

## MEDIA RELEASE

### **CATTLEYA ADDED TO EXPEDITION PORTFOLIO**

Australia's Expedition Cruise Specialists has added an exclusive boutique cruise ship in the upper Amazon to their portfolio of the world's best and most exotic adventure cruises.

The Cattleya hosts just eight travellers at any one time and goes to places far up the Peruvian Amazon where other cruise ships could never reach.

It was named as the one of the world's most remote cruises this week by Australia's leading expedition cruise expert Andrew Castles.

Cattleya is one of several very remote cruises around the world available through his online platform [www.expeditioncruisespecialists.com](http://www.expeditioncruisespecialists.com)

"This Amazon expedition aboard Cattleya is right up there with the most exclusive adventures available anywhere in the world," he said.

"If you look at the amazing photos of this unique little ship they stir the adventurer inside you," Mr Castles said.

Cattleya was launched in 2014 but it features a very traditional riverboat design.

There are only four suites accommodating up to eight travellers and 10 staff including two expert guides and naturalists.

Cattleya cruises to the very remote point known as Tres Fronteras where travellers get to visit three countries in one day – Peru, Columbia and Brazil. Cattleya is the only ship that reaches this point so far up river. The Tres Fronteras expedition departs Iquitos year-round with prices starting at USD6,300 per person for the eight-day programme.

The upper Amazon and the tributaries in the region are also home to age old settlements where the villagers still live in the traditional way. Wildlife in this area is also abundant.

Explorers can choose a five or an eight-day itinerary aboard the Cattleya.

Mr Castles said Amazon cruising was becoming increasingly popular with Australians.

"It is surprising how many ships and itineraries are available in this vast region," he said.

"The Delfin 1 and Delfin II, along with the Aqua Amazon, are stunning ships. They have a shallow draft which allows them to explore extensively on the Peruvian Amazon while offering luxury river cruising at its very best," Mr Castles said.

Alternatively, you can cruise by traditional riverboat aboard the Tucano up Brazil's isolated Rio Negro which is a narrow, winding tributary of the Amazon that flows through three types of rainforest. The region is only visited by a few people each year. In recent years, both Ecuador and Bolivia have also established themselves as alternative bases for expedition cruises up the Amazon River.

"The Amazon and South America in general is a very complex region. To get to unique places you need the assistance of an expert in planning your trip," Mr Castles said.

More information and exclusive photos of Cattleya and other South American packages are available at [www.expeditioncruisespecialists.com/destinations/south-america](http://www.expeditioncruisespecialists.com/destinations/south-america)

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