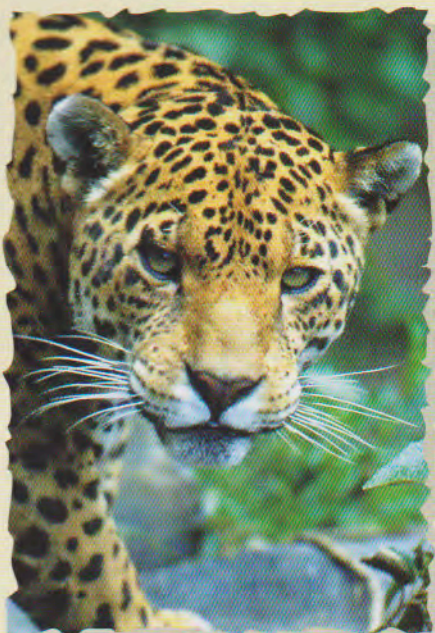


PAMPAQUITA

A Natural High

Guided Tours
of the
MANU
Biosphere Reserve





Pantiacolla... Conservation in Action

The past 100 years have seen the Earth's rainforests reduced to nearly half of their previous size, a startling precedent as we step into the 21st century. If the Amazon continues losing an estimated five square kilometers each hour as it does now, it will no longer exist within the next 140 years. This also means that the world's largest remaining area of protected tropical rainforest, Manu National Park and its surrounding areas may disappear in the coming century.

Out of this pressing reality Pantiacolla was born. Dedicated to sharing with others the richness and importance of the planet's rainforests, Marianne van Vlaardingen, a Dutch biologist specializing in primate research in Manu, and Gustavo Moscoso, a Manu-born conservationist, joined together in 1994 to found Pantiacolla Tours, an eco-tourism company with expertise in Manu like no other.



Ecological Tours... Into Manu's Reserved Zone

Your journey begins in the ancient Inca capital of Cusco, Peru, with a spectacular bus ride over the Andes Mountains. The scenery changes dramatically as we pass through three ecosystems: high altitude puna, elfin forest, and montane cloud forest. We spend our first night in the enchanting cloud forest.

At dawn, we descend into the dense tropical lowland rainforest where motorized canoes wait for us at the banks of the Alto Madre de Dios River. Navigating white water, we arrive at the mouth of the slumbering Manu River and enter Manu's Reserved Zone. This area boasts one of the highest bio-diversities in the world and extraordinary opportunities to see wildlife-turtles, capybara, monkeys, and other large mammals that have been over-hunted elsewhere.

In the Reserved Zone, you visit Manu's most beautiful lake, Cocha Salvador, home to hundreds of bird species, giant otter, and the rare black caiman. Trails also take us through virgin rainforest to the 20-meter-high observation tower at Lake Otorongo and on exciting night excursions.

The return flight to Cusco by light aircraft gives a spectacular bird's-eye-view of dense rainforest and dry Andean slopes below (5-day ecological trip). Adding two days to the trip, you can watch hundreds of parakeets, parrots, and macaws gather in a vibrant rush of color, flight, and sound at a river bank clay lick. After this, you can take the return flight to Cusco (7-day ecological trip), or treat yourself to two nights in the Andean foothills at the beautiful Pantiacolla Lodge. Having bathed in the area hot springs and explored Pantiacolla's mountainous trail system, you return to Cusco by boat and bus (9-day ecological trip).

"The ecological tours combine overnights in rustic lodges and camping huts".





Foto: Pantiacolla



Foto: Pantiacolla



Pantiacolla Lodge... Where the Andes and the Amazon Meet

Pantiacolla Lodge is set in a unique and enigmatic part of Manu's rainforest on the banks of the turbulent Alto Madre de Dios River, in the Andean foothills. Behind the lodge, the Pantiacolla Mountains rise up to 1000m and are a contributing factor to the extreme variety of wildlife that inhabits the area.

The 900 hectares of mountainous rainforest surrounding the lodge offer the enthusiastic explorer miles of gridDED trails, traversing a variety of habitats and leading to hot, cold, and mineral oil springs. The forest supports eight species of monkey, including a healthy population of Manu's least known and most elusive primate, the monk saki monkey. Coati, deer, peccary, and even tapir are frequent sightings, and the area boasts almost 600 recorded bird species. A short early morning boat trip to a clay lick brings visitors up-close to colorful rainforest macaws and parakeets.

"Accommodations at the lodge are provided in tropical bungalows with double or triple rooms. The maximum capacity is 28 persons. Paths lead from the bungalows to showers and flush toilets, and to a spacious and comfortable dining area and bar. Pantiacolla Lodge is included in the 9-day ecological trip, and can also be visited independently".

