



Risk Assessment & Audit Peru 2026

Risks when travelling

Completed by:

Date:

(Key: H=High, M=Medium, L=Low)

Risk	Likelihood	Severity	Mitigation and Assessment Methods	Assessment Method	Compliance (Action to be taken if not compliant)
Travellers stomach problems	L	M	Ensure only bottled water is drunk. Do not clean teeth in tap water. <i>Method:</i> Check this is included in pre-arrival briefing material sent to students		
Mosquito bites leading to malaria, dengue fever or Zika virus	L	M	All participants to be instructed to cover up in the early morning and late afternoons and wear insect repellent. If taking anti-malarial tablets then participants advised to complete full course. All participants to be warned of specifics of each disease and symptoms to look out for. The hotels we use are fumigated daily during periods of heightened risk. Accommodation on boats have either mosquito nets or screens on windows. <i>Method:</i> Check this is included in pre-arrival briefing material sent to students		
Theft, mugging, violence & personal security	L	L	Participants will stay in a hotel whilst in the city and will be briefed on how to reduce the risks. Valuables should remain "off display" at all times, and participants should not walk out alone at night and avoid remote areas of the city. All hotels provided by Opwall have a main door that is locked after dark and manned by the reception. <i>Method:</i> Check this is included in pre-arrival briefing material sent to students		
Dehydration, sunburn or heat-stroke	M	M	All participants are informed that dehydration is a significant risk at all times when in the expedition country. They should be informed that they should drink 3 liters of water per day. For any treks, participants should carry sufficient water supplies for the duration of the trek and the trek leader should stop regularly to rest and check for signs of dehydration. Participants told to wear sun-cream if outside. <i>Method:</i> Check this is included in pre-arrival briefing material sent to students		
Being injured from traffic	L	M	All participants told of dangers of the busy city roads. Everyone should walk on sidewalk rather than road. <i>Method:</i> Check this is included in pre-arrival briefing material sent to students and included in welcome presentation		

Transfers & vehicles: Cars, buses, trucks

Completed by:

Date:

Risk	Likelihood	Severity	Mitigation and Assessment Methods	Assessment Method	Compliance (Action to be taken if not compliant)
Lack of management control increases risks of collision or other incident	L	M	Ensure there is an English-speaking transfer supervisor for each journey. This person should have a mobile phone and be able to contact each of the drivers travelling on any transfer. They should also ensure the drivers are always briefed (see below). <i>Method:</i> Interview person in charge of supervising transfers		
Vehicles attacked	L	H	Travel to take place during daylight and on main roads wherever possible. <i>Method:</i> Schedule of bus transfers done during daylight hours		
Participants unprepared for length of journey or relevant risks	L	M	Ensure transfer briefing is given before any transfer. This should include as a minimum: the length of the journey, the approximate times of any breaks, what to expect during breaks in terms of relevant risks and where is "off limits" (e.g. crossing the highway to browse other shops). <i>Method:</i> Interview person in charge of supervising transfers		
Inappropriate or lack of insurance	L	L	Ensure supplier holds relevant motor insurance to satisfy national requirements. This is a contract requirement. <i>Method:</i> Check with Fund Amazonia		
Inexperienced driver increasing risk of accident	L	H	Ensure driver has more than 3 years' relevant experience. <i>Method:</i> Check with Fund Amazonia		
Driver fatigue	L	M	Ensure there is a second driver if the journey is longer than 10 hours on any given day. <i>Method:</i> Check with Fund Amazonia		
Driver unaware of safety requirements	L	M	Ensure the driver has committed to meet their obligation to comply with national vehicle regulations relevant to the journey e.g. for licensing, speed limits, weight of vehicle, number of passengers etc. and have been briefed on our safety requirements (see below). This is a contract requirement. <i>Method:</i> Check with Fund Amazonia		
Tyres not able to support emergency braking	L	H	Ensure that each tyre has visible tread in the central part of the tyre all the way round, and that there are no clear irregularities such as bulges. <i>Method:</i> Check with Fund Amazonia		

