

## Guides

Delfin Amazon Cruises has assembled a talented and experienced team of naturalist and interpretive Amazon River guides who are the most important and essential ingredient in our cruises. Their expert knowledge of plants and birdlife, and the history of this part of the Amazon, will be the difference between a visit to Peru and an unforgettable life experience in the jungle. Put together, they have decades of invaluable experience.

Most of our guides were born and raised in the rainforest they now call their office, in small communities that are spread throughout the Peruvian Amazon. They spent their childhoods

walking the forest paths, climbing trees to pick fruit, fishing the small streams, and chasing iguanas along the shoreline. Now, they are proud to share their knowledge and passion with our travelers from around the world.

Many of them have also participated in training sessions and projects with Peruvian and North American professors, researchers, scientists, and other professionals of similar leagues.

All our guides are bilingual in Spanish and English, and some have additional language aptitudes.

You will also discover during a cruise that they have delightful musical talents to boast!



### Naturalist Guide

#### Adonay Rodriguez

Adonay was born in Texas, on the banks of the Amazon River in a jungle community called Tamishiyacu. Here, he was raised with his five siblings by his parents who practiced subsistence living through farming, fishing and hunting in the Amazon rain forest and where his education, love and understanding of the environment became part of who he is today. Adonay attended primary and secondary school in Texas and stayed until he was 20 years old, whereupon he made the decision to move to the big city of Iquitos and start a new life.

His first job was at a chicken farm, but he soon left that for broom-making, until he got a position at a rain forest lodge where visitors came to see the marvels of the Amazon basin. The lodge was located near the small community of Indiana, where he met his future wife, and with whom he now has 4 children, all living in Iquitos.

Before starting his family, Adonay worked for several different jungle lodges where he came into contact with university groups and professional biologists, ornithologists, ichthyologists, and all the other "ologists" imaginable. Through his time with them, Adonay received the best education available about the Amazon rainforest and its importance to the world.

Apart from his time in the lodges, Adonay also had the opportunity to work with groups who came for jungle survival training, and later led groups around different parts of Peru, including the Andean region, and to Brazil, Ecuador and Galápagos. His talent in the realm of music is also a bonus to all who get to travel with him, as his singing and guitar abilities add tremendously to the enjoyment of his company.

Adonay has been working exclusively with the Delfin I & II since 2006 and is an integral part of the Amazon team.

# Guide & Captain Biographies



## Naturalist Guide

### Renninger "Renny" Coquinche

Renninger (whom we lovingly call Renny) was born in a small town named Puerto Mercedes on the banks of the Rio Huallaga in the Peruvian Amazon. His childhood was spent here walking the forest paths, climbing trees to pick fruit, fishing the small streams and chasing iguanas along the shoreline. Renninger attended the town school, but when he was 12 years old, his father moved the family to the larger town of Yurimaguas in order to assure an education for his children. Here, Renny was responsible for looking after his siblings, being the oldest of 12 children. The beginning of the oil boom in the Amazon coincided with his graduation from secondary school. International exploration companies arrived. Taking advantage of this opportunity, Renninger worked for one of these companies for the next 4 years.

When the oil boom went into a decline, Renny came to Iquitos in search of other job possibilities, and because of the English he learned in school, he quickly found work in tourism. Beginning as a junior guide, after a few years Renny became the lead naturalist for the company he helped build.

Over the years, Renny has had the opportunity to participate in many training sessions with both Peruvian and North American professors. He has also worked with various scientific groups and individuals who have come to the Amazon, including the renowned botanist Alwyn Gentry and ornithologist Theodore Parker. Working in tourism gives Renny great satisfaction and has given him the opportunity to visit the United States for a lecture series on the biodiversity of Peru through an invitation by the Nature Conservancy. It is hard for him to believe that 30 years have passed since he first started guiding and teaching outsiders about the fascinating Amazon rainforest.



## Naturalist Guide

### Juan Luis Ihuaquai

Juan Luis was born in the small village of Tihucuro, on the banks of the Amazon, 2 hours downriver from Iquitos. As only primary school was available in the village, when he graduated, Juan Luis moved to Iquitos to continue his education. 2 years later his parents moved the whole family to Iquitos because erosion by the Amazon had taken the land where their village once stood.

Juan Luis grew up in Amazonian, and it was here that he learned much of what he knows about the flora and fauna of this vastly complex ecosystem, its medicinal plants, birds, reptiles, and amphibians. His deep knowledge comes from his parents, grandparents, and personal history living and working here.

During his last year in school, Juan Luis chose to specialize in English, a language he had heard as a young boy, spoken by missionaries in his village. For the next 2 years he focused on the English language, and it was through his English professor that Juan Luis learned about jobs in tourism. At first he was hired as an assistant guide in a lodge, but over the next 6 years he learned much about ornithology, primates and medicinal plants thanks to the presence of many university groups who came to study the diverse life forms of the Amazon rainforest. He has also worked with biologists of prestigious institutions such as the Smithsonian, University of Wisconsin, and the San Diego Zoo.

Today, Juan Luis lives in Iquitos with his family, but for the last 14 years (after starting guiding and translating at age 22) has spent his working life surrounded by what he loves and knows best: the Amazon rainforest.



