

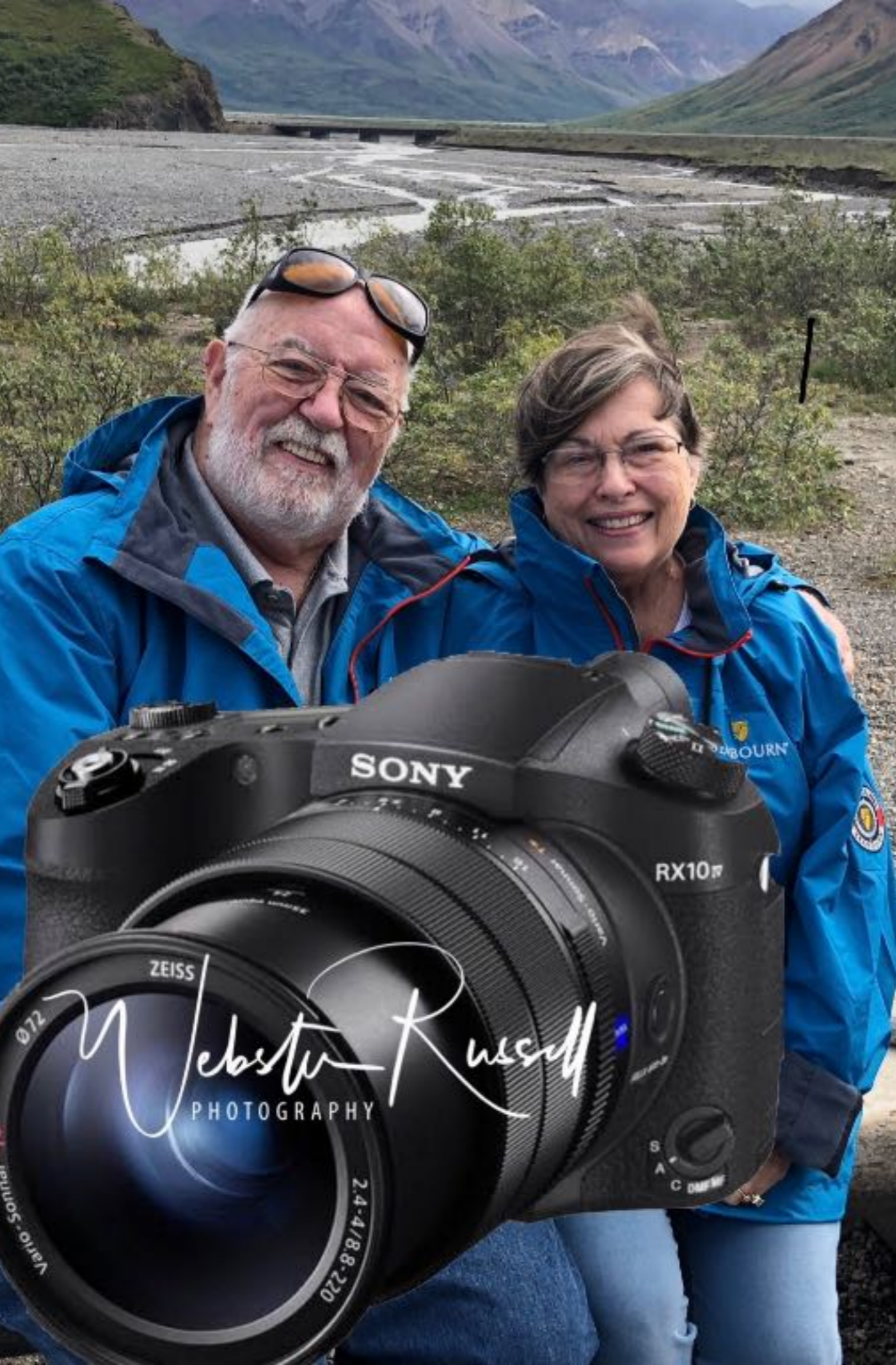
# The Amazon River

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By  
Webster Russell &  
Dee Coffeen







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# The Amazon River

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# The Amazon River

The Amazon River in South America is the largest river by discharge volume of water in the world. The Amazon represents 20% of the global riverine discharge to the ocean.

As you might imagine, Amazonia is sparsely populated. There are scattered settlements inland, but most of the population lives in a few larger cities on the banks of the Amazon and other major rivers, such as in Iquitos, Peru, Manaus and Belém Brazil.

Plant growth is dense and its variety of animal inhabitants is comparatively high due to the heavy rainfall and the dense and extensive evergreen and coniferous forests. Little sunlight reaches the ground due to the dense roof canopy by plants. The ground remains dark and damp and only shade tolerant vegetation will grow here. Orchids and bromeliads exploit trees and other plants to get closer to the sunlight. They grow hanging onto the branches or tree trunks with aerial roots, not as parasites but as epiphytes.



This satellite picture of the Amazon's mouth gives you an idea of its power and volume. The silt color of the water extends into the Atlantic several miles.

























## The Meeting Of The Waters

Almost six and one quarter miles from the inland city of Manaus in northern Brazil, 'the Meeting of the Waters' is the point where two of Amazon River's largest tributaries - a smaller river that flows into a bigger 'parent' river - converge but never mix.

The Solimões River forms the lighter half, its light brown color is owed to the rich sediment that runs down from the Andes Mountains, including sand, mud and silt. Known as a 'white water river' the Solimões River stretches over a nine hundred and ninety four miles distance.

The darker side is the Rio Negro. It gets its 'black tea' hue from leaf and plant matter that has decayed and dissolved in the water. It might look dark and murky, but the Rio Negro carries little or no sediment, and according to the [European Space Agency website](#), is considered one of the cleanest natural waters in the world. On really clear days, water visibility in this black water river can exceed twenty seven feet.









