

Manú Wildlife Center Lodge

Manú Wildlife Center Lodge is very civilized, really luxurious in its own rustic way. There are about 20 cabins, all up on stilts, with thatched roofs. Everything is spotlessly clean, same as we experienced at the last two lodges in Manu National Park and biosphere.



The grounds are well-groomed and landscaped

with “bird-attracting” plants. Many Heliconia like this one (*above right*).



There is a spacious central building which includes a well-stocked bar, large dining room and kitchen.



There is also a “lounge” sitting area with comfortable chairs. All in all an excellent place, and substantially larger than our previous two lodges.



candles (plus our LED headlamps) and bug nets at night. They do run a generator for several hours in the morning and evening, two - three hours each time so people

can recharge their computers and phones in the central building. We see phones recharging although there is no mobile reception for miles. Go figure.



But good news is that in our cabin there is an excellent bathroom and a shower that turn out to be perfect. There is no “hot” hot water, but the stored water here is so warm, it’s not really necessary. Screened windows with curtains run around half of the cabin. Leave them down during the day to keep the sun out, up during the night to let in the breeze. This would be the “theoretical” breeze; we never felt a whisper of air movement while we were here.



The three “jungle lodges” where we’ve stayed, Cock-of-the-Rock, Amazonia, and now Manú Wildlife Center, are all located within Manú National Park. The Park is also a biosphere reserve located in Madre de Dios region (equivalent to a state in the U.S.). Before becoming an area protected by the Peruvian government, the Manú National Park was conserved largely because of its inaccessibility. The park remains fairly inaccessible to this day.

This lodge has been the base for many bird and nature films focused on the Amazon. It is preferred by film-makers because it is extremely remote, yet everything is about as “luxurious” as it could be in the middle of the jungle.

Overall, more than 15,000 species of plants are found in Manú. Up to 250 varieties of trees have been found in survey areas just over two acres. The reserve is a prime destination for birdwatchers from all over the world. It is home to over 1,000 species of birds, more than the number of bird species found in the United States and Canada combined. It is also acclaimed for one of the highest numbers of land vertebrates found in any Latin American tropical forests.

The amazing diversity of the Manú National Park and biosphere Reserve:

- * Mammals: 222 species
- * Reptiles: 99 species
- * Amphibians: 140 species
- * Birds: over 1,000 species
- * Fish: 210 species
- * Insects (numerous undescribed species not included):
 - o Butterflies: 1,307 species
 - o Ants: 300 species
 - o Dragonflies: 136 species
 - o Beetles: 650 species
- * Plants: over 15,000 species

More than 20,000 species exist here.

The park encompasses virtually the entire watershed of the Manú River, from the sources of its tributaries high in the Andes, to its emptying into the Madre de Dios River. As the surrounding area is largely undeveloped, the only direct access to the lowlands and the Manú Wildlife Center is by boat, on the Manú River or the Madre de Dios River.