

*Brazil Amazon:  
Belem, Boa Vista do Acara,  
Combu & Cotijuba Islands*

*Community-Based Ecotourism Trip  
06 days*

*Para – Amazon – Brazil*





## *Riverine Belem: Boa Vista do Acara, Combu & Cotijuba Islands*

*06 days*

Estação Gabiraba is a tour operator founded from the accumulated knowledge through the management of educational groups in the Amazon and through discussions with social and environmental entities that act in this region. In cooperation with local communities and governmental and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), we work to develop and establish an alternative model of tourism that generates income for social initiatives within the community, simultaneously valuing the local traditions and environment. Committed to the principles of community-based ecotourism and fair trade, Estação Gabiraba strives to contribute to a more participatory and sharing society.

According to these principles, we present the trip "Riverine Belem: Boa Vista do Acara, Combu & Cotijuba Island", in Para State, created for special groups of visitors that wish to know our native culture and wildlife and historical attractions.

This is an opportunity to have a different travel experience not only enjoyable and entertaining, but also educational, authentic, responsible and interactive, based on sharing culture and generating benefits for local communities.

Welcome to the Brazil Amazon!





## Itinerary

### **Day 1: Belem**

Arrival in Belem and transfer from the airport to the hotel. Free time to rest and walk around Belem downtown. \*Meals are not included this day.

### **Day 2: Belem**

After breakfast, we will departure from the hotel at 8:30 a.m. We will enjoy a tour around Belem, visiting the popular market called Ver-o-Peso (the most famous postcard of Belem), where diverse typical fruits, fishes and seafood, meat, handcrafts, spices, medicinal herbs and regional products make this fair the most interesting and fascinating market in the Amazon. At 12 p.m. break for lunch (included). In the afternoon, from 3 p.m., we will visit the old and historical sites in the town, emphasizing the area of Feliz Lusitania Complex, where is located Saint Alexander's Church and Religious Art Museum, Belem Cathedral, *Casa das Onze Janelas* (Modern Art Museum) and *Forte do Presépio* (fort), the landmark of Belem's foundation. We will pass by Republic's Square, where is located the *Theatro da Paz*, an opera house built in 1878 during the Rubber Cycle, when an important economic growth occurred on the region. The sunset will be appreciated from Estação das Docas, a cultural and gastronomic place by the docks, where we have a beautiful view of the Guajara Bay. Return to hotel at 7 p.m. Dinner (not included) and free time.

### **Day 3: Belem/Cotijuba Island/Belem**

Breakfast and leave the hotel at 7:15 a.m. to Cotijuba Island. Transfer by vans or bus (1 hour) to Icoaraci, where we will embark in a regular boat to Cotijuba Island (1 hour and 20 minutes of navigation there). Arrival and meeting with the Women's Movement of Belem Islands – MMIB, that is a local social organization operating for almost 20 years on the islands of Belem. Visit the office of MMIB and interaction/voluntary activities with the locals. Depending on the period, can be: a) participate in the planting or harvest native trees, like *priprioca* (aromatic root of the Amazon that is marketed for Natura) or cassava; b) participate in the elderly care group; c) support the users of the center for digital inclusion (telecentre) with computer classes; d) participate in the handicraft production project made from local seeds and fibers; or e) sports such as integration of culture. Lunch (included) and leisure time by the river beach (but that seems the ocean in size). Return to Icoaraci by regular boat and to Belem by vans or bus. Arrival at 7 p.m. Free time and dinner (not included).



#### **Day 4: Belem/Boa Vista do Acara/Belem**

Breakfast and departure from the hotel at 8:00 a.m. to the port in Belem. We will embark at 8:30 a.m. (in a rented regional boat) to Boa Vista do Acara community. It will be, approximately, 50 minutes of navigation. During the trip, that cross Guamá River (one of those which form Guajará Bay in Belem), is possible to see and understand how people live in the region. Homes built on stakes guarantee protection against the force of the river and boats are the only transportation. The red flag tied up in a mast is a sign of there is açaí to sell. It is very common to see the native palm tree from the Amazon along the bank. The extraction is one of the main income sources of the native people. Arrival at the community port around 9:20 a.m. and meeting with a community leaders from Boa Vista do Acara. They will be our guides during the whole day. Then, we will begin a walk of 20 minutes from the port to the Association Center, where we will introduce ourselves to each other and a welcome snack prepared by the community will be waiting for us. From there we follow to Priprioca's plantation, an aromatic root used in cosmetics production, located 2 minutes from the Center by walking. The Association commercializes this root to Natura Company. As priprioca takes a minimum of eight months to be reaped, native families support themselves with the cultivation of açaí, cupuaçu, biribá and many others fruits species that we will also have the opportunity to know. Still in the morning, we will participate of the process of handmade production of "Mandioca" flour, the base of the Amazon food. We will experience from the care that they have with their roças (plantations) to the work of the families in the flour house. Lunch (included) will be served at the community center. In the afternoon, we will stop by a igarape (small channel of the river) to swim and take a wonderful bath with aromatic natural plants, called "banho de cheiro", that is an old tradition highly respected and widespread in Boa Vista do Acara. And, at the end, we will walk back to the port and embark at 15:30 p.m. to return to Belem. Arrival in Belem at 16:30 p.m. and transfer to the hotel. Free time and dinner (not included). \*\*\*End of our services.



