



## Heath River Wildlife Center

Located just over the Bolivian border from the Tambopata Reserve, the superb Heath River Wildlife Center offers you something a little different to your normal jungle lodge... As well as an almost unbeatable jungle experience, you also get easy access to a totally different lowland savannah eco-system of the Pampas del Heath, with a whole new variety of fantastic wildlife and scenery.

The feeling as you walk along the trails and the dense primary rainforest melts away around you, leaving with the wide-open vistas of the Pampas is astonishing and something you have to experience for yourself.

The Center is the only lodge in the area and little has changed on the Heath River since it was first explored by Europeans back in the 1880s, meaning that you benefit from the wildlife's relative isolation from development and humanity: you can't guarantee the natural world but you will generally see a far greater array of wildlife at the Heath River Wildlife Center than in any of the Tambopata Reserve's other lodges. All this and real comfort, with private cabins each with private facilities and hot showers, means the Heath River is one of our favourite lodges.



### Day One - Into the jungle

This morning we will pick you up and take you to the airport to catch a flight down into the jungle, to Puerto Maldonado. After boarding motorized canoes, we travel downriver to the mighty Madre de Dios, which we follow for approximately four hours to the Heath River.

We then travel up this wild and intimate river, which forms the wilderness border between Peru and Bolivia, and arrive at the Heath River Wildlife Centre. You even get a bonus country in your passport as the Lodge is located on the Bolivian side of the Heath River so passports are required to clear Bolivian passport control!



### Day Two - Parrots and Macaws

We rise early in the morning to board a motorized canoe for the 10-minute journey up the Heath River to the macaw and parrot clay lick. Brightly-coloured parrots and macaws fly in by the hundreds to feed on the clay that detoxifies certain seeds and nuts they eat. We can marvel at the cacophony of sound and colour as Red-and-green macaws vie for the best clay-eating position. A specially-designed floating blind allows for proximity and complete concealment - so you can even have breakfast and coffee while the birds enjoy theirs!

When we return to the lodge, the guide leads us on an ethno-botanical walk through the forest, pointing out flora used in the daily lives of rainforest people. The guide explains how certain plants are used for medicinal or healing purposes, which ones can be made into the best bows and arrows, and how to select trees and leaves for home construction. After lunch and a short rest, we hike through the rainforest to the Pampas del Heath, the largest remaining undisturbed savannah in the Amazon. The contrast is striking as we emerge from the mature rainforest onto the grassland plain of the Pampas.



### Day Three - Heath River Wildlife Center

We breakfast in the floating blind at the macaw and parrot clay lick for a last look at this extraordinary spectacle before we return to the lodge to explore some trails. After lunch we could visit the Ese'Eja native community of Sonene, where there will be an opportunity to interact with the community and purchase local handicrafts or explore the trails. After dinner we will then explore the forest by flashlight, including a visit to a small mammal clay lick if it is active.



### Day Four - Last Day in the Jungle

Early morning departure to Puerto Maldonado. During the river trip back downstream, families of Capybaras are often spotted on the banks of the river. Weighing up to 120 pounds (55kg), this giant, three-toed relative of the guinea pig is the largest rodent in the world. On arrival in Puerto Maldonado we will take you to the airport for a flight back out of the jungle.

