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This image: Sunset over a lagoon inside the Amazon Rainforest Basin



THE AMAZON

Most Amazon cruises are confined to Brazil and a familiar itinerary via the river mouth to towns such as Manaus. But Aqua Expeditions offers a more unusual experience on board luxury ship *Aria Amazon* in Peru.

Exploring the Amazon tributaries, Marañon and Ucayali, guests can kayak in hidden blackwater lakes while watching out for pink dolphins, see giant water lilies in San Jose flooded forest and fish for piranhas.

The ship's naturalist guides point out medicinal trees and poison dart frogs and at night there's a hi-tech telescope for watching the stars. There's also an excursion to what

is claimed to be "the birthplace" of the Amazon River, near Nauta, and a visit to a remote Amazonian village. All excursions are included and the luxurious ship has bikes for particularly energetic guests.

The company specialises in river ship cruises and sails the Mekong in Cambodia and Vietnam as well as the Amazon, with its two boutique ships, *Aqua Mekong* and *Aria Amazon*.



Aqua Expeditions offers seven-night cruises on board *Aria Amazon*, regularly throughout the year, from £6,954pp, based on two sharing, cruise only, including transfers, excursions, wine and beer (aquaexpeditions.com). ▶▶