

LATIN AMERICA & ANTARCTICA

2017



CONTOURS TRAVEL

SINCE 1975

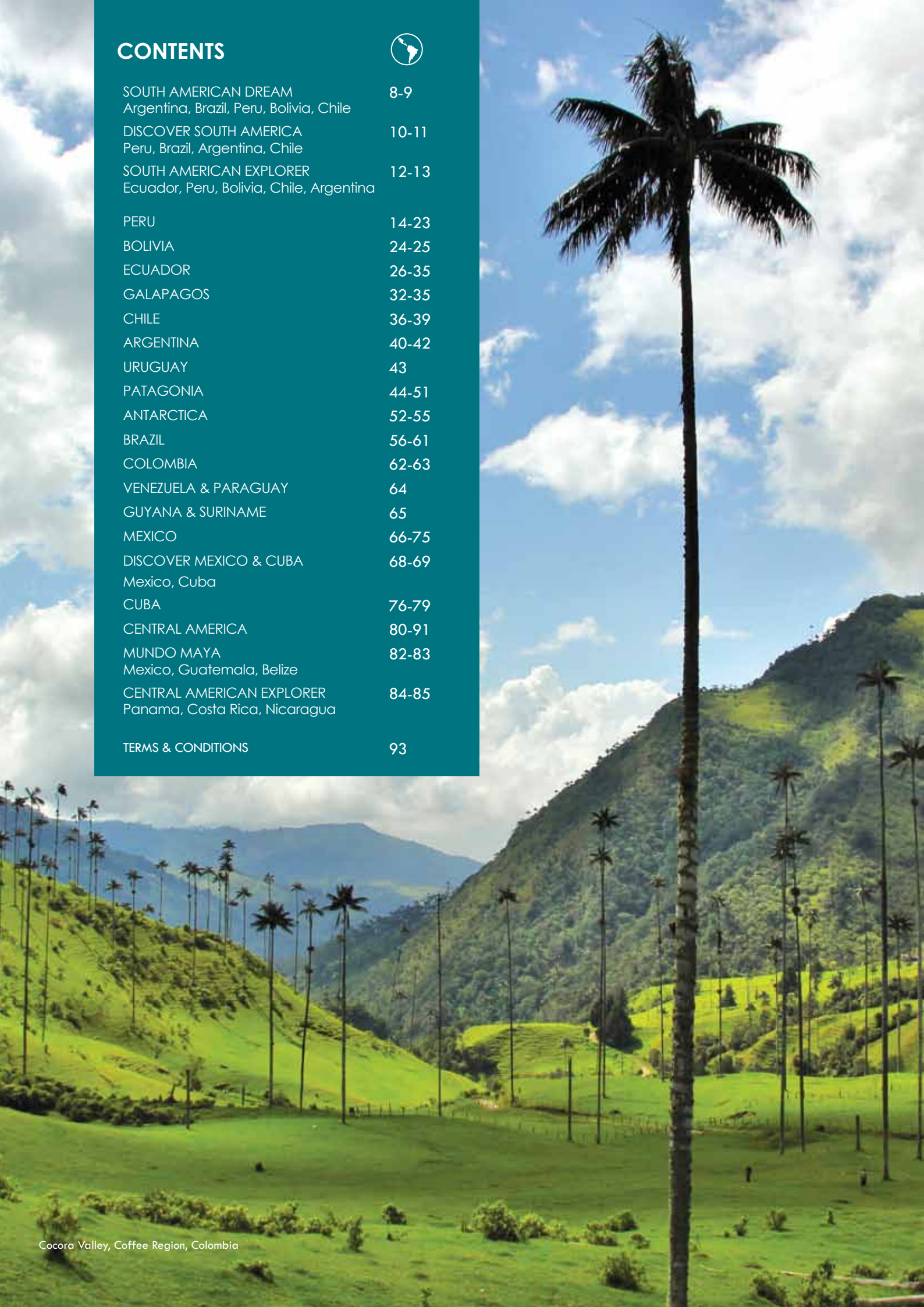


SOUTH AMERICA • MEXICO • CUBA • CENTRAL AMERICA • ANTARCTICA

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Why choose Contours Travel?

Atacama Desert, Chile



The Contours Commitment

Inspire

We've been creating tailor-made tours to Latin America for more than 40 years. Every one of our expert consultants has travelled widely throughout the region and has extensive experience in designing unique and seamless holidays that offer travellers the very best of this extraordinary continent.

Our brochure is full of creative ideas to inspire your next Latin American adventure. Allow us to introduce you to Latin America's most iconic destinations, as well as some of our favourites that are often overlooked. We'll show you how to combine the best of this stunning region to create a truly unique and memorable trip.

Enhance

Throughout our brochure you'll find a number of ways to enhance your travel experience, with inspired accommodation options, unusual touring ideas and excursions designed for special interests. Looking for more active options for day trips? Ask us about hiking Rio de Janeiro's Mount Corcovado to reach Christ the Redeemer, or cycling the shaded streets of Palermo in Buenos Aires. Foodies should look no further than our excellent Taco and Tamale tours in Mexico City or a traditional Andean cooking class in Cuzco. From history to cuisine, archaeology to opera, cycling tours to horseback riding and more, we want to share the full potential of each wonderful destination with you.

Value

We aim to provide the best value for money, regardless of whether you're on a budget or looking to splurge. We've got our fingers on the pulse for great value offers and know the best places to splash out for a truly memorable experience.

Why are there no prices in our brochure? Because things change fast in Latin America! New routes develop daily, great hotels get better and touring options become more diverse every week. We want to ensure you're getting the best advice and the most competitive price at the moment you make the enquiry. Contact your travel agent for a tailor-made holiday and quote.

Confidence

A dedicated Contours Travel specialist will look after you from your first phone call. We'll create a personalised itinerary that reflects your interests, time and budget, and continue to refine your holiday until you are 100% satisfied.

With more than 40 years of travelling in and working with Latin America, we pass our in-depth knowledge and first-hand experience on to you. Our thorough pre-departure information will ensure you get the most out of your journey. Our consultants travel frequently to stay up to date with exciting new hotels, fantastic touring options and the best suggestions for local food, shopping and sightseeing.

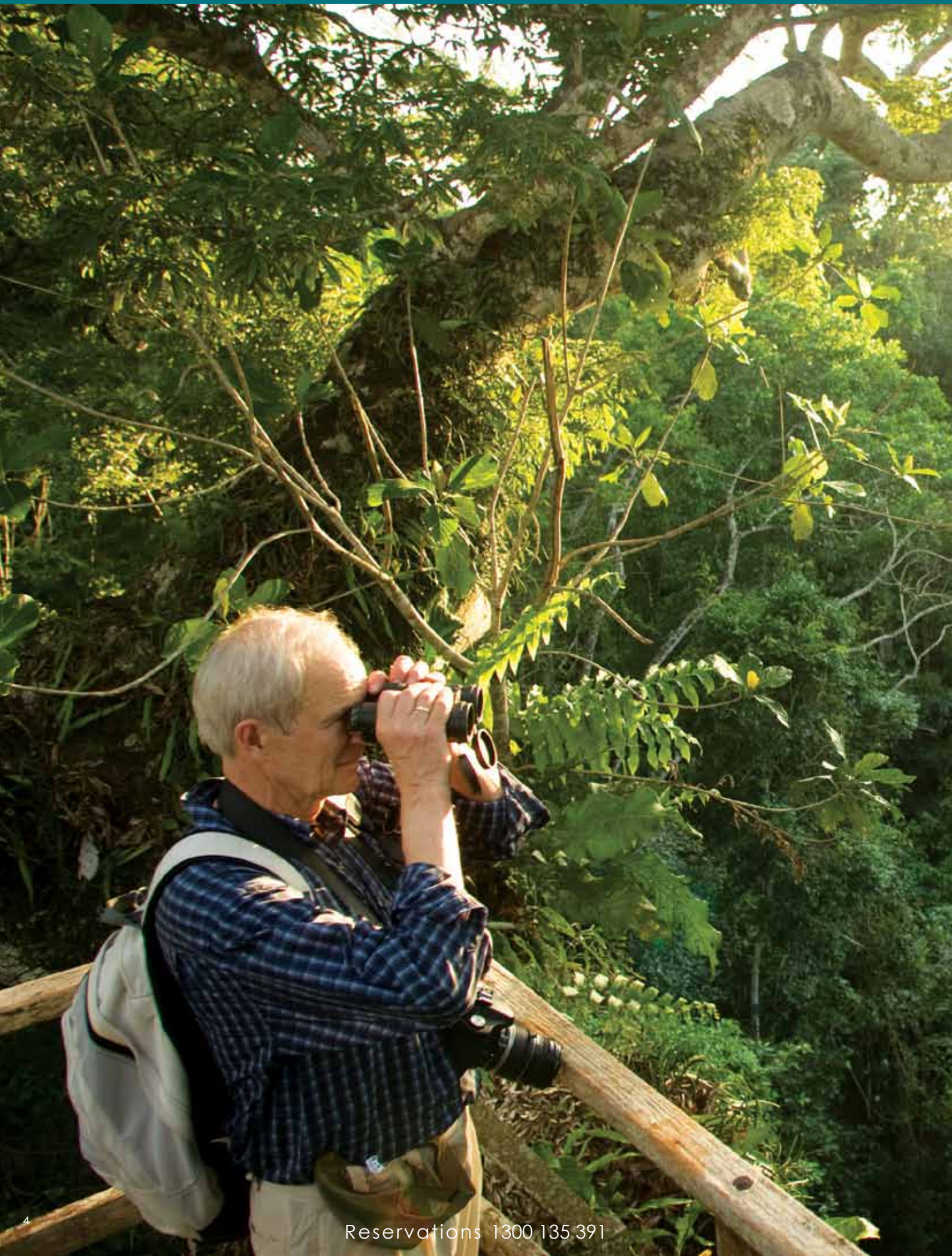
During your time in Latin America you can be confident that our trusted in-country partners are there to look after you. They will reconfirm your onward flights, make adjustments if delays occur, and provide you with 24/7 contact details in case of emergencies, allowing you to relax and enjoy the trip of a lifetime.

One of the good points of booking through Contours Travel was dealing with just one person. It gives a personal touch to all the travel arrangements to feel you are planning and knowing our every move using your experience in the region. From the start, offering ideas to extend the trip from simply Cuba, to include Mexico and Panama, to the finish, seamlessly organising to change an impossibly noisy hotel to a quiet one. Thanks for your care and for your attention to detail on our itinerary, no complaints from us. We'll certainly recommend you to friends!

- Jan & Mike, 2016



How We Travel



The Contours Experience



Amazon Rainforest, Peru

Journey

Because of the enormous size of Latin America, you'll most likely require at least one or two regional flights after arriving via one of the region's gateways. Our expert consultants will plan your itinerary to reduce the amount of time spent in airports and keep your costs down by using one of our wholesale airpasses.

For travel between cities and towns you can choose from private transportation with a driver and guide; luxury coaches with flat-bed seats for longer journeys; or, in some regions, self-drive options. Transfers to and from hotels are generally booked as private with either a driver and/or guide. Shared transfers may occasionally be offered to keep costs down.

Train lovers should know that Latin America has some of the world's most iconic train journeys: the brand new luxury sleeper Belmond Andean Explorer, travelling between Cuzco and Arequipa in Peru; the Tren Crucero overland trip in Ecuador, Mexico's Copper Canyon and Argentina's famous End of the World Train in Ushuaia.

Stay

There's been a revolution in accommodation standards since we first started sending travellers to Latin America. Some of the world's finest luxury hotels are dotted throughout South and Central America, combining local character and history with superb service and comfort.

Contours Travel prefers smaller boutique properties that make use of local materials and reflect the local culture, from exquisite five-star Small Luxury Hotels of the World to rustic three-star, family-run posadas. In many cases, we use a mix of moderate and deluxe accommodation options designed to give you the best value, with a few special treats along the way. Look for our recommended *Stays of Distinction* throughout the brochure and on our website – these properties are remarkable destinations in their own right.

See

All our itineraries are tailor-made so we can offer touring options specific to your personal interests, fitness levels and budget. Tours can usually be booked as private or shared services and are always conducted with bilingual guides. If you can't find anything that caters to your special interest inside this brochure, please contact Contours Travel and we'll put together the perfect tour options for you.

Connect

The destination specialists at Contours Travel agree that the people of Latin America are what keeps us coming back – Latinos are some of the world's friendliest people and the pride they share in their history and culture is striking. Try to learn a few words of the local language before you go – you'll be amazed by how encouraging people will be when they hear you making an effort. Rarely a day passes without a celebration of some sort where you can witness strong cultural traditions and family ties. Locals love to share their culture and will often invite you for a drink or a dance. It's these interactions that our clients frequently cite as the highlight of their holidays. We understand that today's traveller is looking for authentic experiences – let Contours Travel introduce you to the warm and wonderful people that make up this incredible region.

There wasn't a single moment when we felt anything less than completely comfortable and confident. Our guides were pleasant, friendly, knowledgeable and flexible, and great ambassadors for their countries. Our accommodation was very comfortable also, with the hotel staff going out of their way to assist whenever it was requested. All in all just completely fabulous in every way!

- Caroline & James, 2015



Community Projects

CONTOURS TRAVEL
community projects



A private weaving demonstration by members of a local co-operative in Chinchero in the intimacy of their own home.



Agua Pura Project delivering and installing water filters in schools and communities around the Sacred Valley.

Contours Travel supports a number of initiatives throughout Latin America. Whether through direct loans, importing artisanal products or supporting local development organisations, we are increasing opportunities for the people of this wonderful continent. Our exclusive partnership with Agua Pura is a fantastic way for you to become involved, however there are many other ways in which you can contribute.

If you're visiting the villages in Peru's Sacred Valley, we encourage you to prepare a small hygiene kit to give away. This item is easy to carry in your luggage and provides much-needed supplies to the communities you visit. If you would like to contribute, we can let you know who to hand the kit to once you get there.

Some of the items these communities need include aspirin, band-aids, gauze, antibacterial ointments, pain killers, soap, anti-diarrhoea medication, latex gloves, toothpaste, toothbrushes, feminine hygiene products, shampoo and tissues.

The communities also need school supplies such as paper, pens, crayons, coloured pencils, notebooks, erasers, rulers and pencil sharpeners; children's clothing including sandals/flip-flops, underwear, t-shirts and clothing for cold weather; and deflated soccer balls.



A Peruvian charity supporting various communities in the high Andes around the Sacred Valley of Peru. Their mission is to provide assistance in nutrition, health, education and conservation, promoting long-term solutions.

Peru's Challenge welcomes you to spend time working and learning alongside local communities in the Cuzco area.

Its first focus is to transform schools into a safe, happy learning environment for the children in each community.

A not-for-profit branch of our Peruvian partner Condor Travel. This pilot project creates opportunities for local people: men have been trained as porters for the Inca Trail, literacy and textile classes have been offered to women and children are given education and health care. You are invited to help with a range of activities.

The donation of the water filters to the Pumamarca community was so very special & we were very humbled to have done such a small thing that meant so much to them.

- Mark & Jenny

We just had the best morning with Peru's Challenge. It was absolutely amazing to see everything they are doing for the communities & to see how much difference the water filters that Contours Travel are sending over are making. I was very lucky to have experienced it & the group absolutely loved it. Everyone agrees this has been the best day so far!

- Emma

Community Projects



"Thank you for supporting us": Misminay community members express their thanks.



A Paru Paru student with a newly installed Sawyer Point ZeroTWO™ filter.

Exclusive to Contours Travel is the one-of-a-kind Agua Pura Community Project. This inspiring experience allows you to present and assemble the 'Sawyer Two' water filter in a remote community in the Andes, bringing improved health and wellbeing to families in need while getting to know the people of the village and sharing in their everyday activities.

The Sawyer Point ZeroTWO™ water filter is a portable purification device that mechanically removes bacteria including E. coli, cholera and typhoid. This low-maintenance device is capable of filtering more than 1000 litres per day!



Agua Pura is the result of Contours Travel teaming up with the Rotary Club of North Melbourne and the Rotary Club of Cuzco to provide safe drinking water to communities in very remote areas in and around the Sacred Valley and Cuzco.

'We believe clean water should not be a luxury for the few, but a right for all people.'



Visiting Pumamarca was a very important & inspiring part of the trip... The group was very pleased to present the school with the water filters which will have such a positive impact on the health of the community & not just to simply visit it. We would definitely recommend this experience to fellow travellers.

- Jenny & Richard

It was truly an uplifting & positive experience to see the school working so well & the children so happy... We later participated in water filters preparation with the filters we had brought over from Australia. The Agua Pura experience gave us a glimpse of the people's & children's daily life. Most definitely... it was the highlight of our trip.

- Tom & Dianne

South American Dream



WHY DREAM?

- ✓ Perfect for first-time travellers to South America
- ✓ Tailored itinerary that is fully flexible to suit your tastes and budget
- ✓ Visit cosmopolitan Buenos Aires and enjoy a tango lesson and show
- ✓ Stroll Copacabana Beach and take a cable car to Sugarloaf Mountain
- ✓ Enjoy panoramic views of Iguazu Falls from the Brazilian National Park
- ✓ Experience Iguazu Falls up close in the Argentine National Park
- ✓ Spend 11 days in the Peruvian and Bolivian highlands, gradually acclimatising to the altitude
- ✓ Spend more time in the Sacred Valley, one of Peru's most fascinating regions
- ✓ Two entries to magnificent Machu Picchu
- ✓ Wander the ancient Inca capital, Cuzco
- ✓ See the astonishing masonry at Sacsayhuaman – an amazing feat of engineering
- ✓ Visit serene Lake Titicaca and the floating Uros Islands
- ✓ Explore the world's highest capital, La Paz, and visit the iconic Witches' Market
- ✓ Finish in Santiago, framed by the Andean Range

Day 1 Buenos Aires

Your local guide will greet you on arrival and transfer you to your hotel. The Recoleta, San Telmo and Palermo districts all offer wonderful accommodation options.

Day 2 Buenos Aires

Today's tour will take you to the city's southern districts. Explore vibrant 'microcentro' with its historic buildings and monuments. Visit the famous Plaza 25 de Mayo and see the Casa Rosada. You will then continue to the bohemian district of San Telmo and visit Caminito in La Boca for some great photo opportunities, finishing in Puerto Madero. This modern waterfront district is well-known for its restaurants. For the rest of the day you're free to continue exploring on your own. *B*

Day 3 Buenos Aires

Continue exploring Buenos Aires. Tour the northern districts, including famous Recoleta Cemetery and the leafy suburb of Palermo, with its elegant mansions, funky cafes and local fashion and homeware boutiques. In the evening, learn the basic steps of tango before your dinner and tango show. *BD*

Day 4 Buenos Aires/ Rio de Janeiro

Fly to Rio, arriving in time for a stroll or a sundowner on Copacabana Beach. *B*

Day 5 Rio de Janeiro

A full-day tour of Rio's most beautiful and famous sights. Admire the spectacular views from Mount Corcovado and see the famous statue of Christ the Redeemer. After a traditional BBQ lunch, ride the cable car to the top of iconic Sugarloaf Mountain. *BL*

Day 6 Rio de Janeiro

This day is yours to explore this captivating city on your own. We suggest a guided tour of a favela or a visit to the Museum of Tomorrow. *B*

Day 7 Rio de Janeiro/ Iguazu Falls

After a morning at leisure take an afternoon flight to the mighty Iguazu Falls. Ask us about the special optional tour of a helicopter ride over the falls for the ultimate experience. *B*

Day 8 Iguazu Falls

A full-day tour of the Argentine side of the falls, including the Devil's Throat Lookout, and optional speedboat tour under the falls. *B*

Day 9 Iguazu Falls/ Lima

Free morning. Afternoon tour of the Brazilian side of the falls for the best panoramic view and a visit to the Bird Park. Fly to Lima and transfer to your hotel. *B*

Day 10 Lima

A half-day sightseeing tour of Lima's historic centre, the seaside suburbs of Miraflores and San Isidro with a guided tour the Larco Museum. Free afternoon. *B*

Day 11 Lima/ Cuzco/ Sacred Valley

Fly to Cuzco and transfer to the Sacred Valley, where you can adjust to the altitude. *B*

Day 12 Sacred Valley

Full-day tour through the Sacred Valley, including Chinchero and its market and Ollantaytambo village and fortress. *BL*

Day 13 Sacred Valley

A free day. Optional Community Project day: visit an Andean village for a more in-depth cultural encounter. Learn about their



everyday activities and enjoy a one-on-one weaving lesson. We encourage you to bring along a water filter donation, which will change the life of a family (more about this on page 7). *B*

Day 14 Sacred Valley/ Machu Picchu
Travel by train to explore the famous ruins of Machu Picchu, a guided tour of the ruins and buffet lunch included. Free afternoon to continue exploring the ruins on your own. Option: Add the Express Inca Trail, a spectacular six-hour moderate walk to Machu Picchu, arriving through the Sun Gate. *BLD*

Day 15 Machu Picchu/ Cuzco
A second day entry to Machu Picchu is included so you can continue exploring at your own pace. Consider a hike to Huayna Picchu for stunning views. Catch an afternoon train to Cuzco. *B*

Day 16 Cuzco
A half-day walking tour of the main sights of Cuzco, including the Plaza de Armas, Cathedral, Koricancha Temple, San Blas Church and handcraft workshops. Finish with a visit to the nearby ruins of Sacsayhuaman. *B*

Day 17 Cuzco
A free day to explore this fascinating city. *B*

Day 18 Cuzco/ Puno
A full-day tour by bus across the Altiplano to Lake Titicaca stopping at Andahuaylillas, Raqchi, and for lunch in Sicuani along the way. *BL*

Day 19 Puno
A morning tour visiting the floating reed islands of Uros on Lake Titicaca. Option to include Taquile or Amantani Islands. *B*

Day 20 Puno/ Sun Island/ La Paz
Travel by coach and catamaran from Puno to La Paz with a visit to Copacabana and Sun Island. Option to stay overnight on Sun Island or on board the catamaran. *BL*

Day 21 La Paz
Enjoy a half-day city tour visiting the Valley of the Moon and the Witches' Market. *B*

Day 22 La Paz/ Santiago
Morning at leisure. Fly to Santiago and transfer to your hotel. *B*

Day 23 Santiago
Enjoy a half-day walking tour of modern Santiago. Visit Bellas Artes, San Cristobal and lovely Lastarria before hopping on the metro and exploring the downtown area. *B*

Day 24 Santiago
Transfer to the airport for your onward flight. Option to extend your trip to the Atacama Desert or Patagonia. *B*

B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner

ENHANCE YOUR EXPERIENCE

- Add a visit to the unique El Zanjón archaeological site in Buenos Aires
- Active option: ask us about cycling tours of Buenos Aires and Santiago
- Music lovers can't miss a drumming class in Rio!
- Active option: hike Mount Corcovado to Christ the Redeemer in Rio
- Ask us about helicopter rides or boat trips at Iguazu Falls
- Discover the secrets of Peruvian cuisine on a tasting tour of Lima
- Get involved in one of our Community Projects in the Sacred Valley
- Active option: hike the Inca Trail Express into Machu Picchu
- Consider overnighting on Lake Titicaca with an Amantani homestay or ecolodge on Sun Island
- Experience Bolivia's incredible diversity with a day tour to Las Yungas – travelling from the snow-capped Andes to lush cloud forest
- Visit one of Chile's famous wine regions – Maipo, San Antonio and Colchagua are all accessible from Santiago
- Extend your trip – check pages 10 to 13 for more extensive itinerary ideas

Discover South America



WHY DISCOVER?

- ✓ Delve a little deeper into the South American continent
- ✓ Tailored itinerary that is fully flexible to suit your tastes and budget
- ✓ Visit the Amazon and stay in a rustic but comfortable jungle lodge
- ✓ Travel from Lake Titicaca to the stunning Colca Canyon, twice as deep as the Grand Canyon!
- ✓ Watch condors rising on thermal winds at Condor Cross
- ✓ Explore the historic colonial centre of Arequipa on a walking tour
- ✓ Visit the must-see Santa Catalina Convent
- ✓ Discover the beauty of the Andean Lakes District, shared by Argentina and Chile
- ✓ Take the iconic Andean Lakes Crossing journey through the beautiful, untouched wilderness of the Andes

Day 1 Lima

Welcome to Lima! Transfer to your hotel on arrival; Miraflores and Barranco are top picks for great accommodation.

Day 2 Lima

A half-day sightseeing tour of Lima's historic centre, the seaside suburbs of Miraflores and San Isidro with a guided tour the Larco Museum. Free afternoon. *B*

Day 3 Lima

Visit a local market in the morning followed by a cooking class and lunch. Afternoon at leisure. *BL*

Day 4 Lima/ Amazon Jungle

Fly to the Amazon Basin and transfer to your jungle lodge. Optional: river cruises sail from Iquitos and are the most luxurious way to experience the Amazon. *BLD*

Day 5 Amazon Jungle

A full-day exploring the Amazon with activities such as jungle hikes, canoe trips and night walks. *BLD*

Day 6 Amazon Jungle

Spend the day discovering the jungle trails with your native guides. *BLD*

Day 7 Amazon Jungle/ Sacred Valley

Fly to Cuzco and transfer to the Sacred Valley, where you can best adjust to the altitude. *B*

Day 8 Sacred Valley

A full-day tour through the Sacred Valley, including Chinchero and its market and Ollantaytambo village and fortress. *BL*

Day 9 Sacred Valley

A free day. Optional Community Project day: visit an Andean village for a more in-depth cultural encounter. Learn about their everyday activities and enjoy a one-on-one weaving lesson. We encourage you to bring along a water filter donation, which will change the life of a family (more about this on page 7). *B*

Day 10 Sacred Valley/ Machu Picchu

Travel by train to explore the famous ruins of Machu Picchu. Option to ride the Belmond Hiram Bingham Deluxe train. A guided tour of the ruins and lunch is included today. *BLD*

Day 11 Machu Picchu/ Cuzco

Return to the ruins early this morning to continue exploring this magical site. Travel by train to Cuzco this afternoon. *B*

Day 12 Cuzco

A half-day walking tour of the main sights of Cuzco, including the Plaza de Armas, Cathedral, Koricancha Temple, San Blas Church, and handcraft workshops. Finish at the nearby ruins of Sacsayhuaman. *B*

Day 13 Cuzco

Day at leisure to explore the Inca capital. *B*

Day 14 Cuzco/ Puno

A full-day tour by bus across the Altiplano to Lake Titicaca stopping at Andahuaylillas, Raqchi, and for lunch at Sicuani along the way. *BL*

Day 15 Puno

A morning tour visiting the floating reed islands of Uros on Lake Titicaca. Option to include Taquile Island. *B*

Day 16 Puno/ Colca Canyon

Transfer to the bus station for the regular service to Chivay, where you'll meet your driver and guide and enjoy an afternoon exploring the stunning Colca Canyon region. *BLD*

Day 17 Colca Canyon/ Arequipa

An early morning trip to Condor Cross, the best viewpoint to see condors in flight. After lunch, transfer to Arequipa and your hotel. *BL*

Day 18 Arequipa

Enjoy a walking tour of historic Arequipa, including a visit to the must-see Santa Catalina Convent. *B*

**Day 19 Arequipa/ Iguazu Falls**

Fly to Brazil, via Lima. On arrival transfer to your hotel – this is a great place to splurge and upgrade to a hotel located inside the National Park, walking distance to the magnificent Iguazu Falls. *B*

Day 20 Iguazu Falls

A full-day tour of the Argentine side of the falls including the Devil's Throat Lookout. Optional speedboat tour under the falls. *B*

Day 21 Iguazu Falls/ Rio de Janeiro

A morning tour of the Brazilian side of the falls for the best panoramic view. Fly to Rio and transfer to your hotel. *B*

Day 22 Rio de Janeiro

A full-day tour of Rio's most beautiful and famous sights. Admire the spectacular views from Mount Corcovado and see the famous statue of Christ the Redeemer. After a traditional BBQ lunch, ride the cable car to the top of iconic Sugarloaf Mountain. *BL*

Day 23 Rio de Janeiro

During your day at leisure we suggest a guided tour of the Santa Teresa bohemian district or a walk in the Botanical Gardens. *B*

Day 24 Rio de Janeiro/ Buenos Aires

Fly to Buenos Aires and transfer to your hotel. Recoleta, San Telmo and Palermo all offer distinct experiences and boutique accommodation. *B*

Day 25 Buenos Aires

A sightseeing tour of the city's most iconic places. Visit Plaza de Mayo with the Casa Rosada and the Cabildo; pass through 9 de Julio Avenue and continue to San Telmo. Further south you'll arrive at the picturesque and colourful port neighbourhood of La

Boca, with its famous street Caminito. Finally, visit Palermo and Recoleta. *B*

Day 26 Buenos Aires

A day at leisure. Consider a guided tour to the underground tunnels of Buenos Aires or a day in Tigre and Parana Delta. In the evening, learn the basic steps of tango before your dinner and tango show. *BD*

Day 27 Buenos Aires/ Bariloche

Fly to Bariloche and transfer to your hotel before taking the afternoon to relax and enjoy stunning views over Nahuel Huapi Lake. *B*

Day 28 Bariloche

A half-day tour of Bariloche's surrounding mountains and lakes. *B*

Day 29 Bariloche/ Puerto Varas

Begin the spectacular lakes crossing through the untouched wilderness of the Andes. After a morning transfer to Puerto Pañuelo you will board your catamaran and sail Lake Nahuel Huapi towards Puerto Blest. Take a bus to Puerto Alegre then a catamaran across Lago Frias. Continue by bus to Peulla and then sail Todos los Santos Lake, with spectacular views of Osorno Volcano and Petrohue Falls. Finally, take the bus to your hotel in Puerto Varas. *B*

Day 30 Puerto Varas

A day at leisure. Consider a full-day tour to Chiloe Island or a trip to Frutillar and Puerto Octay; a scenic beauty on the shore of Lake Llanquihue. *B*

Day 31 Puerto Varas/ Santiago

Fly to Santiago and transfer to your hotel. Lastarria, Bellas Artes and Providencia all offer excellent accommodation options. *B*

Day 32 Santiago

Enjoy a walking tour of the heart of Santiago, including the most iconic and historic sites. Option to include a winery tour. *B*

Day 33 Santiago

Transfer to the airport for your onward flight. *B*

B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner

ENHANCE YOUR EXPERIENCE

- Active option: take a cycling tour through Lima's bohemian Barranco district
- Extend your time in the Amazon and stay at the remote Tambopata Research Centre or Manu Tented Camp
- Active option: biking, rafting or hiking in Peru's Sacred Valley
- Ask your consultant about South America's first luxury sleeper train – the Belmond Andean Explorer
- Coincide your stay at Iguazu with a full moon for a magical moonlit tour of the falls
- Experience a different side of Rio with a favela tour
- Consider an estancia stay near Bariloche and learn about Argentina's gaucho culture
- Active options: kayak Llanquihue Lake, hike Osorno Volcano... the options are endless in the stunning Andean Lakes

South American Explorer



WHY EXPLORER?

