



## ESSEQUIBO 'SCALE AND WAIT' RIVER CAMP - GUYANA - adventure fishing in Amerindian territory.

**\* All new fly-in trips from GT to Annai.**

Amazon-Angler.com is proud to introduce our Amazon Essequibo 'Scale and Wait River Camp Adventure Fishing Trip in Guyana for the upcoming seasons.

Our mobile camp is set up on a sandy beach and under tree canopy to keep cool and the view over the river is spectacular.

The camp is totally self-sufficient in every way. Only a few privileged sport anglers have ever been here in the past and we are the only outfitters to be able to fish in what can only be described as a magical landscape.

This beautiful river is surrounded by primary forest and wends its way through miles of deep stretches, cascades, waterfalls, fast white water and many boulders and rock 'gardens'.

We have four separate twin tents with cot beds, handling a maximum of only 8 anglers at any one time. A separated area is screened off with a running shower and flushable toilet and the local Amerindian guides and staff sleep apart and under the forest canopy. An area is set up for our 'dining room' and the kitchen supplies cold drinks and hot food to our guests. Laundry is done daily.

The Essequibo is the largest river in Guyana and the largest river between the Orinoco and the Amazon proper. It rises in the Acarai Mountain range, in the Guyana Shield between the Brazil/Venezuela/Guyana borders and flows northwards for 1,010 kms through rainforests and savanna and into the Atlantic Ocean. This beautiful river has provided us with high daily numbers of many of the Amazon's multi-species predators and giant Catfish.







## THE FISHING

There is such a diversity of species to be caught in the Essequibo River. With lures, flies, cutbaits and other baits, dozens of different fish will keep the avid angler busy the whole trip!

Hard-fighting 'Essequibo' Peacock Bass are some of the toughest and meanest Cichla species found anywhere in the Amazon. These amazing predators can be caught on medium-sized walk-the-dog lures like spooks and skitter walks, small poppers, propbaits and on jigs, flies and minnowbaits. They will smash topwater lures with abandon and there is nothing like the strike of a Peacock exploding on a lure worked across the surface.

Tough prehistoric-looking Hymara or Wolf Fish lurk in quiet pools and smash topwater lures, spinnerbaits and minnowbaits. They are also caught on cutbait.

The slash-and-grab Payara/Vampire Fish and the Pike-like Bicuda visibly chase surface lures, minnowbaits, jigs and flies in the faster water. They are often seen crashing on baitfish on the surface. Payara will take cutbait too.

Monkey Fish/Aruwana also make a regular appearance and will annihilate topwater lures, minnowbaits and jigs.

Giant Black Piranhas and Corvina/Pescada can also be caught using cutbait, or small lures, spoons and deep-jigging in the bigger pools and fast currents.







## CATFISH

We have some amazing Cats here also, from the unusual to big bruising bullies. All can be caught on cutbait, livebait or whole dead fish.

Incredible strong Surubim or Shovel-nosed Tiger Cats are fast, sleek and strike hard. These hieroglyphically-marked predators are also caught on minnowbaits and jigs and streak away like a rocket. They are mostly caught in the shallower sand bars and faster water.

The Leopard or Jundia Cat is a dynamite of a fish for its size. Averaging 15lbs, they max out at about 25lbs and are the tastiest fish in the Amazon. They are knick-named the 'chicken of the Amazon' and for a good reason. With soft flesh like Salmon, they are great on the BBQ!

The express train Banana or Redtail Cats must be rated as the hardest-fighting Cats in the whole Amazon for its size. A 50lb Redtail will take you all over the river and strips line in reel-smoking, screaming runs. It's a dirty fighter too and will take you into every nearby tree, bush, rock or cavern.

Jau Cats are the Rottweillers of the river and will scream off at a rate of knots. Big Jau often need to be chased to be landed.

AND, we have THE King of all Cats, the Giant Freshwater Shark/Lau /Piraiba. This monster of a Catfish grows to over 400lbs and when hooked, roars off at 100 miles an hour. This is a beast of a fish and can sometimes be seen crashing on the surface at large baitfish.







## OTHER SPECIES

There are so many other species for the avid angler to catch who is willing to go that extra mile. Anglers can catch nut, fruit and berry-eating fish like the Red and Black Pacu, Couti, Aracu and many more scaled species all day long.

The weird and wonderful are still to be discovered by many foreign fishermen and we have them all.

Plenty of European anglers enjoy what is classified as 'coarse fishing', and an angler could easily 'bag-up' with sweetcorn, nuts, fruit, bread, fish strips or freshwater snails.







## ARAPAIMA GIGAS

BUT ..... the fish everyone wants to catch, the Holy Grail of all Amazonian fish, that lurks in quiet backwaters and still lagoons, is an air breather! This fish is prehistoric in every sense and it is an incredibly delicate fish for its size.

