



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? THEN 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. This is 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.



Pic 1

Firstly, if the destination is new to you, take some time to learn a little about the country, its 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 **Pic 1. 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.



Pic 2



Pic 3



Pic 4



Pic 5



Pic 6

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, **Pics 2 & 3**, 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 **Pic 4**. Then, there will be your 'hand luggage', and in this you will have your technology and travel essentials such as 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, **Pics 4 & 5**, for on the boat, but there are others!

**Important Note:** Always check weight & size limits with the airline ahead of your trip, these can vary significantly, and if your checked in luggage exceeds their criteria, it may need to go as 'oversize', which can be very costly.



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## Rods & Reels.

Pic 7



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. **Pics 7,8 & 9** provide examples of boat rods and lure rods, broken down to 60cm sections. **Pic 10** is an example of a 12cm diameter, extendable (70cm – 100cm) travel tube, which at its 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/briefs 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.

Pic 8



Pic 9



Pic 10



## 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'. **Pic 11** is from Savage Gear, but there are plenty of other options available.



Pic 11

## Tackle Care & Repair.

Pic 12



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, **Pic 12**, 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 lightweight items which can make the difference in being able to fish, or not...

## 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. One word though, if you can afford a set of BogaGrips, **Pic 13**, from Eastaboga Tackle, get some, for the quality and operation.

Pic 13







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Pic 14



Pic 15

You will need a good set of lip-grippers **Pic 14** 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 **Pic 15**. All these can be gained easily within the UK including BogaGrips (See details below)

**Buying BogaGrips:** Manufactured in the USA, these are without doubt the best lip grippers you can buy. In the UK, a set of 30lb with built in scales will cost around £120. These can be found at the official Eastaboga UK Supplier [www.uttings.co.uk](http://www.uttings.co.uk)

## A word about 'Lanyards'.



Pic 16



Pic 17

A significant amount of equipment that you will use on the boats 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...**

**Pics 16 and 17**, provide some great examples of lanyard systems.

## OUT ON THE BOATS

Some great tips here. **Pic 18. Self-inflating cushion**, which is inexpensive, lightweight and can make a huge difference on the daily boat journeys. **Pic 19. 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. **Pic 20. 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. **Pic 21. Permanent Marker Pens**, these are invaluable for camouflaging trace line, leaders, hooks, leads etc, especially when Piranha are around. **Pics 22 & 23. 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....



Pic 18



Pic 19



Pic 20



Pic 21



Pic 22



Pic 23

## Other Considerations.

Here are a couple of other 'handy to have' ideas, which if space allows you might want to think about. **Pic 24. 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... **Pic 25. A Predator mat**, great for fish care as well as sizing your catch for the photo opportunity.



Pic 24



Pic 25



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## HEALTH & WELFARE



Some great ideas here, as well as some essentials. **Pic 26. 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. **Pic 27. 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!!! **Pic 28. 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. **Pic 29. 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... **Pic 30. Clear travel bottles**. Don't go bringing full bottles of shower gel, shampoo etc, you only need enough for the duration of the trip, so these flight friendly bottles are perfect. And finally, don't ever forget **Pic 31. Sunscreen**. just pick the right factor for your skin.



Keep all your toiletries together with a simple soap bag. The one in **Pic 32**. 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/ explorer **Pic 33**.

**Important Note:** Don't forget to pack enough of any prescribed medications you will need throughout your trip.

## Added protection whilst on the boat.



In many still-water locations, air circulation can be minimal, and midges and mosquitos can be highly active. So, help protect your face and neck with these handy and lightweight headnets. **Pic 34 & 35** fit over your existing headwear, whilst **Pic 36** is a wide brimmed hat with net attached. These are widely available in the UK from outdoors stores or directly from: [www.lifesystems.co.uk](http://www.lifesystems.co.uk)

We have some great outdoors stores here in the UK, so whether visiting in person or shopping online, these are a few that we have used:

[www.gooutdoors.co.uk](http://www.gooutdoors.co.uk),  
[www.mountainwarehouse.com](http://www.mountainwarehouse.com)  
[www.cotswoldoutdoor.com](http://www.cotswoldoutdoor.com).



