

# **SAFETY – OUR #1 PRIORITY!**

## **WHAT ABOUT SAFETY ONSITE?**

Personal safety is a priority. Common sense rules are outlined and enforced. Each person has a life jacket when traveling on transfer boats. The Canopy Walkway is carefully maintained and checked daily. The Missouri Botanical Gardens is also involved to regularly examine each of the Walkway's platform trees. The Walkway is constructed to help everyone feel secure. Netting is stretched chest-high on either side of the walkway and there is always something for you to hold on to for balance. Experiencing the walkway is, of course, optional. But most find success in trying, even the most acrophobic.

Our aim is to minimize risk for everyone involved in our programs. Supervision, first aid, equipment & transportation safety, training & instruction, rules, and emergency response are all taken seriously. The Teacher/Student ratio is high. The Guide/Student ratio is high, plus our Naturalist Guides are professionals with many years of field experience. We generally maintain a student/adult ration of 6 to 1. All program activities are supervised by one or more adults. First aid supplies are available during group activities and on boats. Safety rules are established and enforced. Emergency response is supported by advance information collected from each participant and established communications channels.

## **POLITICALLY, IS IT SAFE?**

Yes! Peru is a democracy with a democratically elected president. The area around Iquitos, Peru is peaceful and a traditionally stable part of the country. Iquitos and the rainforests of the upper Amazon are relatively remote and the workshop facilities are secluded in the rainforest. Students, teachers, naturalists, and other travelers have been visiting this area over the last dozen years without incident. Explorama Tours, our Peruvian travel partner, has been hosting travelers in the upper Amazon basin for over 40 years without disruption of their travel services.

## **WHAT IS THE PLAN FOR EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS?**

For each program, we distribute a contact sheet with emergency phone numbers should any parent need to contact a group leader during the workshop expedition. Emergency messages are relayed by radio. Each Amazon lodge facility is in microwave radio communications with the headquarters office of Explorama Tours in Iquitos. Daily boats carry supplies and written messages between lodge facilities. In an emergency, your group leader is able to communicate with parents or contacts in the States by radio and phone via the Iquitos office.

## **IS THE WATER SAFE TO DRINK?**

Plenty of bottled water for brushing your teeth and drinking is available from convenient water dispensers at all the lodge facilities in the Amazon. We recommend that everyone refill their personal water bottles often and drink lots of water.

## **WHAT ABOUT PREVENTIVE MEDICINE?**

Up-to-date tetanus, vaccinations for yellow fever and hepatitis, and pills to prevent Malaria are recommended. Though no immunizations are currently required to enter Peru, it is advisable to consult your local travel clinic or physician. Neither Environmental Expeditions nor EcoTeach is qualified to make medical recommendations. We distribute a letter from the physician in residence in the Amazon and strongly recommend that you contact the Center for Disease Control in Atlanta at 888-232-3228 or 888-232-3299 (for fax info). Also, CDC's website [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov) is excellent.

## **WHAT ABOUT MEDICAL CARE WHILE TRAVELING?**

Dr. Linnea Smith's medical clinic is central to the facilities in the Amazon and available to travelers with health concerns or need for emergency care. Explorama Tours administrators are also experienced with emergency medical procedures should a traveler need to be transported for more specialized care to the Seventh Day Adventist Hospital, a private facility in Iquitos, giving priority care to Explorama passengers and staff.

## **WHAT BASELINE INSURANCE IS PROVIDED?**

The land cost of your trip includes a post-departure insurance policy with emergency evacuation and emergency medical coverage for each participant. The description of coverage is available on the trip webpage or by request from EcoTeach. Additional comprehensive and "cancel for no reason" insurance policies are available.