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Amazon River

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Abstract

Suggested readings for the Penn Alumni Travel excursion to the Amazon. See the Library Guide for this bibliography [here](#).

Keywords

amazon, bibliography, penn, alumni, travel, readings, guidebooks

Comments

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Alumni Travel Reading List
Amazon River

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Suggested Readings

Natural History

Smith, Nigel J. *The Amazon River Forest: a Natural History of Plants, Animals, and People*. Oxford University Press, 1999.

“...Geographer Nigel Smith reviews the natural history of the area from the people's perspective, offering a large-scale portrayal of the culture and of the region not found in most books on Amazonia.” (From the Publisher).

Hoorn, C. and F. P. Wesselingh. *Amazonia--landscape and Species Evolution: a Look into the Past*. Wiley-Blackwell, 2010.

This book examines how the geologic history of the Amazon has been a driving force in shaping the biodiversity of both flora and fauna. Written by leading scientists in Amazonian research, it is an indepth review of the palaeogeographic, palaeoclimatic and palaeoenvironmental evolution of northern South America.

Raffles, Hugh. *In Amazonia: a Natural History*. Princeton University Press, 2002.

“Engagingly written, theoretically inventive, and vividly illustrated, the book introduces a diverse range of characters--from sixteenth-century explorers and their native rivals to nineteenth-century naturalists and contemporary ecologists, logging company executives, and river-traders. A natural history of a different kind, In Amazonia shows how humans, animals, rivers, and forests all participate in the making of a region that remains today at the center of debates in environmental politics.” (From the Publisher)

Wright, Patricia Chapple. *High Moon Over the Amazon: My Quest to Understand the Monkeys of the Night*. Lantern Books, 2013.

In her memoir, lemur expert, Patricia Chapple Wright, describes her search for a mate for her pet-shop purchased owl monkey. This search takes her to the Amazon, where, in a remote research station in the wilds of Peru, she undergoes the experiences which lead to her career as a noted scientist.

Stafford, Ed. *Walking the Amazon: 860 Days. One Step at a Time*. Plume, 2012.

Ed Stafford, National Geographic's Adventurer of the Year for 2010, is the only known man to have walked the entire length of the Amazon. If you are taking the trip to Machu Picchu, you might also take a look at Mark Adams' *Turn Right at Machu Picchu* (2012) another in the Plume series, "One Step at a Time."

Peruvian Culture

Ferreira, César and Eduardo Dargent-Chamot. *Culture and Customs of Peru*. Greenwood Press, 2003.

Looking at Peru's culture from pre-Columbian times to today, Ferreira and Dargent-Chamot, provide an in depth look at the social integration of Peru's Indian and Hispanic population. In particular, the two authors focus on how Peru's geography has been an important factor in its cultural and social expression.

Lumbreras, Luis Guillermo, et al. *Peru: Art from the Chavín to the Incas*. Paris-Musées, 2006.

"Richly illustrated, this book describes the grandeur and richness of the numerous civilizations predating the Incas, including the Paracas, Nazca, Recuay, Sicán-Lambayeque, Moche-Sipán, and Chimú cultures, as well as the great Inca civilization." (From the Publisher)

Informational Websites

UNESCO Lima Peru: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/500>

The Historic Center of Lima is a UNESCO World Heritage site. Follow this link to learn why the "City of Kings" was selected and view a gallery of its famous sites, including its ubiquitous balconies.

Pacaya Samiria National Reserve: <http://pacayasamiria.org/>

A premier ecotourism destination, Pacaya Samiria National Reserve is one of the most protected habitats in the Peruvian Amazon. Keep an eye out for the pink dolphins and giant river otters that make the three rivers of this region, the Pacayay, the Samiria, and the Yanayacu-Pucate, home. Oh, and look out for the anacondas too!