



## Ultimate South America

### Go Beyond Tour | 29 Days | Physical Level 2

Lima – Sacred Valley – Machu Picchu – Cusco – Puno – La Paz – Uyuni – San Pedro de Atacama – Santiago – Valparaiso - Mendoza – Buenos Aires – Iguazu – Rio de Janeiro

The ultimate tour of South America, this all-encompassing journey will take you through the landscapes of Peru, Chile, Bolivia, Argentina and Brazil on an epic adventure.

- Marvel at Machu Picchu
- Discover the Salt Flats of Uyuni
- Taste wine in Maipu Valley in Mendoza
- Experience gaucho life in the pampas
- See the incredible Iguazu Falls
- Take a tango class in Buenos Aires



## Ultimate South America Inclusions:

- Return international economy flights, taxes and current fuel surcharges (unless a 'land only' option is selected)
- All accommodation
- Meals as stated
- All sightseeing and entrance fees
- All transportation and transfers
- English speaking National Escort (if your group is 10 or more passengers) or Local Guides
- Specialist advice from our experienced travel consultants
- Safe and secure with AFTA, ATAS and CATO

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

## Go Beyond Tours:

Venture off the beaten track to explore fascinating destinations away from the tourist trail. You will discover the local culture in depth and see sights rarely witnessed by other travellers. These tours take you away from the comforts of home but will reward you with the experiences of a lifetime.

These tours include:

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

The cost of your tour includes most meals, however on occasion you will have the opportunity for some free time around meal times to experience the local restaurants for yourself. At these times meals will be at your own expense. The meals which are included in your tour are clearly stated on each individual day of the itinerary below.

Our Latin America tours are designed for those who wish to see the iconic sites and magnificent treasures of this continent on an excellent value group tour whilst travelling with like-minded people. We are sure you will have a wonderful time - prepare to be immersed in the authentic charm of the countries you will visit.

### Physical Level 2:

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. 'Ultimate South America' is rated 2 on the physical level scale. A reasonable level of fitness is required but it's more about spending time on your feet rather than covering large distances. You'll be getting on and off coaches and boats, walking around the sights and climbing some steps.

- There will be sightseeing on foot for both short and extended periods of time
- Sightseeing will involve climbing quite a number of steps, often without handrails
- Some days will be spent at altitude, notably during your time in Cusco, Bolivia and San Pedro de Atacama

Of course, our National Escorts and 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.

### Country Profiles: Peru, Bolivia, Chile, Argentina, and Brazil

**Peru** will completely capture your imagination. It has a rich cultural heritage with elements of Latino, Incan and indigenous native customs, mixed together to create a vibrant and charming tapestry of daily life. No tour of Peru would be complete without a journey to the heart of the Inca Empire, Machu Picchu, a magnificent re-discovered settlement high in the mountains. Encounter the colourful Quechua people and venture onto Lake Titicaca to meet the Uros people on their floating islands.

**Bolivia** is the destination for the adventure-lover, a country that soars high in the Andes and drops low into the steamy heat of the Amazon. This is the remote heart of South America, a landlocked yet hugely diverse destination that's slightly rugged nature only adds to its charms. The culture and heritage here are particularly rich in indigenous people and their age-old traditions – you'll always be able to spot their beautifully-coloured costume on the bustling streets of the lively cities.

Wedged between the Andes and the Pacific Ocean, **Chile** is a land of wilderness, volcanoes, salt lakes, glaciers and mountain peaks. With a vibe distinct to the rest of South America, Chile has a more relaxed pace and celebrates all that is the great outdoors.

**Argentina** is a country full of pleasures – food, wine, tango. Fall for the charms of vibrant Buenos Aires, the roaring waters of Iguazu, the endless Pampas, wine of Mendoza and the glaciers within arms-reach in Patagonia. Embrace the profound zest for life - the Argentines are a passionate and spirited people, and you'll find yourself jumping feet first into their enticing rhythm.