### **Day 5: Belem/Ilha do Combu/Belem**

Breakfast and departure from the hotel at 8:30 a.m. to the port in Belem. We will embark in a regional boat to Combu Island (20 minutes of navigation). Along the rivers of the Amazon live the ribeirinhos – a non-indigenous traditional population, depending mainly on artisanal fishing and community-based forest management (timber and non-timber products). There are more than 3 million *ribeirinhos* (riverine people) in the Amazon. The Combu Island is formally an environmentally protected area but traditional communities are allowed to live there. It was established in 1997 with a size of 1.5 thousand hectares. We will arrive at the island visit Dona Nena, whose 14-hectare agroforestry plot produces cocoa and various Amazonian fruits such as bacuri (*Platonia insignis*) and cupuaçu (*Theobroma grandiflora*). After introduce ourselves and have a traditional coffee with her (with different handmade products), we will have a short trail on her property with informal explanation about local biodiversity, forest preservation and sustainable use of the forest. At the end of the walk, there will be an explanation and demonstration of Dona Nena's artisanal chocolate/cocoa production. She will tell the history of this chocolate, how she learned and the way her family started to make it this way. The visitors will have chance to help her to make the chocolate. From there, we will have lunch (included) at a restaurant by the river at Combu Island and have some time to swim and relax. Return to Belem and arrival at the hotel at 3:00 p.m. Free time and dinner (not included).





## **Day 6: Belem/Hometowns**

Breakfast and check out from the hotel until 12:00. Transfer to the airport for departure to hometowns. *\*\*\*End of our services. Thank you!*

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**Price:** R\$ 3.350,00 (Brazilian Reais) per person for a minimum of 8 people.

### **Trip includes:**

- Transportation: transfers (in + out) from the airport in Belem and transfer from the hotel to the port and during scheduled activities of the itinerary.
- River transport by regional boat chartered in the Belem / Boa Vista do Acara / Belem and Belem / Combu Island / Belem; and in regular regional vessels, in the Belem / Cotijuba Island / Belem stretch.
- Hotel: five nights at hotel in Belem (in double rooms).
- Food: 5 breakfasts (from Day 2 to Day 6); 04 lunches (Day 2 to Day 5); and 02 snacks (Day 3 and 4). Other expenses on food and drinks are not included.
- Ecotourism activities with local guides and professionals.
- Bilingual logistics coordinator / guide following the tours.
- Contribution fee for the local associations.
- Travel insurance.
- Welcome gift.

### **The trip does not include:**

- Drinking.
- Aviation.
- Activities and tours extras.
- Expenses in connection with hotel services, etc. ☐
- Any other service not mentioned in the above program.

### **Payment:**

Confirmation of the trip is made by payment of a deposit worth 30% of the total price per person. The rest of the payment can be made up to 30 days before the start of the journey. Deposit information:

- 1) Itaú Bank;  
Agency 7218;  
Account number 01554-8;  
ESTACAO GABIRABA;  
CNPJ: 09.100.367/0001-51.



### Important Notes:

- ❖ In Belem, be sure to try: tacacá, acai, flour (manioc flour and tapioca), fish (*filhote* and *pescada amarela*), maniçoba, regional fruit juices and ice creams (cupuaçu, bacuri, muruci, taperebá, etc.), Brazil nuts and *tapiquinhas* (or tapioca);
- ❖ The itinerary may change at any time according to weather conditions or for reasons of force majeure; ☐
- ❖ This proposal was created for a minimum of 08 participants; ☐
- ❖ In accordance with the 161 Embratur Deliberation Act (August 9, 1985), cancellation of your reservation 31 days prior to boarding will result in 10% of the total value being retained due to operational expenses. In the case that the trip is canceled 21 to 30 days prior to boarding, 50% of the total value will be retained. If the trip is canceled within 20 days prior to boarding, we will retain 80% of the total value of the package.
- ❖ Prices are in Brazilian Reais and do not include airfare.

### What to bring:

- Light clothes for walking in the city;
- Clothing for trails (long pants and closed shoes);
- Swimwear;
- Comfortable sandals;
- Kit of personal medications;
- Sunglasses;
- Sunscreen;
- Repellent;
- Umbrella or raincoat;
- Guide of observation of flora and fauna;
- Camera; ☐
- CDs, books, postcards, photographs or any other item related to the culture of their place of origin.

Any questions or information, please contact us. Thank you!

#### **Ana Gabriela Fontoura**

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