- ✓ Travel the length of the former Inca Empire, from Ecuador to Northern Argentina
- ✓ Tailored itinerary that is fully flexible to suit your tastes and budget
- ✓ Overland through Ecuador's Avenue of the Volcanoes
- ✓ Admire the incredible diversity of wildlife in the Galapagos Islands
- ✓ Experience the surreal landscapes of Bolivia's southwest, the Uyuni Salt Plains and coloured lagoons
- ✓ See the majestic Iguazu Falls and explore the extensive Argentine National Park

Day 1 Quito

Welcome to Quito. Transfer to your hotel on arrival.

Day 2 Quito

A free morning. Afternoon walking tour of the UNESCO Heritage-listed colonial centre. *B*

Day 3 Quito

A full-day tour of Otavalo to visit the famous indigenous markets with lunch at a local hacienda. *BL*

Day 4 Quito/ Baños

Drive to Cotopaxi National Park where you'll see the conical Cotopaxi Volcano before continuing to one of the region's colourful local markets. After lunch, drive to Baños and stay overnight. *BLD*

Day 5 Baños/ Riobamba

Travel the famous Route of the Waterfalls around Baños and drive to a great lookout point to see the spectacular Tungurahua Volcano. Continue to Riobamba and stay overnight. *BLD*

Day 6 Riobamba/ Cuenca

Ride the train along the series of switchbacks known as the Devil's Nose. Continue by car to Cuenca, visiting Ingapirca ruins en route. *BLD*

Day 7 Cuenca

A half-day tour of the colonial city centre, including the Cathedral, Taquilla Hat Factory (makers of the famous Panama Hats!) and the Flower Market. Afterwards, take a short drive out of town for picturesque views of the red-tiled roofs and church domes, framed by imposing mountains. *B*

Day 8 Cuenca/ Guayaquil

Travel overland to Guayaquil via El Cajas National Park. In Guayaquil you'll have a short city tour before staying overnight. *BL*

Day 9 Guayaquil/ Galapagos Islands

Fly to the Galapagos Islands to join your cruise. There are dozens of ways you can experience the fabulous Galapagos Islands. Choose from 3 to 14-night itineraries on tourist, first-class or deluxe vessels, or ask us about island-hopping programs. *BLD*

Day 10 Galapagos Islands

Explore the Galapagos Islands – an oasis for many endemic animals and plants – on twice-daily shore excursions. The geography of these islands' volcanic origin is as fascinating as their inhabitants. *BLD*

Day 11 Galapagos Islands

Visit a number of islands to see turtles, iguanas, blue-footed boobies and sea lions at close range in the Galapagos's amazing and unique environment. *BLD*

Day 12 Galapagos Islands/ Guayaquil

Return to Guayaquil. Transfer to your hotel. *B*

Day 13 Guayaquil/ Lima

Fly to Lima before enjoying a half-day city sightseeing tour including Larco Museum. *B*

Day 14 Lima

A free day to explore Lima with an optional Peruvian cooking lesson and market visit. *B*

Day 15 Lima/ Cuzco/ Sacred Valley

Fly to Cuzco and transfer to the Sacred Valley where you can adjust to the altitude. *B*

Day 16 Sacred Valley of the Incas

A full-day tour through the Sacred Valley, including Chinchero and its market and Ollantaytambo village and fortress. *BL*

Day 17 Machu Picchu

Travel by train to explore the famous ruins of Machu Picchu. A guided tour of the ruins and lunch is included. *BLD*

Day 18 Machu Picchu/ Cuzco

Return to the ruins and explore at your own pace. Return to Cuzco in the afternoon. *B*

Day 19 Cuzco

A half-day city tour of the main sights of Cuzco and nearby ruins. *B*

**Day 20 Cuzco**

A free day. Optional Community Project day: visit an Andean village for a more in-depth cultural encounter. Learn about their everyday activities and enjoy a one-on-one weaving lesson. We encourage you to bring along a water filter donation, which will change the life of a family (more about this on page 7). *B*

Day 21 Cuzco/ Puno

A full-day tour by bus across the Altiplano to Lake Titicaca stopping at Andahuaylillas, Raqchi, and for lunch at Sicuani along the way. *BL*

Day 22 Puno

A morning tour visiting the floating reed islands of Uros on Lake Titicaca. Option to include Taquile Island. *B*

Day 23 Puno/ Sun Island/ La Paz

Travel by coach and catamaran from Puno to La Paz with a visit to Copacabana and Sun Island. Option to stay overnight on Sun Island. *BL*

Day 24 La Paz

Enjoy a half-day city tour visiting the Valley of the Moon and Witches' Market. *B*

Day 25 La Paz/ Uyuni/ Tahua

Fly to Uyuni and depart by 4WD on one of the most breathtaking overland trips in South America. Discover the Colchani Salt Mine in the surreal salt desert before travelling onto Tahua. *BLD*

Day 26 Tahua/ Villamar

Drive to Isla Incahuasi, where many cacti grow on the island. Continue across the Altiplano to Alota and Villamar. *BLD*

Day 27 Villamar/ San Pedro Atacama

Visit the Eduardo Abaroa Andean Fauna National Reserve. Continue through the Pampas de Dali, up to Laguna Verde, before crossing the border into Chile to San Pedro de Atacama. *BL*

Day 28 San Pedro de Atacama

Optional full-day tour of the Tatio Geysers. *B*

Day 29 San Pedro Atacama/ Salta

A full-day bus ride across wild and remote Andean landscapes will take you to Salta, Argentina. *B*

Day 30 Salta

A day at leisure to relax and explore. Visit the excellent Museum of High Mountain Archaeology and see the brilliantly preserved remains of child sacrifices found more than 6,000m high in the Andean Range. *B*

Day 31 Salta

A full-day tour of the Cafayate wine region. Drive through the stunning Cafayate Gorge with its beautiful colours and iconic rock formations before arriving in the pretty Calchaquies Valley. Visit a local winery for a tasting. Return to Salta. *B*

Day 32 Salta/ Iguazu Falls

After a morning at leisure, fly to Puerto Iguazu in the afternoon and transfer to your hotel.

Day 33 Iguazu Falls

Enjoy a full tour of the Argentine Iguazu National Park, including Devil's Throat and the Grand Adventure Boat Ride; a thrilling way to experience the power of the falls. *B*

Day 34 Iguazu Falls/ Buenos Aires

Fly to cosmopolitan Buenos Aires. Afternoon at leisure. *B*

Day 35 Buenos Aires

A morning sightseeing tour of the city. In the evening, learn the basic steps of tango before your dinner and tango show. *BD*

Day 36 Buenos Aires

A free day. Consider an Estancia visit in Areco, famous for the conservation of Creole customs and home to the Guiraldes Museum, or a day trip to charming and historic Colonia del Sacramento in Uruguay. *B*

Day 37 Buenos Aires

Transfer to the airport. Option to extend your trip to the Mendoza or Bariloche. *B*

B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner

ENHANCE YOUR EXPERIENCE

- Choose from a range of Galapagos cruises from 3 -14 nights, or ask your consultant about the divine Galapagos Safari Camp
- Active option: extend your stay around Quito with our unique *Camino de Las Haciendas* walking tour – a relaxed hike from hacienda to hacienda (see page 29)
- Active option: stay longer on Sun Island and enjoy the network of walking trails that cross the island
- Reward yourself with a stay in one of Atacama's luxury all-inclusive lodges (see page 38)
- Hire a car and get off the beaten track in Argentina's northwest





From the ultra-modern fusion cuisine of Lima to the cobblestone streets of Cuzco, Peru is a country both steeped in tradition and revelling in modernity. The remains of Peru's past are everywhere – from the ancient northern kingdoms of Chan Chan, Sipan and Kuelap to the southern civilisations of the Inca, Nazca and Sillustani – and yet the country is also a model of modernity and development.

Visit the culinary capital Lima and indulge in some of Peru's finest cuisine. Take a short trip down the coast through remarkable desert landscape to see the mysterious Nazca Lines, visit Peru's best pisco producers in Ica and enjoy the teeming wildlife of the Ballestas Islands before heading back to the capital for a short onward flight to Cuzco: gateway to the Sacred Valley of the Incas.

The Sacred Valley was the breadbasket of the Inca Empire and contains some of Peru's most beautiful mountain scenery, fascinating cultural traditions and a wealth of Inca ruins. Visit the famous fortress of Ollantaytambo, bike or hike across ancient terraced fields and explore colourful regional markets. At just 2,800m above sea level, this is a great place to acclimatise before heading to the breathless heights of the Altiplano.

Machu Picchu remains Peru's most alluring destination; a magical mountain citadel shrouded in mystery and romance. Whether you travel by train along the Urubamba Valley or hike the ancient Inca trails in through the Sun Gate, your first glimpse of these iconic ruins is unforgettable.

Back in Cuzco your exploration of the Inca civilisation continues at every turn, through the stone masonry that underpins almost every building in the historic centre, to the massive complex of Sacsayhuaman on the city's northern edge. The city is also home to some of the continent's finest boutique hotels and excellent cuisine. We strongly recommend taking a few days to relax and soak up the history, culture and tradition of this fascinating city.

A train or coach ride across the Altiplano will bring you to the shores of Lake Titicaca, the highest navigable lake in the world at 3820m above sea level. Visit the famous Uros floating islands, or stay overnight with a homestay on Amantani or Taquile islands. The private island of Suasi provides an intimate experience with just 23 rooms.

Rivalling Cuzco as Peru's loveliest colonial city, Arequipa is surrounded by snow-capped volcanoes and the world's deepest canyons and home is to the Andean condor. A city within a city, the extensive Santa Catalina Convent is a photographer's dream, with vibrantly hued courtyards, fountains and corridors. Visit the Colca Canyon, twice the depth of the Grand Canyon, en route from Lake Titicaca, or as a side trip from Arequipa.

Visit the Amazon Basin and stay in one of Peru's many wonderful jungle lodges. Whether you arrive by riverboat or plane, the wonders of the rainforest are easily accessed from Peru's main gateways of Iquitos and Puerto Maldonado. See pages 22 and 23 for our selection of luxury cruises and rustic lodges.

Often overlooked in favour of the Inca are the vast citadels, mysterious temples and the fine craftsmanship of the Moche and Chachapoya civilisations. Peru's northern cities of Chiclayo, Trujillo and Chachapoyas are a must for history buffs, with many ancient cities predating the Inca by hundreds of years.

From historical sights to stunning waterfalls, world-class restaurants to world-famous treks and fascinating culture and traditions, Peru really does have something for everyone.

Highlights of Peru

1. Amazon

Exotic and accessible, the Peruvian Amazon is a short flight from Lima. See pages 22 and 23 for our selection of rustic lodges and luxury cruises departing from Iquitos and Puerto Maldonado.

2. Machu Picchu, Sacred Valley & Cuzco

Absorb the beauty, culture and history of the Sacred Valley, culminating with the magic of Machu Picchu.

3. Lake Titicaca

The highest navigable lake in the world at 3820m above sea level. Visit the famous Uros floating islands, or overnight with a homestay on Amantani or Taquile islands.

4. Arequipa

Rivalling Cuzco as Peru's loveliest colonial city, Arequipa is surrounded by snow-capped volcanoes and the world's deepest canyons, home to the Andean condor.

5. Northern Kingdoms

See vast citadels, mysterious temples and the fine craftsmanship of the Moche and Chachapoya civilisations.



A TASTE OF LIMA

5 Days/ 4 Nights

Day 1 Lima

Welcome to Lima. Transfer to your hotel in Miraflores or Barranco. Celebrate your first night in Lima with a fantastic tasting tour. Start with a Pisco Sour, enjoying views over the Pacific Ocean. Next, you'll help prepare a classic ceviche dish. Continue to Huaca Pucllana, where you'll enjoy a delicious dinner in front of one of the most important pre-Hispanic archaeological sites in Lima. Finish in Barranco for a traditional dessert. *B*

Day 2 Lima

A half-day tour of Lima's colonial centre and modern districts of Miraflores and Barranco. Continue to Larco Herrera Museum for a guided tour. *B*

Day 3 Lima

Visit one of Lima's produce markets this morning to learn about the typical ingredients of Peruvian cuisine. Afterwards you'll have a cooking demonstration with a local chef before tucking into a delicious traditional lunch. *BL*

Day 4 Lima

Visit the gorgeous Casa Aliaga this morning, which has been in the same family since Francisco Pizarro granted the land to Jeronimo de Aliaga in 1535. See the lovely Republican Era balcony, a patio covered in 19th century Italian marble, and an 1814 family chapel, featuring walls panelled with silver sheets. *B*

Day 5 Lima

Transfer to the airport for your onward flight. *B*

CLASSIC MACHU PICCHU

8 Days/ 7 Nights

Our classic seven-night itinerary starts in the Sacred Valley, where you can better acclimatise before reaching the higher altitude of Cuzco. Accommodation ranges from three-star guesthouses to the luxurious Belmond properties, and everything in between.

Day 1 Cuzco/ Sacred Valley

Arrive at Cuzco Airport and transfer to your accommodation in the Sacred Valley (2,600 metres above sea level) where you can begin acclimatising to the altitude.

Day 2 Sacred Valley

A full-day tour exploring the ruins of Pisac and the famous fortress and town of Ollantaytambo. *BL*

Day 3 Sacred Valley

Day at leisure. Touring options include the village of Chinchero, the archaeological site of Moray, the salt terraces of Maras or spend a truly memorable afternoon with a remote Andean community getting involved with one of our community projects. *B*

Day 4 Sacred Valley/ Machu Picchu

Travel by Vistadome train to Machu Picchu for a guided tour of the iconic Citadel and enjoy a buffet lunch at nearby Sanctuary Lodge. Spend the afternoon exploring the ruins at your leisure. Stay overnight in Aguas Calientes. *BLD*

Day 5 Machu Picchu/ Cuzco

Enjoy a second, unguided visit to Machu Picchu; we recommend rising early to beat the day-trippers from Cuzco. Book early to secure an entry to climb Huayna Picchu for stunning views. Travel to Cuzco by train in the afternoon. *B*

Day 6 Cuzco

A half-day city tour of the main sights of Cuzco includes the Plaza de Armas, Cathedral, Koricancha Temple, and handcraft workshops. Continue the day with a visit to the nearby ruins of Sacsayhuaman. *B*

Day 7 Cuzco

A day at leisure to continue exploring beautiful Cuzco at your own pace. *B*

Day 8 Cuzco

Transfer to the airport for your onward flight or ask us about continuing overland to Lake Titicaca. *B*

ENHANCE YOUR EXPERIENCE

- Upgrade to the luxurious Belmond Hiram Bingham train
- Hike the final section of the Inca Trail arriving through the Sun Gate to Machu Picchu
- Indulge in cooking classes or chocolate-making tours in Cuzco
- Coincide your stay with Inti Raymi (June 24) to experience the colour and excitement of one of South America's biggest festivals
- Extend your stay – see pages 20 and 21 for more immersive itineraries and treks



NAZCA, ICA & BALLESTAS

4 Days/ 3 Nights

Day 1 Lima/ Paracas

Transfer to the bus terminal for the coastal service to Pisco. From here you'll be taken to the airport for a flight over the incredible Nazca Lines; a truly remarkable feat of human engineering. Return to your hotel in Paracas after the tour. *BL*

Day 2 Paracas/ Ica

Enjoy a morning boat tour of the Ballestas Islands, home to penguins, sea lions, fur seals and blue-footed boobies. Following your transfer to Ica, experience an afternoon tour of the extraordinary desert oasis of Huacachina and a dune buggy ride across the sand dunes. Overnight in Ica. *B*

Day 3 Ica

This morning you'll head off along the famous Pisco Route for a tasting of this traditional Peruvian spirit, followed by lunch at the stunning Viñas Queirolo Ica Winery. Afternoon at leisure. *BL*

Day 4 Ica/ Lima

Transfer to the bus terminal for the service back to Lima. *B*

LAKE TITICACA & COLCA CANYON

7 Days/ 6 Nights

Day 1 Arequipa

Arrive in Arequipa, known as the White City for its use of sillar volcano stone, and transfer to your hotel.

Day 2 Arequipa

Explore the beautiful historic centre on today's walking tour, finishing at the photogenic Santa Catalina Convent, with its quiet courtyards and cloisters. *B*

Day 3 Arequipa/ Colca Canyon

Travel through the Aguada Blanca National Reserve to the Colca Canyon and view its dramatic valleys and Andean terraces. Overnight at your selected lodge. *BLD*

Day 4 Colca Canyon/ Puno

Depart to Condor Cross to watch the majestic Andean Condor rise with thermal currents. After lunch take the bus to Puno. Transfer to your hotel on arrival. *BL*

Day 5 Puno/ Isla Suasi

Depart by boat this morning to visit the unique floating islands of Uros, and the quieter and more authentic Taquile Island. Continue to the private island of Suasi, where you can relax and admire the stunning views over Lake Titicaca. *BLD*

Day 6 Isla Suasi/ Puno

A morning at leisure. Take the afternoon boat back to Puno and stay overnight. *B*

Day 7 Puno

Depart Puno and transfer overland to Cuzco or La Paz or fly from Juliaca. *B*

BELMOND ANDEAN EXPLORER

South America's first luxury overnight sleeper train accommodates 68 guests in refined ensuite cabins.

A selection of four journeys includes 'Peruvian Highlands', a two-night, three-day journey described below.



Day 1 Cuzco/ Puno

Depart at 11am and enjoy lunch on board. Visit the Inca ruins of Raqchi and relax as the Andean Explorer continues across the Altiplano, crossing the high pass at La Raya (4,300m) as the sun sets. Arrive Titicaca Station and stay overnight. *LD*

Day 2 Lake Titicaca

Wake early to enjoy sunrise over the lake. Disembark to visit Uros and Taquile islands and have lunch on a private beach. Return to the Andean Explorer and depart for Arequipa. *BLD*

Day 3 Arequipa

Breakfast at Lagunillas followed by a visit to Sumbay Caves. Arrive Arequipa for a tour of the city and transfer to your hotel or airport. *Option to disembark at Km.99 for a Colca Canyon extension. *BL*



THE MOCHE ROUTE

5 Days/ 4 Nights

Day 1 Chiclayo

Arrive in Chiclayo and transfer to your hotel.

Day 2 Chiclayo

Enjoy a full-day tour visiting the Lord of Sipan archaeological site and the wonderful Royal Tombs Museum. The discovery of this tomb astonished the archaeological community as it was one of the few never to have been raided. After visiting the museum, sit down to lunch and visit the Tucume Valley of the Pyramids. *BL*

Day 3 Chiclayo/ Trujillo

Transfer to Trujillo, with a stop at the El Brujo archaeological site en route. This afternoon you'll visit the Huacas Sol y Luna and the Huaca Moche Museum. *B*

Day 4 Trujillo

After a half-day tour of the impressive Chan Chan ruins, the largest adobe citadel in the Americas, drive to nearby Huanchaco for lunch by the Pacific Ocean. *BL*

Day 5 Trujillo

Transfer to the airport for your onward flight. *B*

DISCOVER PERU'S NORTHERN KINGDOMS

9 Days/ 8 Nights

Day 1 Chiclayo

After arriving in Chiclayo spend the afternoon touring Huaca Rajada (the 'Cracked Pyramid') and the Royal Tombs of Sipan. *L*

Day 2 Chiclayo/ Gocta Falls

Drive to Chachapoyas, ascending towards the lowest pass of the Peruvian Andes and cross into the Upper Amazon Basin. Follow the Utcubamba River to Chachapoyas and overnight in the beautiful Gocta Lodge, with views of the falls. *BLD*

Day 3 Gocta Falls

Hike through the forest with your guide to discover one of the world's highest single drop waterfalls, the magnificent Gocta Falls. Spend some time enjoying the refreshing mist of the falls and keep your eyes peeled for hummingbirds, toucanets, or maybe even a troupe of capuchin or woolly monkeys. *BLD*

Day 4 Gocta Falls/ Chachapoyas

Spend a full-day touring Kuelap Fortress, stronghold of the Chachapoya. *BLD*

Day 5 Chachapoyas/ Leimabamba

Drive through Utcubamba Valley to the trailhead where you'll mount your horse and take the trail to Revash. From here you can see the ancient Chachapoya tombs adorned with red-on-white figures and geometrical symbols. After returning to the vehicle you'll continue to Leimabamba and visit the local museum. *BLD*

Day 6 Leimabamba/ Cajamarca

Depart Leimabamba, climbing once again to the high-altitude grasslands. The spectacular trip from the pass at 3500m down to the Marañon River highlights Peru's diversity. Stop in Celendin for lunch and continue to Cajamarca, where you can enjoy a dip in thermal hot springs. *BL*

Day 7 Cajamarca

Take a morning tour of the city and visit Colina Santa Apolonia Hill for great city views. After lunch, visit the rock formation of Otuzco. Afternoon at leisure. *BLD*

Day 8 Cajamarca/ Trujillo

A dramatic descent from Cajamarca (2,700m) down to the coastal city of Trujillo, with a stop for a picnic lunch en route. On arrival in Trujillo enjoy a short tour of the city and stay overnight. *BL*

Day 9 Trujillo

A half-day tour of Huacas Sol and Luna, followed by lunch in Huanchaco. An afternoon tour of Chan Chan, and then transfer to Trujillo Airport for your flight. *BL*





BEST OF PERU

16 Days/ 15 Nights

Day 1 Lima

Arrive in Lima and transfer to your hotel. Miraflores and Barranco have excellent accommodation options to suit every budget.

Day 2 Lima

A city tour of Lima including the most important architectural icons of the city, such as the Main Square, Government Palace, the Cathedral and the Archbishop's Palace. Visit the San Francisco Convent, a colonial jewel dating back to the 16th century. The tour continues to Miraflores, the Park of Love, and includes the Larco Herrera Museum. *B*

Day 3 Lima/ Cuzco/ Sacred Valley

Fly to Cuzco and transfer to your hotel in the Sacred Valley of the Incas. Afternoon at leisure to acclimatise to the altitude. *B*

Day 4 Sacred Valley

Visit Pisac Ruins early in the morning and walk back to the village via trails crossing ancient terraces. You'll have time to visit the famous Pisac markets before returning to the hotel. Afternoon at leisure. *B*

Day 5 Sacred Valley/ Ollantaytambo

After breakfast, visit the terraced rings of Moray then take a relaxed downhill walk to the salt terraces of Maras. Continue to Ollantaytambo for lunch and visit the famous fortress and town: the oldest continually occupied cities in the Americas. *BL*

Day 6 Ollantaytambo

Depart early by road into the Patacancha Valley, passing some of the best examples of Inca terrace farming, and arrive at Huilloc (3,600m). The women of the village are renowned as fine weavers and many of the Huilloc men work as porters on the Inca Trail. Stop at the Pumamarca ruins on the return for a short walk and a picnic lunch. *BL*

Day 7 Ollantaytambo/ Machu Picchu

Today is sure to be a highlight of your trip! Travel by Vistadome train to the famous Inca citadel of Machu Picchu and enjoy a guided tour of the archaeological site. Overnight in Aguas Calientes. *BL*

Day 8 Machu Picchu/ Cuzco

Return to the ruins for the truly unforgettable sight of dawn breaking and the mist rising over Machu Picchu. Book early and secure an entry to Huayna Picchu for stunning views over the citadel. Take the afternoon train back to Cuzco and transfer to your hotel. *B*

Day 9 Cuzco

Enjoy a walking tour of Cuzco exploring the Plaza de Armas, Koricancha Temple and ancient cobblestone streets on foot. Afterwards, drive to the nearby ruins of Sacsayhuaman, Kenko and Tambomachay for a tour of these impressive sites. *B*

Day 10 Cuzco

A free day to relax and continue exploring the ancient Inca capital. *B*

Day 11 Cuzco/ Puno

A full-day tour by bus across the Altiplano to Lake Titicaca stopping at Andahuaylillas, Raqchi, and for lunch at Sicuani along the way. *BL*

Day 12 Puno

A full-day tour visiting the unique Uros floating reed islands and the more remote and authentic Taquile Island on Lake Titicaca. *BL*

Day 13 Puno/ Colca Canyon

Transfer to the bus station for the regular service to Chivay where you'll meet your driver and guide and enjoy an afternoon exploring the stunning Colca Canyon region. *BLD*

Day 14 Colca Canyon/ Arequipa

See the majestic Andean Condor rising with the thermal currents on this early morning trip to Condor Cross. These incredible birds have a wingspan of up to 3m. After lunch, transfer to Arequipa and your hotel. *BL*

Day 15 Arequipa

Enjoy a guided tour of historic Arequipa, including a visit to the must-see Santa Catalina Convent. *B*

Day 16 Arequipa

Transfer to the airport for your onward flight. *B*



CLASSIC INCA TRAIL

6 Days/ 5 Nights

Maximum 500 permits per day issued worldwide. Book 6 to 8 months in advance.

Day 1 Cuzco

Upon arrival, transfer to your hotel.

Day 2 Cuzco/ Huayllabamba

Travel to Km.82, the starting point for the trek. Hike to Huayllabamba where you set up camp. (5-6hrs, 12km) *BLD*

Day 3 Huayllabamba/ Pacaymayo

Trek to the 4,200m Warmiwañusca pass before descending to your campsite in Pacaymayo. (5-6hrs, 10km) *BLD*

Day 4 Pacaymayo/ Wiñay Wayna

Hike to the 3,900m Runkuraqay Pass before descending to the ruins of Sayaqmarca. Continue to Wiñay Wayna (2,650m), your last campsite. (8hrs, 16km) *BLD*

Day 5 Machu Picchu/ Cuzco

Take an early morning hike to the Sun Gate for a spectacular panoramic view of Machu Picchu. Descend to the ruins for a guided tour and free time. Return to Cuzco. (2-3hrs, 6km) *B*

Day 6 Cuzco

Transfer to the airport or visit Arequipa and Colca Canyon. *B*

INCA TRAIL EXPRESS

If you lack the time (or the stamina) for a full Inca Trail, the Inca Trail Express is a great compromise. Travel by train to Km.104 and hike the last section of the trail, arriving into Machu Picchu through the Sun Gate in the afternoon (6-7hrs). An additional 200 permits per day are issued for the Inca Trail Express, so this is also a good alternative if you have missed out on the four-day option.

INCA TRAIL DISCOVERY

7 Days/ 6 Nights

Maximum 500 permits per day issued worldwide. Book 6 to 8 months in advance.

Day 1 Cuzco

Upon arrival, transfer to your hotel.

Day 2 Cuzco/ Inca Trail – Llaqtapata

Depart through the Sacred Valley of the Incas to the trailhead; trek to your camp near the terraces of Llaqtapata. (3-4hrs, 6km) *BLD*

Day 3 Llulluchapampa

Continue up the Cusichaca Valley, walking into the Andean community of Huayllabamba. The trail ascends steeply to a large grassland below the first pass. (8hrs, 12km) *BLD*

Day 4 Phuyupatamarca

A steady walk up to the Warmiwañusca pass at 4,200m affords a magnificent view of your ascent. Descend to Pacaymayo then trek up to the ruins of Runkuraqay and the second pass. Walk down to the site at Sayaqmarca, passing a dry lake – a beautiful location overlooking the Aobamba Valley. Continuing along the trail to arrive at Phuyupatamarca: ‘the village on the edge of the clouds’ (8hrs, 15km) *BLD*

Day 5 Machu Picchu

Hike to the ruins of Wiñay Wayna. Continue to Machu Picchu, arriving through the Sun Gate in the afternoon. (5-6hrs, 11km) *BLD*

Day 6 Machu Picchu/ Cuzco

Return to the ruins early this morning for a guided tour before returning to Cuzco. *B*

Day 7 Cuzco

Transfer to the airport or extend your stay in Peru. *B*

SALKANTAY LODGE TO LODGE

9 Days/ 8 Nights

Day 1 Cuzco

Upon arrival, transfer to your hotel before an evening briefing.