**Brazilians** live life to the max – follow the entrancing samba rhythms along gorgeous beaches, through vast expanses of mystic rainforest and biodiverse landscapes. Discover historic Salvador, once the capital of Portugal's New World colony, now a tropical city vibing to an infectious Afro-Brazilian beat. Delve deep into the Amazon to spot unusual wildlife and encounter the indigenous tribespeople. Stand before Iguazu, the largest waterfall system in the world, and take in Brazil's most exuberant city, Rio de Janeiro.

### Joining Your Tour

The tour is 29 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 Lima and end the tour on Day 27 in Rio de Janeiro. Please refer to your final itinerary for more specific meeting instructions pertaining to your 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 maintaining the integrity of your trip.

Itinerary changes for 2021/2022:

- 1 additional night in the Sacred Valley in Peru
- 1 additional night in Uyuni in Bolivia
- 1 additional night in San Pedro de Atacama in Chile
- 1 less night in Santiago in China
- Fly from Santiago, Chile to Mendoza, Argentina instead of overland coach journey
- 1 additional night in Mendoza, Argentina
- 1 less night in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

## Itinerary – Ultimate South America

### Day 1: Fly to Lima

Meals included: Dinner

Fly to Peru's historical and sophisticated capital Lima, arriving the same day due to crossing the International Date Line. You will be met at the airport and transferred approximately 40 minutes to your hotel. Enjoy the rest of the afternoon at leisure before your welcome dinner this evening.

#### **Destination Information**

**Lima** – Sitting overlooking the Pacific in Peru's central region, Lima is a huge city of 10 million people. It was founded by conquistador Francisco Pizarro in 1535 and became the capital of the Viceroyalty of Peru, remaining as capital after the War of Independence gave Peruvians their freedom. The historic centre of the city is beautiful and was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1988.

### Day 2: Lima

Meals included: Breakfast

Originally named the City of the Kings, Lima is rich in heritage, which you'll see for yourself today. Visit the ancient pyramid of Huaca Pucllana, built in 500 A.D. and located in the heart of Miraflores, one of Lima's affluent districts. Continue to the UNESCO World Heritage-listed historic centre (Plaza de Armas) to admire the colonial magnificence of its buildings – Government Palace, Cathedral of Lima, Archbishop's Palace of Lima. One block from the Plaza de Armas (Main Square) is the Convent of Santo Domingo founded in 1530 and completed in 1766 and is now considered to be of the most religious buildings in Peru.



Remainder of the day at leisure.

#### **Destination Information**

**Plaza de Armas** – The birthplace of Peru's capital Lima and continues to be the city's main hub. Surrounded by many of Lima's historic landmarks including the 17<sup>th</sup> Century Government Palace (official residence of Peru's President), the Municipal Palace, Cathedral of Lima which was built in 1649 and in the centre of the Plaza is the a beautiful 1650 bronze fountain set on the site of what was once the city's gallows.



### Day 3: Lima to Sacred Valley

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

Fly to Cusco and transfer to the Urubamba Valley. Also known as the Sacred Valley, it is home to Incan citadels and beautiful landscapes.

Spend the afternoon in the remote village of Ccaccacollo. A small and scenic town lost in the Peruvian Andes. Catch a glimpse of the authentic culture of the valley's Quechua communities. You'll be able to interact with the villagers, witness their day to day life. The women have a rich tradition of weaving which they still practice by hand today. The textiles they produce bear the same images as those of their ancestors; condors, cougars and Huallata birds, and can be purchased here. This day is at altitude.



#### Destination Information

**Ccaccacollo** - This is a community of 50 families with the principal activity of the men is farming, and in the dry season they work as porters on the Inca Trail. The women preserve their unique and ancient tradition of weaving fabric of the highest quality, which they sell to travellers visiting their community.

### Day 4: Sacred Valley

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

Begin in the charming town of Pisac, visit the colourful market to both mingle with the locals and to browse the plentiful Peruvian handicrafts, then see fascinating terracing at the Pisac ruins.

Continue to Potato Park, a community-led and conservation project where approximately 2,300 – 4,000 known potato varieties in the world are grown. Meet the local community and learn of the unique process of potato cultivation!

Later, travel to the town of Ollantaytambo. The town has some wonderfully-preserved Incan houses, whilst above it there is an old Incan fortress, both of which you can explore. Board the Vistadome train to the small town of Aguas Calientes (also known as Machu Picchu town) for your overnight stay. This day is at altitude.