Arapaima roll on the surface to gulp air and because of this they easily give themselves away. An accurately-cast bait, fly or lure in the near proximity usually results in a hook-up and a long, hard battle! In the Essequibo River and its tributaries, these incredible river monsters grow in excess of 300lbs.

We have been granted exclusive permission to work with the local Amerindians making fishing for these wonderful Arapaima a sustainable sport with zero losses. Local guides are used who know these waters intimately and they are all very careful when handling these behemoths.

We fish over-depth with large floats, no weights and we insist in only using circle hooks with Piranha cut bait or whole fish. All of the fish are hooked 100% in the corner of the mouth without one being harmed in any way and every one of them is released quickly to fight another day.

The Arapaima has huge scales along its entire body that are edged in brilliant red on the last 1/3 or more of its body. Its scales are used in body decorations like earrings and necklaces as well as files for nails. It has a huge tongue with large rasping teeth that the locals use instead of sandpaper for smoothing off wood etc.







## WILDLIFE

With an endless diversity of flora and fauna around every corner, this river is a professional and amateur photographer's dream. Around every corner there is something new to discover. Most terrestrial dwellers like Jaguars, Tapirs, Peccaries, Wild Boars, Agoutis are nocturnal but are sometimes seen crossing the river.

Monkeys are plentiful in this region and Howler Monkeys are always somewhere in the background high up in the canopies growling and howling like banshees.

Giant Amazonian Otters group together and will fiercely protect their territory. They bark and snort at any intruder in their 'space' and are prolific hunters.

Birds of every shape, color and size can be seen everywhere throughout these watersheds and many species of Parrots are heard all day long fighting over space.

Toucans call to each other from the treetops like yipping puppies and Herons, Egrets, Bee-eaters, Kingfishers, Terns and Ospreys frequent these river banks in search of fish, snakes, lizards and insects to catch.

And of course, this beautiful Amazon Rainforest river would be complete with its fair share of resident Caimen Alligators .....







## TACKLE TALK

We suggest the following gear for our Essequibo River Camp Fishing trips:

### RODS AND REELS

2 x Medium-M/Heavy 6'6"-7'6" bait casting or spinning rods with bait casting or spinning reels with capacity of min. 120m of 50-60lb braid. These outfits will handle casting and using medium surface lures like Spooks and subsurface lures like minnowbaits, jerk baits and also for deep-jigging and deep-diving lures in the pools.

1 x Medium or Medium/Light 6'6"-7'6" spinning rod matched spinning reel with capacity for min. 120m of 20-30lb braid. This much lighter outfit will give your arms and wrists a rest and will allow you to easily use jigs and smaller minnowbaits.

For fly fishermen, 7-8 wt fly rods should be matched with good, smooth drag system reels and loaded with a tropical, fast-sinking 200-250 grain, a tropical intermediate and a tropical floating fly lines, all with at least 100m of 30lb backing. 1.5m-2m of 20-30lb straight nylon tied straight to the fly line can be used for leaders. We advise a good pair of stripping gloves unless you want another lifeline burnt into your palm!!

\*Always bring spare line and a multi-tool.

### CATFISH RIGS

Simple rigs with a heavier Peacock Bass baitcasting set-up or a more traditional heavier Cat Fish rod and reel, matched with 80-100lb braided line, a 4-6 oz egg sinker, 1 ½ ft of stiff 80-100lbs wire leader (against the Piranhas!) attached to a strong swivel at one end and a 8/0 - 12/0 circle hook on the other are all that is needed. This rig will also serve for Arapaima but with a large float no lead.

The hook is baited with either a whole fish or fish cutbait and lobbed out into a deep hole. You do not need to strike when using circle hook rigs as the Cat will hook itself when running with the bait, with a 100% hook up rate in the corner of the mouth. Just raise the rod slowly, tighten the line and not striking for a good hook set!







## LURES

5-6 x small prop baits like the 4.25" Caribe Pavon Props, 4.25" K Lures Props and 4-6" Highroller Riprollers than can be ripped across the surface in a steady cadence, 'rip, pause, rip, pause', all the way back to the boat.

5-6 x medium and saltwater Super Spooks and other small-medium cigar-shaped stick baits are used with a walk-the-dog, side to side, swishing action that 'sways' the lure like a snake across the water. This is a more subtle, quieter lure used when Peacocks and Bicuda are being less aggressive

2-3 x small Poppers can also work well and if used properly, they catch a good number of big fish. They should spit and gurgle and spray water in front, rather than 'bloop' or 'pop' and the best we have found is the Skitter Pop or the Chug Bug skimmed along the surface or quickly popped.

