

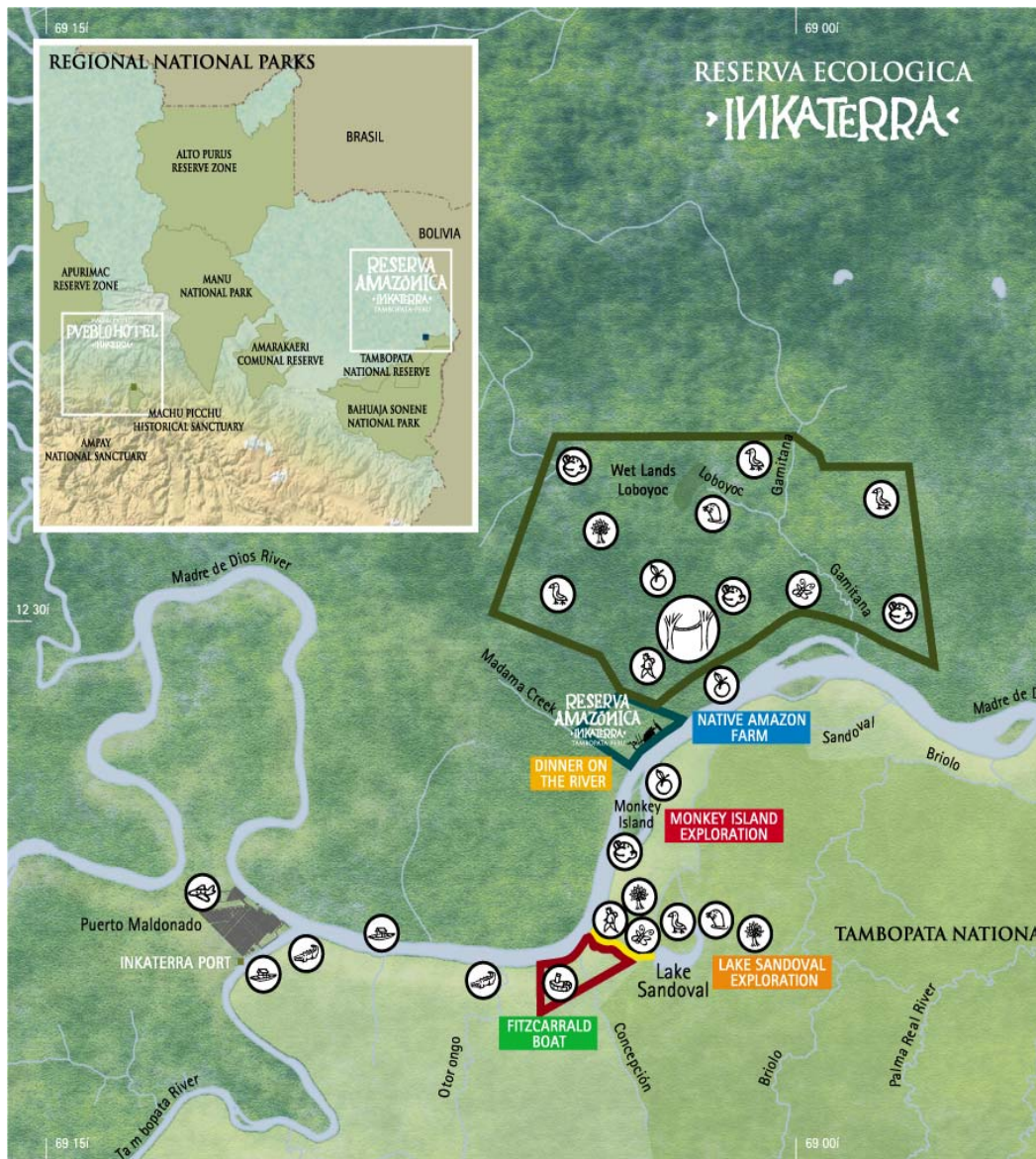
INKATERRA CANOPY



Inkaterra Canopy offers the unforgettable experience of walking through the tree tops of the giant Amazon Basin, across hanging bridges, observing several animal species not normally visible from the ground. Landscapes unimaginable from below and possible only from the air, are revealed on this network of bridges, towers and platforms.