#### Destination Information

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

**Potato Park (Parque de la Papa)** – Located near the town of Pisac on over 12,000 hectares of high-altitude Andean land. This is a unique place to learn about how the local Quechua communities came together to conserve their deep traditions and philosophies on agriculture.

**Ollantaytambo** – Ollantaytambo was once the royal estate of the Emperor Pachacuti and is the starting point for the famous Inca Trail. The Incan ruins here are huge, whilst the town itself is a prime example of an Incan city – it is still laid out as it was when it was built by Pachacuti in the 13<sup>th</sup> century.

**Aguas Calientes** – Just 110km from Cusco, Aguas Calientes is in a unique setting, being surrounded by stone cliffs and forest on all sides. The town was founded in 1901 as a camp for labourers and their families working on the nearby railroad to connect Cusco to the mine of Santa Ana. Nowadays, Aguas Calientes more commonly serves as the gateway for travellers to Machu Picchu.

#### Day 5: Machu Picchu

Meals included: Breakfast

This morning 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 before riding the train back to Poroy followed by your transfer to Cusco. This day is at altitude.



Please see **IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT MACHU PICCHU** in 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 6: Cusco

Meals included: Breakfast

Home to an incredible Incan legacy, Cusco has some of the richest heritage in Latin America and is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The tour will include visits to the Plaza de Armas, once the heart of the Incan capital of Huacaypata; and Qoricancha, the temple of the sun. Head just out of town to the ruins of Sacsayhuaman and Puka Pukara, the 'Red Fortress'. This afternoon you have as time at leisure. This day is at altitude.



### Destination Information

**Cusco** – Home to an incredible Incan legacy, Cusco has some of the richest heritage in Latin America and is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Cathedrals and Inca temples overlook the narrow streets where alpaca knitwear can be bought for a fair price. For anyone interested in the Incan civilization, Cusco is the must-see destination.

## Day 7: Cusco to Puno

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

Take a train through the magnificent scenery of the Andean altiplano from Cusco to Puno, a city on the shores of Lake Titicaca. The journey time is 10 hours and 30 minutes, and the train boasts dining cars, a bar car and an observation car; and a gourmet lunch of the finest Andean ingredients is included. Check in to your hotel and enjoy the evening at leisure. Today you will be at an altitude of up to 3830 metres.

### Destination Information

**Puno** – A beautiful and charming town located on the banks of Lake Titicaca. The town is home to traditional Andean architecture which spreads down from the sides of the hill to the banks of the lake.

**Lake Titicaca** – The largest lake in South America and the world's highest navigable body of water, it is surrounded by a slow pace of life where crops are still harvested by hand and vast plateaus stretch for miles.



## Day 8: Lake Titicaca

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Depart Puno and take an overland journey of approx. two hours and 30 minutes to the town of Copacabana, located just across the border in Bolivia. You will disembark your coach for a brief visit to Copacabana Sanctuary.

You will continue on to the harbour where you will board a Catamaran to sail to Sun Island, the birthplace of the Inca Empire. On this legendary island you will visit the Inca Garden, Stairs and Fountain. Continue on with a visit to the Inti Wata Cultural Complex which includes sites such as the two underground Museums of Archaeology and Anthropology, the Pachamama agricultural Inca Terraces and the Intica Lounge. This Inti Wata Complex is the main attraction in Bolivia, available only to Catamaran Cruise Ship clients and includes a unique sailing experience on board a huge Titicaca traditional reed vessel for a panoramic visit to the Pilkokaina Inca Palace. Enjoy lunch onboard before crossing the Tiquina strait overlooking the native-made pontoons used to transport vehicles.



Spend the night on the Catamaran Cruise where dinner will be served. Star gaze the evening away or watch the sunrise from the top deck.

### Destination Information

**Copacabana** – Nestled between Mount Nino Calvario and Mount Calvario on the southern shore of Lake Titicaca, the quirky little town of Copacabana is well-known throughout Bolivia as being a centre for religious pilgrimages, with centuries-old festivals still being celebrated to this day. Many tourists do come here each February specifically to celebrate the festival of the Virgin of Candelaria, though generally Copacabana is a more convenient stop for travellers making the journey from Puno to Bolivia's capital.