6-8 x small-medium Minnow baits and crank baits will always work well in most situations. Our choices are shallow running 4-6" Rapala X Raps, X Rap Sub Walk, Rattle Traps, Yozuri Crystal minnows and Tobimarus and deep X Raps and CD 11-14s.

2-3 x Spoons in silver and gold. These work well in the rapids and deeper holes.

2-3 Spinnerbaits for Wolf Fish and Peacocks in rocks and creek entrances.

5-10 x Stevie Stinger or similar bucktail jigs with extended tails. Our 5 best producing colours are Red and Yellow, Red and White, Black and White, Firetiger, Green and White. They are cast and stripped back to the boat (not jigged on the bottom) and they can also be trolled on the way back out of a long lagoon. Great lures for Peacocks, Payara, Bicudas etc.







## FLIES

There are many species that can be targeted with flies including Peacock Bass, Payara, Wolf Fish, Arowana and Bicuda. Also smaller flies will catch Pacu and Matrincha.

Fly patterns for most Amazon predators, in general, are either tied in 4-6" long-profile streamer flies with lots of flash, with and without weighted eyes or popper-type surface flies that provide plenty of noise and action.

Usually a fast strip is used on streamer flies and a series of gentle, constant 'spits' for surface flies. Don't waste too much time on too elaborate fly patterns as Piranhas will eat plenty!! Go simple!







## CLOTHES

There is a strict weight limit of 15kgs (33lbs) per angler for charter planes and floatplanes. We recommend clients follow the list of items below to keep it simple. Laundry is done daily, so only one or two changes of clothes are needed at camp. Clothes for the jungle are shorts or long pants, a shirt and a hat!! One change of clothes can be used for travelling.

For travelling:

1 x pair lightweight shoes, socks, underwear, light jacket, 1 x light shirt and long cargo pants with pockets for documents, money, passport etc. This outfit can also serve as fishing clothes to save on additional weight.

For fishing:

1 x wide brimmed hat or fishing cap with neck cape, 2 x lightweight tropical shorts or long tropical pants (zip-offs are a good idea and can also be used as travel pants), 2 x tropical long or short-sleeved shirts with pockets (can also be used as travel shirt), 1 x pair of either CROCS, sandals or similar comfortable boat shoes, 1 x lightweight rain suit/jacket and 2 x pairs of polarised sunglasses (in case you lose one pair).







## OTHER RECOMMENDED GEAR

It gets hot out there in the full sun, often over 90°F, so come well protected with good-quality sun-block with at least 50-75 SPF. Lip cream is essential.

We fish in areas that have some insect activity, so bring a high DEET content insect repellent just in case.

Bring any personal medications and allow for headaches, stomach upsets, fevers, infections, allergies etc. And also personal toiletries, shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrush, shaving gear etc. A small amount of talcum powder is a good asset in the jungle for those hidden, sweaty areas!

Reading books/magazines/Kindle, pen and paper for notes.

Small torch/headlight and spare batteries

Lightweight digital camera.

Satellite phone can be rented quite cheaply in your home country for anyone wanting to keep 'in touch' with family or the office while away, although there will be one for clients to use in camp at a cost of \$10 per minute. Calls and messages can be received at no extra charge - the number and how-to-message details will be provided before trip commences.

Multi-tool

Boga Grip or similar fish holding/weighing device. Remember, they've all got teeth so keep your hands away from their mouths as much as possible







### TRANSFERS, SCHEDULES AND COSTS

Day 1: Arrive in Cheddi Jagan International airport in Georgetown, transfer and overnight in hotel.

Day 2: Depart GT early morning via schedule flight to Annai, stop for lunch and arrive in Kurupukari by vehicle mid-afternoon. Onwards by boat upriver to 'Scale and Wait' camp.

Day 3-8: six (6) days guided fishing, overnight at camp in tented accommodations.

Day 9: Depart camp early morning by boat down to Kurupukari and onwards by vehicle to Annai for flight from Annai to GT, arrive GT and overnight hotel.

Day 10: Transfer to airport for flight home.  
(add 3 extra days into schedule for our 9 days fishing trip)

COSTS for 6 days fishing trip ..... USD\$3,500

COSTS for 9 days fishing trip ..... USD\$4,400

Included: All accommodation, return flights GT/Annai, laundry, local transfers, meals, water, soft drinks. Wine can be supplied at an extra cost.

Not included: International airfares, tipping, meals in GT and other than in camp, costs associated with medical advice and medications for your trip, lures, fishing tackle etc.

*\*Please be advised that amounts of beers will need to be ordered well beforehand and charged for accordingly*

Terms and conditions of payments: 50% as deposit on reservation, 50% due 90 days before arrival in GT.  
Reservations will be on a 'first come, first served' basis. Once deposits are received, confirmation of places will be made and locked in.



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