Lack of comfort on journey	M	L	Ensure that luggage is stored in a separate area of the vehicle or does not prevent passengers from being in a comfortable sitting position on journeys longer than 1 hour. <i>Method:</i> Interview person in charge of supervising transfers		
Participants becoming lost during travel	L	H	If using multiple vehicles, ensure that they travel in convoy or there is one transfer supervisor (who has a mobile phone and can contact each of the drivers) per group of vehicles. <i>Method:</i> Interview person in charge of supervising transfers		
Driver not following safety requirements	L	H	Ensure that the driver drives carefully and within the speed limit, does not use their phone whilst driving, and stops at least once every 4 hours in order to prevent fatigue. <i>Method:</i> Interview person in charge of supervising transfers		

Transfers and vehicles: boats

Completed by:

Date:

Risk	Likelihood	Severity	Mitigation and Assessment Methods	Assessment Method	Compliance (Action to be taken if not compliant)
Lack of management control increases risks of incidents	L	M	All journeys to be accompanied by a Survey leader who should make sure that the vessel is not overloaded, and that all participants are fully briefed on where they can travel or sit within the boat, location of lifejackets, toilets and expected journey time. <i>Method:</i> Interview with Site Manager		
Vessel sinking, capsizing or engine failure	L	H	All boats used for transportation to be registered with the relevant port authorities. Captain to have method for communication with rescue services. Lifejackets to be available for all participants. The research vessels are equipped with SSB and UHF/VHF radios, satellite phone and email and have twice-daily contact with the office in Iquitos. <i>Method:</i> Interview with Fund Amazonia		
Fire on board the research boat	L	H	All volunteers will be briefed on the fire and evacuation procedures at the start of their stay on the vessel. All cabins are fitted with smoke detectors and all boats will have fire extinguishers in the kitchens, engine rooms, by the lower staircase, in the dining room and at the helm. <i>Method:</i> Interview with Site Manager and check information given in welcome presentation		

Passengers suffering sunburn, dehydration or heat-stroke	M	M	Staff to make sure that students have sufficient drinking water on them, and that participants are told to wear sun block if outside and a hat on auxiliary boats and canoes. <i>Method:</i> Check this is included in pre-arrival briefing material sent to students and included in welcome presentation		
Passengers suffering sea sickness	M	L	Participants to be advised to bring travel sickness medication and reminded to take it, if desired, prior to the journey. <i>Method:</i> Check this is included in pre-arrival briefing material sent to students		
Chance of slipping or falling whilst on board or on the stairs	M	M	All staff and volunteers to be aware of slippery areas and to wear non-slip shoes when on the deck. All volunteers and staff to hold on to handrails when going up and down the stairs. No running on deck. <i>Method:</i> Check this is included in welcome presentation		
Injury from engine	M	M	Participants should never enter the engine area of the boat. The engine attachment to be checked by driver for security. <i>Method:</i> Check this is included in welcome presentation and interview with site manager		
Attack by pirates	L	M	The AmazonEco ships that are being used for this expedition always travel in convoy with radio contact to Iquitos. <i>Method:</i> Interview with Fund Amazonia		
Falling whilst boarding/falling overboard	M	L	Participants to be advised to board one person at a time. If using a gangplank ensure that there is an option for participants to board without their luggage and it be passed to them once they are onboard. All volunteers and staff to be accompanied by a guide.		
			All volunteers must wear life vests when travelling in auxiliary boats and canoes. All volunteers must remain seated whilst in motion. All participants to receive a safety briefing and a 30-minute practice session before setting out on canoe transects. <i>Method:</i> Interview with Site Manager		

Boat becoming lost in poor visibility/ at night or being hit by another boat	M	M	All boat journeys to be led by Operation Wallacea or partner staff with a GPS and chart of the area and knowledge of how to navigate. All boats used to carry navigation lights. <i>Method:</i> Interview with Fund Amazonia		
Canoe becoming lost in channels	L	M	All canoe transects to be led by field assistants with sufficient experience of handling canoes. Canoes to stay in a group at all times and travel slowly. <i>Method:</i> Interview with Fund Amazonia		

