

# PEROU PLANETE EXTREME

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PERU EXTREME PLANET

de JEAN-THOMAS RENAUD

en collaboration avec  
EMMANUELLE GRUNDMANN et CYRIL RUOSO

LIVRET CONSEIL  
DVD BOOKLET  
FOLLETO DE PRESENTACIÓN

# THE SITES

## EPISODE 1: THE AMAZON RAINFOREST



### PACAYA SAMIRIA NATIONAL RESERVE

Located in the heart of the Amazon jungle, Pacaya Samiria National Park is the largest national reserve in Peru, measuring approximately 20,800 km<sup>2</sup> (8,042 mi<sup>2</sup>). Established in 1982, this unique haven boasts a wide variety of the world's rarest plants and animals.

**Animals & Plants:** black caimans, giant river otters, spider monkeys, anacondas, aquatic turtles, pink & grey river dolphins, manatees, jaguars, orchids, bromeliads

**Access:** Must book tour through the reserve. Open year-round, but visits are recommended between January and June, during dry season. Reserve a local flight from Lima to Iquitos (2 hrs); then travel by road to Nauta (3 hrs), and from there by chartered boat (4 hrs).

**Lodging:** Overnight stays available within the reserve.

**Recommended Activities:** canoe excursions, walking tours through the forest

**Website:** <http://www.pacaya-samiria.com>

## EPISODE 2: THE ANDES & THE ALTIPLANO



### HUASCARÁN NATIONAL PARK

Founded in 1975, Huascarán National Park is home to the highest snow-capped peaks of Peru (up to 6,000 m or 20,000 ft in height) and has over 600 glaciers. Located in the Cordillera Blanca range, the park contains over 120 glacier lakes and is home to many unique species of flora and fauna.

**Animals & Plants:** spectacled bears, vicuñas, condors, hummingbirds, viscachas, wildcats, jaguars, tapirs, pumas, North Andean deer, Puya raimondii, polylepis

**Access:** Specialized guides are required for all activities and access to the park. Reserve a local flight from Lima to Huaraz (1 hr) or travel by bus (8 hrs). From Huaraz, travel 30 km (19 mi) by road to arrive at destination. Access roads vary depending on activity reserved by visitors.

**Lodging:** Hotels and guesthouses can be found in Huaraz.

**Recommended Activities:** mountaineering, trekking, mountain biking, horseback riding, hiking, skiing, boat rides, rock-climbing, paragliding, canyoning

**Website:** <http://www.go2peru.com>

## CHAPARRI ECOLOGICAL RESERVE

Created in 2001, the Chaparri Ecological Reserve is the first of its kind in Peru. Spread out over 34,412 hectares (85,033 acres), it was created to preserve and protect Peru's most endangered species.

**Animals:** spectacled bears, javelinas, Sechuran foxes, pumas, condors, guanacos, numerous species of birds

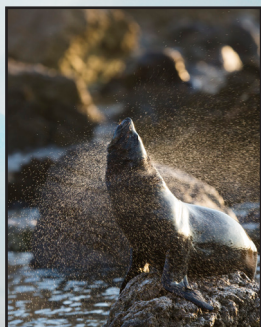
**Access:** Reserve a local flight from Lima to Chiclayo (90 min.), then travel east on route 6A to Sta. Catalina de Chongoyape (60 km / 37 mi). Specially-equipped vehicles for dirt road terrain are recommended, and it is preferred that guests make arrangements to visit Chaparri in advance. Visits occur between 7am and 5pm.

**Lodging:** Overnight stays available at the Chaparri EcoLodge.

**Website:** <http://www.chaparri.org>



## EPISODE 3: THE PACIFIC COAST



### PARACAS NATIONAL RESERVE

Founded in 1975, Paracas National Reserve is the oldest marine reserve in Peru. Its aim is to protect the Pacific coastlines, which are exceptionally rich with many aquatic species and food resources for the animals living ashore.

**Animals:** Humboldt penguins, sea lions, Guanay cormorants, Inca terns, whales, numerous species of fish

**Access:** Travel by local bus or by road (3 hrs) from Lima to Paracas (265 km / 166 mi).

**Lodging:** Many hotel options available in Paracas.

**Recommended Activities:** boat tour to the Ballesta Islands

**Website:** <http://www.english.paracas.com>

### NAZCA DESERT

Located 450 km (280 mi) south of Lima, the Nazca Desert is considered to be one of the driest places on the planet with several oases still remaining in certain spots.

