

Tsimane Pluma Lodge

Bolivia Golden Dorado



Mad River Outfitters

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Overview

Thanks for signing up for Mad River Outfitters excursion to the Tsimane Pluma Lodge in Bolivia. We are looking forward to sharing this extraordinary fishing adventure with you. Following is important information on the trip including an equipment listing.

If you have any further questions please don't hesitate to contact Pat Kelly at the shop. Also, if you haven't already, a 50% deposit is required to hold your spot and the full balance is due no later than 60 days prior to the trip.

What's Included

The Pluma Lodge fishing experience is a perfect mix between the small crystal clear streams and the lower sections with plenty of big Golden Dorado.

Included: Meals & Beverages, lodging and guided fishing for Golden Dorado.

Not included: International airfare, Santa Cruz Hotel meals, trip insurance, visas and airport taxes, vaccines and guide and staff tips.

About The Host

Pat Kelly is a seasoned and studied fly fishing guide, who has honed his prowess in the sport over a lifetime practice and

education. He also hosts our early trip to Brazil fly fishing for huge peacock bass.

Trip Itinerary

Day 0 - Arrival at Santa Cruz de la Sierra and take ground transportation from International Viru Viru Airport and overnight at a 5 Star Hotel.

Day 1 - Begin with Breakfast at the hotel and charter flight to Oromomo Village, from there you will take river transportation to Pluma Lodge.

Days 2 - 7 - Are full fishing days. Fishing is during the dry season, a period in which the most astonishing migration of Sabalos and Dorados in South America takes place. These fish arrive by millions every year seeking to spot the breeding places where they spawn, from December to January. In addition to Dorados, large Pacus and Yatoranas can be caught, and also occasionally striped Surubis and a rare variety of Dorado endemic to the Amazon basin. In order to provide a high-level program in such a remote and geographically complex area we have designed a fishing program for our guests to get the most out of their Tsimane experience.

Day 8 - You will take river transportation to your charter flight which will return you to Santa Cruz de la Sierra, there you will spend your last night at a 5 Star Hotel.

Day 9 - Ground transportation to international Viru Viru Airport and a return flight home.

What to Expect

Based out of the comforts of the main Pluma Lodge and the chance of doing headwaters out-camps, anglers have access to three different rivers, each unique in its own right: The Pluma River, Itirizama River and the Lower Secure River.

This broad variety of waters and pools allow groups to fish fresh water every day and rarely, if ever, repeat the same fishing beat. The water types vary from deep pools to rugged terraced pocketed water.

Lodging - The Main Pluma Lodge house features double rooms with private bathrooms, spring box beds, hot water and electricity, free wi-fi and laundry. It's the perfect jungle lodge feel.

Meals - All meals are included and feature international cuisine paired with great Argentinean / Chilean / Bolivia varietals in a well-fasioned living and dining room.

Alcoholic Beverages - The lodge features an all inclusive bar with spirits, beer and other beverages.

Tipping - Tipping your guides is always appropriate and appreciated. Cash at the end of each day to the guide is the ideal way to handle this. The amount of tip is at your discretion and reflects your appreciation of the work of the guide. We are often asked how much to tip....Suggested standard tip is \$40-\$50 per angler per day. Of course, the sky is the limit for an exceptional guide!

Gear and Equipment

Rods - 7wt, 8wt and 9wt are the most recommended rods. 8wt is standard for Tsimane but a 9wt may be necessary in certain occasions, especially in the lower Sécure River, where it's frequent to catch large Dorados in very strong currents. It is also advised to carry a 6wt or 6wt rod to attempt at dry-fishing Yatoranas in small streams and nearby tributaries. It is best to carry two fully assembled rods on the boat, one with a streamer for Dorados and the other with a popper in case a hunt takes place. Another valid option is to carry one with a streamer and the other with a fruit imitation or shorter streamer to lure the Pacu.

Reels - Just as for rods, reels designed for salt water are the best alternative. Both very resistant and smooth brakes, and large arbor rods are key to the reel you need in Tsimane. A Dorado or a large Pacu can make you quickly reach backing; therefore you will need a high quality reel to accomplish the capture. The weight of the reel is also important given that you will be casting repeatedly all through the day — bring a light, well-balanced one along with your rod if possible.

Fly Lines - Most of the fishing is done near the surface. Thus, weight forward floating lines for tropical waters are the most recommended. It is very important for the lines to exceed the rod for at least one number. An 8wt rod should be charged with a 9wt line, due to the size of the flies we must cast and in order to avoid that you get too tired during casting or that casting itself becomes an unpleasant experience. On the other hand, in hunting situations or when a Pacu passes us by in shallow waters we need a line able to cast a heavy fly in one attempt. Floating lines with heavy shooting heads are the most adequate. In other situations you can also use an intermediate clear tip line or even a sinking line, therefore it is convenient to carry at least one of each type.

