

NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY ANNUITANTS ASSOCIATION

Presents Holland America Line's

AMAZON EXPLORER



November 19 – December 20, 2019

Discover the Wild Beauty of South America on Holland America's 30-day Amazon Explorer. Some came seeking the fountain of youth, some came looking for gold and some just wanted an adventure, but for whatever reason, South America has always been at the top of every explorer's list. Now you can set sail and explore the heart of South America, the Amazon River. You will see the continent's legendary lands during this unforgettable experience while you cruise the **WORLD'S LARGEST RIVER**.

Trip Includes:

Roundtrip transfer from DeKalb to Chicago Airport.

Roundtrip airfare from Chicago. Fully escorted group. Pre-cruise night in Ft Lauderdale

30-day cruise on the 1432 passenger ms VOENDAM. Complimentary photo from photo gallery onboard.

Dinner at Canaletto Restaurant. Welcome onboard treat. Government taxes and fees.

For Reservations and Information call Scot Kunkel or Steven Johnson



COMPASS TRAVEL LLC

home of the NORTHERN ILLINOIS TRAVEL SOCIETYSM

2410 Sycamore Road, DeKalb, Illinois 60115

815-756-1547, info@travelwithcompass.com

Your Exciting Itinerary

Tuesday, November 19 Depart DeKalb to O'Hare, O'Hare to Florida, transfer to Hotel for overnight.

Wednesday, November 20 Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, ms Prinsendam departs 3:00 p.m.

Thursday, November 21 AT SEA

Friday, November 22 AT SEA

Saturday, November 23 Gustavia, Saint Barthelemy arrives 8:00 a.m. and departs 4:00 p.m.

St. Barts, a French territory in the Caribbean's Leeward Islands, is the ultimate jet-set beach destination. Its 14 pristine beaches are jewels set in sparkling waters, the cuisine is infused with a French flair and the scene is cosmopolitan chic. Other islands in the region might be casual and laid-back, but here the dress code is stylish caftans, oversize sunglasses and sky-high heels. And the preferred mode of transportation is the yacht. Gustavia, the capital and main port of St. Barts (also spelled St. Barths), embodies the island's international appeal. A former fishing village, it was named for King Gustav III of Sweden—the Swedes occupied the island in the early 19th century, leaving a legacy of names and sites. TENDER REQUIRED WHEELCHAIR ACCESS LIMITED

Sunday, November 24 Castries, Saint Lucia arrives 8:00 a.m. and departs 3:00 p.m.

So you think you've "done" the Caribbean? St. Lucia kindly asks you to think again. With mountain peaks, plunging valleys, lush rain forests, historic sites, tropical flora and fauna and the world's only drive-in volcano, this island of 165,000 residents is more than just pretty palm-fringed beaches along a turquoise sea—though there happen to be plenty of those, too. No wonder France and England battled for nearly 200 years to control this sun-kissed island.

Monday, November 25 AT SEA

Tuesday, November 26 Devils Island, French Guiana arrives 12:00 p.m. and departs 6:00 p.m.

Devil's Island, part of a three-island chain called Îles du Salut, in French Guiana, was home to one of the most infamous—and impregnable—prisons of the 19th and 20th centuries. Opened in 1852, it received worldwide renown in the mid-1890s when French military captain Alfred Dreyfus was sentenced to life imprisonment after being wrongly convicted of selling military secrets to Germany. Although Dreyfus's sentence was commuted after five years, more than 80,000 political prisoners and hardened criminals endured years of mistreatment and abuse among disease-ridden conditions. Few were able to escape, though Henri Charrière, author of the book *Papillon*, allegedly succeeded by filling sacks with coconuts in order to float to the mainland. TENDER REQUIRED WHEELCHAIR ACCESS LIMITED VACCINATION REQUIRED

Wednesday, November 27 Barra Norte Sea, Brazil Arrives 3:00 p.m. and departs 3:00 p.m.

