



An Orchids in the Wild Trip to

Brazil's Rio Negro



RV Otter



Galeandra devonianum

Dates: **Trip Starts in Manaus, Brazil, Tuesday June 4, 2019**
 Trip Ends in Manaus, Brazil, Friday June 14, 2019

Itinerary:

Day	Date(s) 2019	
1	6/4	Pickup at airport, transfer to Tropical Ecoresort Manaus. Dinner at Banzeiro Restaurant.
2	6/5	In AM – Visit to Manaus' Opera House for tour in English. In PM – Board RV Otter for lunch and departure.
3-10	6/6 – 6/13	Cruise the Rio Negro; orchids, birds, monkeys, dolphins, etc.
11	6/14	Arrive back at Manaus, transfers to Airport as needed.

What It's Like: A typical day on this trip starts with breakfast (coffee, tea, juice, eggs, ham, cheese, fruit, and breads) followed by an exploration into the forest in the motor powered canoes guided by the captain, Gilberto Castro, or the first mate, Soldado. We look for orchids, birds, other plants, or anything that people find interesting, for photography, for painting or drawing, or other activity. By 1PM or so people are ready for lunch and lunch is ready for people, so we are back at the Otter. Lunch is the main meal of the day and usually includes fish and meat, salads, pasta, fruit, and dessert. After lunch there may be a siesta, art work in the lounge, or a swim. Later there is usually another canoe expedition, followed by drinks in the bar when we return. Dinner is usually about sunset or a little after, following which we again retire to the bar for star gazing, chatter, or whatever.

The Captain: Gilberto Castro has been guiding people up and down the river, and elsewhere in Brasil, for many years. Based on his guiding experience he designed and built the Otter. In the botanical art world, Gilberto Castro

is a hero for his work with Margaret Mee. It was Gilberto who guided many trips with Margaret and took her on her successful quest to find and paint the Amazon Moonflower, *Selenicereus wittii*, in 1964. Gilberto knows just about all there is to know about the Amazon and is happy to share it in flawless English.

About the RV Otter:

The RV Otter has ten staterooms on decks one and two, eight of which are available for travelers. All staterooms are individually air conditioned and have *en suite* bath with shower. Deck 1 is staterooms and the boarding areas. The dining room, on deck 2, offers excellent buffet style meals with plenty of options for vegetarians. In the bow, deck 3 has a shaded outdoor lounge, an interior lounge/workroom for artists, etc., to spread out and pursue their interests, and, towards the stern, the ship's bar and exterior lounge which offers soft drinks, beer, and liquor for purchase. Deck 4 is a sun deck. Laundry service is available at extra cost.

For excursions off the Otter into the forest, two motorized canoes with guides are available.

The RV Otter does not provide cell phone service or WiFi.

Important Note: Due to circumstances beyond our control, **the Rio Negro has no mosquitos**. This is because of the high level of tannic acids and the low level of nutrients in the water. Our apologies.

Costs and Reservations:

Single occupancy on the RV Otter is USD \$3800; **only two single occupancy cabins are available.**

Double occupancy on the RV Otter is USD \$2600 per person.

These fares cover the entire itinerary described above. They do not include extra expenses for drinks beyond water, coffee, and tea, or any expenses for travel to or from Manaus.

Deposits for the trip are \$500 per person. The deposit reserves your place on the trip if the trip is not full. If the trip is full your deposit reserves your place on the waiting list. **Your position on the reservation or waiting list is determined entirely by the date on which your deposit of \$500 per person is received, first come first served.** Deposits are entirely refundable before January 30, 2019. After that, your deposit is refundable only if your reserved space can be taken by another passenger. Deposits should be paid by check payable to OCA and sent to Peter Tobias, 564 Arden Drive, Encinitas, CA, 92024. International customers please contact Peter Tobias for bank transfer information.

Full payment is due by January 31, 2019. After January 31, your full payment is refundable only if your space can be taken by another passenger.

All passengers are required to have foreign health care insurance, covering the cost of repatriation to the US should that become necessary. Forms covering your insurance information, as well as health status forms and your travel arrangements to and from Manaus, will be sent after January 31, 2019.

The OCA reserves the right to alter the itinerary as required during the trip. Note that plant collecting is not allowed. The OCA is a Conservation organization.



Sobralia cf sessilis



Cattleya violacea