



PICO DA NEBLINA EXPEDITION

Through the Amazon Rainforest with Sergio Fitch-Watkins

BRAZIL ~ TREKKING ~ 16 DAYS

TRIP DETAILS

7 days strenuous hiking on varied terrain, with hot and humid jungle conditions

Canoe travel

*10 nights camping,
5 nights hotels*

2006 DATES

Nov 11–Nov 26

LAND COST

*\$4590 per person
(12-14 members)*

*\$4890 per person
(8-11 members)*

*\$5390 per person
(6-7 members)*

**TRIP LEVEL
ULTIMATE
CHALLENGE!**

Here's a true expedition in the heart of the Amazon! Join mountain guide Sergio Fitch-Watkins, an old hand at leading worldwide MTS exploratories, for a climb of Pico da Neblina (9,882'), the highest peak in Brazil (and the highest outside of the Andes). Once at the top, you'll be surrounded by the world's wildest and largest forest—the Amazon rainforest! Pico da Neblina National Park, created to protect the pristine nature of the area, also shelters 31 de Março Peak, the second highest in Brazil (9,814'), which you'll also climb. *Neblina* is Portuguese for “fog,” and the peak is usually sheathed in a fine mist. It was first climbed in 1965.

The expedition also offers the opportunity to deeply explore the unique and enchanted culture and habits of the Amazon. This is a remote, demanding trek, so be prepared for 10 days of total autonomy and isolation from civilization while exploring the jungle, its rivers, wildlife, and native people.

ITINERARY

☞ This trip begins with a rendezvous at the airport in Manaus, Brazil, on Day 1.

DAY 1, Nov 11 ~ Arrive in Manaus

Arrive in Manaus, Brazil, the capital of the state of Amazonas. Your trip leader (or a Mountain Travel Sobek representative) will meet you at the airport and transfer you to the five-star Hotel Tropical Manaus, located along the Río Negro, one of the gateways to the Amazon. Evening briefing with the trip leader. Meals on your own.

Hotel Tropical Manaus

DAY 2, Nov 12 ~ Manaus

Manaus, the old rubber capital of Brazil, is situated on the Río Negro, a giant upper tributary of the Amazon. Our three-hour sightseeing tour will take in the city's most traditional and important sites, including the local markets and the opera house. The remainder of the day is free to rest or explore on your own. The hotel has an outdoor swimming pool, sauna, and extensive gardens—great places to take it easy and begin to acclimatize to the hot and humid air of the Amazon rainforest.

B...Hotel Tropical Manaus

1266 66th Street, Suite 4, Emeryville, California 94608-1117

T: +1 510 594 6000 or 1 888 MTSOBEK (687 6235) F: +1 510 594 6001

info@mtsobek.com www.mtsobek.com

DAY 3, Nov 13 ~ Manaus – São Gabriel da Cachoeira

Early in the morning, we transfer to the airport and fly to São Gabriel da Cachoeira in the northwest corner of Brazil. Upon arrival, we'll visit the headquarters of Pico da Neblina National Park. After lunch, we'll review last minute details about our forthcoming expedition.

B,L,D...Hotel TBA, São Gabriel da Cachoeira

DAY 4, Nov 14 ~ São Gabriel da Cachoeira – Pedra campsite (900')

Today, we board vehicles and drive toward Frente Sul. It's a 54-mile drive on dirt roads that can take up to 4 hours. After a final expedition equipment check, we board a native canoe and travel to the Pedra campsite, where we spend the night in hammocks.

B,L,D...Camp

DAY 5, Nov 15 ~ Pedra campsite – Tucano area (1,515')

We arise early and board our canoes for more travel on the Cauburis River. The immensity of the Amazon rainforest lies before us, a landscape we have always imagined but never expected. Here we have our first contact with the Yanomami Indians, the most numerous native peoples in Brazil. Along the way we'll stop for lunch and a swim in the waters of the largest river in the world. Back on board our canoes, we continue to our next campsite in the Tucano area, enjoying the sounds of the rainforest and having the chance to see many Indian villages and various birds and trees that are part of the famous forest. Again, we'll sleep in hammocks and have our first night in the Amazon rainforest proper.

B,L,D...Camp

DAY 6, Nov 16 ~ Begin trek – Bebedouro Velho (2,060')

We will surely feel the humidity as we experience our first day of trekking in the middle of the giant trees of the Amazon. We pass by the Cachoeira waterfall and the Serrinha campsite. Our trek ends at Bebedouro Velho, where we set up our hammocks and spend the night. (6 hours hiking, 7½ miles.)