On your way to the Amazon or as you depart from it, you will sail along an area of Brazil known as Barra Norte, or North Bar. Barra Norte is then often divided into two areas: Barra Norte River, referring to the end of this branch of the Amazon River where it flows into the Atlantic; and Barra Norte Sea, to the east, the part of the Atlantic along this section of Brazil's coast. There are a few landmarks you may be able to spot depending on the exact route your ship takes. Maracá Island sits to the north of Brazil's North Cape. Low-lying and ringed by mangroves, it's home to an ecological research station and is a popular stop for migrating birds. Most of the North Cape is a protected biological reserve, with some of the world's tallest mangroves as well as jaguars, manatees and a number of turtle species. Finally, at the actual mouth of the Amazon, countless islands—some named (dos Porcos, do Pará, Mutufí and Uituquara) and even more unnamed—create a baffling maze that's constantly being reshaped by the tides and sediment from the river.

CRUISING ONLY Crossing the Amazon River Bar, Brazil

After traveling some 6,400 kilometers (4,000 miles), the Amazon River finally arrives at the Atlantic Ocean. (The word some may sound unnecessarily imprecise, but geographers measure the length of the river from different

points.) This section of the world's largest river measured by volume is often referred to as its "bar," a name used to describe the mouths of other rivers as well. The delta here is a maze of islands, formed by the sediment that accumulates when the Amazon enters the ocean. The largest island in this area is Ilha de Marajó, which measures 15,500 square miles. That's roughly equivalent to three Connecticut. The region is fascinating to naturalists, though much of what is of interest is impossible to see from a ship, namely, the variety of aquatic life that can exist where freshwater and ocean water meet. What is visible, though, is the remarkable diversity of birds above the water's surface—around 540 different species,

CRUISING ONLY Barra Norte River, Brazil
CRUISING ONLY Cruising the Amazon River

The Amazon is a river, and a region, of superlatives. It's the world's largest river when measured by volume. With 55 million gallons of water flowing into the Pacific each second, it's five times the size of the Congo, the next largest river. The basin it drains is some 2.7 million square miles, making it the largest drainage basin in the world. (By comparison, the contiguous United States is roughly 3.1 million square miles.) What most impresses visitors to the Amazon, however, is rarely these numbers. Instead it's the area's cultural and natural riches and the experience of seeing the rain forest extend in every direction.

Thursday, November 28

CRUISING ONLY Macapa, Brazil arrives 4:00 a.m. and departs 10:00 a.m.
SERVICE CALL VISA REQ FOR SOME

If you are looking for a destination where you can have the bragging rights of being the first one of your friends to have visited, Macapá will fit the bill. The Brazilian city may describe itself as the capital of the middle of the world because the equator runs through it, but there is no denying it is far off the beaten tourist path. In fact, there are few paths at all that reach Macapá; most visitors arrive by air or sea to this city, which straddles the Atlantic Ocean and the mouth of the Amazon.

Cruising the Amazon River

Crossing the Equator: The equator is an essential component of our planet's geography—even though it's just an imaginary line drawn on a map. In addition to being the widest spot on the planet—a full 27 miles wider than at the poles—this is also the planetary dividing line for the Coriolis effect, which explains why cyclones rotate clockwise north of the equator and counterclockwise south of it. It's also the place best suited for launching spacecraft because the gravitational pull gives rocket ships an extra boost out of the stratosphere. And for a bit of light-hearted fun, if you're onboard a craft where any of the crew are crossing this imaginary line for the first time, you'll likely witness a King Neptune (or Crossing the Line) ceremony. This ancient naval tradition puts newbies, or "Pollywogs," through a series of tests to prove themselves worthy of being a son or daughter of Neptune, the Roman god of the seas.

Friday, November 29

CRUISING ONLY Santarem, Brazil arrives 12:00 p.m and departs 8:00 p.m.
VISA REQUIRED

Perched alongside the Rio Tapajós deep inside the Amazon between Manaus and Belém (but 800 kilometers, or almost 500 miles, from both!), Santarém is a muggy but intriguing jungle town and a jumping-off point for a bevy of surrounding attractions. Established as a Jesuit mission in 1661, Santarém suffered from the same rubber boom-and-bust cycle as Pará's capital, Belém. The town later had a moment in the spotlight as the nearest major significant

port to Henry Ford's American utopian jungle experiment, Fordlândia, which tried and failed between 1928 and 1945 (its ruins are located 12 hours downriver by boat).