### Day 9: La Paz

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Depart this morning for La Paz. You will visit the famous Witches Market, San Francisco Colonial Church and Sagarnaca Street to see the typical handicrafts here. Continue to Plaza Murillo where you will find the Cathedral, the Government's Palace and the National Congress building. Visit the Killi Killi Lookout point before enjoying a cable car journey from La Paz to El Alto. You will head through the residential areas of Obrajes, Calacoto and La Florida before finishing the day in the unique Moon Valley, an area of tall clay spires, formed by erosions of the mountains in the area. You will have the opportunity to explore, plus visit a ceramic workshop to watch a demonstration of how pottery is made here.



#### Destination Information

**La Paz** – Resting at an altitude of 3,660 metres, La Paz is one of the highest cities in the world. It is therefore important to take time to acclimatise. La Paz is one of the fastest growing cities in Latin America. The tradition is rich and lively markets are ever-present with some of the finest alpaca knitwear to be found.

### Day 10: La Paz to Uyuni

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Transfer to the airport and fly to Uyuni. The Salar de Uyuni is the world's largest salt flat, 10,000 square kilometres and one of South America's most remarkable landscapes. Completely flat and covered by a thick white salt crust, just a few inches of water perfectly reflect the mood of the sky and the vast expanses of nothing play tricks on the eyes! Start exploring straight away, visiting the Train Cemetery and then Colchani Village where you will observe the process of salt extraction by hand. After, you have a stop at the Salt Museum at Playa Blanca then visit the ancient mummies of Tunupa Volcano on Incahuasi Island. After your tour, you will check into your hotel – made entirely out of salt - where you will spend the night.



#### Destination Information

**Salar de Uyuni** – The area's unique landscape was a result of the now-extinct lake suffering from a lack of drainage in the earth. The high salt content here meant that once the lake's water evaporated, a thick layer of salt remained. This geographical phenomenon is now one of Bolivia's most iconic sights, and a must see for any traveller.

### Day 11: Uyuni

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

Spend a full day in the Salar de Uyuni where depending on the weather you will visit the museum or view the Coquesa Mummies, human archeological remains in a little cave near to Tunupa Volcano, from where you can observe the immensity of the salt flats. Conclude today's activities with a picnic on the Salt Flats.



### Day 12: Uyuni to San Pedro de Atacama

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

Today you will bid farewell to Bolivia as you transfer to San Pedro de Atacama, Chile. En-route visit Laguna Colorada (Red Lagoon) home to the famous James Flamingos, Sol de Mañana Geysers, an area with much volcanic activity, full of boiling mud lakes and sulphur steam pools and Laguna Verde renowned for its stunning emerald colour. This day is at altitude. The journey will take approximately 9 hours due to the distances and also international border crossing procedures.



#### Destination Information

**San Pedro de Atacama** - San Pedro de Atacama is a town sitting in the Andes mountains of North East Chile. The dramatic surrounding landscape incorporates desert, salt flats, volcanoes, geysers and hot springs. Interestingly, San Pedro de Atacama is the driest place on earth!

### Day 13: Atacama Desert

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

This morning, drive out into the otherworldly landscapes to visit the Salar de Atacama and the quaint desert village of Tocoano. This afternoon, you'll see some of San Pedro's most famous landscapes with a drive out to Death and Moon valleys, some of the driest spots on the planet. With lonely volcanoes populating the horizon, enjoy the views and the silence as the afternoon sun's rays turn the hues of the rock from orange, to red to purple.



#### Destination Information

**Salar de Atacama** – The largest salt flat in Chile is an intriguing natural phenomenon. The basin was formed by evaporated water which flowed down from the Andes. There are numerous lakes within the basin, some of which are home to frolicking flocks of flamingos.

**Moon Valley** – The Moon Valley is a vast lunar backdrop of scattered hills in the Atacama Desert. The Valley is at its most impressive at sunset and sunrise when the sunlight creates a magical series of colours from orange to purple and pink.

