



The ultimate in 'hosted' angling adventures throughout the Amazon.

UK Agent and Promotional Management for Amazon-Angler.com

Contact: Facebook @amazon-adventure.co.uk, Web: www.amazon-adventure.co.uk & richard@amazon-adventure.co.uk

JAGUAR EXPLORER CAMP - GUYANA Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

So, whether you are already 'booked in' on our Jaguar Camp, or just thinking about dipping your toes into the Amazon, this publication is here to help and support, and serves to provide valuable information on the trip, travel, camp-life, fishing etc. Note this is not in any specific order.

This will be updated regularly with this being the latest issue (v2) for the 2022/2023 seasons. If you have any additional comments and /or advice for others, then contact us at: richard@amazon-adventure.co.uk and we will look to incorporate for the next issue.

Q1	What are the weight limits on the trip?
A	Whilst your international flights into Georgetown may be 24Kg or more, the internal flights to the interior have stricter limits, so base your weight allowance on 20Kg (44lbs). This includes all luggage items, checked in and hand luggage. If needed, you can safely leave items at the hotel until you get back from the fishing i.e., clothes / shoes etc or other items you will not need whilst out fishing.
Q2	Full size – v – travel rods, which is better?
A	Always a difficult topic for discussion as a lot comes down to personal preference and 'what you have'. Full size rod sections in long rod tubes are physically more difficult to handle, and often attract additional costs on flights. Travel rods generally break down to 0.5m – 0.6m and can therefore be included within 'checked in' luggage. One thing to remember is that long rods are far more difficult to manage when fishing from the boats and ideal lengths for both catfishing and lure rods is 1.8m to 2.4m (max). Check out the Tackle Talk publication on our website (Home >Our Outfitting) for more information.
Q3	How much money do I need to bring and what currency?
A	You will need some local currency for food & drink at the hotel, or tours / excursions you may take (either side of the fishing) and the Guyanese Dollar is best for this, although the US\$ is also widely accepted. If your arrival dates incur additional nights at the hotel, these can be paid for in \$US or via credit card (most major cards accepted) You will also need to bring US\$150 cash for tipping the camp staff and US\$25-30 cash as a contribution to the local village fees. Your host will collect these and distribute accordingly.
Q4	If I have additional time in Georgetown, are there things to do?
A	Absolutely, there are lots of tours / excursions that you can take, and we will be more than happy to provide information and make the arrangements for you. One of our recommendations is the incredible Kaieteur Falls which is on the River Potaro deep within the interior. This is a 1hr to 1.5hrs flight from 'Ogle' airport, not the cheapest of trips, but a 'bucket list' visit nonetheless – Note: write off a full day for this.
Q5	Is there somewhere near to the hotel to pick up any last-minute essentials?
A	Yes, there is, within walking distance you will find a supermarket, pharmacy and several eateries including a Pizza Hut. Ask your host for directions, and ask around, you will probably find others will join you.
Q6	What kind of plane takes us into the interior?
A	For small groups it is usually a 5-seater, with larger groups in an 10/12-seater. These fly out from the relatively local 'Ogle' airport. Be aware, flight times vary, and there may be some waiting time, either end.



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Q7	When we get to camp, how soon can we start fishing?
A	A lot depends on the time we get there, if its mid-late afternoon, and you are ready to fish, then start slowly and take in some sport from the riverbank, there will not be enough time to get the boats out for any valuable angling time. Play it by ear, you may want to just chill at the camp, which is fine and gives you time to get your tackle set up for the next day. Oh btw, we have caught some good fish from right outside the lodge.
Q8	How long are we out on the boats each day?
A	The guides usually have the boats ready around 07:00, and once the coolers are on board, they are ready to go. Again, depends on how early you rise, take breakfast etc. Once you depart for the day, you will probably not get back to camp until 17:00 or later, so around 10 hrs a day.
Q9	How much night fishing will we do?
A	There are always opportunities for some night fishing (Usually for 2-3 hours after dusk). This is a great time to be fishing for the cats, as well as providing some of the best wildlife watching, and you will see the eyes glowing like beacons on the bankside, in the trees and of course in the water. As this is additional work for the boat captains, expect to pay an additional cost for this, so talk to your host when you are at camp to help make the arrangements.
Q10	Will I be safe whilst out fishing?
A	Absolutely, during the day you will be in the hands of our English-speaking guides, who are local (Amerindian) and fully understand the river system and its wildlife and it's important that you listen to them. They are there to help put you into the right spot for fishing as well as to keep you safe throughout your trip. if you are in any doubt, ask for their advice or alternatively talk to your host .
Q11	If I am on the boat for 10 hours per day, are they comfortable?
A	The boats are generally comfortable with the majority having purpose made seating, however, for added comfort it is worthwhile bringing an inflatable cushion with you. These are widely available on-line, cost less than GBP10.00, are lightweight and can be an absolute godsend. A top tip from us here at amazon-adventure. Check out the Top Travel Tips publication on our website (Home >Our Adventures) for more information.
Q12	What precautions do I need to take with bugs i.e., mozzies and sand flies etc?
A	Well, it's the Amazon and unfortunately, insects are a part of jungle life. Historically, we have never really suffered from excessive bug life on camp, but you should bring some good quality repellent, ideally with a high 'Deet' content, especially for evenings around the camp table, as ankles and elbows always seem to be a target.
Q13	What kind of temperatures can I expect?
A	If you cater for daytime temperatures around 25-30°C you won't go far wrong. It is likely that there will be some rain during your trip, so make sure you have lightweight waterproofs. On cloudless days, good protection from the sun is vital. So, ensure you have a high factor sun cream, and if you are not used to the sun, think about clothing, long trousers, long sleeves, fingerless gloves, and buffs, all these are great ways to protect yourself. Additionally, drink plenty of water, we can't stress enough just how quickly you can dehydrate.



