartita

Seen on day:

1 2 3 4 5

A vine that can be 6 meters high and was known to ancient Peruvians. It is elongated, its skin is green outside and orange inside, similar to a granadilla, with an agreeable bitter sweet and sour flavor. It is used to prepare drinks and desserts, and in traditional medicine as a pain reliever and a decongestant, and for treatment of wounds, arthritis, high blood pressure and liver disease.



Bromelia

Bromelia

Seen on day:

1 2 3 4 5

This plant belongs to the Bromeliaceae family that includes about 3000 tropical plant varieties originally mostly from the American continent. They can grow in different places but in the region many of these plants are epiphytes that grow on other plants, like trees. Their cup-shaped center allows them to gather rainwater and nutrients from the environment. They are much used as decoration plants.



Camu camu
Myrciaria dubia

Seen on day:
1 2 3 4 5

This small fruit grows on the camu camu bush and is highly regarded for its nutritional values, especially its high vitamin C content, that can be one hundred times higher than an orange's. It also has medicinal properties and is used to fight arthritis and to treat diabetes. Locally it is eaten in juices, preserves and ice cream.



Charapita chili pepper
Capsicum annum o frutescens

Seen on day:
1 2 3 4 5

A small rounded chili pepper, charapita fruits are fragrant, very spicy and with colors that range from red to yellow. It is not grown industrially and is traditionally only harvested wild. It is highly appreciated in Amazonian gastronomy and it is widely eaten in sauces and on the side of local traditional dishes.



Chonta palm tree
Bactris spp.

Seen on day:
1 2 3 4 5

It is a hard, woody, palm tree that can reach 30 meters high. The palm tree's heart or palmetto, a white sprout similar to an artichoke and highly regarded in Amazonian cuisine is used as a vegetable in salads, cut in the shape of thin long stripes, in cream soups and other local traditional dishes.



Cocoa
Theobroma cacao

Seen on day:
1 2 3 4 5

It is the name of the fruit and seed of a tree of American origin that grows only in tropical climates. The fruit is elongated, reddish or yellowish and holds a large number of seeds that are processed to make chocolate and used for various medicinal purposes. Its scientific name means "food of the gods" in Greek. The local inhabitants eat an Amazonian variety called *mocambo*.



Seen on day:
1 2 3 4 5

A yellowish-reddish fruit 3 to 6 centimeters long, cocona looks like a tomato, accounting for its other "Amazonian tomato" name. Its agreeable taste makes it suitable for making juices, marmalades, desserts, salads, sauces and pickles. It is a great source of iron and phosphorus. In traditional medicine it is used against high blood pressure, diabetes and cholesterol.



Cupuassu

Theobroma grandiflorum

Seen on day:

1 2 3 4 5

The cupuassu tree is related to the cocoa tree. Its fruit is round and hard skinned, and the inside is white, accounting for its “white cocoa” name. Its pulp is used to prepare juices, sweets, ice cream and jams. The seeds are used to make products similar to cocoa powder and butter used in making cosmetics.



Ficus insipida or oje

Ficus insipida

Seen on day:

1 2 3 4 5

A medicinal tree whose white latex is used since ancient times by local tribes as a purgative, to eliminate intestinal parasites from the body and as a tonic. In high doses, *Ficus insipida*'s milk can be very toxic, explaining why it is consumed diluted in water or juices. As a powder, it is used for making medicinal capsules.



Giant waterlily

Victoria amazonica

Seen on day:

1 2 3 4 5

It is the largest fresh-water lily in the world and was discovered in 1802 by the Czech naturalist Thaddäus Haenke and given its scientific name in 1837 by British subject John Lindley, to honor England's Queen Victoria. Its leaves are 1 to 2 meters diameter, with great white flowers that measure between 20 and 40 centimeters, and that remain semi-submerged at night to open at dawn to catch the sunlight.



Heliconia

Heliconia wagneriana

Seen on day:

1 2 3 4 5

One of the 100 to 200 species of the Heliconia family, a name that refers to mount Helicon, a place where muses used to gather according to Greek mythology. This plant requires warm weather and abundant water to survive, and it is highly resilient to floods. It is also known as *pinzas de langosta* or “lobster claws” and be up to 4.5 meters high. It is used for decoration.



Mocambo tree

Theobroma bicolor

Seen on day:

1 2 3 4 5

The mocambo or macambo tree fruit is 25 to 35 centimeters long and turns yellow when ripe. It has white seeds inside that are covered by a pulp that can be eaten fresh or prepared in drinks, marmalades and other foods. The seed are used to make chocolate and as a baking and pastry ingredient. They are also eaten whole and grilled.



Moriche or aguaje

Mauritia flexuosa

Seen on day:

Moriche or aguaje is the fruit of a palm tree that grows in the humid and swampy lands of the Amazon region. A coat of dark scales covers it. The yellow or orange pulp inside is edible and very nutritious. It is an essential component of local diet and is known for this reason as the "tree of life". The pulp yields *aguajina*, used to make ice cream, preserves, soft drinks and alcoholic beverages.