#### Day 14: El Tatio

Meals included: Breakfast

Rise early and travel for around 2 hours deeper into the Atacama to visit El Tatio Geysers. Set within a ring of volcanoes, there are about 80 lively geysers and fumaroles, which are at best at sunrise. Have a guided walk amongst the mud craters and small bubbling geysers. Wander freely before travelling through the Andes Mountain Range with impressive views of Putama Volcano and Tocorpuri Mountains. Visit the small desert village of Machuca to see the typical terrace farming system, mud houses with straw rooves, and its local fauna such as llamas, alpacas and flamingoes. Today is a full day touring. This day you will be reaching an Altitude of 4320 metres above sea level for a short period of time



San Pedro de Atacama is also renowned for one of the best places in the world for star-gazing due to it being the driest desert in the world with little rainfall, clear skies and high altitudes. Enjoy star gazing with a glass of wine and cheese cocktail.

#### Day 15: Santiago

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

This morning transfer to Calama to fly to Chile's capital city, Santiago. This afternoon explore the city on a tour which will allow you to experience its eclectic contrasts. Stroll around the Plaza de Armas and the Cathedral to admire the colonial facades, before walking down Ahumada Boulevard, the city's main commercial street. Visit Cerro Santa Lucia, the hill that was founded in 1541 and now a park with fountains and stairs leading up to a fort that offers panoramic views of the city and towering Andes Mountains. Conclude the day with dinner in a local restaurant.





#### **Destination Information**

**Santiago** - Santiago is a vibrant and cultural city set on the plains of the Andes and home to 40% of Chile's population. Split into 32 boroughs (comunas), each area has its own distinct character, yet all the streets are alive with the energy of the city.

#### **Day 16: Valparaíso**

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

Travel 3 hours to the coast to visit 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) neighborhoods, 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. Return to Santiago this afternoon.



#### **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 17: Santiago to Mendoza**

Meals included: Breakfast

Today bid adios to Chile and hola to Argentina! Transfer to the airport for your flight over the breathtaking Andes Mountains to the city of Mendoza.





### Day 18: Mendoza

Meals included: Breakfast

This morning explore the city on a walking tour and see how the city was restored after a devastating earthquake in 1861. Pass by the magnificent landmarks and must-see attractions.

Afternoon at leisure.



### Day 19: Maipu Valley

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

Head just outside of the city to Maipu, the heart of one of Argentina's most important and oldest wine growing regions. From here you'll visit some of the region's most prominent wineries, tasting some wonderful wines, including Argentina's most famous red, Malbec, as well as enjoying a delicious lunch.



#### Destination Information

**Mendoza** – Famed for its many red wines such as Malbecs, Mendoza is the gateway to Argentina's best bodegas (wineries).

### Day 20: Mendoza to Buenos Aires

Meals included: Breakfast

Today fly to Argentina's flamboyant capital, Buenos Aires. The flight will take approximately an hour and a half and upon arrival you will be transferred to your hotel.

#### Destination Information

**Buenos Aires** - The Paris of South America, Buenos Aires is a romantic and lively city. The culture of the city is extremely diverse and the asado (barbecue) restaurants are second to none. Most importantly of all, Buenos Aires is the home of Tango and performers can be seen dancing in restaurants, bars or even on the streets.

## Day 21: Buenos Aires

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

After breakfast, enjoy the irresistible combination of Latin flair and European elegance on a Buenos Aires city tour. Your tour will last approximately 5 hours. Visit the vibrant districts of La Boca, San Telmo, Puerto Madero, Palermo and Recoleta. This evening, sit down for dinner and an exciting tango show.



### Destination Information

**La Boca** – A buzzing barrio of Buenos Aires packed with colourful shacks built from Zinc, La Boca is a popular area to see street artists and tango dancers. La Boca is also home to the world-famous Boca Juniors Football Club, who play at the intimidating La Bombonera stadium.

**San Telmo** – One of the oldest neighbourhoods of Buenos Aires filled with cobbled streets, cafes, restaurants, antique stores and the 19<sup>th</sup> century Central Market.

**Recoleta** – An affluent area of Buenos Aires and home to lavish former palaces, Paris-style townhouses and the famous Recoleta Cemetery.

