



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 principally for those travelling from the UK, although some transference may be applicable to travellers from other parts of the world. As always, final selection will be influenced by your luggage/weight allowance.

Contact us at: [info@amazon-connect.co.uk](mailto: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.

### TRAVELLING & YOUR JOURNEY



Firstly, if the destination is new to you take some time to learn a little about the country, it's people, culture, and geography. Also, whilst not vital it is worthwhile considering the local language and learning a few key words and phrases can be helpful, particularly with the local guides and camp staff who may not be fluent in English. A classic example is in Colombia where some basic knowledge of Spanish is useful. There are some great travel guides available, which generally provide all you need to know as well as information on any local sights and/or landmarks worth visiting if you have some spare time either side of your fishing.

#### Luggage

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.



Fig 1.



Fig 2.



Fig 3.



Fig 4.



Fig 5.

There are two important bits of luggage. a) what you need to get your gear into the jungle, and b) your daily boat bag. 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). 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 as your 'boat bag' 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 4 & 5) for on the boat.



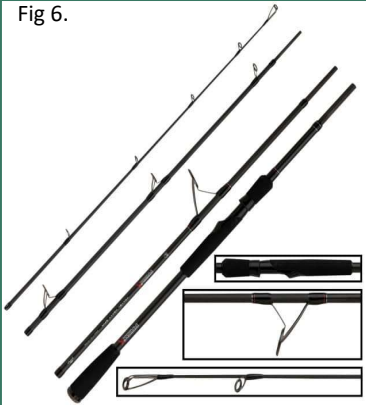
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## Rods & Reels

Fig 6.



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 6,7 & 8 provide examples of boat rods and lure rods, broken down to 60cm sections. Fig 9 is an example of 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.



Fig 9.

## Terminal Tackle

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

Along with your rods and reels, having the right terminal tackle for the location/species etc is vital and needs to cover all the scenario's you are likely to encounter on your trip. But it's also imperative that you pack these carefully so as not to sustain any damage in transit. Make sure you bring what you need, and in the right quantities. Also think about maintenance of terminal tackle as well, i.e., replacement hooks, split rings, line, leaders, traces etc. For me, using good quality tackle boxes allows for easy and safe packing within your checked in luggage and providing you have the right sized boxes, can be transferred directly to your daily 'boat bag'. Fig 10 is from Savage Gear, but there are plenty of other options.



Fig 10.

## Tackle Care & Repair

Despite every effort, you may experience some form of rod damage whilst out on the boats, we see it most trips, and usually it is with the tip section or end-eye, so the ability to perform an 'on location' repair, ensures that you can keep the rod usable. A simple gas lighter will allow the glue to be melted for removal of the end eye on the broken section, but also 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...

Fig 11.





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## HEALTH & WELFARE



Some great ideas here, as well as some essentials. Fig 12. **Talcum Powder**, the jungle is hot, you sweat, and for some, this causes problems with chaffing. A good application of talcum after showering provides added comfort. Fig 13. **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!!! Fig 14. **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. Fig 15. **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, Fig 16.- **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 travel bottles are perfect. Inexpensive and available from most of the large supermarkets.



Keep all your toiletries together with a simple soap bag. The one in Fig 17. is from 'Lifesystems' and is ideal, with a built-in hanger and mirror. Also, what about first aid? Well, all camps are fully equipped to cater for most minor injuries, and the guides are well practised with hook removal, cuts, and grazes etc, but it is useful to have your own kit. Again 'Lifesystems' offer a comprehensive range from the basic, up to full blown adventurer Fig 18. / explorer.

Important, don't forget to pack enough of any prescribed medications you will need throughout your trip

## FOOTWEAR

Really important to get this right. For general travelling, a good pair of comfortable trekking shoes i.e., Merrell - Fig 19. or similar. For camp and fishing, your footwear needs to be light, free draining and fast drying. Again, they need to be comfortable and have a good grip as some of the rocks can be slippery. They also need to be secure, if not, and you are in silt or mud, you will potentially lose one or both!! Great examples below: Fig 20.- Crocs, Fig 21. - Fox Mesh Trainers and Fig 22. - Savage Gear. Purely a personal choice – but choose well!!





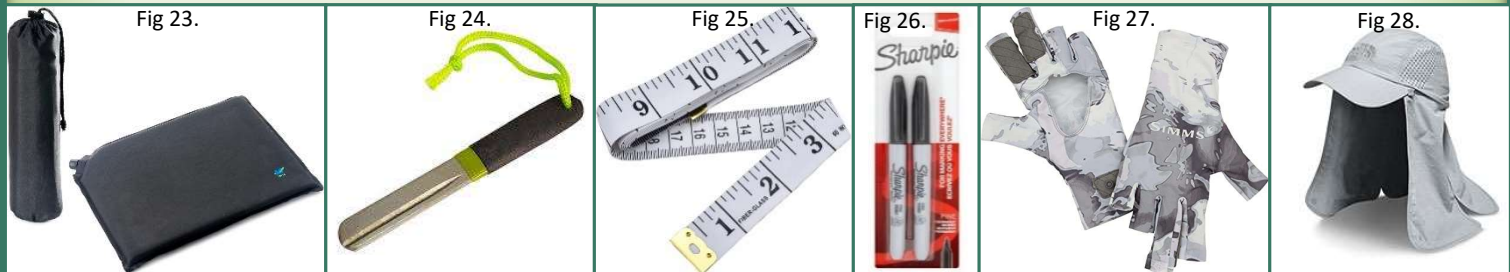
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## OUT ON THE BOAT

Some great tips here. Fig 23. **Self-inflating cushion**, which is inexpensive, lightweight and can make a huge difference on the daily boat journeys. Fig 24. **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. Fig 25. **Fabric tape-measure** will help provide the best in weight estimates for Catfish and Arapaima alike. Fish (measurements in inches), Length x (girth x girth) / 800 = weight in pounds. Fig 26. **Permanent Marker Pens**, these are invaluable for camouflaging trace line, leaders, hooks, leads etc, especially when Piranha are around. Fig 27 & 28. **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....



## A few other considerations

Here are a few other 'handy to have' ideas, which if space allows you might want to think about. Fig 29. **Head net**, many of the lagoons have little air and lots of bugs, these mosquito head nets fit over your headgear and are effective in keeping the bugs off your face and neck. Fig 30. **Portable depth finder**, whilst the guides know where most of the deep catfish holes are, having one of these certainly makes things easier when you are in unknown waters, and often makes the difference in catching or not... Fig 31. **A Predator mat**, great for fish care as well as sizing your catch for the photo opportunity.



## 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 together, 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 scales. **Long-nosed pliers** are fantastic for hook extraction, although other unhooking tools can be used. **Small / medium pliers** 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. All these can be gained easily within the UK except for genuine Boga Grips, they can be harder to source.



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## A word about 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 get one fitted....**

## CAMP LIFE

Some great ideas to improve your trip experience, all lightweight, easy to pack and relatively inexpensive. Fig 32. **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. Fig 33. **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. Fig 34. **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... Fig 35. **Binoculars** - Just a cheap pair of binoculars or a **monocular** 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 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.

Fig 32.



Fig 33.



Fig 34.



Fig 35.



## 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. Other technology to think about are 'Gimbals' which allow improved stabilisation and smartphone control as well as drones, many of which are small, lightweight yet pack incredible 4K video. Just make sure you bring plenty of SD card storage.





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**MORE TOP TIPS COMING**