PANTIACOLLA

www.pantiacolla.com

Manu... A Perspective

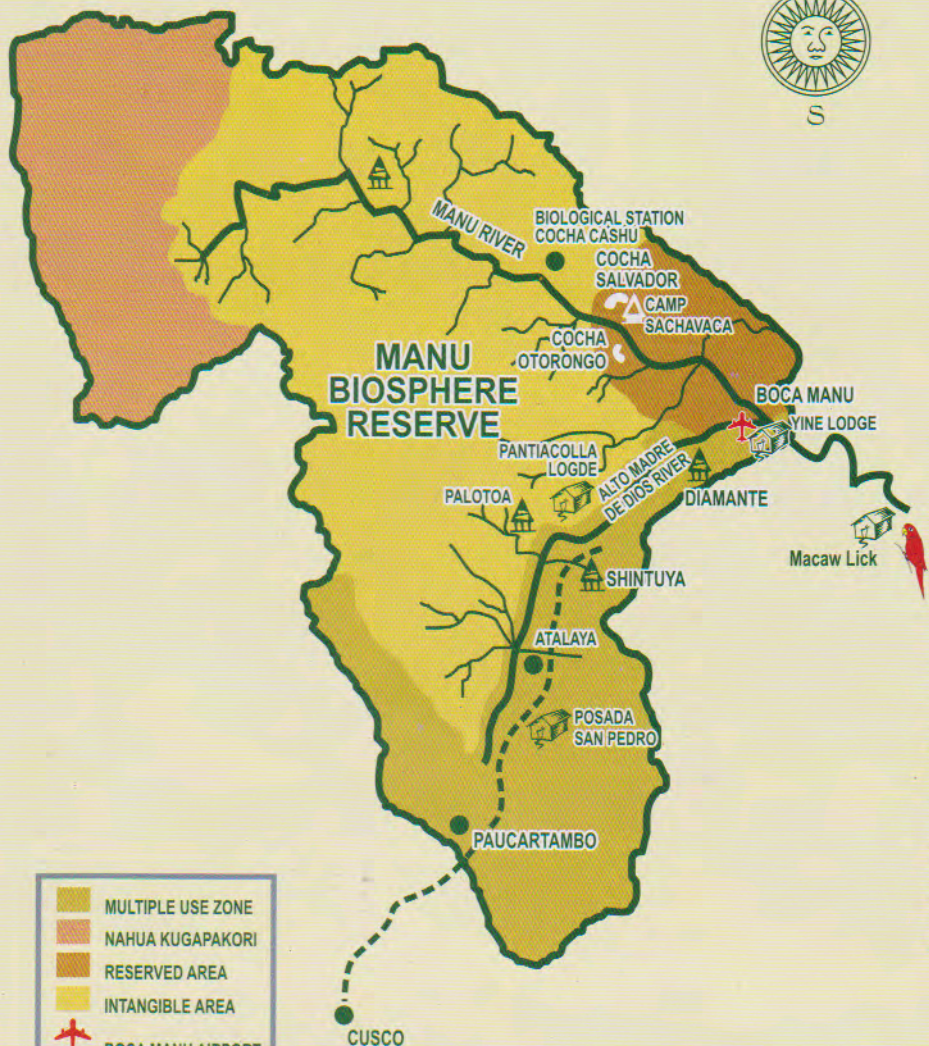
Manu National Park was established in 1977 and in recognition of its uniqueness was designated a "World Heritage Site" ten years later. Manu is internationally acclaimed as one of the most bio-diverse areas on Earth.

Approximately half the size of Switzerland, the Manu Biosphere is a complete ecosystem with Andean montane cloud forest, tropical lowland forest, and the Alto Madre de Dios and Manu River drainage systems. It is home to more than 1000 different kinds of bird, over 15,000 plants, an untold number of insect species, and more than 200 mammals. And deep within its forested heart, uncontacted tribes continue to live as they have for centuries.

Because of Manu's low human population and its continued use of traditional hunting techniques, the animals in the park show little fear of man and are less elusive than in most of the world's rainforests. Animal-watching opportunities are unparalleled in Manu; peccary, jaguar, coati, anteater, sloth and 13 species of monkey, thrive here, Earth's "Living Eden."

"People sometimes ask us why we should bother to save the rainforest? At Pantiacolla we know that only those who have been moved by the wonder of this natural treasure can ever know the answer. Education is the key - Pantiacolla has the vision - together we can make the difference"





For more information contact

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