Saturday, November 30 Boca da Valeria, Brazil arrives 8:00 a.m. and departs 2:00 p.m.

Surrounded by the Amazonian rain forest, Boca da Valeria, a small Brazilian settlement of fewer than 100 people, boasts no tourism infrastructure. Yet the destination lures travelers by offering an authentic glimpse of the simple river life that the Amerindians have followed for centuries. Meaning "Mouth of the Valeria River," the remote fishing and trading village sits at the convergence of the Amazon and the Rio da Valeria. The local children guide visitors along a dirt footpath and pose for pictures in their native costumes, often with exotic animals in tow.

TENDER REQUIRED WHEELCHAIR ACCESS LIMITED VISA REQ FOR SOME

Sunday, December 1 Manaus, Brazil arrives 10:00 a.m.

OVERNIGHT TIME SUBJECT TO DAYLIGHT VISA REQ FOR SOME

If ever a city were a model for boom and bust, it would be Manaus, which lies at the confluence of Brazil's Amazon River and Rio Negro, more than 1,450 kilometers (900 miles) from the Atlantic Ocean. Like in America's Old West, great fortunes were amassed in no time here and vanished just as quickly during the boom years of rubber production in the late 19th century. The most enduring memorial of that time is the great opera house and theater that are still in use today, and whose existence in the Amazon helped inspire the 1982 movie *Fitzcarraldo*, about one man's maniacal obsession with bringing opera to the jungle.

These days, Manaus is huge—perhaps surprisingly, it's Brazil's seventh-largest city. A swank new soccer stadium was added for the 2014 World Cup, and a two-mile-long, cable-stayed bridge opened in 2011 across the Rio Negro.

Monday, December 2 Manaus, Brazil departs 4:00 p.m.

TIME SUBJECT TO DAYLIGHT VISA REQ FOR SOME

Tuesday, December 3 Parintins, Brazil arrives 8:00 a.m. and departs 5:00 p.m.

If a world record exists for the most remote festival on the planet, then Parintins should win hands down. This cow town of sorts sits on an island in the Amazon River, some 700 miles inland from the Atlantic. Its claim to fame: the spectacular Boi Bumba festival, held over three days in June. The town's 60,000 inhabitants spend the year preparing for the festival, building fantastic floats that depict giant pink porpoises, fierce jaguars and the like. Two rival camps, the red-colored Garantido and the blue-colored Caprichoso, compete in song and dance performances staged in a massive stadium glowing like a UFO that landed in the Amazon jungle.

TENDER REQUIRED WHEELCHAIR ACCESS LIMITED VISA REQ FOR SOME

Wednesday, December 4 Alter Do Chao, Brazil arrives 8:00 a.m. departs 4:00 p.m.

Not for nothing is Alter do Chão known as the Caribbean of the Amazon. Taken as a whole, the village's white powdery beaches, transparent blue-green waters and hang-loose vibe would make a perfectly convincing addition to the Lesser Antilles. Of course, there are tip-offs that you're still in the midst of South America's River Sea, not least the neighboring rain forest and the pink dolphins—those local mascots—that periodically surface in the water.

This uncommon tropical charm lies at the heart of Alter do Chão's appeal—but the place becomes outright irresistible when you factor in the curiously cosmopolitan inhabitants (expat hippies, herbalists and nature lovers in addition to Brazilians) and the cute little shops, cafés and businesses they've created. TENDER REQUIRED WHEELCHAIR ACCESS LIMITED VISA REQ FOR SOME

Thursday, December 5 Cruising the Amazon River CRUISING ONLY

As you travel along the length of the Amazon, you'll call at villages that are not just geographically remote, but are far from contemporary culture as well. Some 400 indigenous peoples live in the Amazon, as they have for centuries.. Biologically the basin is home to some 10 percent of all the world's known animal and plant species. From jaguars to macaws and pink dolphins to glass frogs, the Amazon is an area of astounding and unique biodiversity.

