



PERU

BY NICHOLAS GILL

## PERU

**La Casa Fitzcarraldo**  
51/(65) 601-138  
lacasafitzcarraldo.com

From \$55 per night.  
Includes breakfast and  
airport pickup. Iquitos is  
best reached by plane  
from Lima. The flight  
lasts one to two hours.



## Gimme Shelter

LIKE OTHER ROOMS AT LA CASA FITZCARRALDO, the Blue Room has a ceiling fan and a mahogany parquet floor. A tapestry of psychedelic geometric shapes, typical of the indigenous Shipibo people, is draped above the bed. At night, the sound of crickets and frogs seeps in through the screen, drowning out the traffic on the streets of Iquitos, the largest city in the Peruvian Amazon region. But staying in this particular room offers a certain, well, satisfaction.

Yes, Mick Jagger slept here. It was in 1981, when Jagger was cast in the film *Fitzcarraldo*, the epic tale of a 19th-century rubber prospector who attempts to transport a steamship over a mountain. The movie-making process was an epic unto itself, as director Werner Herzog insisted that the cast and crew actually carry a ship over a mountain in the jungle. (His financiers would have preferred he use miniatures on a sound stage.) During the shooting, a large house owned by the film's executive producer, Walter Saxer, served as a production base and crash pad. Herzog liked to stay in the back bungalow, actor Klaus Kinski took the Green Room upstairs, and Jagger claimed the Blue Room.

COURTESY OF LA CASA FITZCARRALDO



**ON LOCATION:** The chaos on the *Fitzcarraldo* set is legendary. The original lead in the film, Jason Robards, departed after getting amebic dysentery. Director Werner Herzog claims in the documentary *My Best Fiend* that the new lead, Klaus Kinski, butted heads with him to the point that a native chief asked Herzog if he would like to have Kinski killed. (Executive producer Walter Saxer says that the story is absolutely false.)

In the late 1990s, Saxer turned the house into a bed-and-breakfast. Surrounded by a mossy brick wall, the property is a sort of microcosm of the Amazon. From a hammock in the four-tiered tree house I spot several green parrots in the nearby foliage. Below, a heron snatches a pinkie-size fish from a pond. A sloth moves freely through a small patch of forest; an ocelot paces back and forth in an enclosure.

There have been a few updates since Sir Mick was a guest. Visitors now enjoy Wi-Fi and satel-

lite TV, and the kitchen serves up *patarashca de corvina* (Amazon river fish wrapped in banana leaves), *cecina* (smoked pork served with green bananas), and Argentine steaks. The cooks can even accommodate an *ayahuasca* diet, the vegetarian, salt-free, spice-free semi-fast undertaken by those preparing for a shamanic ritual that involves ingesting a mind-altering brew made from local vines. Otherwise, a '70s Amazonian vibe holds sway, partly thanks to the lodge's intricate hand-carved mahogany furni-

ture, paintings by local artists on the walls, and giant wooden masks that stand over eight feet tall. A gallery of black-and-white photos shows Jagger on set with the crew. And don't be disappointed if you watch the film and don't spot him. Because of shooting delays, Jagger had to leave the production to record and go on tour with the Rolling Stones. Claiming that Jagger was irreplaceable, Herzog completely rewrote the script, cutting out Jagger's character. You can't always get what you want. **A**

## Lodgings Along the Mick Jagger Trail



Taj Lake Palace, India



Courthouse Hotel, London



Giraffe Manor, Kenya



Mustique, Grenadines

### AUSTRALIA

**Altamont Hotel**  
Sydney  
61/(2) 9360-6000  
altamont.com.au

Named after the notorious California concert, the Altamont was once home to the Cauldron nightclub: Its VIP room, accessed by a hidden stairway, is now the Loft Suite. The Stones used to party at the Cauldron when in town, and they returned to the scene when Aussie architect Furio Valich turned the building into a postmodern B&B. From \$100.

### AUSTRIA

**Hotel Imperial**  
Vienna  
43/(1) 501-100  
hotelimperialvienna.com

In 2006, Mick made headlines when he allegedly refused to give up the Royal Suite when President George W. Bush needed it for a global summit visit. (Imperial sources say it was actually the hotel's lack of an underground garage that kept the President away.) From \$500.

### ENGLAND

**Courthouse Hotel**  
London  
44/(0) 207-297-5555  
courthouse-hotel.com

So it wasn't Mick's choice to visit the London Magistrate courthouse in 1970 when he was busted for drug possession. Now that the property has become a dashing five-star hotel—the spa is in the former shooting range—he might come back. From \$299.

### GRENADINES

**Mustique**  
(784) 488-8000  
mustique-island.com

Mick owns two side-by-side Japanese-style villas on this 1,400-acre private island near Barbados. Each can be rented by visitors and comes with a private staff, pool, koi pond, and loads of other luxuries. From \$4,250 per week.

### INDIA

**Taj Lake Palace**  
Udaipur  
91/(294) 2428-800  
tajhotels.com

Jagger is a frequent visitor to what is considered one of the world's great hotels, which you might remember from the James Bond film *Octopussy*. In the middle of Lake Pichola, the summer pleasure palace of Maharana Jagat Singh II was built in 1746 and has been a favorite of elite travelers ranging from Queen Elizabeth II to Brangelina. From \$758.

### JAMAICA

**Rockhouse**  
Negril  
(876) 957-4373  
rockhousehotel.com

On a rocky shoreline, the villas of chilled-out Rockhouse huddle around a near-perfect reef on Jamaica's westernmost point. The simple elements of its hospitality include a rum bar, yoga classes, an infinity pool, and Jamaican fusion and street fare. From \$125.

### KENYA

**Giraffe Manor**  
Nairobi  
254/(20) 251-3166  
giraffemanor.com

This six-bedroom hotel set on 130 forested acres outside Kenya's capital offered Jagger the chance to mingle with its resident giraffes, which often surprise guests by sticking their heads through the open windows of the breakfast nook. From \$440 per person.

### MOROCCO

**Riyad el Mezouar**  
Marrakech  
212/(0) 52-438-0949  
mezouar.com

Morocco is to the Stones what India was to the Beatles. Mick has stayed in many of Marrakech's best properties, and in 2004 he visited this 17th-century *riad* that has been restored using traditional materials and techniques. From \$135.