Water Margins

Completed by:

Date:

Risk	Likelihood	Severity	Mitigation and Assessment Methods	Assessment Method	Compliance (Action to be taken if not compliant)
Inappropriate supervision	L	M	Complete assessment pro-forma to establish level of supervision required <i>Method:</i> Interview site manager		
Incident while crossing a body of water	M	L	Do not enter water where the current/flow could cause the participant to be moved to a deeper or more dangerous area of the water. Staff member to enter first in order to test the depth and terrain under the water. Any slippery sections should be highlighted. If required small bridge for crossing should be made. <i>Method:</i> Check with site manager that this has been done on all transects being used by groups		
Incident while swimming on site	H	H	NO SWIMMING IS ALLOWED. It is too dangerous with caiman, piranhas, electric eels, sting rays, candiru and strong currents. <i>Method:</i> Check this is included in pre-arrival briefing material sent to students and included in welcome presentation.		
Incident in swimming pool at hotel	L	M	Ensure participants are told never to use the pool alone or after 10pm. Brief participants on any slippery areas around the pool and on any banned activities e.g. diving. <i>Method:</i> Check this is included in welcome presentation		

Dangerous encounter with electric eels and sting rays	L	H	<p>This applies to stream crossings. No students are allowed to walk through streams without wearing wellington boots and the guides will make bridges for any crossings.</p> <p><i>Method:</i> Check this is included in welcome presentation and carried out for any transect where this could be an issue</p>		
---	---	---	--	--	--

Terrestrial risks

Completed by:

Date:

Risk	Likelihood	Severity	Mitigation and Assessment Methods	Assessment Method	Compliance (Action to be taken if not compliant)
Participant becoming lost	L	H	<p>All groups must sign out when leaving the camp using whiteboard system and if the group does not return on time then contact will be attempted with the group and if this is not possible a search and rescue team will be organised. No participant to leave the camp site area unaccompanied.</p> <p><i>Method:</i> Direct observation of white board sign out/in, and check that groups have been briefed</p>		
Loss or damage to personal belongings	L	H	<p>Valuables should not be left lying around. Opwall staff members will always be present on site.</p> <p><i>Method:</i> Check with site manager that this was included in welcome briefing</p>		
Inappropriate equipment or level of fitness to cope with the forest conditions	L	M	<p>Before any walks, participants are fully briefed and presence of suitable equipment is checked. New participants will be monitored carefully for signs of exhaustion and the distances covered will be adjusted according to fitness levels. Training sessions given to students prior to expedition to ensure they are fully prepared for conditions on site.</p> <p><i>Method:</i> Interview project leaders to check that this information is included in their briefings</p>		
Lack of hygiene increasing risk of disease	L	M	<p>Hands should be washed regularly before eating using hand washing facilities provided on site. Kitchen facilities whilst on site should be kept clean and food categories (eg meats, vegetables etc.) are prepared separately. All tables on site are cleaned with bleach at least once a day and dishwashing bucket water changed frequently.</p> <p><i>Method:</i> Direct observation</p>		

Allergic reaction to food	M	H	All participants to submit dietary and allergy information prior to the expedition. Where allergies are serious (eg severe nut allergies), no trigger foods to be prepared or served whilst the relevant participant is on-site (eg a total nut ban). <i>Method:</i> Interview site manager		
Medical problem for participant	M	M	All medical details are provided by all participants before the expedition and reviewed by country manager and expedition medics. Medical staff always available during the expedition or always within close proximity of medical facilities. Sites have adequate medical supplies for stabilising any patients needing to be transferred to a hospital. <i>Method:</i> Interview site manager and check first aid kit.		
Incident leading to emergency evacuation	L	H	Vehicles always available for emergency evacuation from field sites. Full evacuation plans in place for extraction to local medical facilities. <i>Method:</i> Direct observation of vehicles on site and evacuation plans posted		
Incident due to intoxication	L	L	Eligible participants are allowed a maximum of two beers per night. No spirits or drugs are permitted. <i>Method:</i> Check alcohol policy is included in pre-arrival briefing material sent to students and included in welcome presentation, and direct observation.		
Falling down slopes, hole or tripping on slippery surfaces	M	H	All participants must stick to designated paths in the forest along which any potential hazards. Ensuring that all staff and volunteers have footwear with good grip. <i>Method:</i> Interview project leaders to ensure that the transects are safe		
Snake bite	VL	H	No handling of snakes is allowed at any time. All participants should wear long baggy trousers and walking boots/wellingtons when walking through the forested areas. [If a snake bite were to occur then the response would be to apply a light pressure bandage, immobilise the patient and evacuate them to hospital] <i>Method:</i> Check that this is included in welcome briefing		
Large cat attack	L	H	All participants to travel in groups in the forest. Chance of this type of incident is extremely low. <i>Method:</i> Interview site manager		