Day 2 Cuzco/ Salkantay Lodge

Travel to Marcoccasa where you start your trek to Soraypampa along the ‘Camino Real’. (6hrs, 8km) *BLD*

Day 3 Salkantay Lodge

Optional hike to Lake Humantay, fed by the hanging glaciers of Mt Humantay. (4hrs, 6km) *BLD*

Day 4 Salkantay Lodge/ Wayra Lodge

Hike up the Rio Blanco Valley to the Salkantay Pass at 4,638m. Continue to Wayra Lodge. (6-8hrs, 13km) *BLD*

Day 5 Wayra Lodge/ Colpa Lodge

Continue your descent along the left bank of the Salkantay River to Colpa Lodge. (3-4hrs, 9km) *BLD*

Day 6 Colpa Lodge/ Lucma Lodge

Hike along the Santa Teresa River valley then transfer to the beginning of the Llaqtapata Inca Trail. Make your way to Lucma Lodge. (5-6hrs, 15km) *BLD*

Day 7 Lucma Lodge

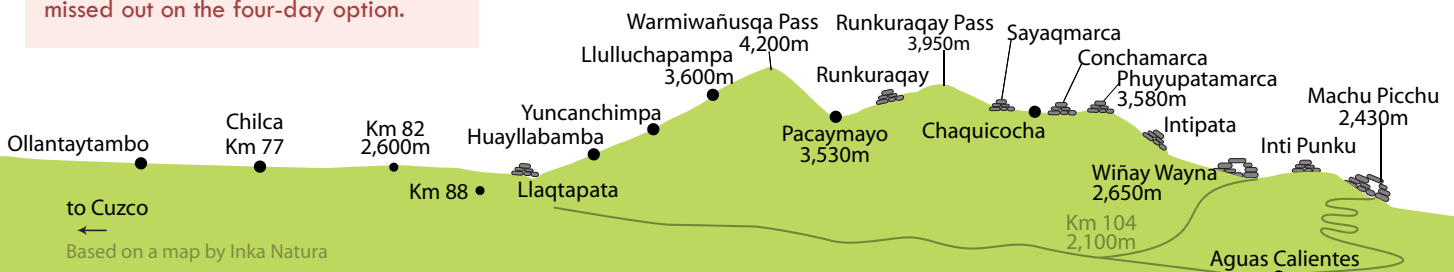
Trek uphill towards Llaqtapata Pass before beginning your final descent to the Aobamba River. Take the train to Aguas Calientes. (5hrs, 12km) *BLD*

Day 8 Machu Picchu/ Cuzco

Head to Machu Picchu this morning for a guided tour. Return to Cuzco in the afternoon. *B*

Day 9 Cuzco

Transfer to the airport for your onward flight. *B*



Based on a map by Inka Natura



LARES ADVENTURE TO MACHU PICCHU

5 Days/ 4 Nights

A truly immersive journey through the ancient history, living culture and magnificent landscape of the Sacred Valley of the Incas. Expert guides will tailor your individual experience with a choice of adventure activities and cultural encounters. Stay overnight in unique mountain lodges to prepare for the next day.

Day 1 Sacred Valley of the Incas

Early morning departure from Cuzco. Option to visit to the celebrated market at Pisac or take a moderate hike in the hills and mountains over the Sacred Valley. Later, enjoy exclusive access to the isolated community of Viacha, where you will learn about its unique farming practices. For lunch, delight in a traditional 'Pachamanca' meal, cooked under hot stones. Enjoy an afternoon excursion to the archaeological complex at Pisac, with the sun setting behind the peaks. *ID*

Day 2 Lares Region

A road journey into the mountains will take you through remote archaeological sites. After lunch, choose between visiting a traditional weavers' villager or a scenic drive and hike amidst turquoise blue lakes and towering peaks to the remote village of Huacahuasi. Locals will give you insight into the evolving role of the original Andean people in both the culture and commerce of modern-day Cuzco. *BLD*

Day 3 Sacred Valley of the Incas

Spend some time in the morning learning more about the heritage and day-to-day activities of the Huacahuasi community. Then, you can choose to embark on a spectacular hike through varied terrain and over a high pass to the adjacent valley leading to the ancient town of Ollantaytambo, the oldest

living city in Latin America; or try an easy hike from Lares Pass through an astonishing authentic Inca trail along a beautiful canyon down to the local community of Totorá.

Other options include a visit to an ethnographic museum or exploring the valley on mountain bike. Afterwards, enjoy lunch in the countryside on your way to Ollantaytambo, where you can spend time meandering through its charming maze-like streets. *BLD*

Day 4 Sacred Valley of the Incas

A short early morning hike to Inca storage structures high above Ollantaytambo reveals magnificent views of the town and the fortress. Enjoy a guided tour of the fortress, one of the best examples of Inca architecture, and revel in its mystical history for the perfect introduction to the wonder of Machu Picchu. At midday, embark on a scenic train ride along the Urubamba River Valley to Aguas Calientes, a bustling town below the Machu Picchu Sanctuary. *BLD*

Day 5 Machu Picchu

Begin your visit to Machu Picchu with a bus ride up the mountain at dawn. As you enter the Sanctuary, the morning sun rises over the iconic Sun Gate and washes the structures and terraces with light. Let your imagination soar as you learn about the

history of Machu Picchu and its mysterious origins with your guide. The day also offers an optional uphill hike on Huayna Picchu. After lunch in Aguas Calientes, return to Cuzco by train and private coach. *BL*

MOUNTAIN LODGES OF PERU



The four beautifully appointed mountain lodges used for this trek serve as a luxurious reward after a day of trekking, offering all the comforts of home. These intimate 6-room lodges are the perfect places to unwind offering hot showers, fine gourmet meals, select wines, goose-down bedding, massages, outdoor jacuzzis and highly personalised service from local staff.



M/V DELFIN I, II & III

Iquitos
3, 4 & 6-Night cruises

The Delfin fleet of three vessels offers three- to six-night itineraries, departing from Iquitos and exploring the Pacaya Samiria National Reserve and the Ucayali, Putinahua, Pacaya or Marañon Rivers, depending on your chosen cruise length.

Delfin I sleeps just eight passengers in four suites, all with private terraces and two with private whirlpool baths. Excursions are with a maximum of eight guests per guide. *Delfin II* sleeps 28 guests, with ten suites and four Master Suites with enormous panoramic windows. Excursions are with a maximum of ten guests per guide. *Delfin I* and *II* feature authentic local materials and reflect the surrounding environment. The newest addition to the fleet, the *Delfin III*, sleeps 42 passengers and features a more contemporary design. Excursions are with a maximum of 15 guests per guide.



M/V ARIA

Iquitos
3, 4 & 7-Night cruises

Refurbished in 2015, the 45m *M/V Aria* offers superb accommodation for 32 guests, plus an outdoor jacuzzi and exercise room. The *M/V Aria's* sixteen oversized design suites feature sitting areas and generous outward-facing picture windows with panoramic river views. Ensuite bathrooms come equipped with eco-friendly organic products. Enjoy delicious and innovative Amazonia-influenced cuisine on board, with much of the produce sourced from the river and surrounding rainforest. On a seven-night cruise you can experience the Amazon River's three powerful tributaries: the Marañon, the Ucayali, and the Putinahua as well as several hidden black water lakes.



REFUGIO AMAZONAS

Puerto Maldonado
Recommended 3-Night packages

Refugio Amazonas is set deep in the Amazon Rainforest, a four-hour journey upriver from Puerto Maldonado. This rustic but comfortable 32-room lodge offers attractions such as macaw claylicks, guided forest walks and the impressive 30m canopy tower. For shorter stays, we suggest Posada Amazonas as an alternative – two hours from Puerto Maldonado and a more accessible option.



RESERVA AMAZONICA

Puerto Maldonado
2 & 3-Night packages

The lodge is just 45 minutes from Puerto Maldonado and offers the best tourist infrastructure in the region, combining comfort with adventure. Choose from a range of daily a la carte excursions exploring the surrounding private ecological reserve. The lodge offers family, romantic and high-end packages, including the Inkaterra Canopy Tree House on the Madre de Dios River.



HACIENDA CONCEPCION

Puerto Maldonado
2 & 3-Night packages

The newest Inkaterra property sits on the shores of a private lake and is just 20 minutes downriver from Puerto Maldonado. Guests can enjoy Hacienda Concepcion's rustic chic design, private facilities with hot water, and a varied menu. A wide range of land and river excursions for all ages and abilities are offered.



MUYUNA LODGE

Iquitos
Recommended minimum 3 Nights

Located 140km upriver from Iquitos, Muyuna is one of the best-located Peruvian Amazon lodges for wildlife experiences. Guests rave about encounters with pink river dolphins, sloths, monkeys and caimans. Simple rooms are fully screened and each has a private balcony with hammock to relax and listen to the sounds of the forest. There is no electricity at the lodge, but a generator is available to charge electronic devices.



MANU WILDLIFE CENTRE & TENTED CAMP

Puerto Maldonado
Recommended minimum 4 Nights

For the truly adventurous a trip to the remote Manu Wildlife Centre offers one of the most intense Amazon experiences in Peru. The overland Bio Trip, travelling from Cuzco to Manu, is a wonderful way to experience Peru's diverse ecosystems. Delve deeper into the forest and spend a few nights at the Manu Tented Camp for the ultimate jungle trip!



TAMBOPATA RESEARCH CENTRE

Puerto Maldonado
Recommended minimum 4 Nights

True nature enthusiasts will love Tambopata Research Centre, the most remote lodge in the Tambopata Reserve and perfect for in-depth explorations of Amazonian nature and wildlife. Bedrooms open out onto the surrounding rainforest, with wild animals, including monkeys, often visible from the lodge. With only 18 rooms, this rustic lodge is as intimate as you will get to the jungle without camping.

Bolivia

Highlights of Bolivia

1. La Paz

Explore the dizzying heights of one of South America's most fascinating cities.

2. Lake Titicaca

With crystal blue waters and panoramic views of the Cordillera de los Andes, the world's highest navigable lake at 3,820m offers stunning sightseeing opportunities. Sun Island, steeped in Inca myths and legends, is sure to be a highlight.

3. Uyuni Salt Flats

Endless white plains of salt distort perception, are lagoons coloured vivid green, blue and red dot the landscape. Add flocks of pink flamingos for a truly surreal experience.

4. Potosi

Once the richest city in the New World, Potosi's stunning colonial architecture hints at more affluent times.

5. Sucre

With its pleasant mild climate, the administrative capital of Bolivia is a welcome respite from the extreme temperatures of the highlands. Explore the pretty whitewashed colonial centre and visit nearby Tarabuco Market.



DISCOVER BOLIVIA

8 Days/ 7 Nights

Day 1 Puno/ Sun Island

Depart Puno (Peru) by road for the lakeside village of Copacabana, where you'll visit a 16th century shrine before boarding a motorboat for Sun Island. On arrival, sit down to a traditional lunch followed by a one-hour hike to your ecolodge – take it slow and enjoy the increasingly stunning views over Lake Titicaca. *LD*

Day 2 Sun Island/ La Paz

Make sure you wake early to see the sunrise over the Royal Andean Mountains, bathing in the snowy peaks in golden light. After breakfast, hike down to the dock and take the boat up to La Chincana Ruins and the Sacred Rock. Navigate to Moon Island to visit the Inca Temple, then on to Copacabana. Continue by road to La Paz, the world's highest capital. *BL*

Day 3 La Paz

Enjoy a half-day tour visiting the colonial centre of La Paz and the exotic stalls of the Witches' Market. Continue to the Valley of the Moon to see the otherworldly rock formations formed by erosion. *B*

Day 4 La Paz/ Sucre

Take a short flight to Sucre, located at just 2,800m and with an agreeable springtime climate. Take an afternoon tour of the city, with its picturesque white washed colonial buildings and finish with a trip to Recoleta for views over the city and surrounding valleys. *B*

Day 5 Sucre

A half-day tour to the incredible Dinosaur Park just outside the city is a rare chance to see 65 million-year-old dinosaur footprints preserved in stone. For market-lovers, ensure you are in Sucre on a Sunday and we'll arrange a visit to the traditional Tarabuco markets. *B*

Day 6 Sucre/ Potosi

After breakfast, transfer by road to Potosi with a spectacular trip that takes you from the moderate lowlands of Sucre to the staggering heights of one of the world's highest cities at 4,090m. Take an afternoon city tour exploring what was once the richest city of the New World. *B*

Day 7 Potosi

A day at leisure. An optional visit to the Cerro Rico Mine is worthwhile but is not for everyone due to the cramped and claustrophobic nature of the excursion. Discuss whether this is right for you with your consultant. *B*

Day 8 Potosi/ Uyuni

Travel overland to Uyuni, the gateway to the incredible southwest corner of Bolivia. *B*

UYUNI OVERLAND TOUR

6 Days/ 5 Nights
Also runs in reverse

Day 1 La Paz

Arrive in La Paz and transfer to your hotel.

Day 2 La Paz/ Uyuni/ Tahua

Fly to Uyuni and depart by 4WD on one of the most surreal and breathtaking overland trips in South America. Visit the Colchani Salt Mine and see how locals traditionally extract the salt before you travel onto Tahua and overnight in a hotel constructed entirely from salt. *BLD*

Day 3 Tahua/ Villamar

Drive to Isla Incahuasi, famous for the enormous cacti growing on the island and its stunning 360-degree views of the salt plains. Continue across the Altiplano to Alota and Villamar. *BLD*

Day 4 Villamar/ San Pedro de Atacama

Today's highlights include a visit to Laguna Colorada with a population of pink flamingos, and the Geysers Sol de Mañana around the rim of Laguna Chaviri with natural hot springs. Continue through Las Pampas de Salvador Dali and on to Laguna Verde, located at the base of the Licancabur Volcano. From here you cross the border into Chile and continue to San Pedro de Atacama. *BL*

Day 5 San Pedro de Atacama

A day at leisure. *B*

Day 6 San Pedro de Atacama

Transfer to the airport or ask us about extending your stay in Atacama. *B*

Sun Island, Lake Titicaca



AIRSTREAM CAMPERS

Without a doubt the most luxurious way to experience the Uyuni Salt Flats, the Deluxe Airstream Campers are specially equipped for the voyage to the Salt Flats and the challenges of this area. They include a double bed or two twin beds as well as a convertible sofa, electric blankets, private bathroom with hot shower, table, wardrobe and luggage space, AC/heating, iPod port, CD player and a fully stocked mini-bar. Each camper is towed by a specially suited 4x4 vehicle, in which the passengers and guide travel during the day. Passengers will enjoy local culinary specialities prepared by an experienced cook and excursions led by knowledgeable guides. They can also choose from activities such as biking, hiking, cross-cultural experiences with indigenous communities and other interesting visits. 3 Day/ 2 Night packages start and finish in Uyuni.



CRADLE OF THE INCA EMPIRE

3 Days/ 2 Nights

Day 1 Puno/ Sun Island

Depart Puno (Peru) by road for the Bolivian town of Copacabana. Visit the famous church and Virgin of Copacabana, the patron saint of Bolivia. Take a motorboat to Sun Island, cradle of the Inca creation myth. At Huacani, enjoy a traditional aptapi lunch then continue to Pilkokaina Inca Temple. From here it's a gentle one-hour walk to the Ecolodge la Estancia where you'll stay overnight. *LD*

Day 2 Sun Island

Don't miss a spectacular sunrise over Lake Titicaca. After breakfast, hike down through Yumani, visiting the Inca Stairs and the Water of Eternal Youth. From Yumani, travel by boat to the north of the island to visit La Chincana Ruins and the Sacred Rock. A short hike will bring you to the pretty village of Challapampa. From here you can either hike or take the boat back to the lodge. *BLD*

Day 3 Sun Island/ La Paz

Hike back down to Yumani in the morning and travel by the boat to the Island of the Moon to visit the Inca Uyu Temple. Continue by boat to Copacabana and then by road to La Paz, or return to Puno. *BL*

CHALALAN ECOLOGE

4 Days/ 3 Nights

Located in Madidi National Park, Chalalan is owned and run by the indigenous community of San José de Uchupiamonas. With just 15 rustic cabins, a stay at Chalalan is an intimate experience and recommended for more adventurous travellers due to the remoteness of the lodge.

Day 1 La Paz/ Chalalan Ecolodge

Fly to Rurrenabaque, on the shores of the Beni River. From here, take a long boat 5-6 hours upriver to Chalalan. A 30-minute walk through the forest brings you to the lodge. After lunch, head out along the Chichilo and Mirador trails for your first chance to spot wildlife. After dinner take a night hike to see nocturnal creatures. *LD*

Day 2 Chalalan Ecolodge

Take a guided hike along the Silbador and Anta trails to see medicinal and exotic plants. Return for lunch and time to swim in the lagoon. Enjoy some birdwatching on an afternoon trek along the Wichi and Jaguar trails. After dinner community members share local histories, myths and legends. *BLD*

Day 3 Chalalan Ecolodge

There are good opportunities to spot wildlife this morning as you trek the Wabucuru and Marimono trails. After lunch take a short walk along the Paraba path for views across Lake Chalalan, the mountains and the Madidi rainforest. *BLD*

Day 4 Chalalan/ La Paz

Take the three-hour boat ride back to Rurrenabaque for your flight to La Paz. *B*

Ecuador



Ecuador

As one of the smallest countries in South America, part of Ecuador's charm is its compact size. Ecuador's four regions – the Andes, Amazon, Pacific Coast and Galapagos Islands – encompass an incredible variety of flora, fauna and experiences. The Amazon Basin is a day's drive from the Andean peaks that form the Avenue of the Volcanoes and the Pacific Coastal plains are a hop, skip and jump from the Indian markets of the highlands.

Quito is one of South America's most charming capitals, and the first city to be named a UNESCO World Heritage site. Wander the cobblestone streets discovering incredible architectural beauty and a rich history. The city has some truly memorable accommodation options, including the superb Casa Gangotena – a restored historic mansion and winner of the 'Best Hotel in South America' accolade.

Travel north of Quito to reach the famous market town of Otavalo, where you can extend your stay in this beautiful valley in one of the region's traditional haciendas. An overland trip from Quito to Guayaquil through the beautiful rural landscape framed by some of the world's highest volcanoes is highly recommended. Explore colourful highland markets, visit ancient Inca ruins and appreciate the country's diversity as you travel from high in the Andes through lush cloud forest, finishing in the tropical lowlands. Travelling this route by train adds a touch of romance and luxury to an already-inspiring journey (see page 29).

The Amazon Basin is a mere 30-minute flight from Quito across the Andes and into the steamy tropics. Travel down the Napo River, admiring the rich green foliage that lines the banks before arriving at your remote jungle lodge, or opt for an Amazon River cruise and explore deep inside Yasuni National Park.

The Galapagos Islands are, of course, a highlight. Declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1978, the volcanic archipelago of 13 main islands is on the equator, about 1,000km west of Ecuador. Two main airports, Baltra and San Cristobal, service the islands. Once you arrive you can choose from stunning luxury lodges, safari-style camps or laid-back island-hopping itineraries (more details on pages 32 and 33), as well as a diverse range of cruises to suit every budget (from 3 to 14 nights – see pages 34 and 35).

The islands can be visited all year round. December to June is warm and humid, while July to November is cooler with fresher winds. Cruise itineraries are designed to include the wildlife 'highlights' so no matter which option you go for, you'll be sure to see many of the islands' most iconic species. If there is a specific wildlife event you wish to see, or a particular species that interests you, please contact your travel consultant and we'll find the right itinerary for you.

Ecuador

Highlights of Ecuador

1. Quito

A colonial gem, UNESCO Heritage-listed Quito is filled with fascinating museums, contemporary galleries and stunning boutique hotels.

2. Galapagos Islands

A highlight of any trip to South America! Unique wildlife and spectacular volcanic landscapes: a 'showcase of evolution'.

3. Avenue of the Volcanoes

Travel overland through the Andes from Quito to Cuenca, stopping at colonial haciendas, visiting markets and national parks or catching a newly restored train. Hike the Avenue of the Volcanoes with our exclusive Camino de las Haciendas tour (see page 29).

4. Cuenca

Enjoy the laid-back small town atmosphere of UNESCO Heritage-listed Cuenca, with cobblestone streets, graceful balconies and religious art treasures.

5. Amazon Region

Ecuador's Amazon Basin is easily accessible, just a 30-minute flight from the capital. Leaving Quito in the morning, you can be swinging in a hammock at your chosen lodge by lunchtime.



CLASSIC ECUADOR

10 Days/ 9 Nights

Fixed departures Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays
Daily departures as a private tour

Day 1 Quito

On arrival transfer to your hotel.

Day 2 Quito

Discover Quito's beautiful colonial centre on this morning's half-day tour. Visit Plaza de la Independencia and San Francisco Convent before heading to Panecillo Hill for great views over the city. Afternoon at leisure. *B*

Day 3 Quito/ Otavalo

Travel to Otavalo to visit the famous indigenous markets. After some time to browse, you'll enjoy lunch in a local restaurant before continuing to the beautiful crater lake of Cuicocha. Have dinner and overnight at Hacienda las Palmeras. *BLD*

Day 4 Otavalo/ Papallacta

Enjoy a scenic drive to Termas Papallacta, where you overnight. After dinner, relax in the hot springs as you gaze up at the Andean sky. *BLD*

Day 5 Papallacta/ Cotopaxi

Drive to Cotopaxi National Park and see the world's highest active volcano (5,897m). Lunch is included at Tambopaxi. Stay overnight at Hacienda La Cienaga. *BLD*

Day 6 Cotopaxi/ Patate

Visit a colourful local market before continuing to Patate. Overnight at Hacienda Leito, with stunning views of Tungurahua Volcano. *BLD*

Day 7 Patate/ Baños/ Riobamba

This morning travel to Baños and explore the famous route of the waterfalls. Lunch near the fantastic Pailon del Diablo Waterfall. Continue to Riobamba and stay overnight. *BLD*

Day 8 Riobamba/ Cuenca

Enjoy a train ride along the iconic Devil's Nose, one of the continent's most impressive rail journeys. Continue by car to Cuenca, visiting the Ingapirca Ruins en route. *BLD*

Day 9 Cuenca/ Guayaquil

A morning tour of Cuenca's colonial city centre, including the Cathedral and Flower Market. After lunch, continue to Guayaquil with a short city tour on arrival. *BL*

Day 10 Guayaquil

Transfer to the airport for your onward flight. *B*

MASHPI LODGE

2 or 3-Night packages

A stay at Mashpi, one of National Geographic's Unique Lodges of the World, is the ideal addition to your Ecuadorian itinerary. The lodge's 22 guest rooms are simple, stylish and spacious, and the dining room spans two storeys, so you can watch life play out in the trees while you dine on world-class cuisine.

Day 1 Quito/ Mashpi Lodge

Depart Quito early this morning. The three-hour drive will take you from 2,800m to 1,000m above sea level as you journey through Ecuador's incredible biodiversity. En route visit the Tulipe archaeological museum and stop for a coffee and a snack. Arrive at Mashpi in time for lunch, before an afternoon activity. *LD*

Day 2 Mashpi Lodge

Rise early to enjoy the sound of the forest awakening. Spend your day exploring the pristine Mashpi Rainforest Reserve. Guided activities and excursions within the reserve include walks, birdwatching and nature encounters, Sky Bike, Life Centre, waterfalls and the Hummingbird Garden. *BLD*

Day 3 Mashpi/ Quito

Make the most of your stay with another early morning excursion. After lunch you'll transfer back to Quito. *BL*



TREN CRUCERO

4 Days/ 3 Nights

Experience the wonders of Ecuador on board Tren Crucero, recognised as the Leading Luxury Train in South America in 2014, 2015 and 2016. Lovingly restored antique steam locomotives pull a convoy of two luxury, Colonial and Republican-style themed passenger cars carrying a maximum of fifty passengers, to ensure personalised service for all.

Day 1 Quito/ Ibarra

Depart Quito early this morning and drive one and a half hours north to Otavalo, where a carefully restored steam engine awaits you. Discover the many wonders hidden in this part of the country: musicians, painters, weavers and the skilful woodcarvers who keep the renowned Quito School style alive. After a traditional Andean lunch and visit to a rose plantation, return to Quito. *LD*

Day 2 Quito/ Riobamba

Board the train at Chimbacalle station and begin your journey south along the Avenue of Volcanoes. If the weather permits, you can spot up to twenty volcanoes from the train – most have been extinct or dormant for centuries. The vegetation and landscape changes as the train slowly climbs the Andean highlands to Urbina; the highest point in the itinerary at 3,500m above sea level. In the skirts of Mount Chimborazo you can meet the last ice merchant and learn the story of his ancestral trade. *BLD*

Day 3 Riobamba/ Devil's Nose/ Bucay

Depart Riobamba towards Colta, crossing colourful quinoa fields swathed in purples, yellows and reds, alternating with endemic species of flora and wildlife, indigenous settlements and the remains of ancient cultures. Visit Guamote market, one of the last indigenous markets in the Andes, before continuing south towards the famous Devil's Nose pass. Descend 450m along switchbacks from the Andean highlands to the coastal plains. Continue along the narrow Chanchan River gorge and cross an impressive cloud forest to reach Bucay. *BLD*

Day 4 Bucay/ Guayaquil

The landscape changes again as the train leaves the tropical forest behind, revealing rice, sugar cane, pineapple and banana plantations. Have lunch at a traditional hacienda, where you can learn how the best cocoa beans in the world are grown and harvested. Later, the steam engine winds its way across the fields towards the shores of the Pacific Ocean and the end of your trip in Guayaquil. *BL*

CAMINO DE LAS HACIENDAS

7 Days/ 6 Nights

A unique lodge to lodge hiking tour

Day 1 Quito

Arrive and transfer to your hotel.



Day 2 Quito/ Sierra Alisos

Take the train to Tambillo, then hike two hours to Sierra Alisos del Campo (3,100m), with views to Cotopaxi Volcano. *BLD*

Day 3 Sierra Alisos/ La Alegria

Hike towards the 3,300m pass and then descend through beautiful farmland. Enjoy a picnic lunch en route to Hacienda La Alegria (2,950m). (4-5hrs walking) *BLD*

Day 4 La Alegria/ Hosteria La Estacion

Ascend along the northern base of Mt Corazon (3,250m). Enjoy lunch with views of Pasochoa and Sincholagua. Descend to Hosteria La Estacion. (4-5hrs walking) *BLD*

Day 5 Hosteria La Estacion/ Umbria

After an early departure, ascend to 3,600m. Stop for a picnic lunch with spectacular views of the Machachi Valley. Descend through cloud forest to Hacienda Umbria. (6-7hrs walking) *BLD*

Day 6 Umbria/ Papallacta

Transfer to Papallacta for your overnight stay and enjoy the thermal hot springs. *BD*

Day 7 Quito

Transfer to the airport or extend your stay at any of the haciendas. *B*



M/V ANAKONDA

3, 4 & 7-Night Cruises

The newly built *M/V Anakonda* is the only luxury ship in the Ecuadorian Amazon and accommodates 40 guests in 18 suites. Common areas include a dining room, bar, observation deck with jacuzzi, and the al fresco lounge.

Seven-night itineraries explore flooded forests at the Cuyabeno Nature Reserve, untamed wilderness within the Yasuni National Park, and the quiet waters of Limoncocha Lagoon. Activities include hikes through the jungle to search for wildlife, canoe trips and optional 'glamping' or glamorous camping!



MANATEE AMAZON EXPLORER

3, 4 & 7-Night Cruises

The *Manatee Explorer* has accommodation for 30 guests across three decks; all with air-conditioning and private facilities. Social areas include interior and exterior dining areas, a sun deck, library and computer lounge with internet access.

Seven-night itineraries explore magical flooded forests at the Cuyabeno Nature Reserve, the Yasuni National Park's natural wilderness, and the Limoncocha Lagoon's peaceful waters. Activities include the canopy observation tower, Butterfly House and optional glamorous camping or 'glamping'! From July 2017 the *Manatee* will be refurbished and relaunched as a luxury vessel.



NAPO WILDLIFE CENTRE

Rio Napo, Coca
3 & 4-Night packages

The only lodge within the boundaries of Yasuni National Park, located on the beautiful Añangu Lake, Napo offers 16 luxury cabins complete with private facilities and hot water. The new 40m observation tower offers one of the best panoramic views of the Ecuadorian Amazon. Other activities include visits to the nearby parrot claylick, meeting the indigenous Kichwa Añangu community as well as forest trails and canoe rides to search for wildlife.



SACHA LODGE

Rio Napo, Coca
3 & 4-Night packages

Located 80km downriver from Coca within its own private 5,000-acre reserve, Sacha Lodge is constructed from traditional materials and contains 26 cabins all with private facilities and hot water. Enjoy cooling dips in Pilchicocha Lake and exclusive attractions such as the Canopy Walk, Kapok Tower and Butterfly House.



LA SELVA

Rio Napo, Coca
3 & 4-Night packages

The award-winning La Selva Ecolodge has 19 spacious suites. The lodge is on Lake Garzacochoa, about 2.5 hours downriver from Coca. Facilities include eco-suites, a 35m observation tower and an organic restaurant. In addition to jungle activities, night walks and canoe trips, La Selva offers massage therapy and yoga retreats.



KAPAWI ECOLODGE

Achuar Territory
3 & 4-Night packages

Accessible only by charter flight, Kapawi is located in the most remote and pristine part of the Ecuadorian Amazon in Achuar indigenous territory. Kapawi Ecolodge was created according to Achuar designs and built by local craftsmen. Each cabin contains private facilities with solar-powered hot water. All activities at the lodge are accompanied by a native Achuar and professional naturalist guide.

Galapagos Islands

Highlights of the Galapagos

1. Bartolome

Famous for Pinnacle Rock, the best-known landmark in the Galapagos Islands.