Barra Norte River, Brazil CRUISING ONLY

Crossing the Amazon River Bar, Brazil CRUISING ONLY

Barra Norte Sea, Brazil CRUISING ONLY

Friday, December 6 Crossing the Equator CRUISING ONLY

Saturday, December 7 Icoaraci (Belem), Brazil arrives 8:00 a.m. and departs 6:00 p.m.

Founded in 1616 as one of the first settlements along Brazil's Amazon River, Belém, the capital of the Brazilian state of Pará, once prospered as one of South America's spotlight playgrounds for the rich and cultured. This urban oasis in the jungle experienced unprecedented growth and fortune during the rubber boom at the turn of the 19th century thanks to a Brazilian monopoly on latex. It was during this golden era that the City of Mango Trees constructed one of its most important landmarks, the neoclassical-style 1874 Theatro da Paz on the Praça da República—an architectural testament to the opulence of those days when the city was affectionately referred to as "the tropical Paris." TENDER REQUIRED WHEELCHAIR ACCESS LIMITED VISA REQ FOR SOME

Sunday, December 8 Crossing the Equator CRUISING ONLY

Monday, December 9 At Sea

Tuesday, December 10 At Sea

Wednesday, December 11 Bridgetown, Barbados arrives 8:00 a.m. and departs 6:00 p.m.

Barbadians, or Bajans in local parlance, consider their island nation the most British of the Caribbean: Queen Elizabeth II is still head of state, and English products are stocked in many of its stores and restaurants. Barbados is known as the birthplace of international pop star Rihanna, but it has also produced some of the biggest Caribbean calypso and soca music stars. The summer Crop Over festival is a huge carnival event. With live music and crafts for sale, the popular Friday fish fry at Oistins Bay is a fun place to mingle with the locals.

Centered around a waterway called the Careenage and its handsome Chamberlain Bridge, the historic center of Bridgetown, the country's capital, was granted UNESCO World Heritage status in 2011 for its wealth of British colonial architecture dating from the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries. Among the famous figures who visited Bridgetown when it was at its peak was none other than George Washington, who spent two months in 1751 in a house that still stands today, on his only trip abroad.

Thursday, December 12 At Sea

Friday, December 13 Oranjestad, Aruba ARRIVE 8:00AM DEPART 5:00PM

Located off the coast of Venezuela, the windswept Dutch island of Aruba is otherworldly. Here, the beaches are spectacularly pristine, the waters are romantically restless, the island interior is lunar-like and filled with cacti, and the trees are—quite famously—bent in the wind. The island's consistent trade winds are part of the destination's allure: They keep the humidity, rain and hurricanes common in much of the Caribbean during its off-season at bay.

Saturday, December 14 Willemstad, Curacao ARRIVE 8:00 AM DEPART 5:00 PM

Sunday, December 15 At Sea

Monday, December 16 Falmouth, Jamaica arrives 8:00 a.m. and departs 5:00 p.m.

Tuesday, December 17 Georgetown, Cayman Islands ARRIVE 8:00 AM DEPART 5:00PM
Wednesday, December 18 Sea Day
Thursday, December 19 Key West, Florida arrives 7:00 a.m. and departs 5:00 p.m.
Friday, December 20 Fort Lauderdale, Florida, US ARRIVES 7:00AM
PIER: PORT EVERGLADES, transfer to airport, Chicago airport transfer to DeKalb.

Use of Photography

Please note that in exchange for your reservation, you have authorized COMPASS TRAVEL LLC to photograph, record, film, video tape, or otherwise use your likeness, performance, image, and/or voice for use in general and/or program-related COMPASS TRAVEL LLC promotional materials. If for any reason, you do not wish to be photographed, please provide your name(s) at check-in on the day of the event.

For reservations and information please call or visit



COMPASS TRAVEL LLC

home of the **NORTHERN ILLINOIS TRAVEL SOCIETY**

2410 Sycamore Road, De Kalb, Illinois 60115, phone: 815-756-1547; email: info@travelwithcompass.com