A Word from Aqua Expeditions' Founder
I have long dreamed of taking visitors to the Amazon, the world’s last great unexplored region. When I worked as vice president of marketing and sales for a boutique cruise company in the Galapagos, I realized that the same model would let me offer guests once-in-a-lifetime wilderness experiences in the Amazon. I wanted to give people a chance to see and feel the region up close, without sacrificing creature comforts. Aqua Expeditions launched the M/V Aqua in 2008 and I am delighted to say that it has been an extraordinary success.

Francesco Galli Zugaro, CEO, Aqua Expeditions
Meet the M/V Aria... A Second Luxury Ship to Sail the Amazon

When we introduced our award-winning M/V Aqua two years ago, our goal was to take travelers to places that most people never experience. That idea proved to be a winner. In fact, the 24-passenger M/V Aqua alone cannot satisfy demand. We knew that we had to increase capacity . . . and we are doing just that. We are pleased to announce that in April, 2011, we will launch the new M/V Aria, a second, four-cabins-larger Aqua Expeditions vessel that offers the same level of luxury and takes visitors to the same pristine places.
The suites on the Aqua Expeditions ships are over-sized, air-conditioned, and offer the same level of luxury — and arguably a better level of service — than you would experience in a five-star hotel. The first thing every morning, my husband and I walk to our movie-screen-sized picture window to catch the new view. It is like streaming video. There is always something exciting to see — a snowy egret gliding overhead, a dugout canoe packed with bananas for market, a vast rainbow arcing across the sky. You can look in four different directions and see four different Kodak moments.

Melissa Burdick Harmon
**THE FACTS**

- **Capacity**: 24 passengers
- **Departures**: Saturdays and Tuesdays
- **Itinerary**: Pacaya Samiria Reserve, Iquitos, Peru

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**LUXURY EXPEDITION VESSEL**

- 12 suites: All cabins have twin beds that are convertible to a California king-sized bed
  - 4 Master Suites measuring 240 sq. ft.
  - 8 Suites measuring 230 sq. ft.
- All suites face outside; large panoramic windows
- All air-conditioned with en suite sitting areas
- 4 interconnecting suites for families

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**SOCIAL AREAS**

- Indoor Bar-Lounge
- Dining Room
- Outside Lounge
- Boutique
- Observation Deck

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**TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS**

- Capacity: 24 passengers (additional accommodation for 1 child in each cabin)
- Length: 130 feet / 40 meters
- Beam: 24 feet / 7.30 meters
- Draft: 5 feet / 1.5 meters
- Lifejackets: in all cabins
- Crew: 18
- Guides: 3
- Cruise Director and Paramedic
- Launch boats: 3, each with a capacity of 8-10 passengers, guide, and launch pilot
- Cruising Speed: 10 knots
- Two engines, generators, and hot water plants
- USCG-approved sanitation system with state-of-the-art toilets
- Automated defibrillator, and certified staff, onboard
- Ship Owners P&I Club Protection and Indemnity Certification
THE FACTS

Capacity: 32 passengers
Departures: Fridays and Mondays
Itinerary: Pacaya Samiria Reserve, Iquitos, Peru

LUXURY EXPEDITION VESSEL

- 16 suites: All cabins have twin beds that are convertible to a California king-sized bed
  - 8 Design Suites on first deck measuring 240 sq. ft.
  - 8 Design Suites on second deck measuring 240 sq. ft.
- All suites face outside; large panoramic windows
- All air-conditioned with en suite sitting areas
- 4 interconnecting suites for families

SOCIAL AREAS

- Indoor Bar-Lounge
- Dining Room
- Outside Lounge
- Boutique
- Observation Deck

- Exercise Room
- Outdoor Jacuzzi

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

- Capacity: 32 passengers (additional accommodation for 1 child in each cabin)
- Length: 147 feet / 45 meters
- Beam: 29.5 feet / 9 meters
- Draft: 5 feet / 1.5 meters
- Lifejackets: In all cabins
- Crew: 24
- Guides: 4
- Cruise Director and Paramedic
- Launch boats: 4, each with a capacity of 8-10 passengers, guide, and launch pilot
- Cruising Speed: 10 knots
- Two engines, generators, and hot water plants
- USCG-approved sanitation system with state-of-the-art toilets
- Automated defibrillator, and certified staff, onboard
- Ship Owners P&I Club Protection and Indemnity Certification
Before I visited the Amazon, I thought it would all be the same – dense green jungle with a river running through it. In fact, every day is different, as we go out in skiffs to explore. Our naturalist guide helps us notice small details. A bright blue butterfly the size of a dinner plate flutters by. A line of squirrel monkeys leaps some 22 feet between limbs. Neon orange orchids bloom in hidden places. The air has the sweet smell of a world without pollution. We are here, in one of the last pristine places on earth. Aqua Expeditions will help to keep it that way.