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Q14	Does line colour make any difference? i.e., yellow braid
A	Yes, we generally suggest standard colours such as 'moss green' as they are quite dull. Yellow / red / white are much brighter and whilst they will still work, have the potential to attract Piranha's which means you may lose your end tackle!!!!
Q15	What strength / type of mainline should I use?
A	20-30lb braid for general lure fishing, 30-50lb braid for working within the rapids and 100lb braid for the big girls. It's always worthwhile bringing some additional spools of line with you – just in case. And don't compromise on the quality of your braid / leader material. Stick to those that have proven performance. Check out the Tackle Talk publication on our website (Home >Our Outfitting) for more information.
Q16	What are the best knots to use?
A	For splicing of braided mainline to mono / fluorocarbon leaders, the FG knot is 'bullet proof' <u>provided it's tied correctly</u> . This knot is super slim and passes through the rod eyes easily. Palomar and Snell knots are ideal for braid/mono/fluorocarbon to hooks and swivels and for the single strand wire to hooks and swivels, we recommend the haywire twist, which again is super strong when tied correctly. If unsure about tying these, there are some great tutorials / reminders available on YouTube, or alternatively there is a fantastic App called ProKnot .
Q17	What size 'leads' are best for the Catfishing?
A	This is purely down to the individual, but with fast flowing waters, a reasonable size is needed. 4oz-5oz is recommended, and flat pear grippers perform well. Don't forget that you will need a 'run ring' of a size that allows it to pass over any knots i.e., the FG. There are huge Jau Catfish, which love structure, so prepare to lose a few of these. Check your travel weight, but we would suggest you bring 6 -8. Remember, if you do run out, you can always use rocks, on a sacrificial length of light mono/fluoro line.
Q18	I have heard that the Piranha can bite through treble hooks, is this true?
A	Yes, Piranha will bite clean through factory fitted trebles, and Pacu will just crush them!! It is highly recommended that you change these out in favour of 3X (min) and <u>preferably 4X</u> versions. Cut the old ones off and add the uprated treble via a suitably uprated split ring. Strong hooks can be sourced from many manufacturers including: Gamakatsu, BKK, VMC and Owner. Take care with this though, the added weight of the uprated hook can sometimes impact on the balance and behaviour of lures, so always worth a sanity check once changed.
Q19	Do spoons, spinners and spinner-baits work?
A	Yes, these can be highly effective, and historically, bronze/copper/gold colour spinners have been good with Pacu, Piranha, Bicuda etc. A selection of 'Mepps' type spinners in sizes 3 & 4 is a good addition to your kit. Spoons can also work, but we have not seen as much success with them as with spinners. The hugely mechanical spinnerbaits also work, and Peacock Bass can certainly be taken on these across a wide range of colours. Also, tailed spinners work well, try them in 1/2oz (14g) up to 1 1/4oz (36g), and the Perch / Firetiger patterns always work well.