**Weight Reminder:** International flights generally have a 'hold' baggage allowance of between 20Kg and 30Kg, our local flights can have a maximum of 20Kg (hand and hold) and our floatplanes even lower at 15Kg (hand and hold). Check with us well in advance to ensure you are working to the right weights. And remember, you can safely leave items at the hotel before heading out for the fishing, to collect when you return. That often helps...





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## CAMP LIFE

Some great ideas to improve your trip experience, all lightweight, easy to pack and relatively inexpensive. **Fig 37. 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 38. 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. **Pic 39. 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... **Pic 40 & 41. 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.

Pic 37



Pic 38



Pic 39



Pic 40



Pic 41



## RECORDING YOUR 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 **Pic 42. GoPro** type action cameras to help capture the wildlife, landscapes, boat action, casting, hook ups and of course 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, **Pic 43. Head** and **Pic 44. Chest** mounts, as well as the trusty **Pic 45. Selfie stick**. Other technology to think about are **Pic 46. Gimbals** which allow improved stabilisation and smartphone control. If space allows, there are also drones to consider. Many of these provide good battery life, are small, lightweight, and yet still pack an incredible 4K video, ideal for those amazing ariel motion shots. If you are using technology like this, refer to page 3 and our recommendations on the use of lanyards. Also, don't forget to bring plenty of SD / microSD storage, and ensure you have a system in place that prevents overwriting and that keeps them safe.

Pic 42



Pic 43



Pic 44



Pic 45



Pic 46



## USB & Power Requirements



Pic 47

You will certainly want to keep your tech charged, but if there is only one slot available on camp, make sure you have a multiple output USB adapter. Ones like this in **Pic 47**. Provide 4 x outputs, perfect...

## The Power of the Written Word



Pic 48

Capturing your special moments on stills or video is a great way to preserve the memories. But think about keeping a daily written log of your adventure. **Pic 48. 'Rite in the Rain'** notepads like this are ideal and are widely available in the UK.



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## CLOTHING

Clothing needs to be ultra-lightweight and if you are not used to the sun, go for trousers rather than shorts, and long-sleeved shirts rather than short sleeve. Technical shirts are also good, with many being wicking and fast drying. Also look for shirts which are vented. The Craghoppers 'Nosilife' range are particularly good. Travel in one set of clothes, and bring a couple of spare sets, remember that at pretty much all camps, laundry is done daily so there are always fresh clothes to wear.

### For Travelling:

1 x pair of lightweight shoes, socks, underwear, light jacket, 1 x light shirt and long cargo style trousers with pockets for documents, money, passport etc. This outfit can also serve as fishing clothes to save on additional weight, or as above, leave at the hotel for collection when you return.

### For Fishing:

**Pic 49.** 1 x **wide brimmed hat** or fishing cap (think about one with a neck cape), **Pic 50.** 2 x lightweight **tropical/jungle shorts** or if preferred **long trousers** (**Pic 51.** **zip-offs** provide the best of both worlds), **Pics 52 & 53.** 3 x tropical/jungle shirts with pockets (long or short sleeve is your preference), 1 x pair of comfortable boat shoes (see below), **Pics 54 & 55.** 1 x **waterproof jacket** and possibly over trousers), **Pic 56.** 2 x **face/neck buffs** and a couple of pairs of **Pics 57 & 58.** **sunglasses** (in case you break one set). A lot of the choice will be dependent upon how tolerant of the sun you are, remember, you will be out on the boat for 8-10hrs a day, so make sure you have the cover necessary.



Pic 49



Pic 50



Pic 51



Pic 52



Pic 53



Pic 54



Pic 55



Pic 56



Pic 57



Pic 58

Note: Don't skimp on sunglasses, they are your insight into the depths. Go for good quality polarising lenses, strong frames and consider using a neck strap.

## FOOTWEAR

Really important to get this right. For general travelling, a good pair of comfortable trekking shoes i.e., **Pic 59. Merrell**, 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: **Pic 60. Crocs**, **Pic 61. Fox** 'chunk' mesh trainers and **Pics 62 & 63. Savage Gear**. Purely a personal choice – but choose well!!



Pic 59 Pic 60



Pic 61



Pic 62



Pic 63



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