**Puerto Madero** - Buenos Aires's revamped dockside. Today home to upscale steakhouses, hotels and an ecological Reserve that you can explore by foot on bike.

## Day 22: Estancia Experience

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

Spend the day just outside the city on the vast, fertile grasslands known as the pampas, on a traditional estancia (ranch). Here you'll get some insight into the life of folk heroes, the gaucho and after a typical Argentinian asado lunch, there will be a fun folklore show.



### Day 23: Buenos Aires to Iguazu

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

Say farewell to Buenos Aires and transfer 30 minutes to the airport to board your plane over to Puerto Iguazu, the town closest to the incredible wonder that is Iguazu Falls. Your flight is just under two hours, and a transfer will take you from the airport to your hotel. You have the rest of the day at leisure.



### Day 24: Iguazu (Argentina)

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

Today, transfer 25 minutes to the falls. You will wander along the Argentinian side of Iguazu, 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. Take the Ecological Jungle Train, a 15 minute journey, which takes you to the most impressive observation point – the Devil's Throat. This afternoon, take a unique opportunity to learn about the indigenous culture of the *Mbororé Aldea* people, who open the doors to their community to share fascinating stories of their ancestors, rituals, myths and legends. Sightseeing today will be a full day with around six hours on foot.



#### Destination Information

**Iguazu Falls** - The incredible Iguazu Falls spans the border of Argentina and Brazil and features hundreds of rushing cascades, set in a lush rainforest scene. The region has been declared a world heritage site and received the status of one of the New Seven Wonders of Nature in 2011.

### Day 25: Iguacu (Brazil) to Rio de Janeiro

Meals included: Breakfast

This morning you'll cross the border to visit the Brazilian side of the falls. Wander the paths and catwalks to numerous smaller cascades that dance their way along gullies and through lush greenery.

Bid farewell to the falls before hopping on a plane for a 2 hour flight to Brazil's 'Cidade Maravilhosa', Rio de Janeiro. Upon arrival you will be transferred to your hotel. The rest of the evening is at your leisure.



#### Destination Information

**Rio de Janeiro** – Founded in 1565, the city became the capital of the Portuguese Empire from 1815 – 1822 after the royal family fled their homeland following the conquests of Napoleon. Nowadays, this city is famous for its beaches, lush scenery and samba fuelled nightlife. Rio is also home to Christ the Redeemer and the impressive Sugar Loaf Mountain, both of which you will experience on this tour.

### Day 26: Rio de Janeiro

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Climb onboard a jeep to venture to some of Rio's many wonders! Drive about 20 minutes to Cosme Velho Street, then in Paineras station transfer into a van to ascend the Corcovado, on the peak of which Christ the Redeemer watches over the city. On the way you will pass through the lush vegetation of the Tijuca Forest. You can take the steps at the final stage to Christ the Redeemer; however, there is an escalator if you prefer.



Enjoy a delicious Brazilian barbecue lunch before continuing to Aterro do Flamengo, transfer about 20 minutes to the neighbourhood of Urca where you will ascend to the heights of Sugarloaf Mountain by cable car. The first cable car will take you 215 metres high. From there, board the second one which will lead you to breath taking views at the top of the Sugar Loaf Mountain, 395 metres high. Take in the incredible sights of the Guanabara Bay and its islands, Rio-Nitero Bridge and Corcovado.

This evening, meet up with the group for a farewell dinner at a vibrant Brazilian steakhouse.

**Destination Information**

**Corcovado** – Originally known as *Pinaculo da Tentacao*, or Pinnacle of Temptation, Corcovado mountain is a 710m granite peak overlooking Rio, and is easily one of Brazil's most iconic landmarks. It is surrounded by the Tijuca Forest and is home to Christ the Redeemer.

**Sugar Loaf Mountain** – Known as Pao de Acucar in Portuguese, Sugarloaf Mountain sits at the entrance of Guanabara Bay and is named for its unusual shape as it resembles a traditional form of sugar widely used two centuries ago. Your cable car journey will take you to the summit of the mountain, where you will take in the magnificent views from a height 395 metres. This is an awe-inspiring site, and one that is popular not just with locals and tourists but rock climbers also, as the mountain is one of the largest and most popular urban rock-climbing destinations in the world, featuring over 270 different routes to the top.