## The Population

As you can imagine the population is rather sparse. Houses are built on stilts in the hopes they will not be flooded out during the rainy season.

















## The River Economy

It is important to remember that the infrastructure from the mouth of the Amazon to Manaus is virtually non-existent.

As a result of this situation the rivers's economy is dependent on river boats both big and small.





**A river gas station**



LIRA III

















## The Cities on the Amazon

As you can imagine there are not a lot of what we know as cities on the Amazon River. However there are numerous villages however. In large part it's because of potentially two things. First the dependency of the river as a highway and the fact that some villages flooded in the rainy season.

Our look at the river's cities will go from the mouth of the Amazon River at the Atlantic Ocean to as far west as Manaus.



Macapa







**The Equator**





Santarem









Parintins



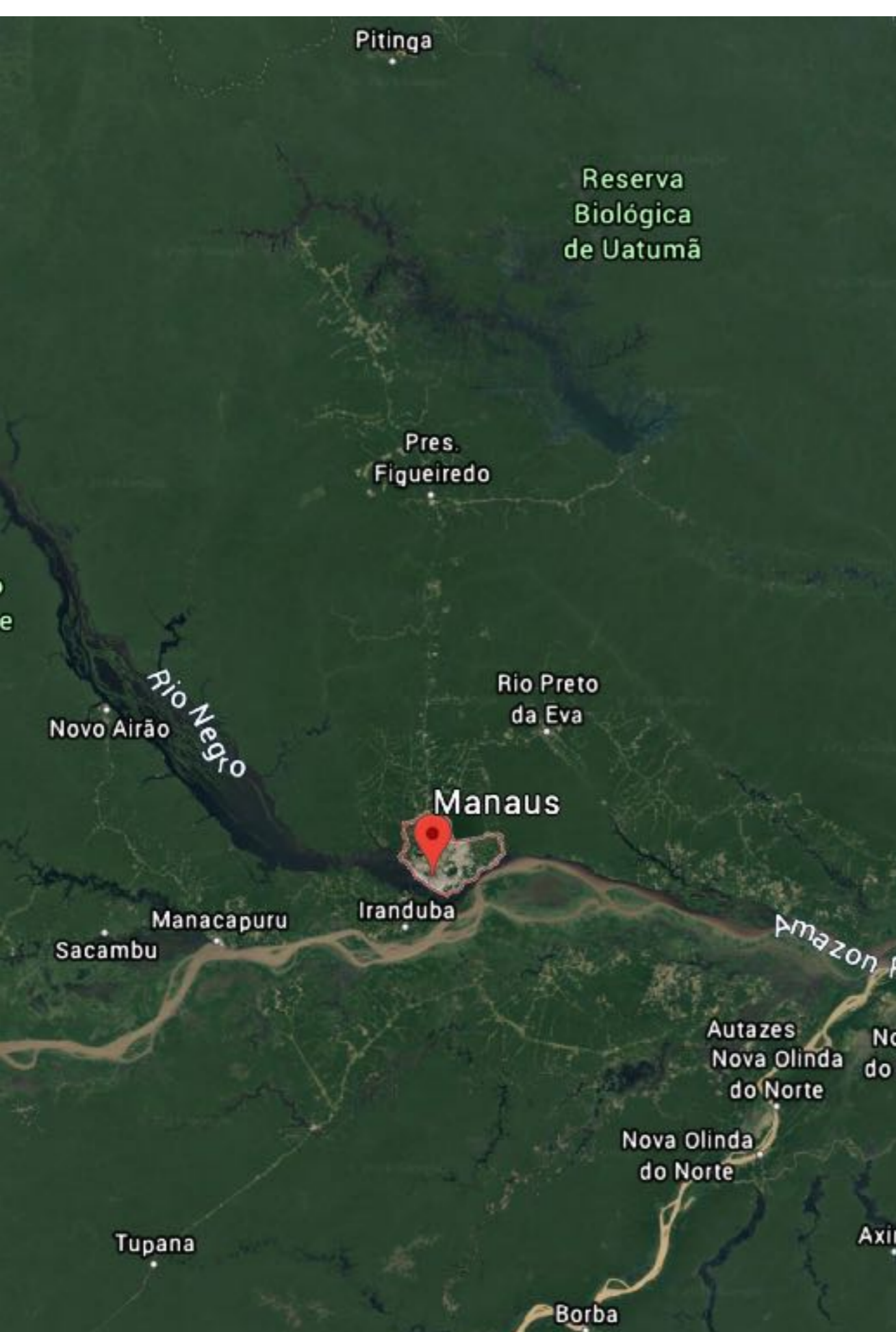












# Manaus Brazil

**Manaus, on the banks of the Negro River in northwestern Brazil, is the capital of the vast state of Amazonas. It's a major departure point for the surrounding Amazon Rainforest. Just east of the city, the dark Negro River converges with the brown, muddy Solimões River resulting in a striking visual phenomenon called the “Meeting of the Waters.” The combined tributaries form the Amazon River.**

**Manaus is the capital of the Amazonas state in Brazil. With a population of 2.5 million almost 50% of the Amazon River’s population lives in the city, making it the primary cultural and economic hub of the Brazilian Amazon**

**Aside from one road from Venezuela, the only way into Manaus is by river boat or by plane. To give you an idea of that trip, from Belém, located on the Atlantic Coast of Brazil, it takes about five days to get to Manaus by boat.**

**Manaus is located in the stunning, incomparable Amazon Rainforest.**



Manaus Opera House



The Amazona State's Government House











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