

Sport Fishing of Ornamental Fish in the Rio Negro, Amazon.

Offered by Ecoturismo Piaba Verde, Barcelos, Amazonas, Brazil.

E-mail: piabas@gmail.com (for information and booking)

This is a new sport ecotour program advocated by Project Piaba to provide alternative income for ornamental fish collectors (*Piabeiros*) in Barcelos. The idea is to let tropical fish hobbyists have an opportunity to adventure into the forest streams (*igarapé*) and catch tropical fishes with *Piabeiros*. The sport to catch ornamental fish in the *igarapé* is an initiative from local people and designed for small groups of 1-8 guests at very reasonable cost. Legally permitted fishes can be exported through the trade chain for home aquarium. Project Piaba team is helping local operators to recruit guests and make the trip most successful.

Program summary: (minimum 10 days)

1. Arrive in Manaus; meet with Project Piaba team member to finalize details of the trip plan, then and take a flight to Barcelos.
2. Arrive in Barcelos; local operator will help you to choose food and beverage at the local market and prepare to leave for the expedition immediately (or check into a local hotel).
3. Arrive in an *igarapé*; meet with piabeiro guide and start exploring the fishing ground for a day or so. Stay overnight in the forest or regional boat in hammocks. Moving to another *igarapé* as you wish.
4. Return to Barcelos after a couple of days to recover in a clean, air-conditioned room for a night (or stay on a regional boat up to five days), and then head out to another *igarapé*.
5. Return to Manaus on regular passenger boat, a 24-28 hour trip, with your fishes.
6. Project Piaba will organize a visit to Manaus exporter and make shipping arrangements.

Good health, and adventurous spirit, and enthusiasm about fish are essential for this sporty ecotour. Folks in Barcelos are extremely friendly with tourists—especially the fish hobbyists—because locals are proud of Barcelos being the ornamental fish capital of the Amazon or the world.

Expenses in the Amazon:

1. Ornamental fish ecotour packages from Barcelos.

- **Package 1:** a minimum 2-day jungle stream trip - \$350 designed for 1 or 2 guests. (food & drinks are not included; you make your choice at the local markets).
- **Package 2:** a minimum 5-day regional boat stream trip - \$2,500 designed for 5-8 guests. (food and water are included; you buy beer, soft drinks, etc. at local markets).

2. Transportation between Manaus and Barcelos:

- Fly regional airline to Barcelos: \$220 one way.
- Take passenger boat return to Manaus with fishes: \$40 (hammock) to \$150 (suite cabin).

3. Optional Manaus costs:

- Airport pickup/drop off, etc.: \$25-30 per trip for 1 or 2 guests (group rate available)
- One day ornamental fish farm visit & city tour: \$100/guest. (lunch & transport included)
- Bi-lingual guide: \$100/day.
- Downtown simple & comfortable hotel and good meals cost about \$50/day.

4. Thanks you for including a US tax deductible donation to Project Piaba (\$200/person).

YOU CAN DESIGN YOU OWN TRIP FROM THE ITEMIZED PRICE LIST; a sample 10-day Amazon ornamental fishing trip for one guest is attached for your reference; you save with a buddy or a small group (up to 8) and stay longer.