Days 27-29: Depart Rio de Janeiro

Meals included: Breakfast

Today, fly out of Rio de Janeiro for Australia. Arrive home in two days due to crossing the International Date Line once again.



## Ultimate South America Travel Information

### Visas

Australian passport holders currently do not require a visa to the countries we visit on this tour - Peru, Chile, Bolivia, Argentina and Brazil. Your passport needs to be valid for at least six months beyond your intended return date to Australia. To stay up to date with the latest visa requirements, visit [www.smartraveller.gov.au](http://www.smartraveller.gov.au)

### Insurance

We strongly recommend that you take out a policy as soon as you pay your deposit. Wendy Wu Tours cannot in any way be made liable for any additional cost incurred by the customer on any tour due to the customer not having adequate travel insurance.

We also encourage all customers to take a copy of their travel insurance documents (especially relevant international contact numbers) with them while on tour. We advise that you check the inclusions and procedures for lodging claims prior to your departure. These documents should be stored separately from the original.

### Altitude

On this tour you will be spending several 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. All the hotels that we have selected to use on our programmes provide oxygen free of charge, please ask to use this. 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.

Peruvian food incorporates dishes introduced by the indigenous population and from a wide variety of immigrant populations from Europe, Asia and Africa. The four traditional staples of the diet are corn, potatoes, legumes and grains such as quinoa. The diversity of climates and altitudes in Peru have a strong influence on what is eaten – close to the sea, ceviche containing fish is popular, whilst in the Andes, meat from indigenous animals such as alpacas and guinea pigs are eaten. A typical dish from this region is pachamanca, a variety of meats, herbs and vegetables slow cooked underground with heated stones. Savour the food in Lima, it is Latin America's gastronomic capital! Peru also has plenty of international cuisine options.

Argentinian food incorporates many European influences predominantly from Italy and Spain. The Argentinian barbecue (asado) with steak and ribs is widely recognised as the country's national dish; however, in Patagonia lamb, goat and seafood are popular. Empanadas, stuffed pastry parcels, are a traditional snack and Dulce de leche (similar to caramel) features heavily in desserts throughout the country. Lunch is usually seen as the main meal of the day in Argentina with dinner being a lighter dish.

Brazilian food is strongly influenced by European and African cuisines, whilst there is not a single national cuisine there is an assortment of regional traditional dishes. In Rio and Sao Paulo the Brazilian Feijoada is the traditional dish, being a stew made from meat and black beans. In Northern Brazil Cassava (a root vegetable) features heavily in meals. Popular dishes throughout the country include rice and beans, served with meat and salad, fresh tropical fruit is a common dessert. Typical snacks include Pao de Queijo (cheese bread), Coxinha which is a chicken croquette, and Kibe which is a bulgar wheat and beef croquette.

Whilst we strongly recommend trying as many local dishes as possible, Argentina and Brazil also have a wide range of international foods available.

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.

Those with dietary requirements will be well catered for - just make sure to inform your booking agent of any specific requirements well in advance of your trip.

All the restaurants we visit will be researched and inspected regularly to ensure that they follow the strictest health, cleanliness, and safety guidelines. All waiting staff will wear face masks and gloves and self-service buffets will be avoided in favour of à la carte dining, waiter-served meals, or waiter-assisted buffets. Hand sanitiser will be provided to the group before and after every food and beverage service.

### 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.

## 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.

## 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. Within South America flights are often changed multiple times before departure, both timings and flight numbers. The utmost care will be taken to ensure that your final documents will have the latest information, however your local guide will confirm this in destination. Boarding passes can be collected directly at the airport. The flights booked as part of your itinerary will always reflect the best timings to suit the touring itinerary, with direct flights wherever possible, however due to limited schedules some flights may require a fairly early departure or late arrival.

