

AMAZONIA

# AMAZON TRIPLE FRONTERA

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Indigenous community of San Juan de Soco (Puerto Narino, Colombia, Amazon). Rusbel, Alvino and Maicol, the male members of a Ticuna family, watch television during the only hours when there is electricity in the community. Electricity is provided for a few hours a day in the evenings by an old generator.

## LIFE ALONG LIQUID BORDERS

In the Amazon, the "Triple Frontera" is the "triple frontier" where the Brazilian, Peruvian and Colombian borders meet. This border is intangible: the imaginary lines of the map are lost in the jungle and waters of the Amazon, a favorite route for drug traffickers and unscrupulous smugglers. But the Triple Frontera is also the land of the Ticuna, the Yagua and the Cocama, indigenous peoples who live in stilt houses in symbiosis with the aquatic environment: "We depend on water," explains Alex Ruffino, an activist from San Pedro de los Lagos, "and here everything revolves around the rains and the rivers, which are the only routes for communication and trade." The

alternating rainy and dry seasons allow these communities to organize fishing, travel and harvests of medicinal plants, whose secret rituals – despite increasing evangelization – are jealously preserved by the women of the villages. Here, in the heart of the Amazon, only the echoes of the devastating deforestation that is destroying the rainforest a thousand miles away can be heard. But the ecosystem is under threat, and at COP27 in Sharm el-Sheikh in November 2022, Brazil's newly elected President Lula said he wants to reverse the outgoing president's environmental policies. The goal? The definitive protection of the Amazon rainforest, and its rich cultural heritage.



Indigenous community of Puerto San Antonio (Perù, Amazon). Macaw feathers. For indigenous people macaws, the largest bird in the parrot family, symbolize fertility and their feathers are used for rituals and ceremonies.



Indigenous community of Paraiso (Puerto Narino, Colombia, Amazon). In the waters of the Amazon River, Don Havier, a Ticuna man is baptized by the pastor of The Seventh-day Adventist Church. In recent years evangelical churches have spread rapidly in the Amazon, leading to a loss of local traditions and culture.



Indigenous community of Atalaia Do Norte (Brasil, Amazon). The community of Atalaia is built on wooden houses on stilts. During the rainy season the water rises more than 10 meters.



Indigenous community of Puerto San Antonio (Perù, Amazon). A Ticuna girl plays on a carpet of pommarosa flowers.



Indigenous community of Benjamin (Brasil, Amazon). Termites. When crushed in the hands, termites release a scent that, when inhaled, can alleviate colds and flu.



Perù (Amazon). A flooded forest along the Amazon river. The water levels can vary by some 10 meters from dry season to wet season. New canals appears and islands and lakes disappear when the water rises.



Indigenous community of San Francisco (Puerto Narino, Colombia, Amazon). Alex Falcon Rubio, an indigenous Ticuna with a Peruvian mother and a Brazilian father, poses for a picture with the Acai berry plant he has just harvested. Acai has always been part of the Amazonian diet but the deforestation impacts the forest productivity.



Puerto Narino (Colombia). Glexis Ximena Lopez Pinto, an indigenous Ticuna woman who was born and raised in Puerto Narino, Colombia. "My father and my mother are both ticuna, we are 100% Ticuna" she says proudly.



Caballococha (Perù, Amazon). Alex Falcon Rubio leads peke peke, the traditional boat, on the Amazon River during the rainy season.



Leticia (Colombia, Amazon). A Brazilian girl celebrates during the Amazonian fraternity festival in Leticia, Colombia. Every year the festival is celebrated from July 5 to July 20 in order to promote the integration and culture of the countries of the Amazon basin (Brazil, Colombia and Peru).



Indigenous community of Boyahuazu (Puerto Narino, Colombia, Amazon). A printed portrait of the family of Don Francisco, a community fisherman. The community is located on the border with Peru.



Indigenous community of 7 de Agosto (Colombia, Amazon). The banks of the Amazon River during the dry season, when the water level drops up to 10 meters, leaving tree roots exposed.



Leticia (Colombia, Amazon). Miss Perù on the catwalk during the Amazon fraternity festival. Every year in July, the queen of the festival is chosen from representatives of Colombia Brazil and Peru.



Indigenous community of San Francisco (Puerto Narino, Colombia, Amazon). Alex Falcon Rubio, an indigenous Ticuna with a Peruvian mother and a Brazilian father, in the waters of the Amazon River. "For me, being Ticuna means knowing the rio and its jungle. To always have respect for nature and love in my soul."

Indigenous community of Paraiso (Puerto Narino, Colombia, Amazon). A family washes clothes and dishes in the waters of the rio. From rivers to rain, the water is used by indigenous people for their everyday activities such as washing, bathing, drinking and cooking.





Indigenous community of Santa Clara (Lago Tarapoto, Colombia, Amazon). The Santa Clara indigenous community is a tiny village on the shores of Lake Tarapoto, inhabited by 11 families and the only village right on the lake.



Puerto Narino (Colombia, Amazon). Members of the The Seventh-day Adventist Church sing in the streets of Puerto Narino, Colombia.



Indigenous community of San Francisco (Puerto Narino, Colombia, Amazon). Hands painted with Huito. This fruit, when grated and placed in contact with the skin, induces a chemical reaction that changes its color to dark blue. For indigenous people it is a sacred fruit that serves as a protection against bad spirits of the jungle and to purify the body.

Lake Tarapoto (Colombia, Amazon). Diana, a Chinese tourist, fishes for piranhas in Lake Tarapoto. Traditional fishing is part of the activities offered by the area's indigenous youths who are entering the world of tourism.





Leticia ( Colombia, Amazon). A woman breastfeeds her child in the traditional “Maloca” of an Uitoto family. The Maloca is a traditional house made of leaves. It is a sacred educational and spiritual space with unique characteristics for each ethnic group. The Maloca is located in the middle of the jungle, walking 5 hours.



Indigenous community of San Francisco (Puerto Narino, Colombia, Amazon). Community members gather for the customary Sunday soccer game; this is only possible during the dry season; during the rainy season the field is completely submerged and becomes navigable.

Lake Tarapoto (Puerto Narino, Colombia).  
A jungle lake fed by Amazon river and  
home to pink dolphins and manatees.



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