MBH
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROGRAM</th>
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<td>Jungle Walk and Hatum Posa Village Visit</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Pacaya Samiria Reserve</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Amazon River / Iquitos</td>
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<tr>
<td>AQUA</td>
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<td>Iquitos / Amazon River</td>
<td>Arrive in Iquitos, Transfer to Dock and Check-in</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>B</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>Yarapa River</td>
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<td>Amazon Source; Village; 3-Nighters Depart</td>
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<tr>
<td>ARIA</td>
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<td>Nauta Caño</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tuesday AM</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>Marañón River</td>
<td>Nature Excursion</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tuesday PM</td>
<td>L/D</td>
<td>Choroyacu River</td>
<td>Jungle Walk; Meet the People</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Tacsha River; Pacaya Samiria</td>
<td>All-day Primary Forest Excursion; or Morning Rainforest Walk</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Wednesday PM</td>
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<td>San Martín de Tipishca</td>
<td>Afternoon Caiman Expedition</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Tahuayo / Lake Charo</td>
<td>Breakfast with Pink Dolphins</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>Tahuayo / Lake Charo</td>
<td>Fishing Trip</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Friday AM</td>
<td>B/L</td>
<td>Amazon River / Iquitos</td>
<td>Iquitos City Tour, Visit Manatee Rescue Center, Departure</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Itineraries are subject to change due to weather conditions and time of year. River and tributary levels may vary, and thus navigation times and excursions may need to be modified at the captain’s discretion.
Where the **DOLPHINS** are **PINK** and the **WATER LILIES** are **SIX-FEET WIDE**
I have visited almost every country, but Peru's Pacaya Samiria National Park – as big as Belgium – is like nowhere else in the world. On a black water lake deep in the park, a group of bubble-gum-pink-colored dolphins gracefully jump toward us, ready to play. We fish for sharp-toothed piranha, and catch some. After a brief shower, a vast rainbow arcs overhead, filling the enormous sky with color. Later, we hike back to an area where six-foot-wide Victoria Regia water lilies burst into bloom at twilight. It is truly one of the great days of our life.

MBH
FOOD, PEOPLE

THE PISCO SOUR . . . PERU’S NATIONAL DRINK

The story goes that the Spaniards arrived bearing grapes, but before long they saw the ill effects of wine on the local population and banned winemaking. Obeying the spirit, if not the letter, of the law, the indigenous people simply found a way to brew a different alcoholic beverage – one that was technically not wine. The invention is actually a type of brandy that they called pisco, which means bird in Quechua, the native language of the Incas.

HERE IS AQUA EXPEDITIONS’ CHEF PEDRO MIGUEL SCHIAFFINO’S RECIPE FOR PISCO SOUR

Ingredients:
- 3 parts Pisco Quebranta
- 1 part fresh lime of Cueta (available in Peru)
- 1 part simple syrup (if using limes sold in U.S., put less sugar in the simple syrup)
- Six ice cubes
- A few drops Angostura bitters
- Half an egg white

Preparation:
- Put lime, Pisco, simple syrup, and ice in a shaker.
- Shake it well. Strain into a tumbler. Add egg whites for froth and top with a few drops bitters.

Note:
Onboard our vessels, also ask for our signature Camu Camu Sour, made from fresh Camu Camu fruit, very high in Vitamin C.

Aqua Expeditions' Executive Chef, Pedro Miguel Schiaffino, is one of the most talented chefs I've worked with, and just a great guy. Our naturalist guide was warm and knowledgeable. He took us deep into the villages and introduced us to the locals and their way of life.