Peach palm

Bactris gasipaes

Seen on day:

This fruit comes from a palm tree and grows in bunches of up to 140 fruits. It is a globular and egg-shaped and can reach 6-centimeter diameter. It is generally prepared boiled in water until its texture resembles a potato's. Its pulp can be processed into flour for bread-making, and its seeds yield edible oil. It is also used to prepare a fermented alcoholic beverage.



Rose apple

Syzygium jambos

Seen on day:

The fruit of this invasive tree living on river and stream banks is small and yellow or red. It is sweet and slightly sour, with a fragrance that recalls rose petals and explains its common name. It is rich in calcium and iron and is eaten fresh, as well as in jams and jellies. It is also used to flavor sauces and creams.



Rubber tree

Hevea brasiliensis

Seen on day:

This name embraces different vegetal latex-producing species, which are the main input for making natural rubber. The species shown here triggered the so-called rubber rush that was closely linked to the foundation of the city of Iquitos in 1864. Latex, produced by this tree in great amounts, is obtained by making incisions in the bark to exude and collect the latex. In the wild, the tree can grow 30 meters high.



Sacha culantro

Eryngium foetidum

Seen on day:

The leaves of this tropical herb are an essential ingredient in Amazonian cuisine as a condiment in place of cilantro. Its other name of sacha culantro, meaning wild or forest cilander, is used to differentiate it from culantro (coriander or cilantro). Intensely flavored, it is also used to make sauces and in traditional medicine, to relieve stomach pain, reduce fever, and treat high blood pressure, among others.



Strangler fig or matapalo

Ficus nymphaeifolia

Seen on day:

1 2 3 4 5

This parasite species reaches the branches of other trees thanks to monkeys, birds and bats that carry its seeds. It grows around the host tree and takes away sunlight and oxygen from it, finally embracing and killing it, even if it takes tens of years. For this reason, it is also called the "strangler fig" and is invoked during ritual ceremonies to bring couples together spiritually.



Star apple or cainito

Chrysophyllum cainito

Seen on day:

1 2 3 4 5

This round fruit is 5 to 7 centimeters in diameter and turns purple when ripe. It has a star pattern inside that gives it the *manzana estrella* or star apple name by which it is known in some places. The pulp is sweet and of agreeable taste. The skin yields abundant latex and is unedible. Locally, it is believed to have aphrodisiac properties.



Star fruit or carambola

Averrhoa carambola

Seen on day:

1 2 3 4 5

Its peculiar shape has given it its "star fruit" common name. Carambola grows in the branches of a tropical bush that can reach 3 or 5 meters high. Its pulp is fragrant and juicy, ranging from sour to moderately sweet. It is rich in vitamins A and C and is used locally to prepare juices, jams and jellies, as well as in salad dressings.



Tagua palm

Phytelephas macrocarpa

Seen on day:

1 2 3 4 5

The leaves of this palm tree are used for thatching and its fruits are very similar to a coconut. Tagua, the plant's seed, is white and so hard and resistant that until plastic became popular in the mid-20th century, it was used as a substitute for ivory in making buttons, board game tokens and pieces, and decorations.



Trumpet tree

Cecropia obtusifolia

Seen on day:

1 2 3 4 5

This tree reaches 20 meters and it is easily recognized because of its rounded leaves. It belongs to the pioneer species group that colonize new environments before other plants arrive. It is also known as *cetico* or *guarumo* and is used with medicinal purposes, such as treating diabetes, regulating blood pressure, for kidney disease and healing scorpion bites.



Ungurahui or batahua

Oenocarpus bataua

Seen on day:

1 2 3 4 5

The fruit of this palm tree species is small and measures about 3 or 4 centimeters. It is estimated that each tree can grow 3 or 4 bunches with 1000 fruits each. Its pulp is edible and used in the preparation of juices, desserts and sweets. Oil similar to olive oil is extracted from it and used in traditional medicine as a treatment for respiratory illness and tuberculosis, and to prevent hair loss.



Walking palm tree

Socratea exorrhiza

Seen on day:

1 2 3 4 5

It is also known as cashapona or pona, its aerial roots that help it settle in marsh areas also allow it to move, up to one meter per year, searching for light. This palm tree can grow up to be 25 meters tall. Its thorny wood is used for construction, for making spears, and as a grater, and its roots are said to have aphrodisiac properties.



Wild sweet sop or annona

Rollinia mucosa

Seen on day:

1 2 3 4 5

It is a cone-shaped fruit with hard bumpy skin. A large fruit, it can weigh several kilos. Its pulp is white, abundant, creamy and fragrant. It has a very agreeable exotic and bittersweet flavor. Locally, it is eaten raw and also used for making beverages and ice cream. It is not grown insutrially and is only harvested in its wild state.