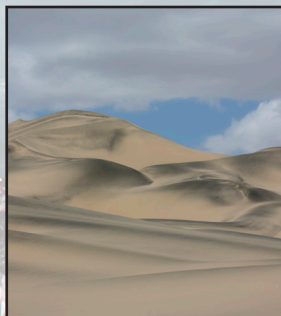
**Animals:** guanacos, vicuñas, Sechuran foxes, numerous wrens, cactus, huarango trees, great Inca finches

**Access:** Travel by local bus or tour bus from Lima to Nazca (approximately 4 to 6 hrs).

**Lodging:** Many hotel options are available in Nazca.

**Recommended Activities:** flight over the Nazca lines, archaeological museums, off-roading, sandboarding

**Website:** <http://www.go2peru.com>



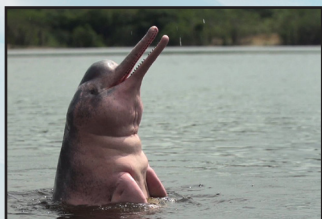
# THE ANIMALS

## EPISODE 1: THE AMAZON RAINFOREST



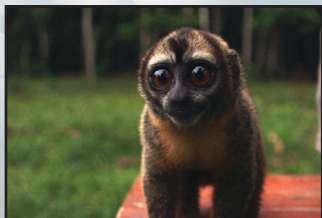
### **POISON DART FROG** (*Dendrobatidae*)

The Dendrobatidae family consists of more than fifty different species living in the tropical forests of Central & South America. Measuring only a few centimeters in length, these tiny amphibians often display bright and attractive colors. Don't be fooled however! Their skin is extremely toxic – a defense mechanism to protect themselves against predators.



### **PINK RIVER DOLPHIN** (*Inia geoffrensis*)

The pink river dolphin is unlike any other dolphin! Known for its unusually flexible neck and long snout, it lives exclusively in the waters of the Amazon River, though it was once a distant relative of ocean-dwelling dolphins. It should not, however, be confused with the grey river dolphin – another similar species that also thrives in the Amazonian rivers.



### **OWL MONKEY** (*Aotus trivirgatus*)

Owl monkeys (also known as Night Monkeys) are a small primate species native to Central & South America. They live in small groups in the trunks of trees and are extremely discreet. Active only at night, these nocturnal monkeys have large brown eyes and thus possess high-quality, night vision – similar to that of cats!



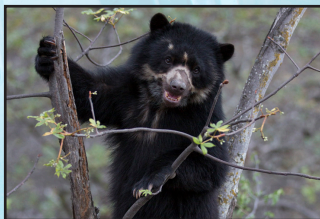
### **SPIDER MONKEY** (*Ateles belzebuth*)

Spider monkeys are true acrobats of the Amazon, getting its name from the way they hang from the branches of trees. Living high up in the canopy, these extremely agile monkeys rarely touch the ground and prefer to swing from tree to tree thanks to their long, lanky arms and a strong, prehensile tail which they use constantly like an extra limb!

## EPISODE 2: THE ANDES & THE ALTIPLANO

### **SPECTACLED BEAR** (*Tremarctos ornatus*)

The Andean spectacled bear is the only living bear species in South America, getting its name from the way the light-colored rings around its eyes resemble spectacles! With fewer than 8,000 remaining in the wild, it is one of the most endangered and rarest species of bear in the world. As an omnivore, its diet consists of plants, fruit, worms and small rodents.



### **TITICACA WATER FROG** (*Telmatobius culeus*)

The large water frog of Lake Titicaca is a stunning amphibian best known for its strange appearance and exaggerated skin folds. To make up for its tiny lung size, this particular species breathes primarily through its loose, excessive skin – an adaptation technique used to better acclimate to the lack of oxygen in the high-altitude lake in which it lives.



### **VISCACHA** (*Lagidium viscacia*)

The cuddly-looking viscacha is a small rabbit-like rodent, closely related to chinchillas. They live in groups in the rocky crevices or underground burrows of the Andes at more than 4,000 m (13,100 ft) high. Adapted to the lack of oxygen, they also have a thick, dense fur to fight against the cold.



### **VICUÑA** (*Vicugna vicugna*)

The vicuña is the national animal of Peru and the smallest representative of the Camelid family. Living in the high plateaus of the Andes, these camelids are known for having extremely fine wool, thus producing high-quality and luxurious garments. Since their coats can only be shorn every three years, vicuña wool is extremely expensive!

