



## Wonders of South America

Active Immerse Yourself Tour | 18 Days | Physical Level 3

Rio de Janeiro – Iguacu – Buenos Aires – Valparaíso – Santiago –  
– Sacred Valley – Aguas Calientes – Cusco

This tour of South America will show you the highlights of this fantastic continent for those on a tighter schedule. The epic journey ticks off bucket list sights of Machu Picchu, Iguacu Falls, Christ the Redeemer and more.

- Ride the cable car up Sugar Loaf mountain
- Marvel at Machu Picchu
- Taste wine in Chilean vineyard
- See the incredible Iguacu Falls
- Samba in Brazil



#### Wonders of South America inclusions:

- Return international economy flights, taxes and current fuel surcharges (unless a land only option is selected)
- All accommodation
- Meals as stated
- Touring with guides and entrance fees
- All transportation and transfers
- English speaking Local Guides

*The only thing you may have to pay for are personal expenditure e.g. meals, drinks, visas, optional excursions or shows, insurance of any kind, customary tipping, early check in or late checkout and other items not specified on the itinerary.*

#### South America Active Immerse Yourself Tours:

Active tours combine the key sights with more energetic pursuits such as hiking and cycling. This allows us to explore more and discover the destination in greater depth. These tours are designed to provide a wide range of activities to ensure a varied and culturally immersive experience. These tours include:

- Cycling or walking through classic sites
- Unique cultural experiences and encounters
- Off the beaten track destinations
- More evenings at leisure for independent exploration

#### Physical Level 3:

All our tours feature a physical rating to help you select the right holiday for you. To travel on any of our tours requires unaided mobility and the ability to stroll around the sights. 'Wonders of South America' is rated 3 on the physical level scale. A good level of fitness is required as you need to be comfortable walking for 2-3 hours and covering longer distances.

- Some destinations on this tour are at altitude.
- There will be several days of sightseeing on foot for a period of time and in some cases for an extended period of time.

Of course, our Local Guides will always endeavour to provide the highest level of service and assistance; however, they cannot be expected to cater for customers who are unfit to complete the itinerary.

#### Joining Your Tour

The tour is 18 days in duration including international flights. Travellers booked on 'Land Only, the price includes your arrival/departure airport transfers if arriving/departing on the start and conclusion date of your tour. Please advise your international flight times to reservations. Join the tour on Day 1 in Rio de Janeiro and end the tour on Day 16 in Lima. Please refer to your final itinerary for more specific meeting instructions pertaining to your departure.

## Itinerary – Wonders of South America

### Day 1: Fly Australia to Rio de Janeiro

Fly to Brazil's 'Cidade Maravilhosa', Rio de Janeiro arriving the same day due to crossing the International Date Line en route. On arrival you will be met at the airport and transferred to your hotel.

### Day 2: Rio de Janeiro

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

After a leisurely morning enjoy a panoramic city tour, stopping at some of the city's beautiful sights before ascending Sugarloaf Mountain by cable car for breathtaking views over the city, its beaches and the surrounding bay and islands. This evening, enjoy an exciting samba evening.

#### Destination Information

**Rio de Janeiro** – Famous for its beaches, lush scenery and samba fuelled nightlife, the captivating city of Rio is home to Christ the Redeemer and the impressive Sugar Loaf Mountain.

### Day 3: Christ the Redeemer

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

Climb onboard a jeep and head off to explore deeper into the city, the perfect way to soak up Rio's carioca spirit. Pass through residential neighbourhoods, green hills on one side and the twinkling blue of the ocean on the other. The tour includes the 19th-century hillside neighbourhood of Santa Teresa, an area with a wonderfully bohemian atmosphere, and the world's largest urban forest, tropical Tijuca.



### Day 4: Iguacu Falls

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

On the border of Argentina and Brazil, Iguacu is the largest waterfall system in the world, with hundreds of cascades pouring off the edge of the Parana Plateau. Today fly to Iguacu and discover paths and catwalks to wander. These will lead you to some of the numerous smaller cascades that dance their way along gullies and through lush greenery.