2. Isabela

The largest of all the Galapagos Islands, formed by six volcanoes. Home to the highest point in the archipelago, Wolf Volcano at 1,707m.

3. Santa Cruz

Home to scientific research stations, offering visitors the best chance of a close-up encounter with giant tortoises.

4. South Plaza Island

This tiny island has one of the biggest sea lion colonies in the archipelago.

5. Española

The southernmost island has a breathtaking variety of flora and fauna. Waved albatross, giant tortoise and red marine iguana are just some of the highlights.

6. North Seymour

One of the richest central islands in terms of birdlife, with a large population of frigate birds, blue-footed boobies and gulls.



ISLAND HOPPING

8 Days / 7 Nights

Perfect for those wanting to spend most of their time on land, island-hopping itineraries offer a fantastic alternative to traditional cruises. Land-based excursions typically visit different sites than ships, offering a unique Galapagos experience. The itinerary below is a sample only – many different options exist with varying standards of accommodation available.

Day 1 Santa Cruz

On arrival, transfer to the Santa Cruz Highlands where you'll search for the iconic Galapagos tortoise. Continue to Puerto Ayora for lunch and spend the afternoon at leisure, with an optional afternoon excursion to Tortuga Bay. *L*

Day 2 Santa Cruz/ Floreana

Take the speedboat to Floreana Island and hike to La Loberia where sea lions breed. Enjoy your first snorkelling excursion with the chance to swim with sea lions, marine turtles, manta rays and a variety of colourful coral fish. Afternoon at leisure to relax. *B*

Day 3 Floreana/ Isabela

After breakfast, head to the highlands of Floreana for a gentle hike exploring historic pirate caves. You'll also have the chance to see more giant tortoises. Afterwards, you'll take a speedboat to Isabela for lunch. Afternoon at leisure, or take an optional bike tour to the Wall of Tears. *BL*

Day 4 Isabela

A morning excursion hiking up Sierra Negra Volcano for great views over the crater. Enjoy a boxed lunch and visit El Chico Volcano. Afternoon at leisure to relax on the beach. Optional excursion to Tintoreras Islets where you can see reef sharks and Galapagos penguins. *BL*

Day 5 Isabela/ Santa Cruz

A morning visit to Flamingo Lagoon to see the brightly coloured birds feeding on the lagoon's algae. This afternoon, visit the Tortoise Breeding Centre. Take a speedboat to Santa Cruz and evening at leisure. *B*

Day 6 Santa Cruz

Enjoy a full-day tour to Bartolome Island to see the iconic Pinnacle Rock. A short hike will bring you to a spectacular viewpoint. Afternoon snorkelling provides the chance to see marine turtles and penguins. *BL*

Day 7 Santa Cruz

Take a full-day tour of North Seymour Island where you can see land iguanas, the magnificent frigate bird and sea lions surfing the waves. After lunch enjoy snorkelling at Las Bachas beach. *BL*

Day 8 Santa Cruz

After breakfast, visit the Charles Darwin Research Station and the Tortoise Breeding Centre, where you can walk freely among the tortoises. Transfer to Baltra Airport for your flight back to the mainland. *B*

DIVING GALAPAGOS



The Galapagos Islands offer some of the best diving sites in the world. Here you can experience an immense variety of marine life including hammerhead sharks, giant whale sharks, rays, turtles, huge schools of fish and Galapagos fur seals. The most renowned dive sites are at the remote Wolf and Darwin islands. All dedicated dive cruises are eight-day itineraries.

Casual divers should look to one of our land-based options and make daily dive trips. Experienced divers (Advanced Open Water certification required) can opt for one of the fantastic dive/cruise options on board the *Galapagos Sky*. Two dive masters and up to four dives a day ensure you will have ample time underwater.

This 16-passenger vessel features eight private ensuite cabins with a private head and shower, mirrored cabinet and wardrobe, bathrobes, hairdryer, and marine-safe (biodegradable) toiletries.



PIKAIA LODGE

Santa Cruz

Eco-friendly Pikaia Lodge provides guests with the opportunity to explore the fascinating natural heritage of the Galapagos Islands while staying in sheer comfort. The 14 rooms feature panoramic floor-to-ceiling windows with stunning views out over Santa Cruz Island and the Pacific Ocean. As a Pikaia Lodge guest, you will enjoy active, quality guided land and marine day programs in small groups with up to 16 guests. Venture to other islands on board the large, comfortable, oceangoing yacht *M/Y Pikaia I*.



GALAPAGOS SAFARI CAMP

Santa Cruz

Nestled in the wild highlands of Santa Cruz Island with stunning views of the Pacific Ocean and National Park, this stylish camp offers nine exclusive tents, a family suite and an infinity pool under a canopy of endemic trees. The family-friendly camp is an excellent base from which to explore the islands. Full-day excursions to other islands, inland walks, horse riding, snorkelling, diving and kayaking can all be organised from the camp.



FINCH BAY

Santa Cruz

One of National Geographic's Unique Lodges of the World, Finch Bay features 27 rooms and suites, as well as a pool and beachfront access. The hotel's central location means you can easily enjoy a short stroll to Las Grietas or explore the town of Puerto Ayora. Activities are organised by exploration, relaxation and adventure – a trip to one of the nearby islands aboard the *M/Y Sea Lion* is a must. You'll be part of a small group of up to 20 guests enjoying fully personalised service aboard with four crew members, a delicious buffet lunch, air-conditioned interiors, and viewing decks. Combine with Scalesia Lodge for the ultimate land-based Galapagos experience.



SCALESIA LODGE

Isabela

Situated in the highlands of Isabela Island on the slopes of a volcano, this modern, luxurious, safari-style tent resort has spectacular views of the coast of Isabela Island and the Pacific Ocean. The lodge features 16 beautiful and comfortable tents, as well as a main lodge with plenty of common areas in which to relax between excursions. Explore the largest island in the Galapagos archipelago on Scalesia's hiking and snorkelling tours. Diving, fishing, biking and surfing at extra cost. Combine with Finch Bay for the ultimate land-based Galapagos experience.

Galapagos Islands Cruises



M/C OCEAN SPRAY

16 Passengers

This deluxe mega-catamaran is the perfect combination of great comfort, speed and top guides. Amenities include a huge sundeck, jacuzzi, and kayaks to discover the island's marine wildlife. 5, 6 and 8-day itineraries are available and can also be combined for longer voyages.



M/C CORMORANT

16 Passengers

A deluxe catamaran offering private balconies for each stateroom and ample social areas including sundeck and jacuzzi. Kayaks, snorkelling gear and wetsuits are included. 4, 5 and 8-day itineraries can be combined for longer voyages.



M/V ORIGIN

20 Passengers

The M/V *Origin* blends the best of tasteful design, luxury amenities and environmental sustainability. The 10 spacious cabins have large windows and plenty of storage space. At 1:10, the guide to guest ratio is among the lowest in the Galapagos. 7-night itineraries are available.



M/Y LA PINTA

48 Passengers

A luxury cruise option with amenities including a large observation lounge, library, jacuzzi, small gym, glass-bottomed observation boat, and kayaks. 4, 5 and 8-day itineraries are available and can be combined for longer voyages.



M/Y ISABELA

40 Passengers

This deluxe mid-size yacht offers adventure, safety and comfort in a relaxed atmosphere. A glass-bottom boat allows easy underwater viewing, and sea kayaks and snorkelling gear are also provided. 5 and 7-day itineraries are available, and can be combined for longer voyages.



M/V SANTA CRUZ II

90 Passengers

A great option for those looking for optimum service and a larger vessel. Amenities include sundeck, ocean view hot tubs, a lounge, library and a glass-bottom boat. Dedicated single cabins are great value for solo travellers. 5 and 6-day itineraries can be combined for longer voyages.



M/Y MAJESTIC

16 Passengers

The *Majestic* was specifically designed and built to cruise the Galapagos, and features spacious cabins with large picture windows. Common areas include a sundeck with jacuzzi, a bar, and ample dining and lounge areas. 4, 5 and 8-day itineraries can be combined for longer voyages.



M/Y TIP TOP II

16 Passengers

This first class catamaran was redesigned in 2016 and offers comfortable cabins with picture windows and great service at a competitive price. Four of the cabins feature private balconies and the shaded sundeck is a great place to relax. 4, 5 and 8-day itineraries can be combined for longer voyages.



M/V GALAPAGOS LEGEND

90 Passengers

A newly refurbished first class vessel offering all the amenities of a larger cruise. Family suites, large social areas, kids' corner and a pool ensure that families are well catered for. 4, 5 and 8-day itineraries are available and can be combined for longer voyages.



M/Y CORALS I AND II

36 & 20 Passengers

Twin first class yachts offer comfortable and elegant accommodation. The jacuzzi, sun and shadow decks provide the perfect spaces in which to relax. Diving options are available on some voyages. 4, 5 and 8-day itineraries can be combined for longer voyages.



M/Y LETTY & ERIC

20 Passengers

These are identical superior first class motor yachts. Cabins offer either porthole or panoramic views, private bathrooms and air-conditioning. Snorkelling equipment, wetsuits and kayaks are included. Relax on the sundeck between excursions. 7-night itineraries available.



M/Y GALAVEN

20 Passengers

A tourist class expedition vessel with 11 double cabins, all with private bathrooms, air-conditioning and ocean views. The *Galaven* offers spacious outdoor seating areas with sun chairs, a large interior dining room and a library. 4, 5 and 8-day itineraries can be combined for longer voyages.

Highlights of Chile

1. Atacama Desert

The driest desert on earth where otherworldly landscapes – extensive salt lakes dotted with pink flamingos, volcanoes and geysers – are framed by the Andean mountain range.

2. Chilean Wine Regions

Some of the finest new-world wines can be found in Chile's central valleys, where high-quality grapes, a Mediterranean climate and a variety of soil types have created a winemaker's paradise. Look out for Carmener, Chile's signature grape variety.

3. Santiago & Valparaiso

Santiago is one of the most modern cities in South America, surrounded by world-class wineries and ski resorts. Valparaiso, a UNESCO World Heritage site since 2002, is Chile's oldest port where multi-coloured houses perch on steep hills surrounding the bay, connected by labyrinthine streets.

4. Easter Island

Located just over 3,700km off the coast of Chile and with a distinct Polynesian tradition, the island has more than 20,000 archaeological vestiges and Moais. Because of its cultural richness, it was declared a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1995.

5. Patagonia

Home to some of Chile's most dramatic scenery, northern Patagonia features the popular Andean Lakes District – a volcanic region with snow-covered summits; and the Carretera Austral, famous for the spectacular Marble Caves. Southern Patagonia comprises glaciers, fjords and the world-class Torres del Paine National Park.

A TASTE OF SANTIAGO

5 Days/ 4 Nights

Day 1 Santiago

Arrive in Santiago and transfer to your hotel. Lastarria, Bellas Artes and Providencia are all great locations from which to explore the city.

Day 2 Santiago

Enjoy a half-day walking tour of modern Santiago. Visit the Bellavista, San Cristobal Hill and Lastarria districts before hopping on the metro and riding to University Station. Here you'll get off and explore the central district, finishing at the market where you may like to have lunch. *B*

Day 3 Santiago

Enjoy a full-day tour of UNESCO World heritage-listed Valparaiso and the Isla Negra Museum, devoted to the life of Nobel Prize-winning poet and diplomat Pablo Neruda. *B*

Day 4 Santiago

A half-day tour of Santa Rita Winery, set in the Maipo Valley, with lunch and wine tasting included. Don't miss their excellent Carmener! Options for cycling tours also available. *BL*

Day 5 Santiago

Transfer to Santiago airport or extend your journey with a trip to Patagonia or the Atacama Desert. *B*





CHILEAN WINE VALLEYS

7 Days/ 6 Nights

Day 1 Santiago

Arrive in Santiago and transfer to your hotel. After a half-day city tour enjoy a welcome dinner and wine tasting with a sommelier. *LD*

Day 2 Aconcagua Valley

A tour and wine tasting at Viña Errazuriz and Viña Von Siebentha. Visit the old wine cellars and vineyards. Return to Santiago. *BL*

Day 3 Valparaiso/ San Antonio Valleys

Transfer to Valparaiso for a tour of the city. Wine tasting and lunch at Viña Matetic. *BL*

Day 4 Colchagua Valley

Your tour today begins at Viña Montes in the Apalta Valley. Continue to Viña Viu Manent for a tour by horse and carriage. Visit to Colchagua Museum. *BLD*

Day 5 Santiago

A tour and wine tasting at Viña Perez Cruz and Viña Santa Rita. Return to Santiago. *BL*

Day 6 Maipo Valley

Visit Viña Aquitania and Viña Concha y Toro for a tour and tasting. Later, a farewell dinner. *BLD*

Day 7 Santiago

Return home or continue your journey. *B*

Winery tours by bicycle and self-drive options are also available.

EASTER ISLAND

4 Days/ 3 Nights

Day 1 Easter Island

Arrive on Easter Island. Welcome and transfer to your hotel.

Day 2 Easter Island

A full-day tour of Anakena visiting the archaeological centre of Akahanga and Rano Raraku Quarry, where all the existing Moais were sculpted. Picnic lunch at Anakena Beach. *BL*

Day 3 Easter Island

Start with a half-day tour of Orongo then visit Rano Kau volcano, which has the island's largest concentration of petroglyphs. Marvel at the seven Moais overlooking the sea on a tour of Ahu Akivi. See the Caves of Ana Tepahu – among the largest on the island. *B*

Day 4 Easter Island

Transfer from your hotel to the airport, or extend your stay with 4 to 7-night programs. *B*

Properties available include Explora Rapa Nui, Hanga Roa, Altiplanico, Iorana, Taha Tai, Otai and more. Various tour packages are available from 2 to 8 nights with B&B or All Inclusive options.

Incorporate Easter Island into your itinerary en route to or from South America. LATAM Airlines flies direct between Tahiti and Easter Island once a week.

EXPLORA RAPA NUI



Located on a hilltop with stunning views over the Pacific Ocean, Explora Rapa Nui's award-winning architecture blends Easter Island's unique geography and heritage with its vibrant present.

The 30 rooms of Explora Rapa Nui are designed to take full advantage of the silence, privacy and spaciousness of the surrounding landscape, ensuring deep rest after a long day of exploration.

On foot, bicycle or boat, more than 20 different excursions unveil Easter Island's unique history and charm. Excursions of groups of no more than eight travellers have cultural shades and are always led by a local guide. They include hikes and bike explorations among archaeological remains, volcanoes, beaches, prairies, and cliffs, as well as boat trips or snorkelling where you'll explore the world's most pristine sea waters.



The Atacama Desert is the most arid place on earth; a surreal landscape of salt flats, hot springs and geysers. The charming town of San Pedro de Atacama serves as your base for exploring the region. Choose from one of the many hotels in town, or splash out on one of our recommended *Stays of Distinction*. The Atacama Desert can be reached via a two-hour flight from Santiago, or in combination with an overland package from Bolivia's Salt Plains (page 24) or Northern Argentina (page 41).



TIERRA ATACAMA

Tierra Atacama Hotel and Spa is a sun-swept 32-room desert oasis. Known for its dramatic architecture and locally inspired interiors, the lodge offers a cosy and authentic environment. With Tierra's all-inclusive program, you can explore the desert landscapes with expert guides and, upon return, enjoy delicious meals and Chilean wine under the stars.



ALTO ATACAMA

Alto Atacama's 42 rooms were conceived to blend seamlessly into the environment. The setting, sweeping views, tranquillity and silence – and the hotel's wonderful outdoor lounge spaces – make Alto Atacama a destination in its own right. Get off the beaten track, interact with the local indigenous culture and explore the desert's varied and eerily beautiful landscapes by foot or bike with more than 30 adventurous excursions to choose from.



EXPLORA ATACAMA

Carefully built within the San Pedro oasis, Explora Atacama's location is a great base from which to explore the many wonders of the driest desert on Earth. The facility's 50 rooms are designed to take full advantage of the silence, privacy, and spaciousness of the surrounding landscape allowing for a satisfying rest after a long day of exploration.



AWASI ATACAMA

Nestled behind an ancient adobe wall, Awasi's ten secluded cottages have private patios, outdoor showers and are incredibly spacious at 50 square metres. After exploring the impressive natural scenery of the Atacama Desert with your private 4WD driver and guide, return to Awasi Atacama for a swim in the pool, a drink by the firepit and exquisite evening meals in the Relais & Chateaux restaurant.



NOI CASA ATACAMA

Merging home-style ambiance and sustainable design with the amenities and style of a luxury boutique hotel, Noi Casa Atacama offers a warm, comfortable retreat framed by the most breathtaking scenery in northern Chile. Relax in one of the 29 bright, spacious guest rooms or 18 suites, richly appointed with native artwork and furnishings, 400 thread count Egyptian cotton linens, plush down bedding and private terraces.



CUMBRES ATACAMA

Located two kilometres from the village of San Pedro de Atacama, Hotel Cumbres stands as a tranquil oasis. The hotel's 60 beautifully appointed rooms feature spacious 52-square metre floorplans and private terraces with views of the Atacama Desert landscape and Licancabur Volcano. Guests can select from a variety of excursions time-tabled by the hotel each day.

Reservations 1300 135 391



HIKING AMONG VOLCANOES

7 Days/ 6 Nights

Private Departures – ask us for modified itineraries depending on your fitness levels or specific interests

Day 1 **Temuco/ Malacahuello**

Transfer to your lodge, located in the picturesque Cautin Valley. This afternoon enjoy an easy walk with spectacular views of the Lonquimay, Tohuaca and Copahue Volcanoes. (3hrs hiking) *D*

Day 2 **Nalcas Reserve**

Depart for Nalcas Reserve where you'll begin a moderate hike amid stunning surrounds. Highlights include the active Llama Volcano, and regional flora such as Araucaria Forests and Patagonia Oak. (6hrs hiking – ask us about less active options) *BLD*

Day 3 **Sierra Nevada Volcano**

Today you'll have an easy hike along the Sierra Nevada. This gentle walk will take you through lush vegetation to a lookout point over several waterfalls. Return after a picnic lunch and spend the afternoon at leisure. (4hrs hiking) *BLD*

Day 4 **Malacahuello/ Melipeuco**

Transfer to Conguillio National Park where you'll start a moderate hike to a nearby lagoon. Continue through ancient Araucaria forests until you stop for lunch at Conguillio Lake. Transfer to the Sierra Nevada trail where you'll complete your hike. Overnight in unique individual outdoor domes. (6hrs hiking) *BLD*

Day 5 **Verandas Valley**

An easy hike this morning through Verandas Valley, passing by old mining sites, natural thermal pools and the green pastures surrounding the lodge. Spend the afternoon relaxing in the sauna or outdoor hot tubs at the lodge. (4hrs hiking) *BLD*

Day 6 **Sollipulli Volcano**

After breakfast, depart on an easy hike through Valdivian forest and ancient Araucania giants to the flank of Sollipulli Volcano. Enjoy stunning views over nearby volcanoes and lakes. Return to the lodge for dinner. (6hrs hiking) *BLD*

Day 7 **Temuco**

A final morning hike to an old lumber mill surrounded by native forest. After a tour of this relic of Chilean industry, return to the lodge for lunch, then transfer to Temuco airport for your onward flight. *BL*

SOUTHERN LAKES SELF-DRIVE

9 Days/ 8 Nights

Day 1 **Temuco/ Pucon**

Arrive in Temuco. After a briefing, start your lakes adventure by driving south to the village of Pucon on Lake Villarrica.

Days 2 & 3 **Pucon**

Explore the area rich with hot springs, picturesque villages and beautiful countryside. Activities include horseriding, rafting and hiking volcanoes. *B*

Day 4 **Pucon/ Valdivia**

An easy drive to the coast and the river port town of Valdivia, established in 1645. *B*

Day 5 **Valdivia/ Puyehue**

Take a morning walk along the promenade. Return to the Lakes District and the nearby National Park of Puyehue. *B*

Day 6 **Puyehue/ Puerto Varas**

Follow country lanes to Puerto Octay. Continue along Lake Llanquihue to the beautiful town of Puerto Varas. *B*

Days 7 & 8 **Puerto Varas**

Fill your free days by enjoying great day trips and picnic options around the lake. *B*

Day 9 **Puerto Varas**

Return your car or extend your trip to the Argentinean Lakes Region. *B*

Argentina

Highlights of Argentina

1. Buenos Aires

Visit San Telmo, Casa Rosada, Recoleta, Colon Opera House and the famous La Boca District. See a live tango show, where you will experience one of the most elegant and sensual dances in the world.

2. Iguazu Falls

Comprising some 275 individual cataracts, the falls are surrounded by tropical jungle and are one of Argentina's most spectacular natural attractions.

3. Patagonia

Experience the tranquil beauty of the Lakes District, the dramatic peaks of El Chalten, and Peninsula Valdes for its wildlife and whale watching. Ushuaia in Tierra del Fuego is the world's southernmost city and from where most Antarctic cruises depart.

4. Wine Country

Don't miss Argentina's wine capital, Mendoza, set against a backdrop of stunning Andean peaks. Discover Malbec, Argentina's signature grape variety.

5. Northwest

A striking landscape of sweeping Andean plains, deep gorges and fertile valleys. Don't miss some of the country's best-preserved colonial architecture in Salta and Tucuman.

6. Cordoba & Estancias

Home to authentic estancias and a trove of colonial Jesuit Churches, Cordoba offers an fascinating glimpse into Argentine culture and history.



A TASTE OF BUENOS AIRES

7 Days/ 6 Nights

We aim to take you beyond the basics and really immerse you in the local culture on an extended stay in Buenos Aires. Touring options are almost endless – from street art to Jewish history, tango to football, cycling tours to polo exhibitions – ask your travel consultant for more details.

Day 1 Buenos Aires

Welcome to Buenos Aires – the Paris of the Americas! Transfer to your hotel in Recoleta, San Telmo or Palermo. In the evening learn the basic steps of tango before an authentic tango show.

Day 2 Buenos Aires

Depart on a northern districts tour including the famous Recoleta Cemetery and the leafy suburb of Palermo, with elegant mansions, funky cafes, local fashion and homeware boutiques. The excellent Argentine Experience – a hands-on cooking class and dinner experience with matching wines – provides a fantastic introduction to local cuisine. *BD*

Day 3 Buenos Aires

This morning's tour will take you to the southern districts. Visit the famous Plaza 25 de Mayo and see the Casa Rosada. Continue to the bohemian district of San Telmo and visit Caminito in La Boca before finishing in Puerto Madero. This evening you'll visit two milongas, establishments where people dance the most authentic form of tango, away from the spotlights of the commercial circuit. Return to your hotel at the end of the night. *B*

Day 4 Buenos Aires

Indulge in a fascinating half-day tour discovering the passions of Buenos Aires. Choose from a tour celebrating literary great Jose Luis Borges and political hero Eva Peron, or uncover the history of Argentine football and tango. *B*

Day 5 Buenos Aires

Enjoy a full-day tour to one of Argentina's iconic estancias, where you'll learn about the life of the gaucho and enjoy a traditional BBQ lunch. Ask your consultant about overnight stays. *BL*

Day 6 Buenos Aires

On your day at leisure, consider a ferry ride across the river to Colonia del Sacramento in Uruguay for a great day out. *B*

Day 7 Buenos Aires

Transfer to the airport for your onward flight or extend your time in Argentina with a visit to Iguazu Falls, the colonial northwest or Patagonia. *B*



IGUAZU & IBERA WETLANDS

6 Days/ 5 Nights

Visit the awe-inspiring Iguazu Falls, historical Jesuit ruins and explore the remote Ibera wetlands with its vast wildlife. Ask your consultant about timing your trip to Iguazu to coincide with the full moon night walk – a magical way to experience the falls.

Day 1 Iguazu Falls

Upon arrival, transfer to your hotel.

Day 2 Iguazu Falls

A full-day tour of the Argentine side of Iguazu Falls, including the wonderful Devil's Throat lookout. *B*

Day 3 Iguazu Falls/ Ibera Wetlands

Transfer to Colonia Carlos Pellegrini. On the way, visit Santa Ana, Nuestra Señora de Loreto and San Ignacio Mini ruins. Continue by 4WD to Ibera Wetlands, the second-largest wetlands in South America. *BD*

Days 4 & 5 Ibera Wetlands

Two full days to explore the area. Activities include birdwatching, boat rides on the Ibera Lagoon, night walks, canoe trips or horseback rides. *BLD*

Day 6 Posadas

Transfer to the airport. For more great wildlife viewing opportunities, extend your trip to Peninsula Valdes. *B*

COLONIAL NORTHWEST

7 Days/ 6 Nights

Best time to travel: April to October

Day 1 Salta

Arrive in Salta, the best-preserved colonial city in Argentina. Enjoy the afternoon tour visiting San Bernardo Hill with a great view of the city.

Day 2 Salta

Depart on a tour of Humahuaca Gorge and see the colourful villages of Purmamarca, Tilcara and Humahuaca. On the way back to Salta, visit Maimara and Jujuy. *B*

Day 3 Salta/ Cachi

Enjoy a tour around the Calchaqui Valleys. Pass by Cuesta del Obispo, Recta del Tin Tin and Los Cardones National Park. Overnight in the quaint mountain village of Cachi. *B*

Day 4 Cachi/ Cafayate

After a morning at leisure, travel to Cafayate along mountain roads, passing through Molinos, Angastaco and Arrows Ravine. Arrive in Cafayate, famous for its Torrontes wine, and stay overnight. *B*

Day 5 Cafayate

In the morning you will tour the town of Cafayate and visit a wine cellar for a tasting. Relax in the afternoon or hire a bicycle and tour the local vineyards. *B*

Day 6 Cafayate/ Tafi del Valle

A morning visit to Quebrada de las Conchas with its unusual rock formations, including the Devil's Throat, the Amphitheatre and the Castles. Depart towards Tafi Del Valle and visit Quilmes ruins on the way. *B*

Day 7 Tafi del Valle/ Tucuman

Travel along the Sosa Gorge, crossing the Calchaqui mountains through lush cloud forest and descending to the humid plains of Tucuman. Enjoy a city tour of Tucuman and transfer to the airport. Ask us about extending your trip to Iguazu Falls or Mendoza. *B*

ENHANCE YOUR EXPERIENCE

Consider a stay in a traditional hacienda. Built in 1718 by the Jesuits, Estancia Las Carreras allows visitors to experience the tradition and history of the Tafi del Valle region while enjoying modern comforts. Guests can visit the on-site cheese factory, go horseback riding or hiking in the surrounding countryside, or simply relax and enjoy the timelessness of this historic place.

Argentina

Talampaya, La Rioja



MENDOZA'S WINE ROUTE

5 Days/ 4 Nights

Day 1 Mendoza

Transfer to your hotel. Kick off your stay in Mendoza with a culinary night tour – wine tasting at Clos de Chacras followed by a visit to Club Tapiz. Finish with a delicious dinner at El Terruno. *D*

Day 2 Mendoza

Enjoy a full-day tour dedicated to Argentina's finest sparkling wines. Start at Cruzat winery and continue to Chandon for a historic tour of this lovely vineyard. Lunch at Septima Winery with four courses of regional cuisine and matching wines. *BL*

Day 3 Mendoza

A full-day tour of the Uco Valley. Visit Salentein and Domaine Bousquet vineyards for tastings. Finish at Andeluna for a gourmet six-course lunch and matching wines. *BL*

Day 4 Mendoza

Depart for the Maipo Valley to visit Navarro Correas for a wine tasting, then continue to Pasrai Olive Farm for tasty homemade treats and olive oils. Another wine tasting at Luigi before picnic lunch at the Alta Vista Winery. *BL*

Day 5 Mendoza

Transfer to the airport for your onward flight. *B*

STAYS OF DISTINCTION

Why not splurge and stay at one of the region's divine wine lodges – Club Tapiz, Posada Salentein, Cavas Wine Lodge and Lares de Chacras are all excellent options located in the valleys surrounding Mendoza. Ask your travel consultant about the best option for you.

ISCHIGUALASTO & TALAMPAYA

4 Days/ 3 Nights

Day 1 San Juan

Transfer to your hotel, then enjoy an afternoon tour of the city including the Cathedral and the Museum of Urban Memory with its seismic simulator.

Day 2 San Juan/ Villa Union

A full-day tour visiting Ischigualasto Park, also known as Moon Valley due to its otherworldly appearance. See landforms such as the Worm, Bocce Court and the Submarine. Visit the Palaeontological Museum to see some of the most important fossils found in the park. *B*

Day 3 Villa Union

Depart for the spectacular Quebrada de la Troya to see incredible rock formations created by millions of years of erosion. Continue through the Quebrada de Peñon and ascend to Brava Lagoon, located at 4,350m. During the summer months you'll see magnificent pink flamingos feasting on the lake's plankton. Enjoy a picnic lunch and return to Villa Union. *BL*

Day 4 Villa Union

Enjoy a full-day tour to the stunning Talampaya National Park, with its deep red desert earth and resident guanacos. A drive through the Talampaya Canyon reveals formations such as the Cathedral, the Tower and the Monk. Return to Villa Union and transfer to La Rioja airport. *B*

**Note: Talampaya has some great hiking options for more active travellers – ask your travel consultant for more information.*

CORDOBA'S JESUIT TRAIL

4 Days/ 3 Nights

Day 1 Cordoba

Transfer to your hotel on arrival. An afternoon tour explores the most important monuments and buildings of Argentina's second-largest city.

