



ACCA

Los Amigos Biological Station (CICRA) Frequently Asked Questions

How do I get to CICRA?

There are three options for traveling to the station.

1. The CICRA boat, which takes between 4-5 hours to reach the station.
2. A *colectivo* (water taxi), which leaves daily and takes between 5-12 hours to reach the station. We recommend boarding the *colectivo* if you have to arrive on a day when the CICRA boat cannot take you or if you are not carrying much with you. Be sure to advise the *colectivo* driver that you are traveling to CICRA-ACCA.
3. CICRA also has a small airstrip and you are welcome to fly to visit us. Please contact Carlos Castaneda ccastaneda@conservaconamazonica.org to coordinate flight details or to reserve the CICRA boat.

What resources are available at the station?

CICRA offers visitors a variety of resources and facilities which include:

- Spacious labs and offices
- A lecture hall
- Over 60 km of marked, georeferenced trails
- A medicinal and useful plants garden
- An extensive library (>500) that includes field-guides to local plants and animals
- Satellite internet access
- The expertise of a PhD level resident science coordinator

What activities does CICRA offer?

Aside from the simple wonder of the Amazon, the station itself has some specific attractions including:

- A 60 m observation tower from which you can see the sun rise or set over the forest while the macaws make dramatic entrances. On clear mornings it is possible to see the Andes.
- An extensive and well-marked trail system. Even if this is your first time in the forest, you will be able to explore with confidence.
- A blackwater lake where it is possible to encounter one of three resident anacondas.
- An ox-bow lake where families of giant river otters sometimes come to hunt, and which is surrounded by flocks of the fantastical hoatzin bird.

What is the food like?

CICRA serves breakfast, lunch, and dinner at set times, but if notified in advance, the cooks are more than happy to pack food for the field or hold an individual meal for a later time. The station is equipped to service vegetarians and other dietary restrictions, but we just ask that you inform the station staff prior to your arrival.

What species are typically sighted at the station?

To date, 5,318 species and 31 taxonomic groups have been recorded at Los Amigos. These include 595 birds, over 2,358 plants, >200 ferns, 227 beetles, 219 ants, 340 fungi, 55 mollusks, >300 butterflies, 199 mammals, and over 110 mammals, 75 species of reptiles, 85 species of amphibians. Among the species found at CICRA are jaguars, river otters, pumas, tapirs, ocelots, bush dogs, and 12 species of monkeys.

Are there opportunities for birders?

Yes! 595 bird species have been observed at Los Amigos. These include rare, endangered, and common tropical birds.

What accommodations are available?

CICRA has private cabins with private baths and a solar power system, private rooms with either private or communal baths, and smaller cabins with communal baths. Please e-mail Carlos Castaneda at ccastaneda@conservaconamazonica.org for reservations and prices.

Where can I find more information about CICRA?

You can find more information, including maps, registration form, and volunteer application, on the Amazon Conservation Association website: <http://amazonconservation.org/ourwork/research.html> and http://amazonconservation.org/ourwork/research_cicra.html.