## 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. In Argentina and Brazil, there are indigenous textiles, handicrafts, leather 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 a National Escort and Local Guides. There will usually be no more than 18 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 Latin America; however, this can often lead to awkwardness in knowing when it is appropriate to tip and how much, as well as ensuring you have a suitable amount of change available at the time. For your convenience, with years of experiences in providing the best customer service, Wendy Wu Tours operates a kitty system on our Group Tours so your National Escort will look after this aspect of your trip for you. It also ensures that the amounts paid are reasonable for you but still fair for the local people. The

amount is stated on each Group Tour page and will be advised again on your final documentation. Tipping is in US Dollars and will be collected by your National Escort on arrival and distributed throughout the tour on your behalf. Any additional tipping on any of our tours is welcomed at your discretion. Further guidance for tipping contributions will be outlined in your final documentation.

We generally find that most customers appreciate the convenience of our tipping policy, but we do recognise that it may not suit everyone. As this is a group tour, we ask that everyone follows the same protocol to be fair to other group members and to ensure smooth operation of your tour. Tipping while on holiday is common in most parts of the world and South America is no exception. We will provide suggested tipping amounts with your final documents for your convenience; however tipping is entirely at your own discretion.

### Packing list and Climate

On this tour, you will be travelling through various regions of South America with quite diverse climates especially in Cusco, where all four seasons can be experienced in one day. It is recommended to bring lots of layers including the following: T-Shirts made of breathable materials, hiking trousers (with the option to turn into shorts), a fleece jacket for colder parts and the evenings, a waterproof jacket as shell layer or a light rain jacket, a scarf and hat and warm socks. Whilst in Argentina and the Brazil coastal area of Rio, it is recommended to bring lots of layers including the items mentioned above. We recommend packing a light fleece jacket for those colder afternoons in Buenos Aires. A small backpack that fits into your main hand luggage to carry your daily essentials should also be taken.

Please refer to our website or brochure for detailed temperature charts.

You will find a complete packing list and a helpful climate chart in the 'Suggested Packing List', which will be included in the pre-departure information link sent within your deposit documentation. Seasonal weather patterns can be quite unpredictable. Up to the minute information on worldwide weather can be found on [www.weather.com](http://www.weather.com)

### Luggage

All travellers are limited to two items of luggage each, a suitcase with a maximum weight of 20kg and one piece of hand luggage with a maximum weight of five kilograms. It is essential that your luggage is lockable. Please note that authorities will only allow bottles onto the aircraft if they have been checked in as main baggage. Bottles in hand luggage may be confiscated. Please note luggage restrictions apply when travelling to Machu Picchu by Rail, please refer to the information listed under IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT MACHU PICCHU in this document.

### Exchanging Cash

The unit of currency in Peru is the Peruvian Nuevo Sol (PEN), Bolivia is the Boliviano (BOL), Chile is the Chilean Peso (CLP), in Argentina it is the Argentinian Peso (ARS) and in Brazil it is the Brazilian Real (BRL). AU dollars cannot be exchanged however US Dollars can be easily exchanged provided notes are new and undamaged. We suggest exchanging your money before travelling to remote areas and smaller towns, as exchange facilities can be limited. Try and keep some small notes and coins on you, as on street stalls and in small shops they may not have the change to break up a high denomination note. If you decide to use US dollars, make sure they are in a good state (not ripped etc) or they will not be accepted. ATMs are common across Latin America and we recommend using an ATM inside a bank where possible. Please note, currently there are restrictions on how much cash you can withdraw from ATMs in Argentina. Most major credit cards are widely accepted across the

continent; please bear in mind the charges of your provider. Debit cards are also widely accepted but may have a limit to the amount of cash you can withdraw, so consult your bank about this before travelling.

### Personal Expenses & Optional Activities

Personal Expense - You will need to take some extra money to cover drinks, laundry and souvenirs, plus any additional sightseeing that may be offered to you. Based on the advice of previous customers an approximate amount of AU\$250 per person, per week should be sufficient; however, for those that cannot resist a bargain or may wish to participate in all of the optional excursions, consider allocating a higher amount.

Optional tours may be offered in each city you visit during your tour at an additional cost. These are not included in the standard itinerary and will only be available if time permits. Each option will be arranged locally by your National Escort/Local Guide.

### Vaccinations and Your Health

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)

### Before You Leave

We strongly recommend registering your travel plans with [www.smartraveller.gov.au](http://www.smartraveller.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.

### 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

**Last updated: September 2020**