Leader/Tippet - It is necessary to carry at least one 40lb fluorocarbon wheel plus a couple of 20lb and 30lb additional. Although most of the time you will be fishing with a 40lb leader, you might need to use lighter gear in the clearest waters or when seeking smaller species like Yatorana. Guides normally use 6 to feet long leaders (including steel wire). This allows a good presentation with large flies without frightening the fish away. Our guides can help you assemble your leader for every fishing scenario. The leader must end with a steel wire tippet or a wire of 40lb and 40cm of length, suitable for knotting. The color of the wire must be camo, since fish can easily spot it and get frightened.

3 basic knots are necessary to fish in Tsimane: a perfection loop between the line and the leader, an albright between the leader and the wire or steel wire, and a perfection loop between the wire and the fly. Our guides will either make these knots for you or teach you how to tie them yourself. Visit our youtube channel, www.youtube.com/madriveroutfitters for a tutorial on how to tie each knot.

Flies - Guides mainly use imitations of fish, large insects, fruits, as well as popper, sliders and divers. Black-colored streamers or deceivers with red, yellow, orange, green or violet tails are the most frequently chosen. The strength of the fish in Tsimane requires high-quality salt-water hooks. Puglisi streamers are efficient in medium and large sizes, and Lefty Deceivers among others. Flies with excess flashabou are not recommended. Foam poppers, Sliders, mice and Dahlberg Divers are excellent options to lure the Dorado on surface. Flies like Chernobyl Ant and other large imitations of ground insects are great for Pacus and Yatoranas.

Recommended Gear List

Accessories

- Polarized sunglasses
- Nippers for cutting monofilament
- Saltwater capable pliers
- Fly line dressing
- Needlenose pliers/forceps
- A small day pack (waterproof) for storing tackle
- Camera

Clothing

- Long, thin pants (Breathable)
- Long-Sleeved Shirts (Fast drying, light and water wicking)
- Layering Pieces
- Good rain jacket / poncho
- Fishing hat (Extended front visor for protection on the face, neck and ears)
- Comfortable shoes / runners
- Buff or similar sun protection

Miscellaneous

- Insect Repellent
- Sunscreen
- Medication
- All personal hygiene items
- Flashlight (Headlamp)

Expected Weather

Even when it is winter here the weather can be considerably hot. During the day, temperatures can range from 20° Celsius (68°F) to 35° Celsius (95°F). Typically our weather is not as hot and humid as the Brazilian Amazon since we are located at a much higher altitude. This also means we can experience cool nights and mornings and a fleece jacket might be needed.

The mountain country of Tsimane occasionally experiences short, strong rainsqualls, often with a south wind and a quick drop in temperature. Considering that you will be wet wading 99% of the time, anglers should carry a dry bag (pack) with a light insulated shirt, fleece and light Gore-Tex rain jacket and pants. Always bring these items with you on your daily fishing sortie.

Travel Documents

A valid passport is mandatory for entry into Bolivia. Your passport must be valid for at least six months. For United States and some others visa is mandatory. Bolivian visa is an easy procedure and we'll provide you everything you need to do it. U.S. citizens seeking to enter Bolivia as a tourist must have an entry visa. Bolivian Tourist visas can be applied at Bolivian Consulates on the U.S. or upon arrival at the Viru Viru International Airport, being this option the most comfortable and fastest. The cost of the tourist visa is USD160 paid in cash and stays for 10 years.

Tourist applying for their visa upon arrival to Bolivia must pay this fee in cash (new bills, no tears, no marks - fresh, clean bills) to immigration authorities. In addition to the visa fee, the applicant must present a passport with a validity of not less than 6 months, a Tsimane Confirmation and a Hotel Reservation provided by us.

Baggage

Please restrain bringing unnecessary weight to the jungle lodges. Luggage weight Limit is 25 kilos (~55lbs). We use small planes for transfers and we are really strict in all safety measures and baggage weight limits are strictly adhered to. You will be able to leave items not needed at the hotel in Santa Cruz de la Sierra as you are returning to that hotel at the end of the week.

Health and Vaccines

Please see the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's website for the most up-to-date list of required vaccines for traveling to Bolivia. We highly recommend that you visit your primary care physician before traveling out of the country.

CDC Website: <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/traveler/none/bolivia>

Contact Us

Feel free to give us a call at (614) 451-0363 should you have any questions regarding the trip or gear list. Our team is more than happy to help you with any questions you may have.

Deposit Information

Pay deposits or balance online by visiting our "Fly Fishing Trips" page on the "Services" tab of our website. Full trip balance is due no later than 60 days prior to the trip.