

# Amazonian Encounters: Forests, Rivers, and Spirits

Summer 2022 (Loreto region. Peruvian Amazon)

Montana State University at Billings (Office of International Studies).

Saturday, Sunday, 7/16-17

Arrival in Iquitos, Peruvian Amazon

Evening

Orientation and welcome dinner.

Saturday night in Iquitos.

Sunday 7/17

Morning (Dr. Galeano):

Discussion of materials with students.

Noon visit to urban garden, a food security project directed by Edgar Huacachi.

Learned about their mission teaching sustainable methods of agriculture and waste management to urban and rural communities.

Afternoon (Prof. Quetchenbach):

Capturing first impressions.

Sunday night in Iquitos.

Monday 7/18

Morning

Traveled on the Amazon River to visit the San Rafael community and butterfly garden Morphosapi.

Afternoon

Learned about the history of the community and sustainable projects involving interculturality.

Short visit to the community of Indiana/Mazán on the Napo River.

Monday night in San Rafael

Tuesday, 7/19.

Morning

Visited the San Rafael Forest.

Learned about the use of trees, palm and medicinal plants.

Afternoon

Returned to Iquitos.

Tuesday night in Iquitos.

Wednesday 7/20

Morning (Prof. Galeano)

Showing/Discussion of *Folktales of the Amazon* and of the films *The Trees Have a Mother* and *El Rio/The River*.

Afternoon

Planted native trees on the streets of Iquitos with local environmental activists. Visited Iquitos history museum.

Wednesday night in Iquitos.

Thursday, 7/21

Morning

Lecture on the tradition of the Humisha tree by Martin Reategui (Historian and writer).

Learned about the complex history of celebrations of the Humisha with its European and Indigenous roots.

Afternoon (Prof. Quetchenbach)

Exercise on observation and poetic expression, with Spanish/English translation option.

Thursday night in Iquitos.

Friday, 7/22

Morning

Trip to Nauta. Talked with Leonardo Tello about the educational role of Radio Ukamara for the Kukama Kukamiria riverine Indigenous communities (Due to positive Covid test, some participants stayed in Iquitos).

Learned about Kukama Kukamiria Indigenous cosmologies depicted in their murals in the Radio Ukamara facilities in Nauta, Marañón River.

Afternoon

Trip to the Irapay Center at the Allpahuayo Mishana National Reserve.

Learned about the varillal forests and endemic animal species in the Reserve.

Saturday 7/23

Morning

Visited the facilities of FORMABIAP (University of Indigenous Nations in the Peruvian Amazon) at the Zungarococha Lake near Iquitos.

Conversation with the founder of FORMABIAP, Professor Dubner Medina.

Learned about the key role this institution plays in the cultural continuity of Indigenous cultures of Amazonia.

Evening

Lecture by Dr. Corinne Fournier (University of Bern): "Ecocide and Ethnocide in Brazilian Amazonian Literature."

Learned about ecocriticism in literature as it pertains to the Amazon.

Saturday night in Iquitos.

Sunday, 7/ 24

Visited the Quistococha zoo and lake, with murals depicting supernatural beings of the Peruvian Amazon.

Learned about animals and plants that live in the basin.

Sunday night in Iquitos.

Monday, 7/25

Morning

Visited Belen market. Learned about the use of medicinal plants by the general population in Loreto.

Afternoon

Short trip on the Nanay river to visit the community of Padrecocha.

Traveled by foot to the outskirts of Padrecocha to the Chakra Amazonica.

Monday Night at the Chakra Amazonica.

Tuesday, 7/26

Morning

Learned about the medicinal tree, Sangre de grado, and other medicinal plants, and participated in tree planting at Chakra Amazonica.

Visited Kukama Kukamiria families in the Indigenous community of Padrecocha to learn about

the process of making pottery, as well as other artisanal practices such as jewelry making.

Returned to Iquitos.

Afternoon

Visited the Ayapua, a rubber-boom vessel restored as a museum, at the Itaya River.

Learned about the rubber-boom era and its effects on Amazonian peoples and environment.

Evening

Lecture/discussion on “El buen vivir” (Good living) by Shawi Nation philosopher Rafael Chanchari.

Tuesday night in Iquitos.

Wednesday, 7/27

Morning

Traveled on the Nanay river to visit Allpahuayo-Mishana National Reserve.

Learned about sustainable practices in peasant communities within the Reserve.

Evening

Night Boat excursion at the Yarana Research Station.

Wednesday Night at the Yarana Station in the Allpahuayo-Mishana National Reserve.

Thursday, 7/28

Morning

Poster discussion on Amazonian animal and plant species at the Allpahuayo-Mishana National Reserve by Herman Ruiz-Abecasis, reserve director.

Traveled on the Nanay river to observe sustainable practices in communities inside the Reserve.

Afternoon

Visited the Porvenir community to learn about palm trees and their harvesting techniques.

Thursday night at Porvenir.

Friday, 7/29

Morning

Returned to Iquitos navigating the Nanay River.

Afternoon

Trip to the Shawi Nation Indigenous community, Nuevo Chacatán, located near Nauta.

Evening

Attended an Ayahuasca Ceremony hosted by philosopher and herbalist Rafael Chanchari. Chanchari modified the ceremony to interpret the practice for program students and professors, who attended the ceremony as observers. Participation in the ceremony was limited to several Shawi community members).

Friday night at Nuevo Chacatán.

Saturday 7/30.

Returned to Iquitos and to USA