



## Sandoval Lake Lodge

Day1: A Tapir Tours/Inkanatura Travel representative will meet you after your arrival flight at the Maldonado airport. They will take the voucher and transport you to the river port of the town of Puerto Maldonado on the Madre de Dios River. There you board our large, 55-foot-long passenger canoe, which is powered by an outboard motor. This canoe transports you 25 to 45 minutes downstream to the end of the trail into Sandoval Lake.

**\*\*\*\*\*PLEASE HAVE A SMALL BAG PRE-PACKED FOR YOUR TRIP TO SANDOVAL. MAIN LUGGAGE WILL BE LOCKED AT OUR PUERTO MALDONADO OFFICE\*\*\*\*\***

At this point you and your guide walk for two miles on a flat, wide trail through tall secondary forest that harbors many hundreds of species of beautiful butterflies, many of which can be seen on bushes and on the ground along the trail. This is approximately a 45-minute hike. Porters will be there to assist with luggage.

At the end of this walk, we board smaller canoes so that our guides can paddle us for 220 yards through a narrow, intimate canal that traverses an exotic flooded forest of 100-foot-tall Mauritius palms (called "aguajes" in Peru). The canal opens onto the shimmering surface of the scenic Sandoval Lake. The canoe ride to the lodge itself takes you across half of this beautiful lake, which many rain forest specialists feel is the single most attractive lake in all of southern Peru if not in the entire Peruvian Amazon.

Upon arriving at the laicized dock of the lodge, we walk 100 yards gradually uphill through intact primary forest to reach the lodge itself, which lies about 100 feet above the lake. After settling into your room, you will enjoy lunch or a light snack in our spacious lake-view dining room.

After lunch, we suggest resting and then re-boarding our canoe at about 4:00 or 4:30 PM (depending upon how hot it is that day) for a complete tour of the west end of this two-mile-long lake. The west end of the lake includes the flooded palm forest, which is the home of hundreds of talkative red-bellied Macaws (long-tailed parrots).

We will return to the lodge just before or just after nightfall, depending on the tastes of your group. If we return to the lodge just after nightfall, we have excellent chances to see several or many Black Caimans, the large, handsome crocodilians that are so rare now in most of the Amazon. Drinks and dinner in the lodge, and early to bed. **Lunch and dinner included**

Activities and tour are subject to change due to current animal activities and weather conditions.

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**Day 2:** Early rise, with breakfast before or just after dawn (depending on the tastes of your group), followed by a two-hour canoe outing on the lake. The morning is the best time to search for the lake's Giant Otters. Studies by the Selva Sur conservation group have shown that the otters are most active and eat most of their daily diet of small and large fish at this time of day. Most of the fish-eating water birds around the edge of the lake actively fish in the early morning as well.

This outing offers an excellent chance to get excellent looks and sometimes even good pictures of Hoatzins. With their spiky, punk crests, weird blue faces, and red eyes, these extremely strange, prehistoric-looking birds specialize on life in the curtain of vegetation that hangs down to the water along much of the lake edge. They have extra-long digestive tracts that permit foregut fermentation and digestion of the leaves they eat, much as a cow or a howler monkey ferments and digests grass and tree leaves.

After stretching our legs at the lodge for a half hour or so and regrouping, we set off into the cool under storey of the tall, virgin forest near the lake to see some towering wild Brazil nut trees, and other amazing jungle sights.

Incidentally, the lodge was built in a former agricultural clearing of our Brazil nut collector hosts, so required no felling of the surrounding primary forest. This is not the case of any of the other lodges on the Madre de Dios River, all of which required the felling of primary forest. Also, the Sandoval Lake Lodge is the ONLY lodge in or adjacent to the Tambopata-Candamo Reserved Zone built from naturally harvested driftwood mahogany. This detail and many others make Sandoval Lake Lodge the one and only ecologically correct lodge within easy reach of Puerto Maldonado.

After the morning outing, lunch is served at the lodge. After lunch, we suggest resting until the mid-to-late afternoon, when we offer another late afternoon outing on the lake to explore other corners of the lake that you did not see properly in previous outings.

In addition to the many bird species that can be seen well along the lake, often we can see one or more of the five species of monkeys that live in the forest near the lake. These monkey species include the Brown Capuchin Monkey, the Bolivian Squirrel Monkey, the Red Howler Monkey, the Saddle-backed Tamarin Monkey, and the Night Monkey.

Dinner is served back at the lodge. There will be a brief, optional after-dinner canoe outing on the lake to spot the eye shine, and possibly to paddle up close to, several Black Caimans, or, if your group already did that on the first evening before dinner, we can arrange a short, optional night walk in the primary forest next to the lodge.

The rain forest comes alive at night, with about 90 species of bats, 40 species of frogs, 70 species of large katydids (large, beautiful rain forest grasshoppers), and four species of cats. The cat



species at the lake are the Jaguar, the Puma, the Ocelot, and the Margay (which is like a small Ocelot). Note: we are much more likely to see tracks of these cats than the cats themselves.

**Breakfast, lunch and dinner included**

**Day 3:** On this day we will have the chance to explore in depth the wonders of the rain forest. Depending on the weather and time of year, we might hike deep into the jungle to search for Harpy Eagle nests. Or take an extended ride by dugout into the swamps to look for Agami Herons.

Again, depending on local conditions, visitors may choose to spend more time on the lake watching the Giant Otters. Or take the advice of our expert guides and head to another specific area where unusual wildlife has been reported. Some of the braver visitors may even wish to go for a mid-day swim in the lake; the caimans only feed at night and various fish species are not dangerous to humans. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner included**

**Day 4:** After breakfast at about dawn, we take a final, shorter paddle around the western end of the lake to try to glimpse the Giant Otters and to take some final pictures of lake birds before entering the canal again, walking back to the river, boarding our motor canoe for town, and driving you to the Puerto Maldonado airport for your departure flight. **Breakfast included.**

Price includes all accommodations, meals as indicated, applicable hotel/restaurant taxes, all ground transport and guided services as indicated. Price does not include items of a personal nature, international airfare, or airport departure taxes in Peru (\$30.25 international, \$7 domestic at this time).

End of our services.