



The ultimate in 'hosted' angling adventures throughout the Amazon

UK Agent and Promotional Management for Amazon-Angler.com

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Taking in one of our Amazon adventures? CHECK OUT SOME OF OUR TOP TIPS

Whether you have travelled to the Amazon before, or this is your first time, this publication will hopefully help and assist with some of the things that you might not necessarily think about when putting your kit together.

Whilst in no specific order, these are tips and ideas based on our experiences of travel, camp-life, welfare and of course the fishing, and has been developed for those travelling from the UK, although some transference may be applicable to travellers from other parts of the world.

Contact us at: info@amazon-connect.co.uk for any further advice and/or guidance on trip essentials.

Note: The products identified within this publication are for example only and are not intended as recommendations.

TACKLE CARE & REPAIR



Despite your every effort, you may experience some form of rod damage whilst out on the boats, we see it every trip, and mostly it is with the tip section or end-eye. The ability to perform an 'on location' repair, ensures that you can keep the rod usable, resulting in minimal impact to your fishing. A simple gas lighter will allow the glue to be melted for removal of the end eye on the broken section, or you could bring a small selection of replacements eyes with you. Some mixed grit sandpaper, or a modeller's saw blade will allow any reprofiling of the rod section, and a stick of 'hot melt' glue provides the means to re-attach the replacement eye. Superglue is also invaluable, and we have seen it used for repairing all types of tackle including rods, reels, lures etc. All these are simple, lightweight items, which can make the difference in being able to fish, or not...

OUT ON THE BOAT



Some great tips here, from L to R, A **self-inflating cushion**, which is inexpensive, lightweight and can make a huge difference on the daily boat journeys. A **hook file**, it's surprising how quickly the fast-flowing water over rocks and sand will 'dull' the point, keeping it sharp will ensure a good hook penetration. A **fabric tape-measure** will help provide the best in weight estimates for Catfish and Arapaima alike. Fish (measurements in inches), $\text{Length} \times (\text{girth} \times \text{girth}) / 800 = \text{weight in pounds}$. **Permanent Marker Pens**, these are invaluable for camouflaging trace line, leaders, hooks, leads etc, especially when Piranha are around. **SPF Protective wear**, when fishing, the backs of your hands get the full sun all day, think about getting some fingerless gloves for protection, along with neck & ear protection from a 'buff' or 'legionnaires' cap....



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CAMP LIFE



Some great ideas to improve your trip experience, all lightweight, easy to pack and relatively inexpensive. From L to R... Small collapsible **lanterns** can be useful for cabins and tents alike. These can be purchased in either battery, solar or rechargeable versions and due to their LED technology, last for many hours. **Magnetic base hooks** - these are used extensively in the UK by carp fisherman for hanging items inside their 'bivvy's'. A simple idea and a great addition when in tented accommodation. Use for hanging up lanterns, small bags etc. Having good **portable lighting** is imperative when moving around camp in the dark and there is a huge selection of LED technology torches and head-torches on the market. Many are rechargeable meaning you do not have to carry extra batteries... **Binoculars** - Just a cheap pair of binoculars can make all the difference at camp *and on the boat* the guide points to a tree, all you see is foliage, but in that tree is a whole new world: monkeys, sloths, birds, etc they're all there but generally just out of our scope of vision. Also use them (or even a **monocular**) to check for 'fry balls' that are being guarded by the fish. On a glass-flat surface, fry balls can be seen moving quite fast across the surface, creating a 'dimpling' effect as they go.

HEALTH & WELFARE



Some great ideas here, as well as some 'vitals' From L to R, **Talcum Powder**, the jungle is hot, you sweat, and for some, this causes problems with chaffing. A good application of talcum after showering makes for a comfortable evening / night. **Earplugs** might sound daft, but it's surprising how noisy camp can be at night – and I'm talking about snoring more than anything else!!! **Insect repellent**, different locations have differing levels of insect life, some may be almost devoid of mosquitos but have significant sand fly activity and vice versa. Having a good repellent is crucial and one high in DEET will always prove the most effective which will be essential particularly in the evenings. A good antihistamine cream is also a good idea to have in your kit – just in case. **Lip balm** – we have seen countless clients with cracked or blistered lips after just a few days of fishing. Buffs are good but most are not SPF rated, so having a good lip balm is another kit essential... and finally, **Toiletries**. Don't go bringing full bottles of shower gel, shampoo etc, you only need enough for the duration of the trip, so these clear plastic travel bottles are perfect. Inexpensive and available from most of the large supermarkets.