#### Day 5: *Mbororé Aldea* Cultural Experience

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

Today you will see a completely different side of the falls as you wander along the Argentinian half of Iguazú which offers a fantastic overview of the whole of the falls and showcases its power and magnificence. Don't miss the viewpoint of one of the falls' most impressive sights, the Garganta del Diablo. This afternoon, take a unique opportunity to learn about the indigenous culture of the *Mbororé Aldea* people, who open the doors of their community and share fascinating stories of their ancestors, rituals, myths and legends.

#### Day 6: Fly to Buenos Aires

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

Fly to Argentina's flamboyant capital city Buenos Aires. This evening sit down to dinner and a sultry tango show.

#### Day 7: Explore Buenos Aires

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

An irresistible combination of Latin flair and European elegance, Buenos Aires is a delight to explore and that's exactly what you'll do today on a city tour. This will include the vibrant districts of La Boca, San Telmo and Recoleta.



#### Day 8: Valparaíso

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

Today fly to Santiago, Chile and travel to the coast to visit the manicured seaside resort of Vina del Mar and the bohemian port town of Valparaíso. Designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site, Valparaíso is a unique and delightful tangle, draped over a series of hills. Funiculars connect the industrial seafront with the cerros (hill) neighbourhoods, each a maze of colourful, artfully-dilapidated mansions and enchanting street art. Ride the funicular up into the hills to explore, stopping for a visit to Chilean poet Pablo Neruda's house.



#### Destination Information

**Valparaíso** – Overlooked by an imperious hillside and set on a wide bay, Valparaíso is considered to be the most captivating and unique city in Chile. Designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2003, the colourful houses are dotted across the hillside in a haphazard, disorganised fashion and the main method of getting up and down through the city is on the city's old funicular lifts.



### Day 9: Vineyard Tour

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

After breakfast, leave Valparaíso and head back to the city of Santiago. This afternoon, experience a fascinating and educational vineyard tour, tasting a variety of locally produced wines.



### Day 10: Santiago Tour

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

Spend the morning at leisure, and then lunch on fish fresh from the morning's catch at well-known restaurant El Galeon located in the bustling Central Market. Afterwards, embark on a city tour which will allow you to experience Santiago's eclectic contrasts. Stroll around the Plaza de Armas and cathedral to admire the colonial facades before walking down Ahumada Boulevard, the city's main commercial street. Explore bohemian Bellavista and ascend San Cristóbal Hill for views over the city and the towering Andes Mountains.



### Day 11: Into Peru

Meals included: Breakfast

After breakfast today, bid goodbye to Chile and travel to Peru and the Sacred Valley. By travelling straight to the Sacred Valley rather than staying in the nearby city of Cusco the risk of altitude sickness is minimised as you will have a while to acclimatise, however please still read the information at the end of this document in the section titled *Altitude*.

### Day 12: Sacred Valley

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

The Urubamba, or 'Sacred', Valley is home to Incan citadels and beautiful landscapes. Beginning in the charming town of Pisac, visit the excellent market to both mingle with the locals and to browse the plentiful Peruvian handicrafts, then see fascinating terracing at the Pisac ruins. Later, meet a typical Inca community at Ollantaytambo. The town has some wonderfully preserved Incan houses, whilst above it there is an old Incan fortress, both of which you can explore.

#### Destination Information

**Pisac** – Situated on the Willkanuta River, Pisac is a colonial village famous for its Incan ruins and its three times weekly market. The market takes up the Plaza de Armas and surrounding streets with stalls selling ceramic, jewellery and textiles.

## Day 13: Machu Picchu

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Transfer 30 minutes to Ollantaytambo to board the panoramic Vistadome train that will take you through the mountainous landscapes to the small town of Aguas Calientes in 1 hour 30 minutes. From here you will ascend to the Incan citadel of Machu Picchu by shuttle bus, which takes about 30 minutes along winding roads. Long abandoned by the Inca, it came to international attention when it was stumbled upon by Hiram Bingham in 1911, and is considered one of the new 7 Wonders of the World. A guided tour will give you some insight into the Inca Empire. This includes up to four hours of sightseeing, walking on uneven terrain. Return to the village of Machu Picchu for your overnight stay. This day is at altitude. *Please see **IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT MACHU PICCHU** at the end of this document*



### Destination Information

**Machu Picchu** – One of the world's great archaeological discoveries, Machu Picchu sits on a mountain ridge 2430 metres above the Sacred Valley. Built around 1450, it was abandoned about 100 years later, and left 'undiscovered' (the local people knew of it) until 1911 when it was brought to international attention. A classic example of Incan style, there are three main structures – the Temple of the Sun, the Inti Watana and the Room of Three Windows.