Day 2 Cordoba

Depart on the UNESCO World Heritage-Listed 'Road of the Jesuit Estancias' this morning. Travel to Colonia Caroya, established in 1616, then continue to Jesus Maria where you'll visit the house and old winery. Finish the day at Santa Catalina, the largest complex in the region. See the church, residence, novitiate ruins and slave rooms. Return to Cordoba. *B*

Day 3 Cordoba

Travel to Estancia La Candelaria, built in 1683. Enjoy a guided tour and have some time for lunch before returning to Cordoba. *B*

Day 4 Cordoba

Transfer to the airport for your onward flight or extend your stay in one of the region's excellent and authentic estancias. *B*

ESTANCIA LOS POTREROS

Hosting a maximum of 12 guests at a time, the working ranch of Los Potreros offers a taste of authentic estancia life. Whether your passion is horses, beautiful scenery, walking, photography, birdwatching or soaking up the local culture, Estancia Los Potreros has something for everyone. The estancia is located on the beautiful but little-known range of hills known as the Sierras Chicas, just an hour from Cordoba airport.



Often overlooked, tiny Uruguay punches well above its weight with a fantastic range of wine lodges and rural estancias, perfect for those seeking a relaxing extension to their time in Buenos Aires. UNESCO World Heritage-listed Colonia del Sacramento is an enticing day trip from the Argentine capital, with its relaxed vibe, cobblestone streets and pastel-coloured houses a one-hour ferry ride away. During the summer months, Uruguayans and Argentineans alike flock to the coastal party town of Punta del Este, easily accessible with direct flights from Buenos Aires and Montevideo. Further north along the coast is the hip, laid-back village of Jose Ignacio and the surfer hangout of La Pedrera.

ACROSS THE RIO DE LA PLATA

4 Days/ 3 Nights

Day 1 Buenos Aires/ Montevideo

Catch the ferry across the Rio de la Plata this morning to the Uruguayan capital of Montevideo. Enjoy an afternoon tour of the city, including the diverse neighbourhoods of Carrasco, Pocitos and the Old City, where you can visit the bustling Mercado del Puerto.

Day 2 Colonia del Sacramento

After breakfast, transfer to the UNESCO World Heritage-Listed town of Colonia del Sacramento for a tour of the historic centre. See the lighthouse, the main plaza, the Portuguese and Spanish Museums, the port of Yates and the Plaza de Toros, where bullfights were once held. *B*

Day 3 Colonia del Sacramento

A day at leisure to stroll through cobblestone streets lined with colonial houses with red-tiled rooftops. *B*

Day 4 Colonia/ Buenos Aires

After breakfast, catch the ferry back to Buenos Aires. *B*

NARBONA WINE LODGE

Carmelo



Step back in time with a stay at this charming Relais & Chateaux property, located in the heart of Uruguay's wine country. Dating back to 1909, Narbona embodies the history of the region with its original architecture and ancient farm machinery. Its five rooms are light and spacious, with antique features and high ceilings. Organic food is locally grown and on-site wine tastings are conducted in the atmospheric wine cellar. The lodge is just fifteen minutes from Carmelo – take a bicycle to explore the picturesque port, surrounding countryside and boutique wineries.

ESTANCIA EL CHARABON

Rocha



El Charabon is an authentic rural property 225km from Montevideo and 80km from Punta del Este, near the Atlantic coast and framed by the Sierras de Rocha. Guests can learn about cattle breeding and take part in rural chores such as milking and branding, with tours organised and hosted by the hotel. Experienced horseriders can enjoy the Charabon Beach Ride – an adventure across the countryside towards the beach and finishing in the village of San Antonio, nestled between native forests.

Patagonia



Petrohue Falls, Lakes District

Patagonia



One of the most evocative places on earth, Patagonia is a region spanning Chile and Argentina, and contains some of the most dramatic peaks, pristine wilderness and impressive glaciers in the world. This immense region is also home to some of the most iconic wildlife of the Americas. The Andean condor, guanaco, rhea, viscacha, puma and Chilean flamingo are all found at the southern end of the continent.

Patagonia encompasses some one million square kilometres and comprises the southern section of the Andes mountains as well as deserts, steppes and grasslands. With a population density of just under two people per square kilometre, it's easy to lose yourself in the majesty of this vast wilderness.

In the northern part of Patagonia, also known as the Andean Lakes, you'll find a serene landscape of snow-capped mountains, azure lakes and Swiss-style chalet architecture. The Andean Lakes Crossing takes you across a series of lakes edged by volcanoes and ancient forests. The pretty villages of Bariloche and Puerto Varas are both excellent bases for more extensive sightseeing in the region. We have some fantastic self-drive itineraries, which allow you to get off the beaten track and explore some of the lesser-known national parks at your own pace. With a huge number of first-class lodges and estancias to choose from on both sides of the border, the Lakes District offers both luxury and adventure.

The Carretera Austral is the name given to Chile's Route 7. Stretching some 1,200km from Puerto Montt to Villa O'Higgins, this is one of South America's most scenic drives. Highlights include the iconic Marble Caves on Lake General Carrera; the plunging gorges, lush forests and snow-streaked mountain peaks of the Futuleufu Valley; and the rugged scenery of Queulat National Park. From four day guided packages to two-week self-drive itineraries, there is something for everyone in this spectacular region.

Further south in Chile is the magnificent Torres del Paine National Park. This is truly a trekker's paradise, but with the constantly changing light and the dramatic Torres soaring above, the park is equally rewarding for photographers and nature lovers. On the other side of the border you'll find the granite peaks of Mt Fitz Roy in El Chalten – the trekking capital of Argentina; and El Calafate, home to the spectacular Perito Moreno Glacier.

The world's southernmost city, Ushuaia, is found at the tip of the windswept archipelago of Tierra del Fuego, surrounded by the Martial Mountains. This is the gateway to Antarctica – just 1,000km across the Drake Passage (see pages 54 and 55). Shorter cruises sail through the famous Beagle Channel and navigate the Chilean fjords to reach Punta Arenas, Chile (see pages 50 and 51). Don't miss the world's southernmost rail journey – The End of the World Train – before you depart!

Patagonia

Highlights of Patagonia

1. Lake District

Bariloche and Puerto Varas are the gateways to northern Patagonia's alpine forests and emerald lakes.

2. Carretera Austral & Marble Caves

Get off the beaten track and discover the beauty of the Austral Road and stunning Marble Caves.

3. El Chalten

A must for trekking enthusiasts, this volcanic region is home to the spectacular peak of Mt Fitz Roy.

4. Torres del Paine National Park

Chile's most iconic National Park features lakes, glaciers, forests, waterfalls and the unique granite torres (towers).

5. Perito Moreno Glacier

Rising 74m above Lake Argentino and 5km wide, Perito Moreno is one of the world's few expanding glaciers.

6. Tierra del Fuego, Ushuaia & Cape Horn

Ushuaia is the world's southernmost city and gateway to magnificent Antarctica.



TORRES DEL PAINE

4 Days/ 3 Nights

Best time to travel: October to April

Day 1 Punta Arenas/ Puerto Natales

Arrive Punta Arenas airport, transfer around three hours by road to Puerto Natales. *B*

Day 2 Puerto Natales

A full-day tour to Torres del Paine National Park including a visit to Milodon Cave. You'll see the picturesque Salto Grande Waterfall, take a stroll along the shores of Lake Grey to see the famous glacier and enjoy views of the famous 'torres' from several viewpoints. Return to Puerto Natales, arriving around 8pm. *BL*

Day 3 Puerto Natales

A full-day tour upriver to see the impressive Balmaceda and Serrano glaciers. During the tour you'll have the chance to see sea lions and cormorants. Enjoy a short walk to the foot of Serrano Glacier before lunch at a local estancia. Return to Puerto Natales later this afternoon. *B*

Day 4 Puerto Natales

Transfer to the airport or ask us about continuing overland to El Calafate. *B*

Staying at an all-inclusive lodge is the best way to make the most of this unforgettable region. See page 49 for our *Stays of Distinction*.

EL CALAFATE & EL CHALTEN

5 Days/ 4 Nights

Best time to travel: October to April

Day 1 El Calafate

Upon arrival, transfer to your hotel.

Day 2 El Calafate

A full-day tour to Los Glaciares National Park for spectacular views of Perito Moreno Glacier. Ask your consultant about optional mini-trekking on the glacier. *B*

Day 3 El Calafate/ El Chalten

Travel overland to El Chalten and check in to your lodge. *B*

Day 4 El Chalten

Enjoy a half-day trek to Laguna Capri. At the view point you'll have stunning vistas of Mt Fitz Roy, flanked by Poicenot, Saint Exupery, Mermoz and Guillaumet. Longer treks are available – please contact us for more options. *B*

Day 5 El Chalten

Return to El Calafate and transfer to the airport for your onward flight. *B*

USHUAIA & TIERRA DEL FUEGO

4 Days/ 3 Nights

Best time to travel: November to March

Day 1 Ushuaia

Arrive in Ushuaia, the southernmost city in the world, and transfer to your hotel.

Day 2 Ushuaia

A full-day tour of Tierra del Fuego National Park, including a ride on the End of the World Fuegian Southern Railway to take you inside the park. View the typical flora and fauna of the region and enjoy breathtaking views across Lapataia Bay. *B*

Day 3 Ushuaia

Enjoy a half-day tour sailing the famous Beagle Channel, with the chance to see seals, cormorants, petrels and albatross. *B*

Day 4 Ushuaia

Transfer to the airport or port to continue your trip. *B*

Ushuaia is the gateway for one of the world's greatest wilderness areas – Antarctica. See pages 54 and 55 for sample itineraries and vessels or contact us for more options.



Marble Caves, General Carrera Lake

ANDEAN LAKES CROSSING

5 Days/ 4 Nights
Also operates in reverse

Day 1 Bariloche
Upon arrival, transfer to your hotel.

Day 2 Bariloche
Enjoy a morning tour of Bariloche's surrounding mountains, lakes and parks. Take a chairlift up Campanario Hill from where you'll have incredible views. On your free afternoon; consider a visit to Victoria Island and Arrayanes Forest. *B*

Day 3 Bariloche/ Puerto Varas
Transfer in the morning to Puerto Pañuelo, board your catamaran and sail Lake Nahuel Huapi towards Puerto Blest. Take a bus to Puerto Alegre and continue by catamaran across Lake Frias. Take the bus to Peulla and then sail the waters of Todos los Santos Lake, which has a spectacular view of the Osorno Volcano. Visit Petrohue Falls en route to your hotel in Puerto Varas. *B*

Day 4 Puerto Varas
A day at leisure. Options include a full-day tour to Chiloe Island or a trip to Frutillar and Puerto Octay, a scenic beauty on the shore of Lake Llanquihue. *B*

Day 5 Puerto Varas
Transfer to Puerto Montt airport. *B*

PENINSULA VALDES

4 Days/ 3 Nights

Puerto Madryn is the gateway to the wildlife sanctuary of Peninsula Valdes. June to December is best for whale watching.

Day 1 Trelew/ Puerto Madryn
Upon arrival, transfer to Puerto Madryn.

Day 2 Puerto Madryn/ Punta Delgada
A full-day tour of Peninsula Valdes. An optional whale watching boat tour is available from July to November. *B*

Day 3 Punta Delgada/ Puerto Madryn
Visit the wildlife reserve at Caleta Valdes in the afternoon to see elephants seals, sea lions and more native fauna. *B*

Day 4 Puerto Madryn
Visit Punta Tombo Fauna Reserve, the largest Magellanic penguin colony on the continent. From mid-April to mid-September the visit to the penguin rookery will be replaced by a tour to Valle de Chubut, and other Welsh villages. Continue to the airport. *B*

BAHIA BUSTAMENTE LODGE

Accommodating a maximum of 18 guests, a stay at Bahia Bustamente is like having the Valdes Peninsula all to yourself. Rustic but comfortable rooms provide the perfect base to explore the Atlantic Patagonian surroundings.

CARRETERA AUSTRAL

5 Days/ 4 Nights

Day 1 Balmaceda/ General Carrera Lake
Arrive at Balmaceda airport and transfer to your hotel on the shores of Lake General Carrera. *D*

Day 2 General Carrera Lake/ Pto Guadal
Take the Carretera Austral around the stunning blue General Carrera Lake. A short boat ride across the lake will bring you to the Marble Caves. Explore secret caves and breathtaking formations of coloured rocks – a unique and mesmerising sight. Afterwards continue to Puerto Guadal on the southern edge of the lake. *BD*

Day 3 Puerto Guadal/ Chile Chico
Depart early for the impressive Paso de las Llaves passage, famous for its height and views. As you travel along the track you'll be able to observe the drastic changes in vegetation from forest to grassland. Overnight in Chile Chico. *BD*

Day 4 Chile Chico/ Coyhaique
A ferry ride takes you across General Carrera Lake to Puerto Ingeniero Ibañez, enjoying the clarity of the waters of this glacier-fed lake. From here, continue your journey by land to Coyhaique. *BD*

Day 5 Coyhaique/ Balmaceda
After breakfast, transfer to Balmaceda airport for your onward flight. *B*

Osorno Volcano, Puerto Varas



HACIENDA VIRA VIRA

Welcome to the Hacienda Hotel Vira Vira and the 'Elegance of Adventure'. This remarkable hotel sits on the shores of the peaceful Liucura River and is surrounded by stunning volcanoes. The 'Elegance of Adventure' stands for personal hospitality coupled with unforgettable adventures and excursions. Activities include horse trekking in the Cordilleras, hiking in one of the many surrounding National Parks, skiing in winter or simply spending a leisurely day sailing on Lake Villarrica.



TIERRA CHILOE

Tierra Chiloe Hotel and Spa is set among the rich and timeless culture on the remote Chiloe Island. The rolling countryside and blue waters of the Pacific are the setting for the sustainable 12-room lodge, which comes complete with its own private vessel. Through Tierra's all-inclusive program, you can discover Chiloe by land and sea and enjoy locally sourced produce that arrives daily, including farm-fresh eggs, succulent oysters and the daily catch.



MITICO PUELO

With an exclusive location on the shores of Tagua Tagua Lake, and only accessible by ferry, Mitico Puelo Lodge offers secluded comfort and a wide range of excursions conducted by expert guides. All-inclusive programs include kayaking, hiking, horseriding and biking options as well as delicious regional cuisine and standout Chilean wines. Highlights include the nearby Tagua Tagua Waterfalls, horserides through the Puelo Valley, and kayaking the pristine waters of the Andean Mountain lakes.



ESTANCIA PEUMA HUE

This charming boutique hotel is nestled within the grounds of Nahuel Huapi National Park, in the northern Patagonia Lake District, just 30 minutes from Bariloche. With a capacity for 28 guests, and staff living on-site, the ecolodge offers a highly personalised experience and an inviting atmosphere for all. The large organic garden provides guests with healthy and delicious local cuisine matched with premium Argentine wines. Explore the impressive mountain scenery on horseback, or hike one of the numerous mountain trails that rise high above the estancia.



Perito Moreno Glacier

The soaring granite 'towers' of Torres del Paine are one of Patagonia's most iconic images, and the National Park is certainly a highlight for any traveller to this remote wilderness. A 3.5-hour flight from Santiago will bring you to Punta Arenas, the gateway to the region. With LATAM now flying into Puerto Natales during the summer months, the park is closer than ever. Stay in Puerto Natales and visit the park as a day trip (two hours by road), or opt for one of our *Stays of Distinction* and enjoy better access, fantastic excursions and world-class service and cuisine. After your stay, continue overland into Argentina to see the awe-inspiring Perito Moreno Glacier.



TIERRA PATAGONIA

An architectural marvel that blends seamlessly into the Patagonian pampa. Enjoy inspiring views of Torres del Paine National Park from every corner of the 40-room lodge. Warm interiors inspired by the local culture, and a welcoming team make you feel right at home. Tierra's all-inclusive program allows you to explore the surrounding estancias and mountains with some of the best-trained guides around.



EXPLORA PATAGONIA

Set on the shore of Lake Pehoe and conceived as an exploration base site, the refined comfort of the hotel is ideally suited for those wanting to relax after a day of trekking and exploring this stunning park. The hotel is all-inclusive and offers world-class dining, beautiful Chilean wines and exceptional sightseeing and touring options to keep you busy every day.



THE SINGULAR PATAGONIA

Formerly a cold storage plant built in the early 20th century, The Singular has been transformed into a hotel unlike any other, honouring the site's heritage and history with a stunning refurbishment. Located in Puerto Bories, the hotel offers 57 rooms and suites, a world-class spa, a gourmet restaurant and more than 20 different excursions – including those to Torres del Paine National Park.



AWASI PATAGONIA

Situated in a private reserve overlooking Torres del Paine National Park, Awasi has just 12 villas and a main lodge. Each villa is assigned a private guide and 4WD so guests can explore at their own pace, visiting where they want when they want. Each villa has a hot tub, a wood-burning stove, a living room and measures 80 square metres.



HOTEL LAS TORRES

Las Torres is a working private estancia, a comfortable and relaxed four-star lodge with 84 rooms. The lodge is simply furnished using local materials and artworks, while regional cuisine is showcased using largely locally grown produce. Located in the heart of the national park, this is an excellent base for hiking, 4WD excursions and horseriding.



ECOCAMP PATAGONIA

EcoCamp's cosy geodesic domes in the heart of Torres del Paine National Park provide the region's first fully sustainable accommodation, complete with green technology. The all-inclusive Patagonia Wildlife Safari program offers daily guided hikes and excursions. For more active travellers, the EcoCamp can be used as a base for 5 and 7-day W Treks.



Voted best small-ship ocean cruise line at the 2016 Travel and Leisure awards, the *Stella Australis* is the only ship offering expedition cruises in Southern Patagonia. In early 2018 she is set to be joined by an identical sister vessel, the *Ventus*. Each vessel has 100 cabins and can hold up to 210 passengers, offering travellers a relaxed stay while providing breathtaking sights from the decks.

FJORDS OF TIERRA DEL FUEGO

4 Nights Punta Arenas – Ushuaia

Day 1 Punta Arenas

Arrive in Punta Arenas and transfer to your ship. During the night, the ship will cross the Strait of Magellan and enter the labyrinth of channels that define the southern extreme of Patagonia. *D*

Day 2 Ainsworth Bay/ Tuckers Islets

Wake to the ship sailing up Almirante Sound, a spectacular offshoot of the Strait of Magellan. Enjoy a shore excursion to Ainsworth Bay where you might see the resident colony of elephant seals as well as copious birdlife. Take a Zodiac trip around the Tucker Islets to get close to a colony of Magellanic penguins. *BLD*

Day 3 Pia Glacier/ Glacier Alley

This morning you'll disembark for a hike to Pia Fjord and a great view of the icebergs. Continue sailing through picturesque Glacier Alley, a passage featuring a number of impressive tidewater glaciers flowing down from the Darwin Mountains and Darwin Ice Sheet. *BLD*

Day 4 Wulaia Bay/ Cape Horn

Drop anchor in Wulaia Bay this morning and enjoy a stroll through Magellan Forest. Navigate to Cape Horn National Park. Weather permitting, explore the flora and fauna of this remote windswept island. *BLD*

Day 5 Ushuaia

Disembark this morning in Ushuaia, the world's southernmost city. *B*

PATAGONIAN EXPLORER

4 Nights Ushuaia – Punta Arenas

***Operating as a 3 night itinerary until early 2018**

Day 1 Ushuaia

Arrive in Ushuaia and transfer to your ship. This evening, the vessel will navigate the narrow Murray Channel between Navarino and Hoste islands. *D*

Day 2 Cape Horn/ Wulaia Bay

Head to Cape Horn National Park where you can disembark (weather permitting). This afternoon, drop anchor in Wulaia Bay for a walk through Magellanic Forest. *BLD*

Day 3 Pia Glacier/ Garibaldi Glacier

Disembark in the morning for a short hike to Pia Fjord and a great view of the icebergs. This afternoon, visit Garibaldi Glacier and hike through virgin forest to a glacial waterfall, a towering wall of ferns and moss, and spectacular viewpoints looking down on the glacier and fjord. *BLD*

Day 4 Agostini Sound/ Condor Glacier

Enter Agostini Sound early in the morning to see the glaciers that descend from the middle of the Darwin Mountain Range. Hike around a lagoon with stunning views to Aguila Glacier. Navigate to Condor Glacier in the afternoon for a chance to see the abundant Andean condor. *BLD*

Day 5 Magdalena Island/ Punta Arenas

Visit the magnificent penguin colony on Magdalena Island in the morning (September and April visit Marta Island sea lion colony instead). Disembark in Punta Arenas around 11.30am. *B*

GAUCHOS, GLACIERS & PENGUINS

5 Nights Punta Arenas – Punta Arenas

Day 1 Punta Arenas

On arrival transfer to the hotel, located on the main square in town.

Day 2 Porvenir/ Rio Grande

Catch the ferry to Porvenir and head overland to King Penguin Park to see the only continental breeding colony. Cross into Argentina and overnight at a local estancia in Rio Grande. *BLD*

Day 3 Gauchos/ Ushuaia

A morning gaucho experience is followed by a traditional Patagonian lamb BBQ lunch. Travel overland to Ushuaia, the world's southernmost city, and board the *Stella Australis*. *BLD*

Day 4 Cape Horn/ Wulaia Bay

Navigate to Cape Horn National Park. Subject to weather conditions, explore the flora and fauna of this remote island. *BLD*

Day 5 Agostini and Aguila Glacier

Zigzag through the Cockburn Channel, Magdalena Channel and Keats Fjord to reach scenic Agostini Sound. An excursion visits Aguila Glacier where condors can often be seen. *BLD*

Day 6 Punta Arenas

A morning visit to the penguin colony on Magdalena Island (September and April visit Marta Island sea lion colony instead). Disembark in Punta Arenas around 11.30am. *B*



SKORPIOS CRUISES

Skorpios II has 53 cabins with private facilities and explores the remote Northern Ice Field, including San Rafael Glacier. *Skorpios III* has 45 cabins with private facilities and explores the Southern Ice Field, including Amalia Glacier.

CHONOS ROUTE

6 Days/ 5 Nights

Day 1 Puerto Montt

Begin sailing through the Llanquihue Archipelago. You'll catch sight of Calbuco City, Ancud Gulf and the Chiloe Archipelago as *Skorpios* sails south to cross the Corcovado Gulf at about midnight. *D*

Day 2 San Rafael Glacier

After a morning visit to the fishing village of Puerto Aguirre, continue sailing through the Ferronave, Pilcomayo and Costa Channels. After dinner, anchor near the San Rafael Glacier. *BLD*

Day 3 Quitalco Fjord

Cross the San Rafael Lagoon entrance early in the morning and prepare for boat excursions among the multi-coloured icebergs (weather permitting). Set sail for the Quitalco Fjord. *BLD*

Day 4 Perez Norte Channel

After breakfast, you can disembark and bathe at local thermal hot springs. Weather permitting, you can take boat excursions inside the fjord. This evening, set sail towards Chiloe Island. *BLD*

Day 5 Chiloe Island

Continue sailing the eastern coast of Chiloe Island, disembarking in the pretty city of Castro in the afternoon. After an evening farewell dinner and dance on board, sail through the night towards Puerto Montt. *BLD*

Day 6 Puerto Montt

Disembark at the pier in Puerto Montt around 9am. *B*

KAWESKAR ROUTE

4 Days/ 3 Nights

Day 1 Puerto Natales

Check in at the Skorpios Terminal in the morning and board your cruise. Begin sailing through the Angostura Kirke, Morla, Vicuña, Union, Collingwood and Sarmiento channels. *D*

Day 2 Amalia & El Brujo Glacier

Disembark in the morning at glaciers Amalia and El Brujo for short hikes to stunning viewpoints. Back on board you'll sail for the Calvo Fjord. Board the *Capitan Constantino* icebreaker and sail along the icy fjord. Visit the Fernando, Capitan Constantino and Alipio glaciers. Begin sailing towards Montañas Fjord later in the evening. *BLD*

Day 3 Montañas Fjord

This morning, visit Montañas Fjord to see four glaciers sliding down the side of Sarmiento Mountain then board the smaller expedition boats and visit Alsina Glacier and the lovely bay. After lunch, take the boats to a nearby beach then hike to the base of the Bernal Glacier. Back on board, the *Skorpios III* begins sailing back towards Puerto Natales, crossing Angostura Kirke later in the evening. You'll be treated to a farewell Captain's dinner and dance on board. *BLD*

Day 4 Puerto Natales

After arriving in Puerto Natales disembarkation begins around 8am at the Skorpios Terminal. *B*

M/V SANTA CRUZ

3D/2N Glaciers Expedition El Calafate

Explore some of Patagonia's most beautiful glacial scenery while enjoying high-end comfort and gourmet cuisine aboard the elegant *Santa Cruz*.

Day 1 El Calafate/ Bahia Alemana

Embark and sail to Bahia Alemana. Enjoy dinner and overnight on board. *BD*

Day 2 Bahia Alemana/ Bahia Toro

The first landing is at Puesto de las Vacas. Sail to Spegazzini and enjoy a gourmet lunch in front of the glacier. Continue to Upsala Glacier. Overnight in Bahia Toro. *BLD*

Day 3 Bahia Toro/ El Calafate

Enjoy a morning hike in the Patagonian forest with views of Mayo and Negro glaciers. Navigate through Canal de los Tempanos towards Perito Moreno Glacier, followed by a landing in Los Glaciares National Park. Return to El Calafate in the afternoon. *BL*



Day Cruise – Gourmet Glaciers

A fantastic alternative for those without the time to do the three-day cruise, Gourmet Glaciers is a full-day tour to see Upsala and Spegazzini glaciers with a gourmet lunch served on board.

Antarctica

by Ted Dziadkiewicz, Contours Travel founder



Antarctica



Antarctica is the last wilderness, an untamed and uninhabited continent that promises to dazzle even the most world-weary traveller with its stunning glacial landscapes, unique and prolific wildlife, and the feeling that comes from experiencing nature at its most extreme. Stepping onto the Antarctic Peninsula for the first time is an incredible experience and one that we recommend for everyone.

Most classic Antarctic Peninsula voyages start and end in Ushuaia, Argentina, although other options involve either one-way or roundtrip flights to King George Island from Punta Arenas, cutting out the infamous crossing of the Drake Passage. For those who set out from Tierra del Fuego, the Drake Passage crossing is punctuated with sightings of albatross, sea petrels and cormorants. Once you hit the calm waters of the Antarctic Peninsula the fun begins with up to two shore excursions per day (weather permitting). Zodiacs, or rubber boats, on board each ship make it possible to access the shores and walk upon the spectacular Antarctic continent. More adventurous passengers may like to try sea kayaking, mountaineering or cross-country skiing. And for the truly daring – an Antarctic plunge!

Early-season voyagers (November and early December) will experience Antarctica at its most pristine. Icebergs and ice formations are unweathered and at their sharpest and most dramatic, and the snow is a pure and dazzling white as the continent awakens from its winter slumber. Penguins are at their most active during November, with many species mating and nesting. Adventurous travellers choose early-season voyages because the sheer quantity of ice and snow allows skiing and snowshoeing – impossible on mid- and late-season voyages.

Peak season (mid-December to mid-February) offers wildlife viewing at its best with long daylight hours, incredible, drawn-out sunsets and, often, calmer seas. January is the time to see fluffy, grey penguin chicks hatching and experience them at their cutest! You may also get the chance to see playful fur seal pups frolic beside your Zodiac during these warmer summer months. Voyages during this peak period tend to sell out far in advance so it's important to plan ahead to secure your preferred ship and cabin type.

Late season (February and March) is the best time to see whales – orcas, humpback and sperm whales are abundant during this time. You may also still catch the odd penguin chick and experience the incredible noise and confusion of the rookeries at their busiest.

Wildlife lovers should be sure to include South Georgia on their itinerary. Known of the 'Serengeti of the Southern Ocean' the island has some of the greatest concentrations of wildlife on earth, including millions of fur seals, sea birds and southern elephant seals. Nothing can prepare you for witnessing almost half a million king penguins on Salisbury Plain!

Antarctic expeditions range from 7-day fly in/fly out trips to full-on 21-day expeditions to the Falklands, South Georgia and Antarctic Peninsula. If you can't find what you're looking for here, contact us for more options.

Antarctica

Highlights of Antarctica

1. Ushuaia

This bustling port town at the bottom tip of South America is the departure point for most Antarctic cruises.

2. Antarctic Peninsula

The continent's northernmost point is just 1,000km from Tierra del Fuego. The pristine coastline, majestic icebergs and remote wilderness of the peninsula form the quintessential Antarctic experience.

