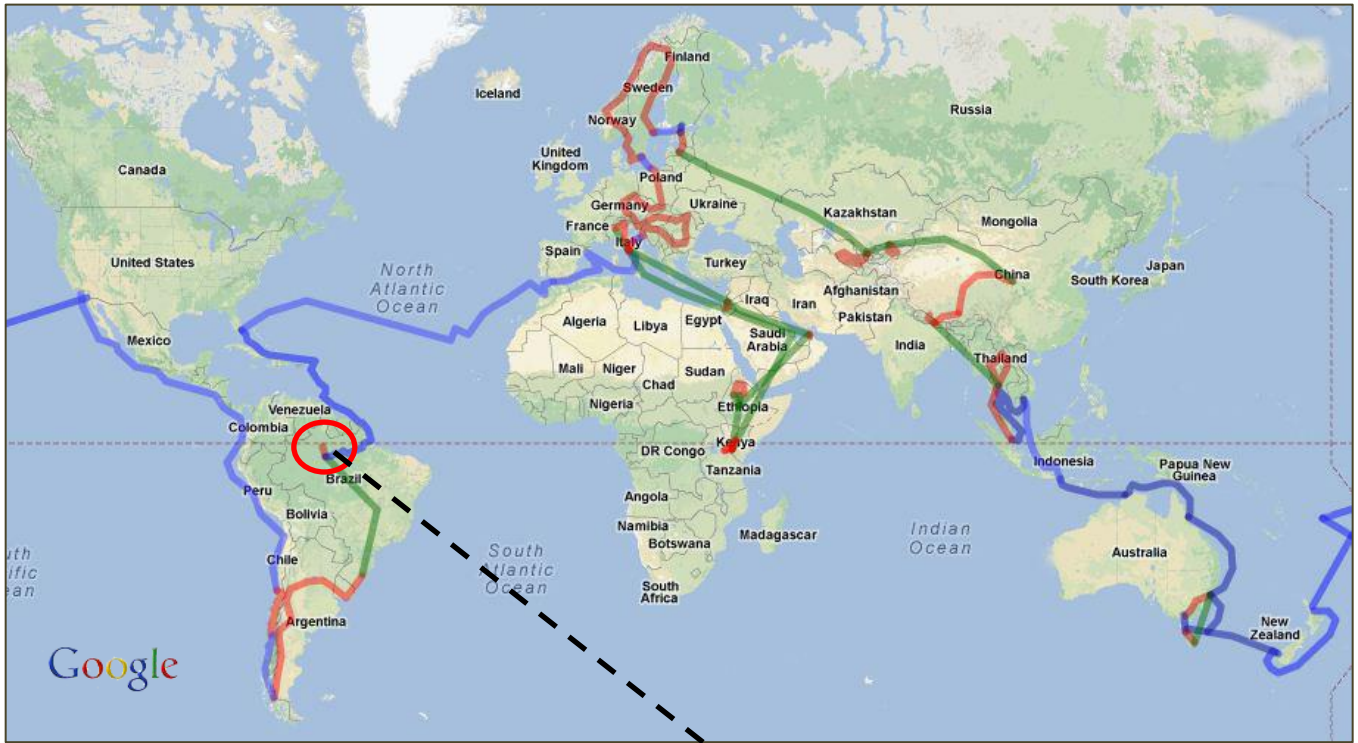




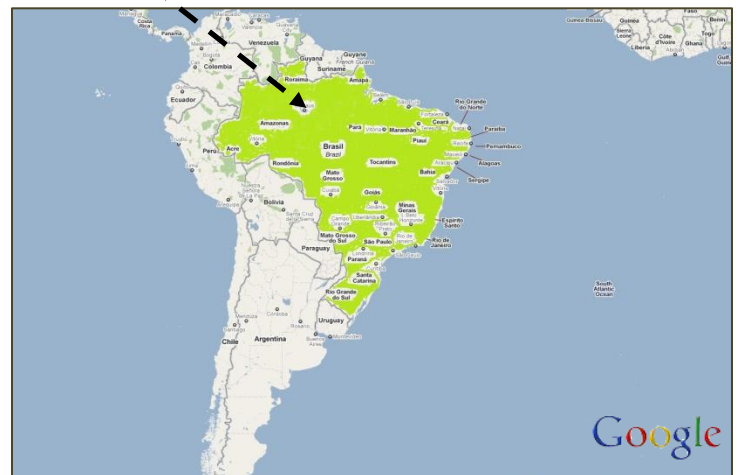
Trekking the Planet

Discovering the Cultural and Natural Significance of the World



Where are we now?