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Q20	What sort of rigs are best for the Catfish?
A	<p>The Catfish grow to huge sizes, and many of them like to take you into structure, therefore a strong set-up is needed. 100lb braid as your main line, spliced to 10ft-15ft of 100lb mono. A good sinker, of 3-5oz on a running rig set-up (for fish welfare – No fixed leads unless on light sacrificial line) and for the business end, either a circle or 'J' hook at between 6/0 – 10/0 on 100lb single strand wire to a 100lb+ swivel. If you are fishing at depth (no Piranha), the single strand wire can be replaced with 200lb+ braided hook-link material.</p> <p>Your choice, but not all the Catfish produce screaming runs, some can be quite gentle, and deep-set hooks can be a problem especially when the take is not detected quick enough. Consider crushing the barb, it makes hook removal far easier and is better for fish welfare.</p>
Q21	Do you use wire traces (leaders)?
A	<p>Many of the species have sharp teeth, particularly Piranha, so if you are targeting them, wire traces are vital (20lb – 50lb). For other species and to conceal the line as much as possible, splice your braided mainline to a mono / fluorocarbon leader (20lb-40lb), and tie on a suitably sized 'quick link' for ease in changing lures quickly. On the subject of 'quick links', choose ones of good quality and strength i.e., 'coastlock', the last thing you want is a hard fighting fish and the quick link opens up!!!</p>
Q22	Is fly fishing an option?
A	<p>Fly fishing is always an option, and we would never rule it out. Countless trips have always proven that conventional lure fishing produces well along with 'cut-bait' for the Arapaima and Cats. If weight allows and you want to try it – go for it. As in most locations, Peacock Bass / Payara can be readily taken on the fly.</p>
Q23	What kind of lures work the best?
A	<p>That's a difficult question to answer, as there are so many variables i.e., target species, water levels, water colour etc and what works well on one trip, may not be as effective on the next. You will need to select a good range, of surface, shallow, medium, and deep divers. Plugs and cranks work well along with jigs, minnows. As for size / weights, again a good mix, we regularly see fish taken on small 7g – 10g lures as well as much larger (up to) 70g versions. Have a few spinners, spoons, and spinner baits in your tackle box as well. As for colour / pattern, it's always good to 'match the hatch', so anything that resembles baitfish is a good choice. We have seen great results from the Firetiger / Perch pattern, along with bone, silver, and blue uniforms. Lures with an orange underbelly have in the past proven particularly effective. Your host will be able to point out your 'most likely winners' and generally, if guests are having a hard time, we see a lot of sharing within the camp. Nobody wants to see another angler struggle.</p>
Q24	How many fish am I likely to catch and over what species?
A	<p>Again, another difficult question... and one which depends on what your aspirations are i.e., size, numbers, or species. We have had occasions where a sweet spot could have produced 200+ Peacock Bass within a few hours, or to the other end of the scale, with just a few Catfish over a whole day. On one of our last camps, we took over 1,200 fish between us, across 27 species (including many at 200lb+) so they are there, and in numbers although we can never guarantee the catch.</p>
Q25	Are any fish kept?
A	<p>Yes, some species are great for food at camp, and as bait for Catfishing. Your guide will advise on this. We do generally ask that <u>no Peacock Bass are taken for either</u> – they are our prime sportfish.</p>



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Q26	What about fish management and welfare?
A	<p>It goes without saying that we fully support Catch & Release (C&R) and the best of practices in fish welfare. Apart from those taken for food at camp or for bait, we expect the highest degree of fish management from all our guests. We actively encourage the use of 'Lip Grippers' i.e., BogaGrips, but equally mandate that these are used correctly, and fish are <u>NOT</u> to be suspended from them (apart for a quick weight check). Additionally, care must be taken when holding fish, keep them low to avoid damage through possible dropping, and for the larger Catfish and Arapaima, always get into the water for your photo shots, with fish lifts just above the waterline, and avoid 'grounding' the fish on rocks or sandbars, to help protect their outer coating / skin / scales.</p> <p>Check out the Fish Management publication on our website (Home >Our Outfitting>Tackle Talk) for more information on the use of lip grippers.</p>
Q27	Why the mandate for 'circle' hooks for Arapaima?
A	<p>Over the years we have seen so many fish with hooks embedded deep within their guts and despite their huge size and power, Arapaima can be very fragile.</p> <p>Barbless circle hooks if used properly minimise the risk of damage to the fish. If you can only get them in a barbed pattern, no worries, crush the barb down,</p> <p>Don't discount circles for the catfish either and the use of a hair rig for your cut bait, this can often provide an advantage, allowing the hook far more free movement to turn and work as it should.</p> <p>Also, listen to your guides, they know how to handle Arapaima once caught, and never, never take them completely out of the water.</p>
Q28	Is there WiFi available at the Lodge?
A	<p>No, you will be deep within the interior of the Iwokrama Rainforest and as such, connections to the outside world are very limited. There is WiFi available at the hotel before flying out, and also if we pass through the Village of Apoteri, but that is not guaranteed.</p> <p>Your host will however have a satellite phone and if vital, you be able to send and receive messages as well as make voice calls (US\$2 per minute/message cost). This phone is only on for a short period of time per day and is subject to having good signal strength, but if you need to use it, just let us know.</p>
Q29	How early do we fly out on the first day?
A	<p>Historically, flights have been relatively good with their times, so all being well we will leave the hotel around 09:00 with an ETA at Apoteri airstrip around 12:00 midday. Camp one is a reasonable journey, so it is likely that we will be at camp one (the Lodge) late afternoon, enough time if you are quick to get some angling in off the riverbank.</p> <p>BUT...TIG (This is Guyana) so flights may change or vary due to weather or other unexpected conditions... So sometimes we have to just 'go with the flow'.</p>



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MORE FAQ'S COMING SOON