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RECORDING THE ACTION



Whatever camera you choose, whether 'point & click' or advanced DSLR, there will always be a need to capture 'live' action and many of our clients come equipped with GoPro type action cameras to help capture the boat action, casting, hook-ups and the fish, both above and below the waterline. To make sure you are equipped for all video opportunities, bring a good selection of mounts, particularly rod, chest and head mounts, as well as the trusty selfie stick...

LANYARDS

A significant amount of equipment that you will use on your adventure will have a 'lanyard' attached to it – the purpose being that if you drop it, you won't lose it!! We have seen countless Boga's, lip grippers, pliers etc, lost to the depths because they were not secured around the wrist, so, if it has a lanyard, use it, if it doesn't, then try and fit one....

FISH MANAGEMENT



Having the correct equipment with you is imperative, and differing scenarios, demand differing tools. Unfortunately, these tools can eat into your weight allowance, so it is important to select the most appropriate for your trip. If you are going with a friend or in a group and plan to be fishing with a friend or partner, share the weight to equip the boat, and not each person. You will need a good set of **lip-grippers** i.e. Boga Grips, ideally with built in scale. **Long-nosed pliers** are fantastic for hook extraction, although other unhooking tools can be used. **Small / medium pliers** that can be used for opening split rings are also vital, as you will be changing hooks out regularly. If weight allows, a strong pair of **cutters** are also handy.

LOCAL KNOWLEDGE



Whichever trip you take, you will find differences in the people, culture, history and language. If your flights dictate, or you choose to stay a little longer, taking a tour is a great way to see the country and some of the sights. So do a little research, there are some great travel guides available...



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TRAVELLING

On pretty much all our trips, the size and weight of luggage will be a consideration and travelling light and compact is vital. Whilst international flights may be relatively generous on the allowance, the light planes we use to get into the jungle are not so forgiving, with a general rule of 20kg 'all in', and on the floatplanes, 15kg 'all in'. It's surprising just how quickly the weight creeps up as you are packing, so here are some tips to help keep you lightweight and within the limits.

Rods & Reels

Many prefer two-piece or sometimes one-piece rods, but in all fairness, these can be difficult and costly to transport as well as being more susceptible to damage, so try and go for travel rods. Most of these break down into sections of 65cm or less, so can be taken as hand luggage, or can be stowed safely within your checked in luggage. Fig 1, provides an example of a M/MH lure rod, broken down to 60cm sections, and Fig 2, a 12cm diameter, extendable (70cm – 100cm) travel tube, which at it's shortest, can be taken as carry-on luggage.

With regards to reels, forget custom pouches and instead, wrap them safely in your clothing, I have used *socks* for bait-runners and *boxers* for fixed spool reels. Sounds crazy, but every gram you can save counts, and providing your kit is safe, then use the saved weight in favour of more lures and end tackle.



Figure 1.

Important note, most airlines will NOT permit, hooks, lures, line, and other terminal tackle in your 'hand luggage'.

Luggage

There are two important bits of luggage. 1) what you need to get your gear into the jungle, and 2) what you need to be out on the boat with you on a day by day basis. So, in general, select a reasonably sized hard bottomed holdall for the flights and transfers, which will be checked in luggage, and to be honest there are some great bits of kit available in the UK, particularly from the carp fishing suppliers (£45-£80). This will carry all your rods, reels, tackle, clothing, and welfare stuff!! Just remember, it's a balance, you have a weight consideration, so whatever your luggage choice, try to keep it as lightweight as possible (See Fig 3 & 4). Then, there will be your 'hand luggage', and in this you will have your technology and travel essentials i.e. money, travel documents etc. Once on location, this can then be used for your tackle boxes and general boat essentials. Now, I'm not promoting a brand, but for me in the UK, Savage Gear has some great kit (See Fig 5 & 6).



Figure 3.



Figure 4.



Figure 5.



Figure 6.

Clothing & Footwear

Just a last note. Don't bring masses of clothes, travel light, every trip will have daily laundry, so your travel clothes can also be your fishing clothes. As for footwear, Croc's are great, personally I don't get on with them, but there are some great fast draining, quick drying shoes out there from Fox, Savage Gear and Ridgemonkey, choose well and make sure they are comfy!!



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MORE TOP TIPS COMING