With its camouflage design, the Canopy Inkaterra system is considered one of the most modern and sophisticated in the world. It has been carefully constructed by experts, using ecological materials to avoid negatively impacting the surrounding environment. Special cables and lateral nets, along with solidly constructed room-sized vertical towers, make it one of the world's safest treetop bridges.

Canopy Inkaterra is situated next to Inkaterra Reserva Amazonica, in Inkaterra's private 12,000-hectare (40 square-mile) ecological reserve, one hour down river from Puerto Maldonado.



At the Interpretive Center visitors can:

- See the Inkaterra Canopy design and construction details.
- Become acquainted with the biological characteristics of the surrounding area.
- Learn about the work of Inka Terra Association (ITA), in support to the region's native communities.

This center also welcomes Peruvian and international researchers, students and teachers who visit the canopy and the reserve.

THE VISIT INCLUDES:

- Bilingual environmental interpreter.
- Citronella repellent.
- Printed canopy guide.
- Visit to the Interpretive Center (*Eco-Media Center*) for a description of the canopy adventure, including construction facts, as well as information about the plants and animals that may be observed. Visitors also learn about conservation, development projects and partnerships with local communities.
- An hour and a half guided tour of the canopy, with personalized explanation.
- Equipment available for visitors— binoculars, telescopes, flashlights and magnifying glasses.
- Roundtrip motorboat transfer from Puerto Maldonado (if transport cost is paid).
- Canopy experience certificate.



A diverse forest of immense palms and trees, growing more than 50 meters high, surrounds the structure, which was designed to be camouflaged, blending with the natural environment for the least possible impact on local flora and fauna.

Canopy Inkaterra is expected to last more than 30 years under Amazonian conditions. The most durable and resistant Amazonian wood (shihuahuaco or ironwood tree and quinilla) has been used in construction, along with the best available materials brought from the United States — special cables treated to be impermeable to the environmental conditions, and to resist the high humidity and intense jungle rain. Strong lateral nets, one and a half meters high, flank the bridges, helping make Canopy Inkaterra one of the world's safest. (The applied safety factor is 5:1; the stress at any point will not exceed more than one-fifth of its breaking strength.)

The Canopy is 344 meters (1,136 feet) long, which include seven suspended bridges, eight treetop observation platforms, and two grand towers with 29-meter stairways.

An American company, Canopy Construction Associates (www.canopyaccess.com), was responsible for Canopy Inkaterra's design and construction, working with a group of 13 specialists from the United States, and eight local technicians. This company, comprised of scientists and construction experts, has built 12 other tree canopy bridges in the United States, Asia and South America.



A Canopy Inkaterra visit is open to all — Reserva Amazonica guests, or non guests.

The development and construction of Canopy Inkaterra has been made possible with the first and only loan granted by the Global Environmental Facility (GEF), a loan from the Environmental Fund of the United Nations, and with the support of ACEER (www.aceer.org), the

National Geographic Society, and the International Financial Corporation (IFC, member of the World Bank).

Proceeds from this activity are managed by Inka Terra Association, for conservation and social projects in the Madre de Dios.

Visits to the Canopy Inkaterra are intended to generate:

- Sustainable, productive projects for environmental education and research, and management of tropical forest resources in five native communities. Two of these communities participate in tourism enterprises.
- Support for the *Bosque de los Niños* (Children's Forest) in Palma Real, an Ese Eja community, in conjunction with the *Asociación para la Niñez y su Ambiente* (www.ania-peru.org). In this model intercultural program, officially recognized by the Ministry of Education, the boys and girls of the native community learn to value, protect and care natural resources of the forest, as they interact with tourists.
- Implementation of the Center for Environmental Research and Amazonian Education, in the Department of Madre de Dios. This project is a partnership with ACEER (www.aceer.org), with the support of National Geographic Society.
- The production of educational literature, inventories and lists, tourist guides and research materials.



Inkaterra Canopy Map