Fish bites	M	H	<p>Participants should only handle fish when they have been secured by a Peruvian field assistant. Participants should always wear closed toe shoes during fishing surveys. [Note piranhas can live for a long while out of water and so can be still dangerous even if they appear dead. All volunteers and staff must not swim in the river]</p> <p><i>Method:</i> Check with site manager that this was included in welcome briefing</p>		
Reaction or disease from insect or arachnid bite	L	M	<p>Participants with previously known strong reactions to insect/arachnid bites are instructed to carry epipens with them. Participants to wear long trousers and closed-toe footwear whilst in the forest. All participants should examine any area where they sit down carefully before sitting.</p> <p><i>Method:</i> Interview site manager</p>		
Caiman bites	L	H	<p>Participants should not handle live caimans until they have been fully secured by a trained staff member and must be directly supervised by qualified staff. All participants should use torches with a red filter during caiman surveys. Red eye flashes should be turned off on cameras. Leather gloves should be worn by the person handling the spot light. All participants must wear closed-toe footwear throughout the survey.</p> <p><i>Method:</i> Interview site manager</p>		
Local fauna and flora	M	M	<p>Trek leaders to walk at front of group and identify any major insect hives and ensure groups avoid these areas. All participants should check their shoes before putting them on. Participants will be briefed on any risks from flora or fauna.</p> <p><i>Method:</i> Interview site manager</p>		
Bilharzia	L	H	<p>Bilharzia is a parasitic disease caused by several species of fluke of the genus Schistosoma. It can be caught by swimming or wading in slow flowing water populations of freshwater snails. No swimming is allowed on the Opwall expeditions.</p> <p><i>Method:</i> Check with site manager that this was included in welcome briefing</p>		
Incident due to adverse weather conditions e.g. lightening, strong winds, heavy rain and tree fall	L	H	<p>Surveys will not leave if adverse weather is anticipated. If surveys are already on transect then they are advised to return to the research boat when safe to do so. During that time, local guides will indicate a safe area to shelter.</p> <p><i>Method:</i> Interview site manager</p>		

Fire	L	VH	Smoking is only permitted in designated areas. All participants should be fully briefed on this regulation and are trained in evacuation procedures. No smoking allowed in any tent, hammock, building or local houses. <i>Method:</i> Check with site manager that this was included in welcome briefing		
Failure of communications due to remote location	M	M	Mobile phones charged regularly, rural phones and satellite phones in situ and pre-paid, internet access limited to senior staff computer. <i>Method:</i> Provision and ongoing monitoring of multiple means of communication.		
Leishmaniasis	VL	H	Although leishmaniasis has been reported from other parts of Peru it has not been recorded from the field site. Leishmaniasis is caused by protozoan parasites transmitted in sand fly bites. Participants are briefed on how to minimise risk of bites and are advised to cover up. <i>Method:</i> Check with site manager that this was included in welcome briefing		
Dangerous encounter with electric eels and Sting Rays	M	H	This is potentially a problem when line fishing. Participants will always be accompanied by a guide so if an eel is caught then the guide or biologist will cut the line. Guides empty fish from the gill nets and no electric eels are landed. <i>Method:</i> Interview site manager		