3. Falkland Islands

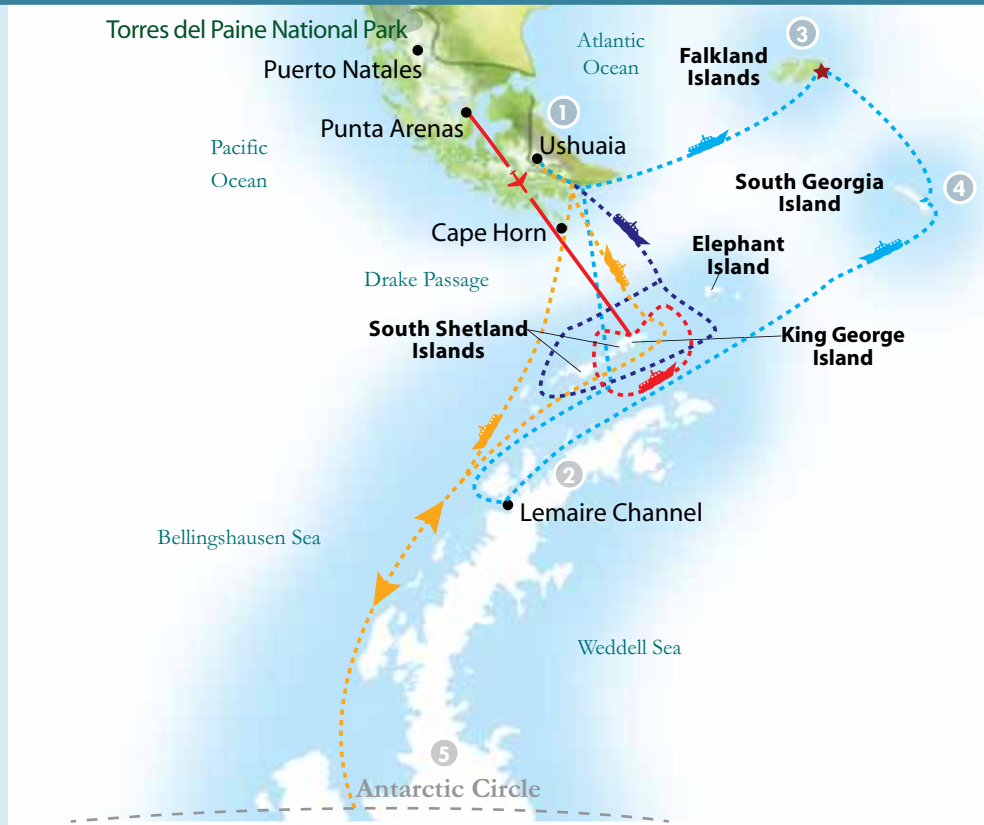
A remote and beautiful group of islands with a temperate climate, very welcoming people, and unbelievably rich in wildlife. Explore the quaint British town of Port Stanley.

4. South Georgia

The 'Galapagos of the Poles' boasts more than 30 species of birds, including many types of penguins, and one of the most biodiverse ecosystems on Earth.

5. Antarctic Circle

Explore the less frequently visited sites south of the Antarctic Circle and experience the midnight sun.



ANTARCTIC PENINSULA

These are typically 11 to 13-day voyages starting and ending in Ushuaia and sailing across the Drake Passage to the Antarctic Peninsula. Slightly longer itineraries aim to take you below the Antarctic Circle. Other variations include voyages to the Weddell Sea for a chance to see emperor penguins.

Day 1 Ushuaia

Embark and sail along the Beagle Channel and Mackinlay Pass. *D*

Days 2 & 3 Drake Passage

Cross the Antarctic Convergence. *BLD*

Days 4-8 South Shetland Islands & Antarctic Peninsula

Spectacular wildlife viewing is a highlight of the South Shetlands, where the majestic icebergs and the pristine wilderness of the Antarctic Peninsula will enthrall. Enjoy at least two landings per day, weather permitting. *BLD*

Days 9 & 10 Drake Passage

Leave Antarctica and head north across the Drake Passage. *BLD*

Day 11 Ushuaia

Disembark in Ushuaia. Ask us about offers to extend your trip. *B*

ANTARCTIC FLY/ CRUISE

A fantastic option for those who are pressed for time or don't wish to tackle the infamous Drake Passage, our fly/cruise options start and/or end in Punta Arenas and involve a charter flight to King George Island, from where you pick up the cruise. Variations include starting or ending in the Falkland Islands with flights between Punta Arenas and Stanley. The shortest fly/cruise voyage is just 7 days.

Day 1 Punta Arenas

Overnight in Punta Arenas. *D*

Day 2 King George Island

Fly to King George Island where you'll board a Zodiac to join your expedition vessel. *BLD*

Days 3-6 Antarctic Peninsula

Discover the iconic wildlife of the Antarctic Peninsula with daily Zodiac explorations. *BLD*

Day 7 King George Island

Return to King George Island and bid farewell to Antarctica before boarding your flight back to Punta Arenas, Chile. *B*

ANTARCTIC PENINSULA, FALKLANDS & SOUTH GEORGIA

These voyages are usually 18 to 21 days in length and include shore excursions to the Falkland and South Georgia islands. Combine the stunning beauty of the Antarctic Peninsula with the incredible wildlife of South Georgia and history of the Falklands for the ultimate Antarctic adventure.

Day 1 Ushuaia

Embark and sail through the Beagle Channel. *D*

Day 2 At Sea

Sail to the Falkland Islands. *BLD*

Days 3 & 4 Falklands

Explore the West Falklands Archipelago and the charming capital Stanley. *BLD*

Days 5 & 6 At Sea

Set sail for South Georgia. Look out for sea birds and whales en route. *BLD*

Days 7-9 South Georgia

South Georgia is bound to be a highlight, with its incredible abundance of wildlife including king penguins, fur seals and elephant seals. Visit Shackleton's grave. *BLD*

Days 10-12 At Sea

Sail towards the Antarctic Peninsula visiting the South Orkney Islands en route. *BLD*

Days 13-16 Antarctica

The Antarctic mainland's majestic icebergs and the pristine wilderness will enthrall. Enjoy at least two landings per day, weather permitting. *BLD*

Days 17 & 18 At Sea

Return to Ushuaia via the Drake Passage. *BLD*

Day 19 Ushuaia

Arrive in Ushuaia early in the morning. *B*

Antarctica



Antarctic regulations mean that only 100 passengers can go ashore at any one time. For that reason, we recommend choosing a smaller vessel to maximise the amount of time you spend ashore. Please contact your travel consultant if your preferred vessel is not listed.



M/V AKADEMIK IOFFE M/V SERGEY VAVILOV

96 Passengers

Designed for polar research, these twin ice-strengthened vessels are stable, comfortable and perfectly suited for expedition cruising. They feature identical deck plans, cabin types and spacious common areas including a hot water spa, sauna and plunge pool.

Vavilov offers fly/cruise itineraries as well as a unique cruise focusing purely on the wonderful wildlife of South Georgia. The *Ioffe's* 'Off the Beaten Track' itinerary offers a range of active options such as snowshoeing, sea kayaking, back country skiing and hiking. Complete outer gear (jackets and waders) is included for use on voyages.



PLANCIUS

116 Passengers

This vessel accommodates 116 passengers in 53 cabins with private facilities. The expedition-style vessel offers a restaurant/lecture room and a spacious observation lounge and bar with a full panoramic view. Its large open deck spaces offer excellent opportunities to enjoy the scenery and wildlife.

The *Plancius* and *Ortelius* 'BaseCamp' departures are perfect for more active travellers. During these voyages the ship will be taken to carefully chosen places in the Antarctic where passengers can have more time for adventure activities such as hiking, mountaineering, kayaking and even scuba diving.



M/V USHUAIA

84 Passengers

The ice-strengthened polar vessel *Ushuaia* is very well-appointed and provides ample deck space and an open bridge policy. The full complement of inflatable craft ensures superb landings and wildlife viewing opportunities on the otherwise inaccessible coastline. The *Ushuaia* has been refurbished to accommodate a maximum of 84 passengers in 41 comfortable twin cabins and suites.

Itineraries include 10 to 12-day Antarctica Peninsula voyages, slightly longer Weddell Sea and Polar Circle voyages and 18 to 20-day cruises that include the Falklands and South Georgia. All voyages start and end in Ushuaia.



HEBRIDEAN SKY

110 Passengers

Given a multimillion-dollar refit in 2016, the vessel added state-of-the-art stabilisation, fuel efficiency, and upgraded communications systems. Each suite features a sitting area, a private bathroom and a picture window. A number of suites include private balconies.

Cruises operating from Ushuaia include the Antarctic Peninsula, Antarctic Circle and longer voyages to the Falklands and South Georgia. This ship also operates as part of an fly/cruise, with 8-day itineraries.



ORTELIUS

106 Passengers

The expedition-style *Ortelius* offers simple but comfortable cabins, and a relaxed onboard atmosphere. Boasting the highest ice class notation, the vessel is ideal for exploring remote locations.

A unique feature of the vessel is the helipad. In places where it's not possible to land a Zodiac, passengers are transferred by helicopter (weather permitting) – a thrilling addition to an already incredible adventure. Rubber boots are included for use on all voyages.



OCEAN NOVA

72 Passengers

Perfect for those with limited time, or who don't fancy crossing the infamous Drake Passage, an fly/cruise allows you to reach the White Continent in the shortest time possible. A two-hour charter flight takes you from Chile to Antarctica, where you board the *Ocean Nova*.

The ship boasts comfortable outside cabins, all with private facilities. Common areas include a glass-enclosed observation lounge and presentation room, spacious dining room, bar and library.

Brazil

Iguaçu Falls photo by Embratur





From the world's largest flood plains to the Amazon rainforest, white sandy beaches to teeming metropolises, and rugged mountainous landscapes to baroque colonial architecture, Brazil is a country of astonishing geographic diversity. Boasting an incredible seventeen UNESCO World Heritage-listed sites, Brazil's natural and man-made wonders draw visitors from all over the world. The Brazilian people are just as alluring, exuberant, joyous and hospitable. After all, this is a nation renowned for throwing the world's biggest street party! Indigenous, European and African influences collide to give Brazil a unique cultural identity, expressed throughout the country in food, dance, music, religion and rituals.

Brazil's colonial heritage is reflected in the streets of picturesque towns dotted around the country. Visit Ouro Preto and glimpse the riches generated by Brazil's gold rush. From Rio de Janeiro, take a trip south along the coast and spend a few days wandering the cobblestone streets of Paraty. In the country's north, Salvador de Bahia and Olinda are living monuments to Brazil's Portuguese legacy.

For wildlife enthusiasts, few experiences can beat a trip to the world's largest wetland region, the Pantanal. Sprawling over a vast area of Brazil, Paraguay and Bolivia, the Pantanal contains up to twelve distinct ecosystems and changes dramatically throughout the year as the seasons shift. See the bright blue hyacinth macaw, giant anteater, toco toucan, armadillo, coati and perhaps the elusive puma or jaguar that roam the region. June to October is the best time to spot mammals as the waters recede for the dry season. From November to May the region becomes a birdwatcher's paradise.

The mighty Amazon River reaches the Atlantic Ocean after travelling thousands of kilometres through Brazil. Fly to Manaus, the capital of Amazonas, to join an Amazon cruise or head out to stay at one of the many lodges in the region. See the famous Meeting of the Waters where the Rio Negro and Rio Solimões converge. The Brazilian Amazon is at its wettest between February and April, and its hottest and driest from September to November – the mighty Amazon River rises and falls by an astonishing 12 to 15 metres between these two seasons.

With more than 7,000km of coastline, it's no wonder that life in Brazil tends to revolve around the beach. Vendors walk the busy city beaches of Rio de Janeiro, Recife and Salvador from dawn until dusk, selling cold drinks, snacks – even the famous Brazilian bikini. In laid-back Fernando de Noronha, you'll often have the beach all to yourself, not to mention some of the world's best scuba diving and snorkelling opportunities! From the relaxed charm of Jericoacoara to the ultra-chic beach resort of Buzios, Brazil's beaches have something for everyone.

Brazil

Highlights of Brazil

1. Rio de Janeiro

Granite mountains, white-sand beaches and lush rainforest combine to create one of the world's most spectacular cities.

2. Foz do Iguaçu

The Brazilian side of the falls boasts the best panoramic views of majestic Iguaçu. Surrounded by tropical forest, it offers great birdwatching opportunities.

3. Pantanal

For wildlife enthusiasts, a trip to the world's largest wetland region is hard to beat. See blue hyacinth macaw, giant anteater, toucan and more with a stay in a traditional fazenda.

4. Colonial Cities

Ouro Preto, Salvador and Olinda are just a few of Brazil's stunning colonial cities.

5. Amazon Region

Fly to Manaus to join a cruise on the mighty Amazon River or head out to one of the many lodges in the region. See the famous Meeting of the Waters where the Rio Negro and Rio Solimões converge.



A TASTE OF RIO

6 Days/ 5 Nights

Day 1 Rio de Janeiro

Transfer to your hotel on arrival. We offer a wide range of accommodation in popular Copacabana, upmarket Ipanema and the bohemian district of Santa Teresa.

Day 2 Rio de Janeiro

Depart this morning for Corcovado Mountain, where you'll see the enormous statue of Christ the Redeemer and enjoy fabulous views over the city. Continue to Santa Teresa for lunch and wander the scenic cobblestone streets. *BL*

Day 3 Rio de Janeiro

A morning walking tour explores the waterfront area that was rejuvenated for the 2016 Olympics and is now a lovely place for a bike ride or a walk. See the stunning architecture of the Museum of Tomorrow and the Museum of Rio Art. Take an afternoon sunset tour of Sugarloaf Mountain, riding the cable cars for great views over Rio's famous beaches. *B*

Day 4 Rio de Janeiro

Spend the morning at leisure. This afternoon, visit a neighbourhood percussion school where students of various ages and experience levels come together to celebrate the rhythms of Brazil. This exhilarating experience is unique to Contours Travel. *B*

Day 5 Rio de Janeiro

Take a morning jeep tour up into one of Rio's favelas where you'll see another side of life for cariocas (residents of Rio). Locals have welcomed the tours as a way of creating a positive source of income. After an afternoon at leisure experience some of the colour and glamour of Carnival with a live samba show and dinner. *BD*

Day 6 Rio de Janeiro

Transfer to the airport for your onward flight or ask us about Rio's excellent nearby beach breaks – colonial Paraty and chic Buzios are both popular weekend destinations for locals. *B*

CARNIVAL

Held every year during the week leading up to Lent, Rio Carnival attracts some two million revellers from all corners of the globe. Samba schools around Rio prepare year-round for the biggest event on the Rio calendar when the city comes alive with an amazing energy. Seeing the spectacular display of colour and movement inside the Sambadrome is unforgettable and something everyone should experience at least once.

2018	9 to 14 Feb
2019	1 to 6 Mar
2020	21 to 26 Feb



COLONIAL CIRCUIT

5 Days/ 4 Nights

Day 1 Belo Horizonte/ Tiradentes

Arrive in Belo Horizonte and transfer to Congonhas, once an important mining centre. Visit the stunning baroque Basilica, constructed in the late 1700's and see the impressive rococo interior. Continue to Tiradentes with lunch en route. *L*

Day 2 Tiradentes

Enjoy a walking tour of beautiful Tiradentes, with its cobblestone streets, historic houses and the lovely baroque architecture of its numerous churches. Framed by the São Jose Mountain Range, the city is one of Brazil's finest colonial beauties. Spend the afternoon exploring hiking trails in the surrounding hills at your leisure. *B*

Day 3 Tiradentes/ Ouro Preto

Transfer to Ouro Preto after breakfast, visiting São Joao del Rei en route. Founded in 1698, Ouro Preto is a masterpiece of colonial architecture, and a UNESCO World Heritage-Listed site. *B*

Day 4 Ouro Preto

Enjoy a tour to nearby Mariana's exemplary colonial architecture. Return to spend the afternoon exploring Ouro Preto, with views of surrounding mountains over red-tiled roofs and baroque church towers. *B*

Day 5 Ouro Preto

Transfer back to Belo Horizonte airport for your onward flight. *B*



SALVADOR & CHAPADA

7 Days/ 6 Nights

Day 1 Salvador

Arrive and transfer to your hotel.

Day 2 Salvador

Take a morning walking tour of the UNESCO World Heritage-Listed centre. Explore Salvador's African roots, which are evident in its music, dance, cuisine and culture. End the day with a folkloric ballet at the Miguel Santana Theatre. *B*

Day 3 Salvador/ Chapada Diamantina

Travel by bus to Lencois (6hrs) or take a direct flight (Thu and Sun only). Take an afternoon walking tour to Serrano pools and the Cachoeira da Primaveira waterfall. *B*

Day 4 Chapada Diamantina

Visit Lapa Doce Cave, with the second-largest limestone formations in Brazil in the morning. Continue to Pratinha where you can swim in the crystal clear waters. Finish at Pai Inacio table mountain for picture postcard views and a stunning sunset. *B*

Day 5 Chapada Diamantina

Transfer to the trailhead and hike uphill for spectacular views of the valley and mountain scenery. Continue for a leisurely hour to the Fumaça, or 'smoking' Falls, a 380m waterfall named for the thick mists of spray. *B*

Day 6 Lencois/ Salvador

Return by bus or plane to Salvador, with a transfer to your hotel on arrival. *B*

Day 7 Salvador

Transfer to the airport or extend your stay in the region with a visit to the stunning Morro de São Paulo on Ilha Tinhare. *B*

ATLANTIC RAINFOREST

4 Days/ 3 Nights

Day 1 Curitiba

Arrive in Curitiba and transfer to your hotel. We recommend visiting the beautiful Botanic Gardens in the afternoon, and the Oscar Niemeyer Museum is a must for lovers of bold architecture.

Day 2 Curitiba/ Ilha do Mel

Transfer to the train station in Curitiba in the morning to board the Serra Verde Express. This stunning train journey departs Curitiba and descends 900m through the lush Serra do Mar to the historic town of Morretes. Enjoy views of the Atlantic rainforest, mountain canyons and tropical lowlands on this dramatic journey. After time to explore Morretes, transfer by boat to beautiful Ilha do Mel (Honey Island), and spend your afternoon at leisure. *B*

Day 3 Ilha do Mel

A relaxing day to enjoy the island at your leisure. Stroll to the lighthouse for stunning views or visit the magnificent Encantadas Cave. *B*

Day 4 Ilha do Mel/ Curitiba

After breakfast, take the boat to Pontal do Sul and continue by road to Curitiba. Transfer to your hotel or the airport on arrival. *B*

BRAZIL BEACH BREAKS

With more than 7,000km of coastline its no surprise that Brazil contains some of the best beaches in Latin America – if not the world. Below are some of our favourites:

Buzios

An ultra-chic resort just three hours from Rio. Upscale accommodation and dining options and excellent nightlife make this a favourite of Rio's residents, or 'cariocas'.

Paraty

A UNESCO World Heritage-listed colonial gem on the stunning Angra do Reis Bay, Paraty is three hours from Rio and backed by lush Atlantic rainforest.

Florianopolis

One of the most accessible options with direct international flights from Santiago and Buenos Aires, Florianopolis offers fabulous surf spots and a range of accommodation options around Santa Catarina Island.

Fernando de Noronha

One of the most exquisite beach destinations in the world, Fernando is located 350km off the northeast coast of Brazil and offers excellent diving and snorkelling. Fly to Fernando from Natal and Recife.

Recife

The northeast's most exciting city also contains some of the loveliest urban beaches in Brazil. Calm turquoise waters stretch north to Olinda, a historic colonial city with an artsy bohemian vibe.



M/V AMAZON CLIPPER PREMIUM

Manaus
2, 3 & 5-Night cruises

The first class riverboat *M/V Amazon Clipper Premium* hosts 32 guests in 16 spacious outside cabins, with lower beds and private ensuite facilities. Common areas include an air-conditioned dining room, sundeck with 360-degree panoramic views, a lecture room with library, and a jacuzzi and outdoor showers for refreshing and relaxing. Five-night cruises explore the Amazon and Rio Negro, including the Lake Janauari Ecological Park and Anavilhanas Archipelago.



M/Y TUCANO

Manaus
4 & 6-Night cruises

Accommodating a maximum of 18 passengers, the Motor Yacht *Tucano* is comfortable, intimate and fun. This is not a luxury cruise, but rather a base for an exhilarating Amazon adventure. The riverboat features a large outdoor deck, air-conditioned salon and beautiful woodwork throughout. The 6-night voyage explores some of the most untouched rainforest in the Amazon, venturing up the Rio Negro channels. You will visit the Lake Janauari Ecological Park, Anavilhanas Archipelago and the northernmost point of the cruise, the Rio Jauaperi.



M/V DESAFIO

Manaus
3 & 6-Night cruises

This refurbished wooden-hulled schooner features 12 cabins divided between the upper and lower decks and sleeps 24 passengers. Common areas include an air-conditioned restaurant with panoramic windows and an outdoor sundeck with bar. Six-night cruises will take you to Anavilhanas, the largest river archipelago in the world with more than 400 islands. You will also visit the Jau National Park, containing the largest area of protected tropical rainforest in the world.



by Axel Giering, for Jaguar Houseboat



ANAVILHANAS JUNGLE LODGE

Manaus
Minimum stay 3 Days/ 2 Nights

Located 3.5 hours from Manaus, Anavilhanas Jungle Lodge has 20 exclusive suites arranged in cottages and bungalows with air-conditioning and private balconies, plus a swimming pool for guests. Choose from a range of activities including jungle hikes, fishing, canoe rides, pink dolphin spotting and visits to local communities.



MIRANTE DO GAVIAO

Manaus
Minimum stay 3 Days/ 2 Nights

Located 3 hours from Manaus this exclusive and intimate lodge contains just 7 suites, each with its own personal guide, oversized king size beds, air-conditioning and a large terrace, and some including hot tubs. The architecturally striking lodge features several lookout points, a divine swimming pool and relaxing lounge area.



CRISTALINO JUNGLE LODGE

Recommended 4 nights minimum

Located in the Southern Amazon about 2 hours from Alta Floresta airport, the lodge places an emphasis on sustainable tourism practices. Guests enjoy chic accommodation, spacious common areas and a floating river deck. The lodge offers programs for all nature lovers, including birdwatching, family groups and photography. As the lodge is quite remote, we recommend four-night stays or longer.



CAIMAN ECOLOGICAL REFUGE

Pantanal, Campo Grande
Jun–Sep: Fixed 3 & 4-Night packages
Oct–May: Daily departures

This working cattle ranch is located 4 hours from Campo Grande Airport, in the Pantanal. Choose from luxury suites or standard accommodation with air-conditioning and private facilities. Enjoy cosy common areas, fabulous home-style meals and a swimming pool. Activities include photo safaris, trail walking and canoe rides. Why not extend your trip with a visit to Bonito?



ARARAS ECOLOGDE

Pantanal, Cuiaba

Located on a 2,780 hectare private reserve, Araras Ecolodge offers 19 comfortable air-conditioned rooms, all with private bathrooms and large verandahs with hammocks. Enjoy stunning views of the Pantanal from the top of the lodge's observation towers, and refreshing dips in the pool between excursions. Activities include trekking, birdwatching, canoeing, horseback riding and photo safaris, all conducted with expert local guides. Visits to Araras can be combined with the Park Ecolodge in the unique Chapada dos Guimarães region, or a stay on the Jaguar Houseboat.



JAGUAR HOUSEBOAT

Pantanal, Cuiaba

Visited in combination with Araras Ecolodge, the Jaguar Houseboat is in an area with the one of the highest density of jaguar in the entire Pantanal, making it one of the best places in Latin America to see the continent's largest predator. The vessel is anchored in a bay on the banks of the Paraguay River, not far from the Taiama Ecological Reserve Island and has 9 air-conditioned cabins with private facilities, an outdoor deck and small motorboats for exploring the surrounding waterways. Visit between July and October for the best chance to see these magnificent felines.

Colombia

Highlights of Colombia

1. Cartagena de Indias

This walled colonial city on the Caribbean coast is a UNESCO World Heritage site and an architectural gem. Beat the heat with an escape to nearby Playa Blanca.

2. Bogota

The Colombia capital is a cosmopolitan metropolis with splendid museums, bustling markets and scintillating nightlife. Visit the mesmerising underground Salt Cathedral of Zipaquirá.

3. Coffee Triangle

A region of picturesque towns nestled among verdant green hills and acres of coffee. Sample a freshly roasted 'tinto' and stay overnight at a historic hacienda.

4. Colonial Towns

Explore quiet cobblestoned colonial towns such as Villa de Leyva, Antioquia, Popayan, Barichara and Raquira.

5. Caribbean Coast

Visit the palm-fringed beaches of Tayrona National Park, hike to the spectacular ruins of The Lost City and enjoy Colombian cuisine in the cosmopolitan city of Santa Marta.



DISCOVER COLOMBIA

15 Days/ 14 Nights

Day 1 Bogota

Arrive in Bogota and transfer to your hotel.

Day 2 Bogota

A half-day city tour includes visits to La Candelaria, Capilla del Sagrario, the Gold Museum and the Botero Museum. Take the cable car to Monserrate lookout for views of the city and the Andes mountain range. *B*

Day 3 Bogota/ Villa de Leyva

Depart Bogota, travelling north to Zipaquirá where you'll visit the famous underground Salt Cathedral. Continue to the pretty colonial village of Villa de Leyva and stay overnight. *BL*

Day 4 Villa de Leyva/ Bogota

On the way back to Bogota you'll visit the Convento del Santo Ecce Homo, founded in 1620. Afternoon at leisure in Bogota. *B*

Day 5 Bogota/ Coffee Region

Fly to Pereira and transfer to your traditional hacienda accommodation. Enjoy an afternoon tour of a coffee plantation. *B*

Day 6 Coffee Region

Begin with a city tour of Filandia. Continue to Cocora Valley Natural Reserve for trekking or horseback riding among the iconic Quindío wax palm, Colombia's national tree. After lunch, travel to Salento, the oldest town in the region, and visit a traditional handcraft factory. *BL*

Day 7 Coffee Region/ Medellin

Fly to Medellin and transfer to your hotel. Once synonymous with crime and cartels, Medellin has undergone a rapid transformation and is now one of Colombia's most liveable cities. *B*

Day 8 Medellin

Depart with your guide on a half-day tour showcasing the city's social transformation. Visit Poblado, where Pablo Escobar once lived, and witness the dramatic changes that saw Medellin dubbed the most innovative city in the world in 2013. *B*

Day 9 Medellin

Enjoy a full-day tour to the picturesque town of Guatapé, where the houses are intricately painted in colourful designs. Visit enormous El Peñol rock, thought to be part of a meteorite due to its size, and climb to the top for stunning views over the man-made Guatapé Lake. *B*

Day 10 Medellin/ Cartagena

Fly to Cartagena and transfer to your hotel in the old city. An afternoon tour takes in the city's colonial district, Parque Bolívar, Museo del Oro, the Palace of the Inquisition, Santo Domingo church, the Ramparts and the Museo de las Fortificaciones. *B*

Day 11 Cartagena

A day at leisure to relax and explore. Consider an optional excursion to Rosario Islands or a visit to the markets with a local

chef to learn about the astonishing variety of local produce and sample some of Colombia's exotic fruits. *B*

Day 12 Cartagena

A day at leisure. Consider a day trip to San Basilio de Palenque, a community of the descendants of escaped slaves from the colonial period of the 17th century, which has survived intact in San Basilio along with their practices, customs and traditions. *B*

Day 13 Cartagena/ Santa Marta

Travel overland to Santa Marta and enjoy an afternoon tour of the historic centre, including the imposing Cathedral and the nearby Bay of Taganga. *B*

Day 14 Santa Marta

Enjoy a full-day tour to the spectacular Tayrona National Park, located at the foot of the Sierra Nevada Mountain Range, with dreamlike white sandy beaches surrounded by turquoise blue waters, coral reefs, densely rich jungle and mangroves. You'll have a light hike through the forest and time for a swim before returning to your hotel. *B*

Day 15 Santa Marta

Transfer to the airport for your onward flight. *B*



ESSENTIAL COLOMBIA

7 Days/ 6 Nights

Day 1 **Bogota**

Arrive in Bogota and transfer to your hotel.

Day 2 **Bogota**

A half-day city tour, with visits to La Candelaria, Capilla del Sagrario, the Gold Museum and the Botero Museum. Ride the cable car to Monserrate lookout for views of the city and the Andes mountain range. *B*

Day 3 **Bogota/ Coffee Region**

Fly to Pereira and transfer to your traditional hacienda accommodation. Enjoy an afternoon tour of a coffee plantation. *B*

Day 4 **Coffee Region**

After a city tour of Filandia, continue to Cocora Valley Natural Reserve for trekking or horseback riding. After lunch, travel to Salento, the oldest town in the region, and visit a traditional handcraft factory. *BL*

Day 5 **Coffee Region/ Cartagena**

Fly to Cartagena. Take an afternoon city tour of Cartagena de Indias, visiting the colonial district, Parque Bolivar, Museo del Oro, Santo Domingo church, the Ramparts and the Museo de las Fortificaciones. *B*

Day 6 **Cartagena**

A free day to explore Cartagena on your own, with an optional boat trip to Rosario Island to swim and snorkel. *B*

Day 7 **Cartagena**

Depart Cartagena. Why not fly to Panama City and visit the famous Panama Canal? *B*

COLOMBIA'S COFFEE ROUTE

5 Days/ 4 Nights

Enjoy the freedom of having your own wheels in Colombia's picturesque coffee region. Excellent roads and little traffic make this the perfect self-drive destination. This itinerary is also available with driver/guide.

Day 1 **Armenia**

Arrive at Armenia airport and transfer with your guide to pick up your car. The beautiful Hacienda Bambusa is about a 30-minute drive away.

Day 2 **Armenia**

Visit Hacienda San Alberto, one of the region's typical coffee estates, to learn about the process of cultivating and roasting Colombia's renowned beans. Afternoon at leisure. *B*

Day 3 **Armenia/ Pereira**

Leave for the Valle de Cocora, home to the Quindian wax palm which can grow to 60m tall. Enjoy a self-guided hike through the cloud forest and towering palms. Visit lovely Salento, with its brightly coloured buildings and a quaint central plaza, in the afternoon then continue to Boutique Hotel Sazagua for an overnight stay. *B*

Day 4 **Pereira**

A free day to explore the surrounding countryside. Options include the Los Nevados National Park or the Rio Blanco Natural Reserve – a great spot for birdwatchers. *B*

Day 5 **Pereira**

Drive to Pereira airport and return your hire car. *B*

LA GUAJIRA PENINSULA

5 Days/ 4 Nights

Discover the wild northernmost tip of Colombia, a land of extremes and home to the indigenous Wayuu culture. This is a trip for adventurous travellers!

