



The Smithsonian Associates

Smithsonian Journeys

Dear Smithsonian Associate,

For years now our voyage on the Upper Amazon has been among our best-received journeys. Fellow Associates have returned from the Amazon with the most wonderful stories about how much they learned about the Amazon's wildlife and its people, as well as how much fun they had.

So we thought: what could be better than to offer a family journey? The Upper Amazon is a perfect place for young people to explore nature and learn about wildlife, and our ship, the *Amatista*, is a superb way to travel there. You'll travel deep into the rainforest, see myriad kinds of wildlife and learn about the life of the people who make their living in this remote region.

As always, you will be accompanied by a Smithsonian Study Leader who will help you and your family gain a profound understanding of the things you'll see. In addition, our family voyages will be accompanied by one of International Expeditions' Family Coordinators who has an extensive background working with children, a tremendous love for science and exploration and a winning way with both kids and grownups.

Here is what Jill Ceitlin, the Family Coordinator on our July departure had to say about the program:

I am convinced that I have the best job in the world. The journey into the Amazon Rainforest is one that entire families can enjoy.

It is gratifying to watch kids discover the principles of biodiversity through games and figure out the formation of a river by digging their hands into sand. Not only do I have fun with the kids on the boat, but we also have opportunities for exploration during daily excursions ashore. Our naturalist guides are trained to work with kids, and it is exciting to see them involve both adults and children while showing them wildlife that's new to them.

I will never forget the looks on kids' faces as they chase blue morpho butterflies, watch river dolphins swimming alongside the riverboat, and spot monkeys and three toed sloths in the trees. The discovery of wildlife brings a smile to every face. Every day brings something new!

The Amazon is full of opportunities for children and adults to explore and discover together, making it a great voyage for all ages. We hope to see your family aboard our July or December Family Amazon journey.

Sincerely,

Amy Kotkin
Program Manager

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