



Peacock Bass/Amazon Trip January 17th-24th, 2026

Thanks for signing up for the Mad River Outfitters Peacock Bass Trip to the Brazilian Amazon. We honored that you chose us to help with your fishing travel plans. Your host Ryan Ratliff is looking forward to sharing this amazing experience with you all.

Following is some important information on the trip including flight information and an equipment listing. If you have any further questions please don't hesitate to contact us. Call Brian Flechsig, Ryan Ratliff or Pat Kelly at the shop! 614-451-0363

Also, if you haven't already, a *50% deposit is required* to hold your spot and the full balance is due no later than October 17th 2025.

Itinerary-

We plan on arriving in Manaus, Brazil on Thursday, January 15th (actually early morning on the 16th). The flight is through Miami and usually doesn't arrive until after midnight so it is best to have a day between just in case. In Manaus, a representative from River Plate Outfitters will meet us. They will transport us to the Hotel Suite where we will stay/sleep Thursday night and Friday until an early morning charter into the Jungle on Saturday. We arrive at the camp via floatplane/boat on Saturday, January 17th, get situated, and begin fishing! We will fish every day through Friday, January 23rd. On Saturday the 24th, you will fly back to Manaus and connect to your flight home. Best to get a late night flight (early a.m. Sunday) or even a late Sunday night flight if needed. We can arrange the extra night in the hotel if needed. A day room will be provided on Saturday for the delay between arrival back to Manaus and your departing flight if late Saturday night/early Sunday morning.

Please note that the overnight stay at the Hotel on Friday night is part of the package and includes breakfast on Saturday if there's time. Additional food and beverages in Manaus are not included nor is the hotel on Thursday night or Saturday night if needed on the way out. The arrangements will be made in advance but you will have to pay for the Thursday night stay upon arrival.

Also included in the trip, are all necessary ground transfers in Brazil, flights in and out on the Cessna Caravan turbo prop plane, guided fishing from shallow drafting bass boats (two anglers per boat), and fishing licenses. Quality bait/spin casting rods are available for rent(must make arrangements ahead of time). All meals at the fishing destination, including wine, beer and hard liquor are included, as is daily laundry service. *Not included* in the trip is international air fare, voluntary tips to camp staff, guides and hotel personnel in Manaus, luggage overweight charges (see flight info below), food and beverage in Manaus, airport departure tax, satellite phone calls (approximately \$5.00/minute).

Flight Information-

It is recommended that you DO NOT make any flight reservations until just a few months prior to the trip, as itineraries are constantly changing these days. We have mostly been flying through Panama using Copa Airlines. Miami to Panama City, Panama City to Manaus and the same upon return

We will be working on “best scenarios” here on our end and we will keep you updated with information as we get it. Once we see a good option or two, we will let you know. It will be helpful and best case if we are all on the same arrival and departure flights.

Just be aware....best case:

Leave the US on Thursday, January 15th for an early morning (2 a.m.) arrival into Manaus on January 16th

Depart late night Saturday/early morning of Sunday, January 25th

*** For the float plane- please note that there is a 30 lbs per person limit divided as follows: One piece as carry-on up to 12lbs plus the additional lbs as check-in luggage. Pack in soft duffel bags. The actual split is flexible, but large single bags won't work. Gear needs to be packed into pontoons and other small spaces on the Cessna. Keep in mind that there is daily laundry service and this should be viewed as a “Tropical Trip”.... you don't need much.**

****Please note that if you want to have some “street clothes” for Manaus, these can be left in a lock-box at the hotel while we are in the jungle. We will be taken back to the same hotel, if even for the day, as the one we stay at Friday/Saturday night so you can pick up anything left behind for the week.**

****Once you have your travel plans made, please forward them to Mad River Outfitters so that we can keep track of when everyone is arriving/departing!!!**

Brazilian Visa Information-

The application process is completely online, on the website <https://brazil.vfsevisa.com/>. You will be asked to submit the following:

- Passport (signed, valid up to end of Brazil trip, 2 visa pages free).
- Visa application form (completed online).
- Passport-style photo (2” x 2”, white background).
- E-visa fee payment (US\$ 80.90).
- Confirmation of flight reservation (showing entrance into and exit from Brazil).
- Printed bank statement showing transactions for the last 30 days and showing at least US\$ 2,000.00 for travel.

The expected processing time is 5 business days. Once you have been approved, we suggest you print your visa (you should receive it on the email address you used on your application), as well as keep a screenshot or pdf file on your phone.

You can check the Information and FAQ sections on <https://brazil.vfsevisa.com/> for more information.

Recommended Tackle List-General

Rods- Bring *at least* 2 rods.... the Bass in the Amazon are famous for breaking rods and fly shops are hard to find in the jungle.