- Darren and Sandy are in Manaus, Brazil, located at 3° S and 60° W.
- We have traveled approximately 59,467 miles (96,337 kilometers) from our starting point in California.



People and Culture

- The Amazon River, the second longest in the world (after the Nile) was named for female warriors that Spanish explorer Fransisco de Orellana encountered while exploring in 1541.
- After European discovery, a number of colonial trading towns and religious missions were established. In 1850, steamboat travel began on the Amazon, which opened up the region for greater development.
- Manaus is located 1,000 miles (1,600 kilometers) inland from the Atlantic Ocean. It is the capital of the Brazilian state of Amazonas and the largest city along the Amazon, with a population of about 1.7 million.
- Manaus started as a Portuguese fort in 1669 and became a city in 1848. A rubber boom in the late 1800's made the city very wealthy as rubber trees were plentiful in the area.
- Known as the "Paris of the Tropics", many European-style buildings were built in Manaus, including an opera house, complete with marble and crystal from Europe. It was completed in 1896 and can be seen today.

Did you know?

Before European arrival there were about 2,000 tribes living in the Amazon region, totaling several million people. Today, there are only an estimated 200 tribes left, and about 300,000 people. Many were victims of violence and disease as the region was developed. There are still 50 - 75 tribes that, by choice, live isolated from the outside world.

source: Wikipedia.org



The Manaus (Teatro Amazonas) Opera House (source: Terra-Brazil.com)



The size of the Amazon basin would make it the 9th largest country in the world. (source: [How Stuff Works.com](http://HowStuffWorks.com)).

Pink Dolphins

One of the many animals found in the Amazon River is the pink dolphin. Known as the Amazon River dolphin, it averages about 6 1/2 feet (2 meters) long. It can turn its head from side to side while most other dolphins cannot.



sources: Rainforest-Alliance.org, [Unique – Southamerica-travel-experience.com](http://Unique-Southamerica-travel-experience.com)

Nature and Environment

- The source of the Amazon is in the Andes Mountains in Peru and it is the largest rainforest in the world.
- More than 1,100 other rivers / tributaries empty into the Amazon. In turn, the Amazon is responsible for 20% of all the freshwater entering oceans in the world.
- The Amazon basin is home to more than 2,400 types of fish (more than the Atlantic Ocean) and 2.5 million insect species. 20% of the world's bird species are found in the rainforest.
- An estimated 1/5 of the total Amazon basin had been deforested. In addition to the former rubber trade, cattle grazing and population growth, including the construction of a Trans-Amazon highway, have contributed to the loss of rainforest.
- Manaus, like much of the Amazon, has a tropical climate, with the same temperature almost every day (about 86F / 30C), with twice as much rain during its summer as its winter.

Our Plans

- We crossed the equator into the southern hemisphere for the last time on our journey. We will be below the equator for the next two months in South America, until we sail for home in March.
- We are jungle trekking here and expect to see a diversity of wildlife and plants.
- We are looking forward to our time in South America so keep your questions coming about this exciting continent. We will share our answers in the coming weeks.

Black and White River

Just a few miles from Manaus, the Rio Negro meets the Rio Solimoes. The differences in temperature and density keep the two waters, one beige and one dark, separate for about six miles before they begin to blend into the Amazon River.



source: Destination360.com

More Information

- <http://www.amazon-ecotours.com/subpage/Amazon/fun%20&%20amaz%28on%29ing%20facts.htm>
- <http://nationalzoo.si.edu/Animals/Amazonia/Facts/basinfacts.cfm>
- <http://www.sciencekids.co.nz/sciencefacts/earth/amazonriver.html>
- http://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Amazon_river

Our Partners



This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 3.0 Unported License.