B,L,D...Camp

DAY 7, Nov 17 ~ Bebedouro Velho – Bebedouro Novo (2,700')

Our second day of trekking in the Amazon reveals more wonders of the rainforest, including blue morpho butterflies and brilliant orchids; we may encounter Yanomamis along the trail. We will have time to relax and enjoy the camp while our guides prepare our meals. (6 hours hiking.)

B,L,D...Camp

DAY 8, Nov 18 ~ Bebedouro Novo – Base Camp (6,000')

Today is a tough day as we ascend about 3,300 feet in about 7 hours while hiking to the Base Camp. When we get there, we will be rewarded with the view of the highest mountain in Brazil. We'll go to sleep looking forward to the next day, when we reach the top of Neblina, the "Misty Mountain."

B,L,D...Camp

DAY 9, Nov 19 ~ Picos da Neblina and 31 de Março

Today is the big day as we attempt the two highest peaks of Brazil. We start early in the morning and hike for about 5 hours, enjoying the beauties of the Amazon. In its high reaches, there are a number of endemic species and the

landscape is fantastic. We reach the summit of the Neblina (9,882') and then go on to the 31 de Março (9,814'). We return to the Base Camp in the evening after a long, tough day.

B,L,D...Camp

DAY 10, Nov 20 ~ Base Camp

We have a free day to relax and enjoy the surroundings of the Base Camp, with time to enjoy the endemic flora.

B,L,D...Camp

DAY 11, Nov 21 ~ Base Camp – Bebedouro Velho

We have a long journey today as we hike 9 hours back to the Bebedouro Velho campsite. On the way back, we will be able to enjoy the details of the nature surrounding us.

B,L,D...Camp

DAY 12, Nov 22 ~ Bebedouro Velho – Tucano Area

Our last day in the Amazon rainforest. We reach the Tucano Area and set up our hammocks.

B,L,D...Camp

DAY 13, Nov 23 ~ Tucano area – Nazare

We board our canoes for an all-day (10 hours) ride toward the little village of Nazare.

B,L,D...Camp

DAY 14, Nov 24 ~ Nazare – São Gabriel da Cachoeira

Another three-hour canoe trip on the dark waters of the Grande River returns us to Frente Sul. Drive back to São Gabriel da Cachoeira. The remainder of the day is free to rest and relax.

B,L,D...Hotel TBA, São Gabriel da Cachoeira

DAY 15, Nov 25 ~ São Gabriel da Cachoeira – Manaus

Early in the morning, we fly to Manaus and check into our hotel. Afternoon free to do some last minute shopping or sightseeing. Festive farewell dinner with the group.

B,D...Hotel Tropical Manaus

DAY 16, Nov 26 ~ Manaus – fly home

Transfer to the airport and depart on homeward-bound flights.

B...

LAND COST

\$4590 per person (12-14 members)

\$4890 per person (8-11 members)

\$5390 per person (6-7 members)

Rates quoted are per person, based on sharing double accommodations.

Single Supplement—\$500 for “requested” singles; \$250 for “forced” singles. If you prefer single accommodations, you must pay the Single Supplement Fee. If you’re traveling alone and wish to share accommodations, we’ll try our best to find you a roommate. If that’s not possible, we will only charge you half of the single supplement.

Tier Pricing

Adventure travel works best with a small group of people. In order to operate these small groups, our trips are priced according to the number of full-price passengers on the trip. (Mountain Travel Sobek staff, trip doctors, and other discounted travelers are excluded from the count for this purpose.) We initially invoice you at the highest tier level price (the smallest group size we can operate). If the price drops due to an increase in group size, you will be refunded the difference.

What’s Included

- ◆ expert leadership
- ◆ accommodations as described
- ◆ all arrangements in the field, including camp meals, cook staffs, group gear and equipment, porters
- ◆ meals as noted (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner)
- ◆ internal flights (Manaus/São Gabriel/Manaus)
- ◆ airport transfers
- ◆ sightseeing as noted in the itinerary
- ◆ ground transportation
- ◆ park fees
- ◆ basic medical and evacuation insurance

What’s Not

International airfare to Manaus and return; meals not noted in itinerary; insurance other than basic medical and evacuation insurance as noted above (we strongly recommend you purchase the supplementary trip insurance offered by Mountain Travel Sobek, which includes trip cancellation insurance); optional tipping to leader, guides and local staff; excess baggage charges; airport taxes; and items of a personal nature (sodas, alcoholic beverages, laundry, etc.).

Air Travel

Airfare is not included in the land cost of our trips. For air reservations, we recommend you contact the airlines directly, either by phone or the Internet. In addition, many travelers elect to use their “frequent flyer” miles when traveling with us. **But please check with our staff before purchasing or obtaining your tickets.** We need to verify your arrival and departure schedule and ensure we have enough participants to operate the trip.

WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT

Expert Leadership

Expert leadership is the key to an exciting, unforgettable experience. Our trips feature gifted leaders for whom leading trips is a true vocation. Besides showing you wonders you’d never find on your own, they make sure everything runs smoothly and safely without a hitch. They are knowledgeable about all aspects of your trip, and take great pleasure in sharing their insights with you. More than just guides, they positively elevate your experience by being teachers, companions, and the best of friends. You’ll be in good hands with them every step of the way.

Sergio Fitch-Watkins is currently scheduled to lead this trip. Sergio, a native of Mexico, is one of Mountain Travel Sobek's senior guides (he's been with us since 1977). He led many of our past mountaineering expeditions to destinations all over the world (including Antarctica), and now leads our most challenging treks in Peru, Chile, Bolivia, Nepal, India, China—and now Brazil! Sergio is at home just about anywhere in the world and is one of the most capable and unflappable guys we know—just the kind of person you want to be with in a remote wilderness.

Leader assignments will be confirmed in the Final Bulletin sent to you three weeks prior to departure.

Activity Level

We rate this trip as an *Ultimate Challenge* for the truly adventurous. The Amazon rainforest is very hot and humid with difficult terrain (slippery trails, entangled roots, streams to cross, etc.), making long-distance hiking a challenging and arduous task. Temperatures range between 46-81°F, with an average annual rainfall of 157 inches. Climbing skills are not required, but **you should be an experienced hiker in excellent physical condition**, equipped with a spirit of adventure and a willingness to undergo the potential hardships of outdoor living in a hot and humid jungle environment. Prior camping experience is a must.

Porters will carry the heavy gear for the trekking portion of the trip, but you must carry a daypack with personal gear such as water bottle, camera, etc. We strongly recommend you maintain a regular program of physical exercise for several months before beginning this strenuous trek. Hiking up and down steep trails with a daypack, mountain biking, running, jogging, and other aerobic exercise for at least one hour four or five times a week is very important if you want to enjoy the hike. Remember, the best way to train for a hike is to go hiking. Wear your boots and go up and down as many hills as you can to strengthen your leg muscles and build up your stamina.

Consult your physician if you have questions concerning your underlying health. We can help answer questions for you or your physician concerning required levels of fitness and health conditions at altitude. If you have concerns about your capacity to do this trip, we can suggest appropriate alternatives.

Camp Accommodations

While camping on the river we sleep under large covered shelters in hammocks hung in a communal area. The hammocks are enclosed in mosquito nets and are quite comfortable. If you are unable to sleep in a hammock it is possible to have a tent set up. It is helpful if we know this in advance. The shelter camps feature western toilet buildings but bathing is done in the nearby river. Please bring biodegradable soap.

THE NEXT STEP

Ready to go? Signing up is easy!

Just call us at 1-888-MTSOBEK (687-6235) and reserve your spot! You can also book a reservation online at our website (www.mtsobek.com). If you prefer to use a travel agent, he or she can book your trip at no extra cost and provide other helpful assistance.

Then Leave the Rest to Us

Before you go, we provide you with extensive pre-departure information, including clothing recommendations, suggested reading lists, up-to-date health advice prepared by our consulting physician (an expert in wilderness medicine), and other details from procuring visas to advice on local customs.

Why Mountain Travel Sobek is Your First Choice for Adventure

Mountain Travel Sobek is the pioneer in active adventure travel. No other adventure travel company can lay claim to that title. We were the first to take Americans trekking in Nepal, raft the wild rivers of Africa, and open up many previously inaccessible corners of the world to curious travelers. We set the standard for adventure travel and have a strong reputation for excellence that we do everything we can to maintain. Since we are the leading adventure company, we have a lot to live up to, so we make sure we provide safe, quality trips and the best customer service to our passengers.

References

Don't take our word for how great our trips are. We'll be happy to provide you with references of satisfied past travelers.

Questions?

Feel free to call us at 1-888-MTSOBEK (687-6235) if you still have any questions or concerns. We're here to help you. You can also check out our website at www.mtsobek.com.

Note on Itinerary

Although we will do our very best to adhere to the itinerary schedule as listed, it is subject to change for numerous reasons beyond our control. Please read the Limitations of Liability and Booking Conditions in the four-page Participant Information Form.

Conditions of Participation

Your participation on a Mountain Travel Sobek trip is subject to the conditions stated in the four-page Participant Information Form, which includes the Agreement and Release from Liability and the Booking Conditions. We urge you to read this information carefully, and to call us if you have any questions.

Note on Services

We often use local suppliers who provide services that may include transportation, equipment, logistic support, and other services (hotels, restaurants, etc.). We do not own or operate these independent suppliers. We work with service providers who share our commitment to safety and quality, and work closely with them to develop itineraries unique to Mountain Travel Sobek.

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