## Naturalist Guide

### Rudy Flores Lozano

Rudy lived in the native community of Yaguas in Pevas for 7 years before moving to the city of Iquitos. After finishing his schooling in Iquitos, Rudy studied at the institute Dwight David Eisenhower to become a jungle guide. During his time off, he was lucky to meet many tourists and local people, including a local shaman who knew a great deal about the medicinal plants and flora and fauna. For Rudy, this shaman was an important teacher in the sounds of the birds and animals, and it made a big impression on how he was able to communicate with the animals - he was able to get fish from the water like a person can collect fruit from trees, and Rudy learned more and more of this majestic greenery that is the Amazon.

Rudy has 6 beautiful children that live in Iquitos and looks forward to revealing the mysteries of the Amazon during our expeditions.



## Naturalist Guide

### Denis Gonzales

Denis was born in Cabo Pantoja town in Peru's Upper Amazon region. This colorful community is located 3 hours from Iquitos down the Amazon River. He spent his childhood, along with the other local children, surrounded by all kinds of rainforest animals and plants.

Denis attended elementary school in his hometown and secondary school in a nearby town. When he was 16, he entered compulsory (at the time) military service. He spent a couple of years serving the Peruvian Navy branch based in Iquitos. Afterwards, he started working in one of the eco-lodges in the area. He took on many diverse roles there that ranged from handyman, skiff driver, waiter to bartender. Several years of direct contact with visitors from all over the world gave him experience and the chance to learn and practice English. As his language skills improved and his good nature shone he was promoted to become a naturalist guide.

He is currently working onboard the Delfin II, after spending some time being trained as a junior naturalist. He assimilated a lot of information from his fellow senior naturalists and read many books to expand his knowledge base. Denis is always ready and eager to share his knowledge, experience and passion for the place he was born with all who come to visit the Amazon.

Denis lives in the city of Iquitos with his wife and 2 children, a 3 year old son and 13 year old daughter. Whenever he can, while on holiday, he takes his family to visit his parents who still live in the small village where he was born.



## Naturalist Guide

### Javier Arbildo

Javier was born in Peru's Upper Amazon region in a small yet beautiful village called 28 de Julio (July 28th). This community is located along the Itaya River, a tributary of the mighty Amazon River.

During his childhood, Javier felt a genuine passion for wildlife and nature. He grew up surrounded by many kinds of rainforest plants and animals, giving him an in-depth view of Mother Nature and a deeper understanding of the environment.

When Javier was 10, he moved to the largest settlement of the area, Iquitos, to attend high school. After graduating he studied the English language for three years. Javier obtained his first job in one of the largest tourism companies of the area. He worked there for several years, constantly learning and gaining experience.

Currently, he is very happy working onboard the Delfin II. In 2010, Lindblad Expeditions-National Geographic gave him the extraordinary chance to go to Ecuador, to the Galápagos Islands. In this wonderful place he observed, together with other Delfin II naturalists, the insights of the operation as part of his training to become a naturalist guide in the Amazon.

After 2 years of very hard training as a junior naturalist on the ship and with the help of the rest of the team, Javier is ready and eager to transmit all his knowledge, experience and passion with all the Amazon visitors for many years to come. When not aboard the ship, Javier lives in Iquitos with his wife and 2 kids.

## Captains

Delfin Amazon Cruises' captains aboard Delfin I and Delfin II have many years of experience on the waters in the Pacaya Samiria National Reserve, Amazon, Peru, and beyond. They are the ones that literally take you to on your unforgettable journey with us. With years of experience on vessels in the Peruvian Navy in areas such as engineering or security and working

with other operators in the Amazon, our captains are all very well versed in passenger safety, vessel safety management procedures, first aid, and navigation. Together with their hard working crew, they collaborate as a cohesive team and will go out of their way to ensure our guests have a memorable experience during their time on board Delfin.



### Captain

#### Remigio Teran Casternoque

Captain Teran was born in Iquitos and served in Peru's Navy for 25 years, specializing as a River Engineer & Specialist and working in small arms efforts countering terrorism along the Ucayali and Marañón Rivers between 1990 and 1997. All the while, he excelled in qualification courses expanding his knowledge in navigation and remains very passionate about it to this day. His work has taken him to far reaching corners of Amazonia including Brazil, Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, and of course Peru.

In this leisure time, Captain Teran spends time with his wife and 4 children, and enjoy active sports such as soccer and swimming.



### Captain

#### Toribio Arista Diaz

Captain Arista was born in a big family in Iquitos—ranking 6<sup>th</sup> out of 10 siblings!—and served 30 years and 6 months in the Peru Naval Forces as a River Engineer & Specialist. His familiarity with the Amazon's rivers is deep and thorough, making him a valued member of the Delfin crew.

Back at home, Captain Arista loves spending time with his wife and daughter. Besides river navigation, his interests include swimming, soccer, and salsa dancing (even though he claims he's not very good!).



### Captain

#### Manuel Álvarez Esposito

Captain Manuel born in Iquitos to a family of 7 total children (all boys!). He studied primary and high school in Iquitos as well, then later specialized in river engineering and mechanics. His time spent in the Peruvian Amazon Navy and on commercial vessels helped refine his skills in motor mechanics. In 2014, Delfin Amazon Cruises proudly invited Captain Manuel to join our wonderful vessel crew!

Today, Captain Manuel continues to live in Iquitos with his wife (whom he met at age 27) and 2 children who are his life motivation. In his spare time, he loves sport fishing and hunting.