## Day 14: VistaDome train to Poroy

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

Take a three-hour train ride back to the station of Poroy and transfer to Cusco, enjoying beautiful scenery along the way. This evening witness an enthralling folklore show and learn about the local culture to finish your incredible South American experience.



## Days 15: Lima

Meals included: Breakfast

Fly to Lima today and embark on a city tour. Founded by conquistador Francisco Pizarro and originally named the City of the Kings, Lima has plenty of heritage, which you'll begin exploring today. Start in the UNESCO World Heritage-listed historic centre to admire its colonial magnificence, before visiting the 17th century San Francisco church and Casa Aliaga, a beautifully preserved colonial mansion. Finish the day at the Huaca Pucllana archaeological centre.

## Days 16-18: Depart to Australia

Meals included: Breakfast

Today you will transfer to the airport for your flight to Australia. Arriving home in 2 days due to crossing the International Date Line once again.

## Wonders of South America Travel Information

### Visas

Australian passport holders currently do not require a visa to enter Peru, Chile or Argentina, but a visa is required for Brazil. Your passport needs to be valid for at least six months beyond your intended return date to Australia. Wendy Wu Tours does not provide a visa service for Worldwide tours and you will need to obtain a Brazil Visa before you depart Australia. To stay up to date with the latest visa requirements, visit [www.smartraveller.gov.au](http://www.smartraveller.gov.au).

### Insurance

It is a condition of booking with us that you take out suitable travel insurance. You must provide us with the name of your insurer, policy number and their 24-hour emergency contact number when you book with us or as soon as possible thereafter. These details will be available to your local guides should they be required. Wendy Wu Tours will not be liable for any costs incurred by you due to your failure to take out suitable travel insurance from the date of booking.

### Altitude

On this tour you will be spending a few nights at altitude, and this will be marked on your day by day itinerary. At these sort of altitudes, Altitude Sickness is a risk. Symptoms may include dizziness, fatigue, nausea and shortness of breath. It is recommended that travellers utilize their first day in high-altitude destinations to acclimatise. To help you acclimatise we have designed our tours to be at a slower pace with more convenient stops and more free time, during the first few days. Staying hydrated, eating light meals and following a very light schedule will all help. We recommend that any symptoms that are unusual should be brought to the attention of your guide. Your guide will be extremely well-trained in dealing with its effects – taking it easy and taking some time to acclimatise are the best ways to prevent and combat it. Serious cases, meaning that you must descend immediately, are rare. We have adapted the itinerary to make sure that your time at these heights is as relaxed and easy as possible.

There are no specific factors, such as age or fitness, that can cause you to suffer from Altitude Sickness. It can affect anyone at any time and symptoms may vary. In some instances, a short spell on oxygen can help enormously. Our guides are trained in this and in many hotels and coaches and restaurants oxygen is available. There is medication - such as Diamox, and the local Peruvian version, Soroche pills - that can help treat and prevent symptoms. Consult a doctor before taking any of these medications, before engaging in strenuous activity at high altitude, and regarding any necessary vaccinations in plenty of time before travelling.

### Eating in South America

South American cuisine is some of the most eclectic in the world, and each country has its own regional specialties worth sampling. If you've got the stomach and curiosity, make your way to vibrant food markets, which sell everything from fresh produce and exotic fruits to hearty dishes. When in Peru, you can't skip sampling ceviche or a pisco sour and while visiting Argentina, don't miss digging into a hearty steak paired with a classic Malbec.

Drinking bottled water and eating well-cooked food is strongly recommended. It's much safer to stick to bottled, treated or boiled water. Ice, along with salads or fruits washed in tap-water should likewise be avoided.

Whilst we strongly recommend trying as many local dishes as possible, a lot of places you visit will also have a wide range of international foods available.

