Welcome to Iquitos, your gateway to South America's greatest rainforest, a unique tropical metropolis and the capital of its biggest region, Loreto. You can only access it by air; however, its rainforest areas down and up river on the Amazon are among the most accessible of the Peruvian Amazon basin. It is home to the best original jungle lodges in the country, including the Heliconia Lodge, which is going strong towards its third decade operations, just a few hours by boat. Because the region is the most visited and progressed in the Peruvian Amazon, it has prospered into a vibrant rainforest capital now teeming with activity and surprisingly, night life. Whether it's for a jungle journey, mystical retreat, for business travel or incentive conference this thriving city will entice you to stay awhile.
IQUITOS
PERU

HIGHLIGHTS

· Explore the town’s iconic attractions: Casa de Fierro, or Iron House, which was designed by Gustave Eiffel;
· Visit the riverfront promenade Malecón Tarapacá facing the Amazon River, lined with several exquisite 19th-century mansions, relics from the rubber heyday, lined with Portuguese glazed tiles, or azulejos;
· Board your boat to the Amazon River and its confluence and tributaries from Puerto Bellavista or simply cruise down the river, where you can appreciate the difference in water colors (muddy brown and black), passing beaches, and a handful of local communities;
· Check out Parque/Laguna De Quistococha -- A nature recreation park, about 13km (8 miles) south, with a nice beach and swimming area and a zoo nearby.
ACCESS AND TRANSPORT

By Air - International flight to and from Iquitos are serviced by Copa Air, initially from Panama.

From Lima, fly to Iquitos via domestic airlines with several flights daily. 90-minute flight.
IQUITOS
PERU

WHAT TO SEE

Casa de Fierro - glimpse the iconic must-see “majestic” Casa de Fierro (Iron House), designed by Gustave Eiffel (of Eiffel Tower fame). It was made in Paris in 1860 and imported piece by piece into Iquitos around 1890, during the opulent rubber-boom days, to beautify the city.

Walking Tour of the Rubber Barons' Mansions- Azulejos- see the other remainders of the rubber-boom glory days, former mansions decorated with azulejos, handmade tiles imported from Portugal of the rubber barons along Raimondi and Malecón Tarapaca. Some of the best are various government buildings along or near the Malecón.

Museo Etnográfico - picturesquely located along the Malecón you will find an old building housing the small Museo Etnográfico, which includes life-sized fiberglass casts of members of various Amazon tribes. You’ll find the Biblioteca Amazónica onsite as well.
Barrio de Belén - explore the waterfront Barrio de Belén, Iquitos’s interesting village on foot or for much of the year, by locally arranged canoe. Browse its sprawling, colorful, and odiferous open-air market, where you’ll find a bounty of strange and wonderful Amazon fish, fauna, and fruits. For safety’s sake, though, go in a group and during the day only.

Manatee Rescue Center - visit the Manatee Rescue Center, where biologists and volunteers care for endangered Amazon manatees (Trichechus inunguis) an endangered species in Peru due to poaching and habitat degradation, despite existing national and international laws that protect it. There is also illegal marketing of babies sold as pets to farmers or tourist facilities, where the mortality rate is high. Through joint efforts between the Regional Bureau for the Production of Loreto, Dallas World Aquarium, the Association for the Conservation of Amazonian Biodiversity - Dallas World Aquarium Zoo (ACOBIA-DWAZOO) and the Association and Research Institute of the Peruvian Amazon, a program began in November 2007 for rescuing and rehabilitating orphaned Amazonian manatees and providing an environmental education for visitors.
Pilpintuwasi Butterfly House & Amazon Animals Orphanage - welcome to Pilpintuwasi a wildlife rescue and temporary custody center located on 20 hectares of land in the village of Padre Cocha, 20 minutes outside of Iquitos. Visit a non-profit organization dedicated to protecting animals affected by the poaching and trafficking that work with the environmental police to take in injured or malnourished animals confiscated from markets, airports and homes. Once recovered, many of the animals, which include various monkey species, coatis, capybara, ocelot, and jaguar live free of cages or in enclosures simulating their natural environment. Check out the butterfly house on the property where they breed and display many species of butterflies.

Recommendations: It is important that you take common sense precautions when visiting, just like in any major destination in the world, such as taking extra care of your belongings in public places. Know the unsafe areas and avoid visiting them, especially at night.
HEALTH
Please consult your doctor at least a month before entering the Amazon Basin. No cases of yellow fever or malaria have ever been reported in our properties. The most common ailments for travelers are diarrhea and fatigue. Take necessary precautions with local exotic food and alcoholic beverages. Eating and drinking in moderation is always the best safety measure to avoid discomfort and unnecessary hassle while traveling.

WEATHER
Weather along the Amazon River is differed into two seasons: a High Water season from December through May and a Low Water season that lasts from June until November. Conditions in this region in Peru remain generally warm with some rainfall even during Low Water season. In fact, despite being the “rainy” season, during the High Water months, the Amazon only gets about 10% more rain than in the low water season.
WHAT TO WEAR
- Light cotton clothes, pants and long sleeve shirts
- Hiking boots or walking tennis shoes resistant to humidity; cotton socks.
- Bathing suit
- A light waterproof parka jacket or raincoat

SECURITY
Safe Deposit box: Our properties have a safe deposit box located inside each room, where guests may leave all their valuables locked; the hotel will not be responsible for their loss or misplacement.
Our properties have a security guard on site 24-hours a day and security cameras into different areas of the hotel.
CURRENCY AND FOREIGN EXCHANGE
The official currency is the Nuevo Sol (PEN) divided into 100 céntimos.

In our properties major credit card payments are accepted. There are no facilities to exchange Travelers’ cheques thus travelers are advised to have cash (in Soles) on hand as foreign currency exchange is limited. Automated Teller Machines (ATMs) and Money Exchange Stores are mostly available in Iquitos.

COMMUNICATION AND TELEPHONE
There is full telephones and cellular phone coverage in Iquitos. Also, there is internet connection (Wi-Fi) and access to computers is available at the Business Center of our properties.