J&M4-9

18th October

Today we leave the Peruvian jungle for a while and Tambopata Research Centre for ever (probably).

It's been an extraordinary experience with the nicest folk you could hope to meet. Jim, Jean and Richard were all on our "Team". The first two, oriental origins from America, very nervous of the whole experience but settled into wonderfully and Richard who's been on this trip for 27 months so far and doesn't look to be stopping any time soon. A true 70's hippy with a huge camera lense with which heakes a living. He probably takes 30 pictures to our one.

And so now the bus ride. Just approaching the dock to go to Porto Donaldo.

At the company "office" we had about ten minutes to unpack our temporary bags and repack into our proper bags. Didn't get that right at all....
Jessa's case 1½ kilos over mine 3½ under weight. They also noted that one of our bags was starting to disintegrate and made us sign a waiver to that effect... It wasn't that bad but I think this will be it's last trip. One of the wheels is a bit wonky now too.

Usual interminable waits on hard plastic seats in a departure lounge (in name only)

Equally awful loading. Always find extraordinary how people believe in their own superiority. There was a large imposing fellow queuing for the previous flight to Lima.... Insisted on making his way to the front of the line totally ignoring the repeated instructions to the contrary. I do wonder if the "Boarding by group" helps proceedings. We're in group five as we're in row 20...

A Australian couple we were chatting to in the departure area, lounge would be overstating things, had group 4 on their tickets so obviously boarded before us..... And are now sitting the other side of the isle on row 20..... Go figure. They didn't get there any quicker, though just now, they have an empty seat beside them...

The temperature outside is very warm and humid.... Once again, the inside is bloody freezing...

Were met by and transferred four times.
1. An airport ambassador
2. Company rep Lenin..
3. Driver. Denis
4. Hotel receptionist
5. Hotel concierge

The drive from the airport is the usual shambles and the roads in the old town where the hotel is are really narrow, fortunately all one way with tiny pavements barely a foot wide.

We had a briefing from Lenin about the next few days and the

trek, what to look out for with the altitude adjustment then shown our room.

Hotel is lovely, very olde worlde but with modern accoutrements like the bathroom and shower...

We look out over back yard and rooftops which isn't so pretty but the mountains are in the background.

We are both nearly suffering the altitude headaches and breathlessness but think we're ok. Need a little longer to adjust but that's why we're here for three days before we start the trek. And some sleep which has been in rather short supply for the last week or so.....