Day 1 **Riohacha/ Cabo de la Vela**

Arrive at Riohacha airport and transfer 60km to Manaure through the stark, barren landscape. After a brief stop in Uribia you'll continue on dirt roads to Cabo de la Vela. Overnight in rustic but comfortable accommodation. *LD*

Day 2 **Cabo de la Vela/ Punta Gallinas**

Depart for the northernmost tip of the continent, Punta Gallinas. You'll experience the stark nature of the region as you drive through Bahia Portete, Bahia Honda and the dunes of Taroa. Enjoy the solitude and silence with an overnight stay in hammocks at a simple ranch. *LD*

Day 3 **Punta Gallinas/ Cabo de la Vela**

Take a morning boat excursion to Punta Aguja with time for a swim. Return to Cabo de la Vela after lunch. *BLD*

Day 4 **Cabo de la Vela/ Riohacha**

Visit Playa Pilon de Azucar in the morning to see where the Caribbean Sea breaks on golden sands. Hike to a near by hilltop for fantastic 360-degree views. Return to Riohacha after lunch. *BL*

Day 5 **Riohacha**

Transfer to the airport after breakfast. *B*

Paraguay



Paraguay may fly under the radar for most travellers to South America, but this country has much to offer those who like to get off the beaten track.

About 60% of the country is covered by the wild northern Chaco region – home to an astonishing number of bird and mammal species, many of which are endemic. The Rio Paraguay runs north to south through the centre of the country. Take a river cruise on one of the grand old vessels that ply the calm waters.

The Jesuit Missions in the south of the country provide a fascinating glimpse into Paraguay's past, while the Mennonite communities of Filadelfia and its surrounding townships are a more modern example of the country's religious diversity.

Venezuela



Angel Falls

With a wealth of natural attractions including the wildlife-rich regions of Las Llanos and the labyrinthine waterways of the Orinoco Delta, one sight stands out above the rest – the spectacular single drop waterfall of Angel Falls. Located in Canaima National Park, the falls are best visited between June and December when water levels are high enough to approach the landmark by boat. The park is also home to the famous tepui (table mountain) of Roraima – the tallest in Venezuela and undoubtedly one of the country's most spectacular sights.

Due to political and economic instability, travel to Venezuela was not recommended at the time of printing. Please consult Smart Traveller at www.smarttraveller.gov.au before considering travel to this beautiful country.

Guyana & Suriname



BEST OF THE GUYANAS

14 Days/ 13 Nights

Day 1 Georgetown, Guyana
Arrive and transfer to your hotel.

Day 2 Kaieteur Falls, Guyana
Board your flight to Kaieteur Falls, the world's highest free-falling waterfall. *BL*

Day 3 Karanambu Lodge, Guyana
After a morning flight to Lethem, transfer across the Rupununi Savannah to Karanambu Lodge then enjoy an afternoon excursion looking for giant river otters. *BLD*

Day 4 Karanambu Lodge, Guyana
Make an early start to reach an area which is home to a population of giant anteaters. Enjoy evening excursions from the lodge. *BLD*

Day 5 Surama, Guyana
Travel along the Rupununi River by boat spotting various wildlife along the way. Arrive at your accommodation in the Amerindian village of Surama in the afternoon. *BLD*

Day 6 Surama, Guyana
Rise before dawn for a walk across the savannah. In the afternoon, paddle on the Burro Burro River for opportunities to observe giant river otters, tapirs and spider monkeys. *BLD*

Day 7 Atta Rainforest Lodge, Guyana
Transfer to the Atta Rainforest Lodge in Iwokrama Forest with activities along the way. The lodge offers a 154m-long canopy walkway. *BLD*

Day 8 Georgetown, Guyana
Start with an early morning canopy walk. Transfer to The Iwokrama forest in search of the elusive Jaguar before a flight to Georgetown this afternoon. *B*

Day 9 Paramaribo, Suriname
Fly to Paramaribo and enjoy a walking tour of the UNESCO World Heritage-listed city. Evening sunset tour to spot dolphins. *B*

Day 10 Anaula, Suriname
Travel by road to Atjoni. A boat will take you to the Anaula Nature Resort at the foot of the Ferulassi falls. Search for caiman in the evening. *BLD*

Day 11 Anaula, Suriname
Visit New Aurora for a guided tour through the village. Meet the local people and learn about their unique way of living. Enjoy traditional dancing performances in the evening. *BLD*

Day 12 Paramaribo, Suriname
A free morning to choose from various activities before returning to Paramaribo in the afternoon. *BL*

Day 13 Paramaribo, Suriname
A full-day tour of Paramaribo's colonial plantations and museums. *BL*

Day 14 Paramaribo, Suriname
Transfer to the airport for departing flights. *B*

FRENCH GUIANA EXTENSION

5 Days/ 4 Nights

For those wanting to explore more of this remote corner of the continent, an extension to French Guiana is an excellent option.

Day 1 Paramaribo/ Kourou
Depart early, travelling east along Suriname's coastal road, to reach the border with French Guiana. In the afternoon, tour the city of Saint Laurent Du Maroni, including the former Slave Transport Centre. Continue to Kourou and overnight.

Day 2 Kourou/ Cayenne
After breakfast, sail to Saint Joseph Island for a tour of the notorious former penal colony. Return to Kourou and transfer to Cayenne, capital of French Guiana. *B*

Day 3 Cayenne
A half-day tour to Cacao, a H'mong village 60km from the capital and surrounded by lush jungle. Visit the market, village and plantations and return to your hotel in the afternoon. *B*

Day 4 Cayenne
Tour the city of Cayenne, including the town hall and local market. Head to the Guiana Space Centre in the afternoon for a tour of this remote shuttle launch site. *B*

Day 5 Cayenne
Transfer to the airport for your onward flight. *B*





Mexico is a land of extremes. From rainforests to vast deserts, tropical beaches to snow-covered volcanoes this diversity, combined with the multitude of cultures, archaeological masterpieces, quaint villages and a rich history, makes Mexico the perfect destination for today's traveller. The Maya aren't the only indigenous people of Mexico – the Olmec, Zapotec, Toltec and Aztec civilisations have all left their imprints on the modern face of this fascinating country with some 53 language groups still existing throughout the country.

Amazing archaeological sites scattered around the country are Mexico's most fascinating treasures. Less than 50km from Mexico City, Teotihuacan dates back more than 2000 years and was once the most powerful city of the New World. Palenque's temples rise mysteriously out of the jungle in the country's south. The Yucatan Peninsula has a great concentration of famous and lesser-known sites including Chichen Itza, Tulum, Calakmul and Uxmal. Consider renting a car to explore this fascinating and compact part of Mexico (see page 74).

With beautifully preserved colonial buildings, rich Spanish art and architecture and world-class museums, Mexico's colonial cities are a must on any itinerary. To the north and west of Mexico City you can explore the historic cities that make up the Colonial Heritage trail – San Miguel Allende, Zacatecas and Guanajuato are standouts. To the south-east of the capital, beautiful Puebla and the food capital of Oaxaca are not to be missed, while San Cristobal de las Casas in Chiapas is always a favourite.

Mexico is also home to an enormous wealth of natural beauty. The Copper Canyon is four times larger than the Grand Canyon and an awe-inspiring region. The Chihuahua al Pacifico Railroad carries passengers from sea level to an altitude of more than 2,400m, passing through 86 tunnels and gliding over 39 major bridges. Constantly changing scenery includes coastal plains, sub-tropical forests, wild rivers, towering waterfalls and snow-capped mountain peaks. From the maze of gorges that make up the Copper Canyon to the spectacular whale watching region around the Sea of Cortez, lush tropical rainforest and the aquamarine waters of the Caribbean coast, Mexico's incredible diversity ensures there's something to see all year round.

Mexican cuisine deserves a special mention – tacos, tamales and tortillas are just the beginning. Mexico has an incredible range of fresh produce and unique regional dishes, many of which have their origins in Aztec or Maya recipes and cooking techniques. Learn the secrets of creating the perfect mole poblano and discover the history of cacao during our fabulous culinary tour (page 71).

Discover Mexico & Cuba



WHY DISCOVER?

- ✓ Explore the highlights of two of the region's most fascinating countries
- ✓ Tailored itinerary that is fully flexible to suit your tastes and budget
- ✓ See the imprint of the Olmec, Zapotec, Toltec, Maya and Aztec civilisations on modern Mexico
- ✓ Visit the colonial gems of Puebla, Oaxaca and San Cristobal de las Casas
- ✓ Taste some of Mexico's finest cuisine in the foodie capital of Oaxaca
- ✓ The villages of San Bartolo Coyotepec, San Martin Tilcajete and Santo Tomas Jalieza are famous for their unique handcrafts, considered some of the best in the country
- ✓ History buffs can't miss Palenque and Chichen Itza – two of Mexico's most impressive Maya ruins
- ✓ Relax on the stunning Yucatan Peninsula
- ✓ Cruise the streets of Old Havana in a classic vintage car
- ✓ Delve into Cuba's colonial past with a visit to the Manaca-Iznaga Plantation House
- ✓ Learn about one of Cuba's revolutionary heroes at the Che Guevara memorial

Day 1 Mexico City

Arrive in Mexico City and transfer to your hotel.

Day 2 Mexico City

Depart early for Teotihuacan Ruins to see the Pyramids of the Sun and Moon and enjoy the ruins in the cooler part of the day. Return to Mexico City to explore the highlights, including the Zocalo, Cathedral, National Palace and the world-renowned Museum of Anthropology. *B*

Day 3 Mexico City

A half-day tour of the bohemian district of Coyoacan, including the famous Frida Kahlo Museum. *B*

Day 4 Mexico City/ Puebla

Pass towering snow-capped volcanoes as you travel overland to Puebla. The town is famous for its hand-painted 'talavera' tiles and ceramics, and its streets, churches and plazas are a constant reminder of this beautiful craft. *B*

Day 5 Puebla

A day at leisure to relax and explore this UNESCO World Heritage-listed city. *B*

Day 6 Puebla/ Oaxaca

An overland bus ride to Oaxaca, encircled by the Sierra Mountains. Beautiful Oaxaca was once the centre of the Mixtec and Zapotec civilisations. *B*

Day 7 Oaxaca

A half-day tour to the ruins of Monte Alban. See exquisite architecture, unique stone mosaics and stunning views over the Central Valleys. *B*

Day 8 Oaxaca

After a morning tour of the local markets, learn some traditional Oaxacan recipes at a cooking class. Enjoy the fruits of your labours with a delicious lunch. Spend the afternoon at leisure. *BL*

Day 9 Oaxaca/ Tuxtla/ San Cristobal

Fly to Tuxtla Gutierrez. On arrival you'll be transferred to San Cristobal via the Sumidero Canyon. Enjoy a boat ride along the Grijalva River to view the impressive canyon walls, over a kilometre high. *B*

Day 10 San Cristobal

Visit to the colourful market and the native villages of Chamula and Zinacantan in the morning. These living Tzotzil communities conserve important ancient traditions. *B*

Day 11 San Cristobal/ Palenque

Enjoy a morning drive to Agua Azul waterfalls where you can take a refreshing swim. Continue to Palenque in the afternoon and stay overnight. *B*

Day 12 Palenque/ Campeche

A half-day tour of the Maya ruins of Palenque, built on the fringe of the Chiapas jungle. Transfer overland to Campeche this afternoon and stay overnight. *BL*

Day 13 Campeche/ Merida

Depart for Merida in the morning, with a visit to the ruins of Uxmal 'three times built' and Kabah en route. Uxmal is one of the best restored and maintained ruins in the Yucatan and certainly one of the most magnificent. Continue to Merida. *B*

**Day 14 Merida**

A morning tour of Merida, with the afternoon free to explore this lively and colourful city at your own pace. *B*

Day 15 Merida

A day at leisure to relax and explore. *B*

Day 16 Merida/ Riviera Maya

Travel across the Yucatan Peninsula to the Riviera Maya, with a guided tour of the spectacular ruins of Chichen Itza on the way. *BL*

Day 17 Riviera Maya

A half-day tour of Tulum, the only Maya site built along the coast and featuring stunning views of the azure waters of the Caribbean. *B*

Day 18 Riviera Maya

Day at leisure to relax on the beach. *B*

Day 19 Cancun/ Havana

Transfer to the airport in Cancun for your flight to Cuba. On arrival in Havana you'll be met and transferred to your accommodation in Old Havana. *B*

Day 20 Havana

Discover the grandeur and beauty of Old Havana on this morning's walking tour. Visit the four main plazas and enjoy the theatre of life on Havana's streets. This afternoon cruise the Malecon and explore greater Havana in one of Cuba's iconic classic cars – an essential experience! *BL*

Day 21 Havana/ Cienfuegos/ Trinidad

After breakfast, transfer to the Cienfuegos, or 'Pearl of the South', for a city tour and lunch. Admire the impossibly ornate Palacio del Valle and other architectural gems in this underrated city before continuing to Trinidad. Enjoy dinner at a local paladar. *BLD*

Day 22 Trinidad

Another classic Cuban car awaits this morning to transport you to the lovely Valle de Ingenios (Sugar Mill Valley) for a visit to the Manaca-Iznaga Plantation House and tower for stunning views. Enjoy lunch in a local restaurant and then return to Trinidad for a tour of the colonial centre. *BL*

Day 23 Trinidad/ Santa Clara/ Havana

Depart Trinidad for the central city of Santa Clara – the ideal place to learn about the legacy of the Cuban Revolution and the legend of Ernesto 'Che' Guevara. After visiting the memorial and monument you'll have lunch before continuing to Havana. *BL*

Day 24 Havana

A day at leisure to relax and explore. *B*

Day 25 Havana

Transfer to the airport for your onward flight. *B*

B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner

ENHANCE YOUR EXPERIENCE

- There is no better way to see Teotihuacan than from a hot air balloon at dawn. Ask your consultant for details
- Coincide your stay in Oaxaca with Day of the Dead festivities (Nov) – a remarkable experience
- Stay an extra night in Palenque and explore the rarely visited ruins of Bonampak and Calakmul
- Admire the elegant pink flamingos of the Celestun Biosphere Reserve – an easy day trip from Merida
- Cool off in one of Mexico's underground cenotes – natural swimming holes formed by the collapse of limestone
- Why not splash out with a special boutique stay on Isla Holbox?
- Active option: with so little traffic on the roads, a cycling tour is a fantastic and relaxing way to experience the street life in Havana
- Ask about optional touring in Havana. From architecture to religion, Hemingway to salsa, we've got a range of options to pique your interest

Mexico



Highlights of Mexico

1. Archaeological Ruins

From towering pyramids to elaborate ancient cities, fascinating ruins are scattered throughout the country.

2. Colonial Cities

Step back in time as you explore the cobblestone streets, bustling markets and ornate Cathedrals of Oaxaca, Guanajuato and San Cristobal de las Casas, to name just a few.

3. Cuisine

Mexican Cuisine combines indigenous and Spanish traditions to create some of the world's most recognised dishes.

4. Natural Beauty

Containing lush rainforest, cacti-dotted deserts, calm Caribbean beaches and rugged Pacific coastline, Mexico is an incredibly diverse destination.

5. Folklore, Festivals & Fiestas

From Fiestas Patrias to the unique Day of the Dead traditions, Mexican national identity is forged through these celebrations.

A TASTE OF MEXICO CITY

6 Days/ 5 Nights

Experience the vibrant Mexican capital on our extended city stopover. With so much to see and do you'll appreciate a few extra days in this continually surprising city.

Day 1 Mexico City

Arrive in Mexico City and transfer to your hotel. Start your immersion into Mexican culture with a folkloric ballet performance at the magnificent Bellas Artes Theatre. Transfers included.

Day 2 Mexico City

See the highlights of Mexico City on this half-day tour, including the Zocalo, Cathedral, National Palace murals by Diego Rivera, Chapultepec Park and the Museum of Anthropology. You may like to continue exploring the museum at the end of your tour and enjoy a relaxing walk back to your hotel through the park. B

Day 3 Mexico City

An early start takes you to Teotihuacan for an unforgettable hot air balloon ride over the ruins. Afterwards, enjoy a guided tour during the coolest part of the day. You'll have plenty of time to climb the amazing pyramids as well as visit the Palace of Quetzal Butterfly, the Feathered Snake Temple and the Avenue of the Dead. Return to your hotel with the afternoon at leisure. B

Day 4 Mexico City

A morning at leisure. This afternoon, head to Coyoacan to visit famous Mexican artist Frida Kahlo's family home, decorated in her unique style and now housing a wonderful museum. Enjoy some free time to wander the Plaza Hidalgo and explore the popular market. B

Day 5 Mexico City

Enjoy a full-day tour to Taxco, a quaint colonial cobblestoned town famed for its silverware and unique late-baroque architecture of the Santa Prisca Church. On the way visit Cuernavaca, the city of the eternal spring, with its Cathedral and the imposing Palace of Cortes. B

Day 6 Mexico City

Transfer to the airport for your flight or ask us about options to extend to the Copper Canyon or the Colonial Heritage Trail. B

B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner



FLAVOURS OF MEXICO CULINARY TOUR

9 Days/ 8 Nights
Departs Fridays

Uncover the rich heritage behind Mexico's diverse cuisine on our extensive culinary tour; a truly unique and memorable eating and drinking experience in Mexico.

Day 1 Mexico City

Arrive and transfer to your hotel.

Day 2 Mexico City

Begin your culinary tour of Mexico with a walking tour of San Angel, where you'll visit the Saturday Bazaar. Continue to Coyoacan and visit the Frida Kahlo Museum before heading to a traditional bakery. There's time for lunch at a traditional cantina (paid locally), and finish at a local market and enjoy churros with hot chocolate. *B*

Day 3 Mexico City

A morning tour of Mexico City's most important sights. After time for lunch at El Cardenal (paid locally), the walking tour continues to San Juan Market, followed by a visit to the Casa de la Azulejos and the charming Celaya's Sweet Store. Take a break on the terrace at Gran Hotel, with views over the Zocalo. Tonight enjoy dinner at the wonderful Hacienda Los Morales (paid locally) with round-trip transfers included. *B*

Day 4 Mexico City

An early morning tour of Teotihuacan allows you to enjoy the ruins during the cooler part of the day. Later visit the Garibaldi Museum of Tequila for a tasting of Mexico's most famous export. *B*

Day 5 Mexico City/ Puebla

After breakfast, travel overland to Puebla with a tour of the Cholula archaeological complex en route. Enjoy a traditional mole poblano for lunch. *BL*

Day 6 Puebla/ Oaxaca

Take the bus across the Sierra Madre Mountain Range to Oaxaca and transfer to your hotel. We've reserved a table at the excellent Asador Don Vasco this evening (paid locally). *B*

Day 7 Oaxaca

Enjoy a tour of the local markets in the morning before heading to the Casa Crespo for a hands-on cooking lesson, with lunch included. This afternoon, visit the impressive Monte Alban ruins. *BL*

Day 8 Oaxaca

This morning you'll learn about the importance of cacao in ancient Mexico and have fun with a chocolate-making demonstration – and tasting of course! Enjoy a guided tour of the colonial centre of Oaxaca in the afternoon. *B*

Day 9 Oaxaca

Transfer to the airport for your onward flight. *B*

DAY OF THE DEAD



With origins that can be traced back to the Aztecs, the unique *Día de Muertos* festivities take place every year between 31 October and 2 November, as Mexicans flock to cemeteries with flowers and candles to honour their dead. Families gather to spend the night beside tombs in the cemeteries; a bittersweet occasion as they mourn their losses and reminisce about their loved ones.

Oaxaca is the best place for tourists to experience the *comparsas* that take place all over the city. *Comparsas* are parades where local people dress up in traditional outfits and go from house to house dancing with brass bands and fireworks, celebrating the lives of the dead. Ask your travel consultant about our *Day of the Dead* package to experience these festivities first-hand.



MEXICO'S COLONIAL HERITAGE

12 Days/ 11 Nights

Join us on our extended tour through Mexico's colonial history. Visit the colonial gems of San Miguel Allende, Guadalajara and Guanajuato as well as the UNESCO World Heritage-listed cities of Morelia and Zacatecas.

Day 1 Mexico City

Arrive in Mexico City and transfer to your hotel.

Day 2 Mexico City

A full-day tour of the city's highlights including the Zocalo, National Palace with murals by Diego Rivera, and Teotihuacan Ruins to see the Pyramids of the Sun and the Moon. *B*

Day 3 San Miguel de Allende

Depart for Queretaro, where you'll visit the Aqueduct, Santa Clara Convent and the historic centre. Continue to San Miguel de Allende, birthplace of one of Mexico's Independence heroes, for an afternoon tour of the city and overnight stay. *B*

Day 4 Dolores Hidalgo/ Guanajuato

Depart for Dolores Hidalgo with its pretty tree-lined central plaza. In the afternoon continue on to beautiful Guanajuato, located in a picturesque valley. Enjoy a tour of the city – a maze of narrow cobblestone alleyways running up and down the hillside. *B*

Day 5 Guanajuato/ Zacatecas

Leave in the morning for the UNESCO World Heritage city of Zacatecas. Visit the stunning baroque Cathedral and enjoy panoramic views from La Bufa Hill. Return to the historic centre by cable car. Spend the evening at leisure to enjoy live music along the Callejoneada. *B*

Day 6 Zacatecas/ Guadalajara

Visit Tlaquepaque, renowned for its beautiful handcrafts, en route to Guadalajara, the capital of Jalisco state – where tequila and mariachi were born. Head to the Plaza de los Mariachis the evening and enjoy some traditional live music. *B*

Day 7 Guadalajara

Enjoy a morning tour of the city, including Government Palace, the magnificent Cathedral and Plaza del la Rotonda. Continue to the town of Tequila to learn about the distillation process of Mexico's most famous export. *B*

Day 8 Guadalajara/ Patzcuaro/ Morelia

After breakfast continue to Patzcuaro, built in 1534 on the southern edge of Lake Patzcuaro and renowned as having one of the liveliest Day of the Dead celebrations. Enjoy a tour of the city, including the market and Quiroga Plaza, then continue to Morelia. A visit to the Butterfly Reserves to view millions of monarch butterflies is a must-see in October. *B*

Day 9 Morelia/ Mexico City

Visit the 18th century Cathedral, built in the traditional Churrigueresque style. After a visit to Morelia's market, continue to your hotel in Mexico City. *B*

Day 10 Mexico City

A day at leisure to relax and explore. We recommend a visit to the bohemian suburb of Coyoacan, where the famous Frida Kahlo Museum is located. *B*

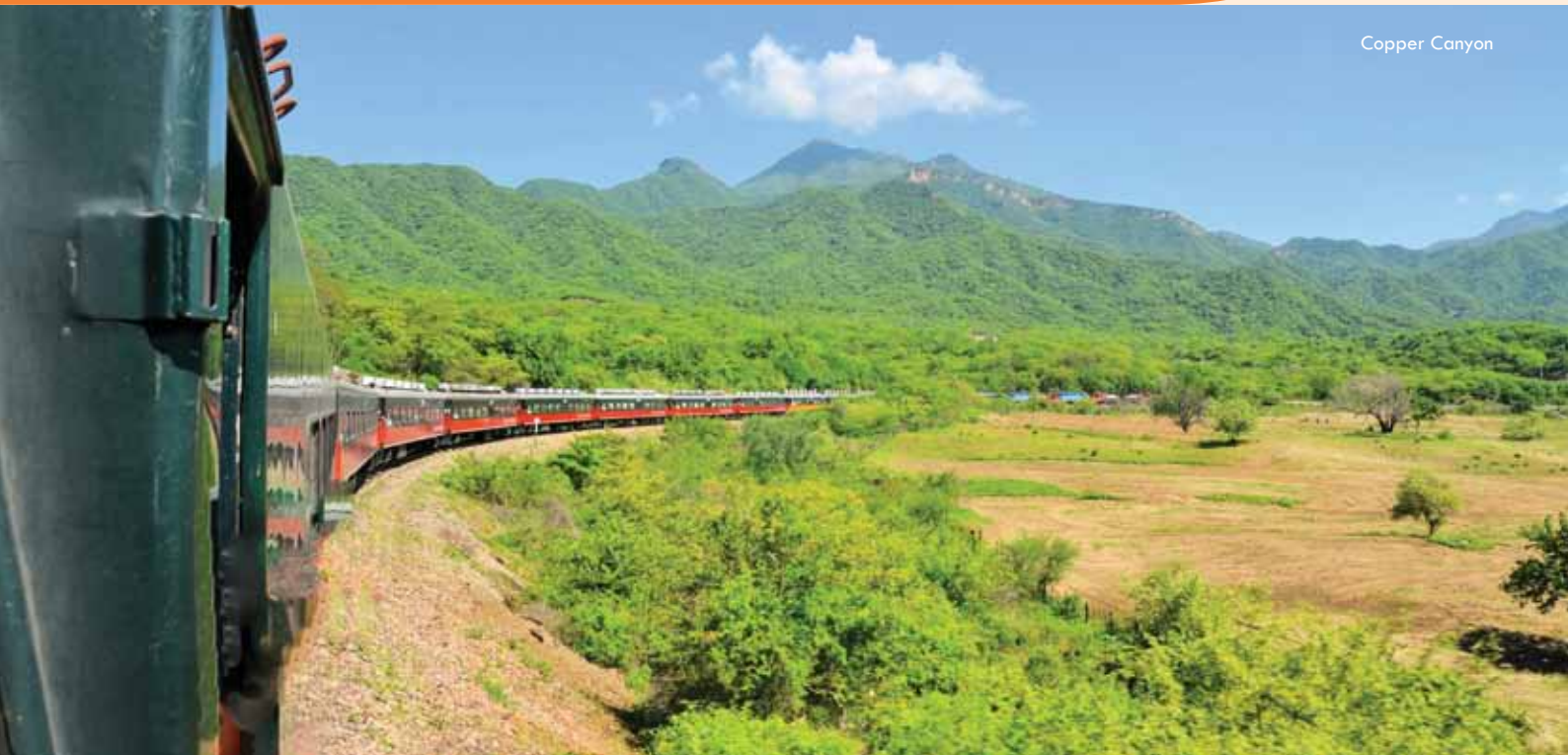
Day 11 Mexico City

Depart this morning on a full-day tour to Puebla, famous for its hand-painted 'talavera' tiles and ceramics. Visit the archaeological site of Cholula then return to Mexico City in the afternoon. *B*

Day 12 Mexico City

Transfer to the airport for your flight or ask us about options to extend. *B*





COPPER CANYON

6 Days/ 5 Nights

Ride the famous Chepe Train through some of Mexico's most spectacular scenery and experience the best of the Copper Canyon.

Day 1 Los Mochis/ El Fuerte

Arrive in Los Mochis airport and transfer to your hotel in the colonial town of El Fuerte.

Day 2 El Fuerte/ Divisadero

Transfer to the train station for the famous Chepe Train ride to Posada Barrancas, just outside Divisadero. Transfer to your hotel on the rim of the canyon where lunch awaits you. Afternoon at leisure. *BLD*

Day 3 Divisadero/ Creel

A morning tour of the best lookout points in Divisadero, and options to ride the cable car and ziplines inside the Adventure Park in Divisadero. Transfer from Divisadero to Creel and arrive at your hotel. Spend the afternoon at leisure, with plenty of optional hikes available. *B*

Day 4 Creel

A full-day tour of the spectacular Copper Canyon, including the Valley of the Mushroom, Lake Arareko, San Ignacio Mission, Cusarare Waterfall and Basihuare Canyon. A picnic lunch is included on today's tour. *BL*

Day 5 Creel/ Chihuahua

Transfer to Chihuahua via the famous Mennonite Community of Cuauhtemoc. Enjoy a city tour of Chihuahua before being dropped off at your hotel. *B*

Day 6 Chihuahua

Transfer to the airport for your onward flight. *B*

BEAUTIFUL BAJA

6 Days/ 5 Nights

Day 1 Los Cabos/ Todos Santos

Arrive in San Jose del Cabo and transfer to the charming colonial town of Todos Santos.

Day 2 Todos Santos

Depart on a half-day tour of the magical village of Todos Santos, founded as a Jesuit mission in 1730. This appealing coastal town was once a thriving sugar producer; its former wealth reflected in its many grand old mansions. Take an evening Mexican cooking class with a local chef, then dine on your delicious creations! *BD*

Day 3 Todos Santos/ La Paz

Private transfer to La Paz. Take the afternoon at leisure to swim, kayak or snorkel in the Sea of Cortez. *B*

Day 4 La Paz

A fantastic full-day excursion to Espiritu Santo Island National Park, with opportunities to see dolphins and jumping manta rays. Swimming and snorkelling with playful sea lions and their pups on the island of Los Islotes is sure to be a highlight. *BL*

Day 5 La Paz

Enjoy a half-day tour of the Balandra Mangrove region. This walk will take you to a secluded area that's home to a variety of native bird species. After reaching the lookout point with stunning panoramic views, you'll continue to Tecolote Beach; a pristine strip of white sand and aquamarine water where you can swim and relax. Enjoy a traditional lunch of fish tacos and return to your hotel in the afternoon. *BL*

Day 6 La Paz

Transfer to the airport or ferry terminal for your onward journey or ask us about extending your stay. *B*

WHALE WATCHING BAJA

8 Days/ 7 Nights

Day 1 La Paz

Arrive and transfer from the airport to your hotel.