Suggested is a 8 wt. for smaller fish and flies, 9-10wt for larger fish (peacocks) and deep-water fishing. 4-piece rods are more convenient for traveling.

For spinning or casting rods we highly recommend the Temple Fork Outfitters 3 piece rods and you want to go with the Medium/Heavy or X/Heavy models. These are of course available through Mad River Outfitters.

Reels- Should be anodized, corrosion-resistant saltwater models, with a high quality drag, that will hold a fly line and 100yds of 30# backing.

Large and strong Spinning reels and Bait Casting reels are required for this style of fishing

Fly Lines- Weight-forward tropical, floating, intermediate and a sinking-head lines are necessary. The floating lines should also have an aggressive taper line like the SA Titan Taper, Rio Warmwater Predator (top pick) or a Rio Outbound. A sinking-tip line like the Rio Warmwater Predator or SA Titan Sink Tip is perfect and one or the other is basically mandatory!

Leader/Tippet- Stout tapered leaders of 7-9 feet are recommended for lighter rods. Short simple leaders in the 40-50lb range are best for big poppers and sinking lines on the heavy rods. Bring spools of 50, 40, 30 and Maxima Clear! The Rio Heavy Shock Tippet also works well and we have been using it a lot. We will be happy to help with leader construction, but having all of the above will cover you for all situations, floating and sinking lines. If you prefer or would like to have some packaged leaders, the RIO 16# Bass Leaders will be fine for the small stuff! Wire shock tippet is not a bad idea to have along for certain species. Fluorocarbon is not necessary as Peacocks are not leader shy but may be used for increased abrasion resistance.

Flies- Check out the recommended patterns in our Peacock Bass fly category at:

www.madriveroutfitters.com

Pike Snake-

Blanton's Whistler- 3/0- red/yellow

Peacock Reducer

Lefty's Big Fish Deceiver- 3/0- gray/white, chartreuse/white

Lefty's Shark/Cuda Fly- 3/0- red/yellow, chartreuse/white

Puck's Not So Baby Peacock- 3/0

Figure 8- 5/0- white/chartreuse, perch, black/red, white/pink

Enrico's Rattling Amazon Special

Enrico's Rattling Baby Peacock

Ehler's Gator Done

TK's Dr. Davis Deceiver

Saltwater Poppers- any color works

Pole Dancers- large size (top pick for surface)

Plugs and Lures-

If you plan on using the spin/bait casting equipment provided by the lodge, you will need to bring lures and terminal tackle. **Let us know if you need the rental outfits. We need to reserve those for you in advance.**

Here are their recommendations on the lures that you should bring-

Topwater Plugs: Big Game Woodchoppers, Pavon Props, Amazon Rippers, Zara Spooks and big chuggers

Other plugs: Yo-Zuri Crystal Minnows, Rapala Glidin' Raps, Redfins, Live Target Jointed Swim Baits

Also have some large spoons and lots of Bucktail Jigs fro 1/4- 3/4 ounce (Jungle Jigs)

*We can also help with recommendations for casting rods and reels and can order certain items above for you. Just ask Pat

**We are of course available to consult with you personally on your gear and tackle selections. Don't hesitate to let us know if you need help!

Other Accessories-

- Polarized sunglasses, two pair
- Sunglass cleaning cloth (critical if you want to see)
- Nippers for cutting monofilament AND a nail knot tool
- Hook sharpener
- Fly line dressing
- Needle-nosed pliers/forceps
- Waterproof boat bag for storing tackle, camera, clothing etc.
- Stripping Gloves, Finger Guards, Sungloves are critical. You **will** wear your hands out without them

Clothing-

- Long sleeved shirts, long and short pants, in lightweight cotton or supplex
- Lightweight rain gear for the occasional shower and morning/evening boat runs
- Lightweight fleece or equivalent jacket for cool mornings and evenings
- Fishing hat with a long front visor or big rim for sun protection on face, neck and ears
- Rubber soled shoes or sandals for the boat
- Laundry service offered each day so no need to overpack fishing clothing!

Miscellaneous-

- Camera and accessories
- Insect repellent- with DEET (needed while in the city)
- Mosquito head net (just in case)
- Sunscreen, waterproof with an SPF of at least 30 and lip balm of the same
- Any medications you may require, also to include Pepto Bismol
- Neosporin ointment, Band-Aids, Medical Tape all will help for minor scrapes and cuts
- Personal items
- Flashlight
- Travel alarm clock
- Power converter/adapter

The latest information on required shots and medications can be found at the Center for Disease Control website: <http://wwwn.cdc.gov/travel/destinationBrazil.aspx>

Consult with your personal physician to determine your plan of action on medical and vaccination issues.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to give us a call. Final payments are due by October 17th...get us your travel itinerary as soon as you book your flights...and that should do it. We will be in touch prior to the trip, but other than that.... you should be all set.

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