Todd English, Chef, Restaurateur

I moved to Lima 37 years ago, and lived there for three years. My new style Japanese cuisine started as Japanese cuisine with just Peruvian influences. I still do Tiradito Nobu Style, and Ceviche and Anticucho. I also serve various salsas, and use a lot of coriander, garlic, and jalapeno, which are definitely not traditional Japanese ingredients. I didn't even like coriander the first time I had it in Peru, and now I can't live without it!

I am very impressed by Aqua Expeditions' Executive Chef Pedro Miguel Schiaffino ... I'm about double his age, and I can tell that he will be a Peruvian chef that changes how Peruvian cuisine is perceived throughout the world.

Nobu Matsuhisa, Chef and Restaurateur
I was delighted to have the opportunity to design the suites and public areas of the M/V Aqua, as well as to work on its exterior façade. Our goal was to create an atmosphere of low-key luxury – letting the ever-changing backdrop of the river provide the drama.

Jordi Puig, Designer/Architect

The pink dolphins were pretty remarkable. They are almost otherworldly. They would follow the skiff, coming up right behind us. It was odd. When we'd look for them, they weren't there. When we weren't looking for them, they'd be right by the boat. It's almost as though they knew when we were going to point the camera.

Keith Bellows, Editor in Chief, National Geographic Traveler

CONDÉ NAST TRAVELER "WORLD SAVER" AWARD

Condé Nast Traveler listed Aqua Expeditions among 26 travel and tourism companies that it recognizes as "World Savers." The list honored those companies that, according to the magazine, are "turning travel's enormous potential to improve the planet into reality." Nominations were made for excellence in the areas of education, poverty, wildlife, preservation, and health. Aqua Expeditions, however, was honored to find itself on the "doing it all" list, reflecting its efforts in every one of the above categories.

PARAMEDICS SERVE LOCAL COMMUNITIES

A licensed paramedic accompanies every journey aboard the M/V Aqua and M/V Aria. The paramedics are there to provide care to passengers and crew, of course, but they also serve another critical function. They provide volunteer health care to the communities that Aqua Expeditions visits.

TRAVEL+LEISURE WORLD’S BEST AWARDS SURVEY 2010

Each year, readers of Travel+Leisure, a top travel magazine in the US, choose from among the world’s top hotels, resorts, spas, cruise lines, airlines, travel companies and destinations, to determine the winners of the World’s Best Awards. This is the first year that Aqua Expeditions – which launched its flagship vessel, the M/V Aqua, on the Peruvian Amazon in 2008 – will be included on the prestigious readers’ ballots.
Seeing birds in the Amazon is like looking at a rainbow. Sometimes it is hard to imagine that such colors exist in nature. If you don't already have one, you are likely to start your Audubon Society 'Life List' here. In our journey along rivers, lakes, and streams, we see hundreds of kinds of birds, representing more colors and shades than you'd ever see in a mere rainbow.

A few memories: Massive storks follow the river, their crops so filled with fish that they are almost too heavy to fly. Graceful snowy egrets soar overhead, looking like reflections of thick white clouds. An Amazon kingfisher watches us with a bored air. A bird as yellow as the noon sun glides past. It is truly nature at its most lovely.

MBH
One of the most wonderful parts of the Amazon journey is visiting the ribereños, the people who live out their lives in small riverside villages – cut off from news and information about must-have products.

At our first village stop, we see giant hands of bananas along the river's edge, waiting to be packed into homemade dugout canoes and ferried down river to the market. Kids hang out along the bank. Laundry in rainbow colors dries in the sun. A child of about eight suddenly emerges from the dense jungle, struggling under the weight of a giant bundle – more fruit to be sold.

We meet an older woman, wearing a homemade skirt and a New York Mets t-shirt, source unknown. She introduces us to her pet tarantula. It is roughly the size of a dinner plate, fuzzy and cute and rather terrifying. She seems to be quite attached to it. Everybody looks after everybody's children. It is not an easy life, but it offers a security and stability that we in the developed world have lost.

MBH
I spent my childhood in the jungle. Later we moved to Iquitos, but my father kept teaching us everything he knew about life in the Amazon rainforest. I use that knowledge every day when I take guests out on the river. Like all of the full-time guides under contract exclusively with Aqua Expeditions, I can tell our guests about local folkways and medicine and legends, as well as about all the wildlife. There are so many legends in the jungle. My father told me that every tree, even the tiniest shrub, has a spirit.