## Accommodation

Your accommodation is selected for convenience of location, comfort or character, and can range from business hotels to rainforest lodges. Hotels are generally rated as local three to four-star standard, but please note that there is no international classification system for hotels and differences in facilities and quality may exist between Australia and South America. All group tour hotels have private bathroom facilities and air conditioning where needed. If you experience any difficulty, please speak to your Local Guide. Rest assured that all hotels used by Wendy Wu Tours are regularly inspected by our staff and our partners to ensure that standards meet your needs.

## Clothing

On this tour, you will be travelling through various regions of the continent with very diverse climates. You will almost certainly experience all four seasons in one trip. It is recommended to bring lots of layers including the following: T Shirts made of breathable materials, hiking pants, with the option to turn into a short pant (rain pants optional), a fleece jacket for colder parts and the evenings and a waterproof jacket as shell layer or a light rain jacket, a scarf and hat, warm socks. Sensible walking shoes and small back pack that fits into your main hand luggage to carry your daily essentials should also be taken.

## Transport

**Coaches:** Coaches with air conditioning are used on our group tours for city short excursions to the countryside and longer transfers between destinations. Roads in Chile have generally been improved over recent years, but please be aware traffic and/or weather conditions may extend driving times. There may be sections of road where the surface may be comparatively bumpy but our drivers will do their utmost to lessen the impact.

**Planes:** Internal flights are based on economy class, with reputable airlines.

## Important Information about Machu Picchu

You must provide full name, date of birth, nationality and passport number to us at time of booking. Visitors must bring their passport with them to be allowed entry to Machu Picchu and this must match the information provided to us in advance.

Hand luggage on board train to the citadel should not exceed 5kgs and measure no more than 40 cm x 35 cm x 20 cm. You will need to bring an overnight bag of this size for your one-night stay at Machu Picchu on day 6.

The following items are **not allowed** in – single use plastics, professional cameras (i.e. equipment that needs accessories for its use such as tripods) and cameras that have magnifying lenses exceeding 2kg; drones; selfie sticks; walking sticks without a rubber tip; aerosol sprays; high heeled shoes; sharp objects; banners or posters.



### Souvenirs

There are plenty of interesting bits and pieces to buy as souvenirs in all the visited destinations, such as indigenous textiles in Peru, handicrafts and artworks. There will be some opportunities during your tour to pick up souvenirs.

### Group Size

Most of our groups consist of 10 travellers or more and will be accompanied by Local Guides. There will usually be no more than 28 travellers in each group.

All our departures are guaranteed to operate with a minimum of 8 travellers booked (unless cancelled due to factors beyond our control). However, at our discretion we may operate departures with a smaller group size as we try to operate advertised departures wherever it is viable to do so.

### Tipping Policy

Local tipping is customary in South & Central America. However, this can often lead to awkwardness in knowing when it is appropriate to tip and how much. For your convenience, with years of experience in providing the best customer service, Wendy Wu Tours operates a kitty system on your Group Tour so your Local Guide will look after this aspect of the trip for you. This ensures the amounts paid are reasonable for you and still fair to the local people. The suggested total amount is specified for each Group Tour and will be advised again on your final documentation. Tipping is paid in USD or other local currencies if specified. Any additional tipping you feel is appropriate is welcomed at your discretion.

### After your booking

Once you have booked with Wendy Wu Tours, you will receive an email with your confirmation invoice, along with a link to our website where you can find your visa information (if applicable) and other important information. Your final documentation pack will be sent to you approximately 2-3 weeks prior to departure.

### Itinerary changes

It is our intention to adhere to the day-to-day itinerary as printed; however, the order of events or sightseeing may change as we look to improve our tours or as local conditions dictate; in these circumstances we will make the best possible arrangements whilst maintaining the integrity of your trip.

### Before You Leave

We recommend that you contact either your GP or Travelvax (1300 360 164) for advice on vaccinations and travel health. Travelvax has a comprehensive website that you may also find useful [www.travelvax.com.au](http://www.travelvax.com.au).

We strongly recommend registering your travel plans with [www.smarttraveller.gov.au](http://www.smarttraveller.gov.au) as in the event of an emergency, Australian Consular assistance will be more readily available. You can also access the Australian Government's travel advisory service for up to date information about your destination on the same website.

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