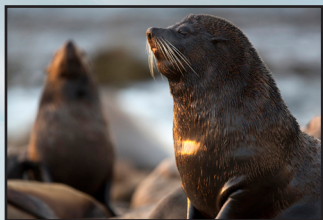


## EPISODE 3: THE PACIFIC COAST



### **HUMBOLDT PENGUIN** (*Spheniscus humboldti*)

The Humboldt penguin is a close cousin of the Antarctic penguin. Unable to fly, its wings are instead used for diving and paddling at impressive speeds! Although found living in tropical waters, the Humboldt penguins have managed to adapt and flourish here thanks to the cold Humboldt current, which continues to provide them with rich food resources.



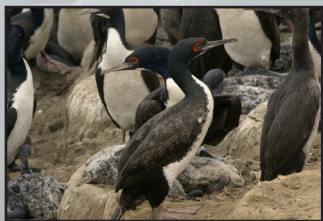
### **SOUTH AMERICAN SEA LION** (*Otaria flavescens*)

The South American sea lion is a large marine mammal, measuring up to 2.5 m (8 ft) long! The males are unmistakable, bearing a well-developed mane and a darker coat than the females. During mating season, the males can also become quite aggressive with each other as they do not like to share their female partners with other males!



### **ANDEAN CONDOR** (*Vultur gryphus*)

The Andean condor is one of the largest flying birds in the world! Thanks to its impressive, three-meter (ten-foot) wide wingspan and living in the Andes and near the coastlines of South America, these carnivorous scavengers are able to easily glide on air currents for hours as they look out for carrion – the dead or decaying flesh of animals.



### **GUANAY CORMORANT** (*Leucocarbo bougainvillii*)

Guanay cormorants are considered to be one of the most precious birds in the world. They are also especially important to Peru for one particular reason: their bird droppings! They are the major producers of a highly effective fertilizer known as guano. However, the El Niño phenomenon and overfishing could have disastrous consequences on their survival.

# THE PLANTS

## EPISODE 1: THE AMAZON RAINFOREST

### BROMELIAD "AIR PLANT" (*Bromeliaceae*)

The epiphytic "air plant" species can take the form of bromeliads, but also vines, ferns, mosses, lichens, orchids, and many others! These species have evolved to the point where they simply do not need soil. Instead, they can live above ground and grow non-parasitically on the branches of other plants, absorbing water and nutrients from the air and rain to survive. Incredibly, there are over 300 different species in Peru's Amazon rainforest alone!



## EPISODE 2: THE ANDES & THE ALTIPLANO

### PUYA RAIMONDII (*Puya raimondii*)

The Puya Raimondii, also known as the Queen of the Andes, is the world's largest bromeliad, found in the high altitudes of Bolivia and Peru. Its leaves grow in the form of a rounded rosette, but it may be best known for its spectacular flower stalk – shaped like a torpedo – which can reach up to 10 m (33 ft) in height and produce an inflorescence of 10,000 white flowers! It only blooms once every 80 to 100 years and dies soon after flowering.



## EPISODE 3: THE PACIFIC COAST

### HUARANGO TREE (*Prosopis pallida*)

The huarango trees are adapted to survive in extremely dry conditions thanks to their long roots, which can grow up to 50 m (165 ft) and thus easily extract water deep underground. For at least 7,000 years, they have provided fuel, forage and food for the local people, and new huarango-based products are still being invented today – even ice cream! Despite their extremely long life span, they are still one of the most endangered plant species due to excessive and illegal logging.



# THE EXPLORERS

## CYRIL RUOSO



Cyril Ruoso is a wildlife photographer whose work has been featured in many exhibits, books and magazines in France, as well as throughout the world. As one of the few French professionals to have sold photos to the American edition of the prestigious *National Geographic* magazine, he is also known as a repeat recipient of the *Wildlife Photographer of the Year* award (most notably in 2008 for the category of mammal behavior). He continues to take new and breathtaking photographs today.

## ANNE GRÉGOIRE



Anne Grégoire is a scientific journalist with a PhD in Conservation of Genetic Resources of Andean Wildlife. Familiar with the various regions of Peru and its specialists, she has been able to measure the fragility of the country's ecosystems, their intimate connection with one another, and the necessity to protect their animal and plant species. In 2014, she worked for the Research Institute for Development (IRD) where she coordinated events and activities aimed to raise awareness and action.

## EMMANUELLE GRUNDMANN



Emmanuelle Grundmann is a primatologist by training and a naturalist author whose work accompanies and enriches Cyril Ruoso's photographs after their travels together. Her publications have appeared in magazines such as *Espèces* and on web sites including *Zoom on Earth* and *Futura-Sciences*. She has also published numerous essays ("The Forests We've Destroyed," "Tomorrow: The Only Species Left? – Humanity Without Biodiversity,") and written children's books, such as *Sirocco: Mission Kakapo*.