Daniel Vásquez Flores, Naturalist Guide, Aqua Expeditions
You come back from hiking in the jungle or swimming with the dolphins, and you are hot and sweaty and thirsty. The first thing you see is a crew member with cold towels and cool juices made from exotic Amazon fruits. Then you can head to your air-conditioned suite for a hot shower and a quick nap on the over-sized bed. Next: a multi-course lunch in the dining room, while you watch the incredibly varied scenery pass by. It is luxury at its finest. It is bliss.

MBH
Aqua Expeditions leaves nothing to chance. The nightly lectures, complete with video presentations, are informative without ever making you feel like you are in school. The M/V Aqua’s 21-staff-to-24-passenger ratio – with a similar ratio on the M/V Aria – means that service is always superb. The cruise director handles even the smallest details. There is always a trained paramedic onboard the ships and on the excursions. That all means that as a guest, you can totally forget your cares.

MBH
We are having a chef and a gastronomy boom here in Peru. Everything is coming together. In the Amazon, the flavors and seasonings are very different from what is used on the coast and in the Andes. The main ingredient is sofrito (onions, garlic, sachaculantro, turmeric, and achiote, cooked very slowly). That is the DNA of the Amazon dishes.
The ingredients are the stars. For example, we can use beer fermented from local manioc or yucca, and add hot red peppers to the sofrito to create an Amazon flavor. We use fruits and roots and herbs that you find only in this region.

Another difference . . . Peruvian cuisine blends influences from every group that has lived here. Incan, Spanish, Chinese, Japanese, they have all become part of our cuisine. I use all of these in the menus that I create for Aqua Expeditions.

Pedro Miguel Schiaffino
Owner/Chef Malabar, a Lima 5-star restaurant
Executive Chef, Aqua Expeditions
FINE WINES to complement your GOURMET EXPERIENCE

South American wines have truly come into their own in recent years, and travelers find some of the best vintages onboard our vessels. Many passengers, however, also report developing a true love affair with that most famous Peruvian drink, the Pisco sour. The good news: local house wines and beers are available to our passengers free of charge.
At Aqua Expeditions, we have a strong, long-term commitment to protecting our fragile – and increasingly endangered – environment and its people. We are active in numerous social responsibility projects along the river, including providing paramedic care to the communities we visit and supporting those villages in countless other ways. We also provide steady and significant support to nature conservation projects and are active in the Manatee Rescue Program. Perhaps most important, our ships are totally eco-friendly. Our sewage treatment is state-of-the-art, never affecting this pristine environment.
WHERE TO GO BEFORE YOUR VOYAGE: CUSCO AND MACHU PICCHU

Dawn is about to break over the ruins at Machu Picchu. A few intrepid climbers wend their way up the steep steps leading to the summit of sugar-loaf-shaped Huayna Picchu. Birds sing. Dew gilds the grass. The sturdy Inca-built structures await another day of visitors. It is a glorious moment at this 900-year-old architectural treasure, lost to history until it was rediscovered – at least by the outside world – in 1911.

Also include the 11,600-foot-high Cusco, Peru’s historic mountain city, in your itinerary. See Qorikancha, the glorious Temple of the Sun, which once housed some 4,000 priests and huge stockpiles of gold. Don’t miss Cusco’s Baroque cathedral, built in the mid-16th century and said to be the grandest Spanish colonial church in Latin America. Sip coca tea if the high altitude starts to bother you.
WHERE TO GO AFTER YOUR VOYAGE:
LAKE TITICACA AND COLCA CANYON

To leave the humidity and the cries and caws and shrill animal sounds of the Amazon jungle, and to arrive at the world’s highest inland lake, edged with tiny farms, simply boggles the mind. Go out in a reed boat, to visit the Uros people who live atop the lake, on islands they have made out of reeds. Also visit some of the larger natural islands that punctuate this vast 3,200-square-mile body of water. On the island of Taquile, which looks like Tuscany, the UNESCO-honored weavers create masterpieces on looms that are older than the arrival of the Spanish. Then move on to Colca Canyon, twice as deep as the Grand Canyon, and home to the brightly dressed Collagua Indians. Watch huge condors soar above the canyon, gliding on the winds. Then, perhaps, pay a visit to the ‘white city’ of Arequipa, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.