Day 2 La Paz/ Espiritu Santo Island

Learn the basics of paddling, then cross by boat to Espiritu Santo where you will snorkel and hike. Arrive at your first night's tented camp by kayak. *BLD*

Days 3 Espiritu Santo Island

Enjoy a spectacular sunrise before taking a kayak to explore the scenic cliffs and coves of Loreto Bay. *BLD*

Day 4 Espiritu Santo/ La Paz

After breakfast, transfer by boat back to the mainland and continue to La Paz. Afternoon at leisure. *B*

Day 5 La Paz/ Magdalena Bay

Depart this morning for your first whale watching session. You might see whales right from the dock! Settle into your deluxe tented camp. After lunch, hike across the dunes. Enjoy dinner under the stars. *BLD*

Day 6 Magdalena Bay

Tea and coffee greet you with the morning sun. The day includes two whale watching sessions, with plenty of time for dune walking, hiking and relaxing. *BLD*

Day 7 Magdalena Bay/ La Paz

Enjoy a final whale watching session and return to La Paz. *B*

Day 8 La Paz

Transfer to the airport or take a ferry across the Sea of Cortez to Los Mochis and explore the Copper Canyon. *B*



ROUTE OF THE MAYA

Villahermosa to Cancun
9 Days/ 8 Nights

Day 1 Villahermosa

Upon arrival, transfer to your hotel in Palenque.

Day 2 Palenque

A full-day tour visiting the Maya sites of Yaxchilan and Bonampak located in the Lacandon jungle. *B*

Day 3 Palenque/ Campeche

A half-day tour of the Maya ruins of Palenque. Transfer to Campeche in the afternoon. *BL*

Day 4 Campeche

Depart early in the morning for Calakmul, set deep in the tropical forest of the Tierras Bajas. Continue to Balamku, or the Temple of the Jaguar: one of the most important sites in Mexico. *BL*

Day 5 Campeche/ Merida

A tour of Uxmal, one of the best-maintained ruins in the Yucatan. Continue to Merida. *B*

Day 6 Merida

A free day to explore Merida. *B*

Day 7 Chichen Itza

Take a full-day trip across the Yucatan Peninsula to Playa del Carmen, with a tour of the spectacular ruins of Chichen Itza on the way. *BL*

Day 8 Playa del Carmen

A half-day tour of Tulum ruins, the only Maya site built on the coast. Afternoon at leisure. *B*

Day 9 Cancun

Transfer to the airport for your flight or ask us about extending your stay. *B*

SELF-DRIVE YUCATAN

11 Days/ 10 Nights

The Yucatan Peninsula is one of the best places in Mexico to rent a car and explore independently. We'll design the itinerary and book your accommodation – you just hit the road and enjoy the beautiful cenotes, ancient ruins and rugged landscapes of the peninsula. See a sample itinerary below and the following page for our Yucatan hacienda Stays of Distinction.

Day 1 Cancun

Transfer to your hotel on arrival. Stay overnight.

Day 2 Cancun/ Chichen Itza

Your guide will accompany you to pick up your rental car this morning. Drive to Chichen Itza (about 3hrs) where your accommodation is confirmed. We suggest a stop in Valladolid en route. *B*

Day 3 Chichen Itza

Make sure you're up early to explore Chichen Itza before it gets too hot! Chichen Itza's most impressive sights and structures are located in the central zone. Here you'll find the Ball Court, several platforms, temples and the spectacular Pyramid of Kukulcan – a massive 25m stone representation of the Maya calendar. *B*

Day 4 Chichen Itza/ Merida

Drive to Merida (around 2hrs). After checking into your hotel explore Mexico's second-largest historical centre. *B*

Day 5 Merida

A day at leisure to explore the extraordinary ruins of Uxmal – one of the largest archaeological sites in the Yucatan (around 1.5 hrs drive). Highlights include the Pyramid of the Magician and the Quadrangle of the Nuns. *B*

Day 6 Merida/ Campeche

Drive to Campeche (around 2.5hrs drive). Spend the afternoon exploring the walled city centre and beautifully restored buildings. *B*

Day 7 Campeche/ Calakmul

Drive to the Calakmul Biosphere this morning (around 3hrs) and check into the Puerto Calakmul Hotel. *B*

Day 8 Calakmul

A day at leisure to visit the main archaeological sites of the region: Calakmul, Xpuhijil, Becan, Chicanna, Balamku, Hormigueros and Rio Bec. *B*

Day 9 Calakmul/ Tulum

Drive to Tulum in the morning (about 4hrs). We recommend a stop en route at the spectacular Laguna Bacalar to see the 'lagoon of seven colours'. *B*

Day 10 Tulum

A day at leisure to relax on the beach or visit Tulum ruins, the only Maya ruins built on the coast. *B*

Day 11 Cancun

Drive to Cancun Airport and return your rental car. *B*



The Yucatan Peninsula has an incredible wealth of historic former residences and plantation houses which have been converted into luxury boutique accommodation. Dotted across the peninsula, these beautiful properties are perfect for unwinding at the end of a day's exploration.



HACIENDA SAN JOSE

Located in the northern Yucatan Peninsula, this historical plantation house is close to the Chichen Itza archaeological site and around 45 minutes from Merida airport. Its 15 rooms and suites, spread around a colonial patio, feature 18-foot ceilings with exposed beams and rafters; 10-foot wooden double doors; beautiful wooden beds, dark; tropical hardwood cabinets; and cool tiled floors. For the ultimate romantic getaway, opt for a private Maya Villa, complete with private garden and plunge pool.



HACIENDA TEMOZON

Formerly the most productive agave estate on the Yucatan Peninsula, Hacienda Temozon is now the peninsula's most luxurious hacienda hotel. Its 28 guest rooms and suites are furnished in the colonial style, evoking the region's history. The superb outdoor pool is a highlight, surrounded by lush tropical gardens and with stone columns rising regally from the waters. The hacienda is located about a 35 minutes drive from Merida airport and is the perfect base for exploring Loltun Caves and Uxmal Maya ruins.



HACIENDA SANTA ROSA

Less than an hour's drive from Merida airport and in the heart of the Maya archaeological zone, Hacienda Santa Rosa is surrounded by natural beauties such as the Calcehtok and Oxkintok Caves, and cultural sites including the ruins of Uxmal and the town of Becal. The hacienda's 11 comfortable guest rooms and suites are decorated in the colonial style. Hammocks and wicker chairs, a private terrace and a garden make this place a perfect spot to relax at the end of your day's touring.



HACIENDA UAYAMON

Built in 1700, Hacienda Uayamon combines the history of the Yucatan with the sophistication of a luxury resort. This historic hacienda is about 26km south of the walled city of Campeche. It includes 10 detached casitas nestled among lush gardens, with cool tiled floors, large mahogany beds and private terraces. Don't miss a dip in the fabulous pool, situated in a ruined part of the former building and incorporated into the ancient structure.

Cuba

Trinidad





Cuba is an extraordinary, enigmatic country and strikingly different from its Caribbean neighbours. It is an island steeped in the history of Spanish colonialism and post-war revolution. Reminders of Fidel Castro's communist revolution are everywhere – from the museum paying homage to the revolutionaries in Havana to the party slogans painted on city walls, Cuba's unique political system is an attraction in itself.

UNESCO World Heritage-listed Old Havana is the Caribbean's largest and most vibrant city. The crumbling facades of once-grand colonial mansions line the cobblestone streets. Classic Chevies, Buicks and Cadillacs jostle for position along the Malecon. Sip Havana Club rum and listen to the sounds of salsa, mambo and samba or head to the Conde de Villanueva for a Cuban cigar as you absorb the sights and sounds of this fascinating fusion of African and Spanish cultures.

Around two hours south-west of Havana and the heart of Cuba's agricultural sector, the Viñales Valley offers a stunning landscape of rust-red earth, rolling green farmland and dramatic limestone outcrops that conceal underground caves and river systems. Hiking or cycling through this unique landscape is a highlight of many trips to Cuba. Visit local tobacco farmers and see how Cuba's most renowned export is grown, harvested and rolled into the famous habanero cigar.

Three hours south-east of Havana, the city of Cienfuegos boasts a beautifully restored colonnaded central plaza and a collection of eclectic and ornate 20th century palaces. Dubbed the 'Pearl of the South' for its spectacular natural bay, the city is also one of Cuba's most prosperous, with a thriving shipyard and shrimp industry. Don't miss a visit to the Teatro Tomas for some great live music in a grand setting.

Perfectly preserved Trinidad was built with the wealth of the 19th century sugar boom, and little seems to have changed since its heyday in 1850. Horses and carts still travel the cobblestone streets and groups of guajiros (Cuban cowboys) while away the heat of the day playing checkers or chess in shaded plazas. Nearby Ancon Beach provides welcome respite from the heat with fine white sand, aquamarine waters and vendors ready to quench your thirst with freshly picked coconuts.

Further east, discover the charms of Cuba without the crowds in the less-visited central towns of Camaguey, Bayamo and Holguin. Santiago de Cuba is on the east coast between the Sierra Maestra Mountain range and the Caribbean Sea. Hot and sultry, the island's cultural capital has fantastic live music and a thriving arts and literature scene. Five hours away is the tiny fishing village of Baracoa, with a stunning natural setting and some of Cuba's best cuisine.



A TASTE OF HAVANA

6 Days/ 5 Nights

Day 1 Havana

On arrival, transfer to your accommodation in Old Havana. Experience Cuban hospitality with a special dinner at a local paladar. *D*

Day 2 Havana

Stroll along the cobblestone streets of the historic centre on this fascinating walking tour. Visit the four main plazas before heading to the Gran Teatro for a guided tour of this majestic building. Enjoy a private 90-minute salsa class in the afternoon. *B*

Day 3 Havana

A morning tour by classic car, focuses on the city's eclectic architecture. You'll see art deco, art nouveau, neo-classic and neo-gothic architecture, and some of the city's most iconic buildings. Visit the famous La Cabaña Fortress in the evening to witness the cannon shot ceremony, then enjoy dinner at a local paladar before hitting a bar in Old Havana for live music and a few classic Cuban cocktails. *BD*

Day 4 Havana

Your full-day tour starts with a visit to a cigar factory to see the manufacturing process. Continue to Viñales and take a boat ride along the underground Cueva del Indio river. *BL*

Day 5 Havana

A day at leisure. Farewell Cuba with another night of traditional live music at Cafe Taberna Benny More. *B*

Day 6 Havana

Transfer to the airport. *B*

LA BELLA CUBA

9 Days/ 8 Nights

Explore Cuba's unique cultural and historic legacy with one of our most popular itineraries. Discover the UNESCO World Heritage-listed cities of Havana and Trinidad, visit the Museum of the Revolution, Che Guevara's Memorial and explore the picturesque Viñales Valley.

Day 1 Havana

On arrival, transfer to your hotel.

Day 2 Havana

A morning walking tour of Old Havana, offers fascinating views of the city's historical and cultural value. Visit a cigar factory for a chance to sample the local produce. *BL*

Day 3 Havana

A morning tour of modern Havana by classic car including the impressive Revolution Square, dominated by the mural of Ernesto 'Che' Guevara. Continue along the famous Malecon. *B*

Day 4 Havana/ Cienfuegos/ Trinidad

Drive in the morning to Cienfuegos, where the streets are lined with mansions well past their Belle Epoque. After lunch continue on to Trinidad. *BL*

Day 5 Trinidad de Cuba

A morning tour includes Plaza Mayor, Museo Romantico and the Cespedes Park. Dinner at a homestay (Cuban family home). *BLD*

Day 6 Santa Clara/ Las Terrazas

Depart Trinidad and travel through sugar plantations to the city of Santa Clara, where you'll enjoy a visit to the mausoleum of Che Guevara. Transfer to Las Terrazas in the afternoon. *BL*

Day 7 Las Terrazas

A full-day tour to the Viñales Valley, with time to admire a prehistoric mural before you reach Cueva del Indio to take a boat ride along the underground river. *BL*

Day 8 Las Terrazas/ Havana

Transfer back to Havana and spend the rest of day at leisure. *B*

Day 9 Havana

Transfer to the airport for your onward flight or ask us about options to extend. *B*

CUBA IS IN DEMAND

Passengers travelling to Cuba should be aware that the country is experiencing an enormous surge in demand and is struggling to cope with the dramatic increase in visitors. It is becoming difficult to confirm hotel accommodation and we are relying more and more on Cuban casa particulares (homestays). Cuba is sure to be a unique and memorable holiday and we highly recommend this beautiful island nation. Just remember that Cuba requires an open mind, a sense of humour and an understanding of the phrase that encapsulates life on the island – *No es fácil* (it ain't easy).



Old Havana

BUENA VISTA CUBA

17 Days/ 16 Nights

Day 1 Havana

Arrive at Havana airport and transfer to your accommodation in Old Havana.

Day 2 Havana

A morning walking tour of Old Havana, offers fascinating views of this city's historical and cultural highlights. After lunch, tour modern Havana, including the impressive Revolution Square, by classic car. Continue along the famous Malecon. *BL*

Day 3 Havana

A day at leisure to relax and explore. *B*

Day 4 Havana/ Viñales Valley

This full-day tour includes a visit to a cigar factory to see the manufacturing process. Continue to Viñales with time to admire prehistoric mural before reaching Cueva del Indio and taking a boat ride along the underground river. Arrive at your homestay, where dinner is included. *BLD*

Day 5 Viñales Valley

Explore the lovely Viñales Valley with your guide on today's walking tour. You'll cross the countryside, meet farmers from the region and learn about the local crops of tobacco, tropical fruits and maize. *B*

Day 6 Viñales Valley/ Cienfuegos

Transfer to the plaza for the bus service to Cienfuegos. Transfer to your accommodation on arrival. *B*

Day 7 Cienfuegos/ Trinidad

A half-day tour of this architectural jewel, known as the 'Pearl of the South'. After lunch you'll travel to Trinidad. *BL*

Day 8 Trinidad

Depart this morning for the lovely Valle de Ingenios (Sugar Mill Valley) and visit to the Manaca-Iznaga Plantation House and tower for stunning views. Enjoy lunch in a local restaurant then return to Trinidad for a tour of the colonial centre. *BL*

Day 9 Trinidad

A day at leisure to relax and explore. Ask us about optional excursions to Topes de Collante or historic Sancti Spiritus. *B*

Day 10 Trinidad/ Camaguey

Transfer to the bus station for the service to Camaguey. Discover this beautiful city from a Cuban Bici Taxia – a man-powered tricycle in the afternoon. Sit back while your guide takes you on a tour of some of Camaguey's most unique streets. Discover the architectural diversity of this UNESCO World Heritage city – neo-classical, eclectic, art deco, neo-colonial and art nouveau buildings combine to create one of the most picturesque cities in Cuba. *B*

Day 11 Camaguey/ Bayamo

Transfer to the bus station for the service to Bayamo. Transfer to your hotel on arrival. *B*

Day 12 Bayamo/ Santiago de Cuba

This morning, explore the city of Bayamo in a horse-drawn carriage, touring the most important streets and sights. Afterwards, transfer to the bus station for the service to Santiago de Cuba. Transfer to your hotel on arrival. *B*

Day 13 Santiago de Cuba

A full-day tour of this sultry city includes the Moncada Barracks, Revolution Square, the Caney Rum Bar, the colonial fortress of San Pedro de la Roca and the House of Habanos. Lunch is included at Marina Marlin, overlooking the bay. *BL*

Day 14 Santiago de Cuba/ Baracoa

Transfer to the bus station for the service to Baracoa. Enjoy an afternoon walking tour of this charming village. Admire the town's iconic fortress, visible as you wander the quiet streets of the historic centre, and, on clear days, fantastic views of El Yunque. *B*

Day 15 Baracoa

Follow the cocoa route to discover the secrets of processing this important plant. You'll have the opportunity to learn step-by-step how chocolate is obtained and marketed, including planting, harvesting, processing, storage and actual selling. Lunch is included at a local restaurant. *BL*

Day 16 Baracoa/ Havana

Transfer to the airport for your flight to Havana. On arrival, transfer to your hotel and enjoy your last night in this unique city! *B*

Day 17 Havana


Transfer to the airport for your onward flight. *B*

Central America

Tikal National Park, Guatemala



Central America



Extending from northern Guatemala to Panama's Darien Gap, the isthmus of land connecting North and South America is home to extraordinary biodiversity, fascinating Maya heritage, the world's second-largest barrier reef and some of Latin America's most charming colonial cities. The relatively small size of Central America makes it easy to combine two or more countries into a fascinating overland tour.

Panama

Just 80km wide at its narrowest point, Panama is a mountainous and heavily forested country with a surprisingly strong indigenous culture, most evident in the autonomous Kuna regions of the San Blas Islands. Despite the wealth of natural beauty, Panama is mainly famous for the Panama Canal, an engineering marvel and one of the wonders of the modern world. A visit to the Miraflores Lock and Museum is a must. Time your visit to coincide with a partial or full transit for the ultimate experience.

Costa Rica

With lowland jungles, rolling savannahs, volcanic peaks, misty cloud forests, rugged Pacific headland and endless white Caribbean beaches, every region of Costa Rica reveals something unique. Excellent infrastructure and a wide range of accommodation makes it ideal for families and honeymooners.

Watch sea turtles hatching on the Tortuguero coast and explore the island's national park and waterways. The central region of Arenal and Monteverde contains the spectacular active Arenal Volcano and some of the country's most beautiful cloud forest reserves where you can hike along the floor of the forest or enjoy the view from a canopy walkway. Explore the remote Osa Peninsula (November to April) for some of the best wildlife viewing in the country, with sightings of giant anteater, monkeys and tapir common.

Nicaragua

'The Land of Lakes and Volcanoes' combines stunning natural beauty with a rich political and cultural history to make Nicaragua one of the world's most exciting up-and-coming destinations. The colonial cities of Granada and Leon are among Central America's finest, with the crumbling centre of Leon an interesting contrast to the brilliantly resorted historic centre of Granada. The twin volcanic peaks of Ometepe Island rise from the waters of Lake Cocibolca, where visitors can sample the local seafood, explore the island's forests and swim in the refreshing waters of the lake. Visit Nicaragua now, before the rest of the world catches on!

Belize

Beautiful Belize contains the world's second-largest barrier reef, some of the best beaches in the Caribbean and world-class diving and snorkelling. Those seeking sun, sand and crystalline waters can't go past Ambergris Caye, the largest of the Belize Cayes. Belize's Orange Walk District contains much of the country's deep forest, and a visit to one of the fabulous jungle lodges is a great way to discover the area's unique flora and fauna. The Cayo District is Belize's largest, encompassing rainforests on rugged mountain ridges, rolling farmland covered in orchards, gushing rivers and hidden Maya treasures.

Guatemala

Guatemala's Maya heritage is still visible in its people, rituals, myths, religion, language and arts, making it one of the most fascinating cultural destinations in Central America. The Department of Peten, in the country's north, covers almost one-third of Guatemala and is home to rainforests and ancient Maya cities. The most well-known and impressive ruins is Tikal, with soaring temples concealed within the enormous Tikal National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage site.

As well as a rich cultural history, Guatemala is blessed with stunning and diverse landscapes – highland volcanoes, cloud forest, Caribbean coastline, deep jungle and picturesque colonial towns. Central America's deepest lake, Lake Atitlan, is reputed by visitors and residents alike to be the most beautiful in the world, and paddling across its smooth waters at dawn is sure to make you feel the same way.

Mundo Maya



WHY MUNDO?

- ✓ Explore the highlights of three of the region's most fascinating countries
- ✓ Tailored itinerary that is fully flexible to suit your tastes and budget
- ✓ See the imprint of the Olmec, Zapotec, Toltec, Maya and Aztec civilisations on modern Mexico
- ✓ Visit the colonial gems of San Cristobal de las Casas and Antigua
- ✓ History buffs can't miss Palenque, Yaxchilan and Bonampak, Tikal and Caracol – some of Central America's most impressive ruins
- ✓ Browse the incredible stalls of the Chichicastenango market and admire the hours of work needed to create the textile pieces on offer
- ✓ Enjoy an extended stay on the stunning Lake Atitlan, surrounded by dramatic volcanic peaks
- ✓ Experience one of Belize's unique jungle lodges in San Ignacio and be completely immersed in nature
- ✓ Explore one of the best reefs in the world on your snorkelling tour from Ambergis Caye. Keep your eye out for turtles and dugongs!

Day 1 Mexico City

Arrive Mexico City and transfer to your hotel.

Day 2 Mexico City

Depart early for Teotihuacan to see the Pyramids of the Sun and Moon and enjoy the ruins in the cooler part of the day. Return to Mexico City to explore the highlights, including the Zocalo, Cathedral, National Palace, Tenochtitlan and the Museum of Anthropology. *B*

Day 3 Mexico City

A day at leisure to relax and explore. Consider a visit to the Frida Kahlo Museum in Coyoacan or the floating gardens of Xochimilco. *B*

Day 4 Villahermosa/ Palenque

Fly to Villahermosa and transfer overland to Palenque. Enjoy a swim amid lush jungle surrounds and relax in the afternoon. *B*

Day 5 Palenque

A half-day tour of the Maya ruins of Palenque, built on the fringe of the Chiapas Jungle. *B*

Day 6 Palenque

This full-day tour visits the Maya sites of Yaxchilan and Bonampak located in the Lacandon jungle. *BL*

Day 7 Agua Azul/ San Cristobal

Drive to Agua Azul waterfalls in the morning and enjoy a refreshing swim. In the afternoon continue to San Cristobal to stay overnight. *B*

Day 8 San Cristobal

Visit the colourful market and the native villages of Chamula and Zinacantan. These living Maya communities still preserve ancient traditions. *B*

Day 9 San Cristobal

A day at leisure to relax or explore. *B*

Day 10 San Cristobal/ Lake Atitlan

Transfer to La Mesilla, where you'll meet your Guatemalan driver. Continue to the shores of beautiful Lake Atitlan, surrounded by dramatic volcanic peaks. *B*

Day 11 Lake Atitlan

Tour famous Chichicastenango, one of the most colourful markets in Latin America (available Wed and Sun – ask your consultant about options for other days). *BL*

Day 12 Lake Atitlan

A day at leisure. Ask us about optional kayaking or hiking tours or simply relax in a hammock and enjoy the views. *B*

San Cristobal de las Casas, Mexico

**Day 13 Lake Atitlan/ Antigua**

Transfer to the stunning colonial city of Antigua. Enjoy a walking tour of the city's most important sites, including the Cathedral, National Palace and San Francisco Church. *B*

Day 14 Antigua

A day at leisure to relax or explore. *B*

Day 15 Antigua/ Flores

Transfer to the airport for your flight to Flores. On arrival, transfer to your hotel. This afternoon enjoy a sunset tour of Yaxha Ruins, set in lush jungle. *B*

Day 16 Flores

A full-day tour of the UNESCO World Heritage site Tikal National Park, where Maya temples rise above the jungle canopy. *BL*

Day 17 Flores/ San Ignacio

A private transfer across the border into Belize and your hotel in San Ignacio. *B*

Day 18 San Ignacio

Enjoy a private half-day tour of the largest archaeological site in Belize, Caracol. Visit the five main plazas, the astronomical observatory and the enormous pyramid of Caana, rising more than 40m above the rainforest floor. After a picnic lunch, return to your hotel, with a stop at the Rio Frio Caves and Pools for a refreshing dip. *BL*

Day 19 San Ignacio

A day at leisure. Ask us about optional activities including hikes, horseriding, underground river boat tours and cave tubing. A visit to nearby Xunantunich ruins is highly recommended. *B*

Day 20 San Ignacio/ Ambergris Caye

Transfer to Belize City where you'll take a water taxi to the stunning Ambergris Caye, your jumping-off point for the magnificent Belize Barrier Reef. Transfer to your hotel on arrival. *B*

Day 21 Ambergris Caye

This morning's snorkelling tour begins at Hol Chan Marine Reserve, the first marine reserve in Central America, to explore the coloured reefs. Continue to Shark Alley, where you'll encounter friendly stingrays, inquisitive brown nurse sharks, turtles and an abundance of colourful reef fish, including snappers and jacks. *B*

Day 22 Ambergris Caye

A day at leisure to relax and explore. *B*

Day 23 Belize City

After breakfast take the water taxi back to the mainland and transfer to the airport for your onward flight. *B*

ENHANCE YOUR EXPERIENCE

- There is no better way to see Teotihuacan than from a hot air balloon at dawn. Ask your consultant for details
- Discover the secrets of Mexican cuisine with a cooking class and market tour in Mexico City
- Splash out with a special boutique stay on the stunning Lake Atitlan, surrounded by volcanoes and gorgeous scenery
- Include an exhilarating hike up the active Pacaya Volcano just outside Antigua. Keep your eyes peeled for lava when you reach the top!
- Visit the coffee cooperative As Good as It Gets just outside Antigua to sample some excellent coffee and support a sustainable development initiative
- For those passionate about diving, Belize is the place to do it. Speak to us about an excursion to the Blue Hole from Ambergris Caye – named one of the top ten dive sites in the world!
- Why not extend your trip and continue to Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula, where you can enjoy some time relaxing on the beaches and visit Tulum and Chichen Itza

Central American Explorer



WHY EXPLORER?

- ✓ A comprehensive exploration of southern Central America
- ✓ Tailored itinerary that is fully flexible to suit your tastes and budget
- ✓ Enjoy a partial transit through the Panama Canal – an engineering marvel
- ✓ Taste some of Central America's finest coffee in Boquete
- ✓ Snorkel Panama's stunning Bocas del Toro Archipelago
- ✓ Spot wildlife in Costa Rica's best natural reserves
- ✓ See the iconic and active Arenal Volcano
- ✓ Hike Monteverde's cloud forest trails and explore the canopy on an exciting Sky Trek
- ✓ Visit the unique twin volcanic island of Ometepe, located on the largest fresh water lake in Central America
- ✓ Stroll the historic streets of Nicaragua's colonial gems – Granada and Leon
- ✓ Shop for handcrafts in the extensive Masaya Markets, an excellent place to pick up a handmade Nicaraguan hammock

Day 1 Panama City

Arrive in Panama City and transfer to your hotel.

Day 2 Panama City

After breakfast depart on a half-day walking tour exploring Panama City. Visit a local market where you can try sugarcane juice or fresh coconut before continuing to Casco Viejo and its beautiful colonial buildings. Visit the fish market where fishermen bring their morning catch. Later, take the bus to Old Panama, where the city was originally constructed before being sacked by pirates in 1671. *B*

Day 3 Panama City

Today's partial transit of the Panama Canal is sure to be a highlight! Experience one of the man-made wonders of the world as you sail from Gamboa to the Pacific Ocean, travelling through the Pedro Miguel and Miraflores locks. Lunch is included on board. *BL*

Day 4 Panama City/ Boquete

Fly to David and transfer by road to the charming town of Boquete. The temperate climate makes this the perfect place for growing coffee – treat yourself to a local brew and enjoy the stunning scenery. *B*

Day 5 Boquete

Depart with your guide for a tour of one of the region's coffee plantations. Discover the process of growing, picking, drying and roasting delicious Panamanian coffee before enjoying a sample of different locally grown beans. *B*

Day 6 Boquete/ Bocas del Toro

Transfer to Almirante and board a shared service boat for the Bocas del Toro Archipelago. Spend the afternoon exploring

the laid-back town of Bocas on the main island of Isla Colon at your leisure. *B*

Day 7 Bocas del Toro

Enjoy a full-day tour of some of the archipelago's prettiest spots, including dolphin spotting at Dolphin Bay, snorkelling at Coral Cay and some time to relax at Red Frog Beach. *B*

Day 8 Bocas del Toro/ Cahuita

Take the boat back to Almirante this morning and continue by private vehicle to the Costa Rican border. You'll meet your Costa Rican driver and continue along the coast to Cahuita. Afternoon at leisure. *B*

Day 9 Cahuita

A day at leisure. We highly recommend a visit to Cahuita National Park, located at the southern end of town with easy-to-follow self-guided trails. The best time to visit is early morning when sightings of monkeys, sloths and other mammals are common. Ask at the park office if you want to enlist the help of a local guide. *B*

Day 10 Cahuita/ Tortuguero

Transfer to Guapiles this morning where a boat will be waiting to transport you to Tortuguero National Park. A two-hour boat ride through rainforest-fringed canals, is a great start to your adventure – keep your eyes peeled for monkeys in the treetops and turtles basking on logs. *BLD*

Day 11 Tortuguero

Depending on local conditions your day may start with a canoe ride or a hike through the National Park. From July to September, the nesting of sea turtles is a must-see event. *BLD*



Day 12 Tortuguero/ Arenal

Transfer by boat back to Guapiles and have lunch in a local restaurant. Afterwards, take a shuttle transfer to La Fortuna Village, dominated by the mighty Arenal Volcano. *BL*

Day 13 Arenal

A full-day tour starts with a visit to Arenal's Hanging Bridges for a walk through the rainforest canopy. Next, head to La Fortuna Waterfall for an inviting dip in the cool waters. Continue to Arenal Volcano for a hike to a lava lookout point. Finally, drive to Tabacon Hot Springs to soak in the natural pools and enjoy dinner in this beautiful setting. *BLD*

Day 14 Arenal

A day at leisure to relax and explore. Optional excursions include Cano Negro Wildlife Reserve, horseriding and hiking. *B*

Day 15 Arenal/ Monteverde

Sail across Arenal Lake and continue up a steep mountain road, arriving into Monteverde in time for lunch. Enjoy a night tour of the region's famous cloud forest. *B*

Day 16 Monteverde

Today's half-day tour will take you above the canopy, travelling on the Sky Tram to one of the highest mountains in Costa Rica. Enjoy wonderful views of surrounding volcanoes, all the way to the Nicoya Gulf on clear days. From the top you can take the Sky Trek along a series of ziplines and cables and visit five observation towers with sweeping views. A specialised canopy guide will be with you the whole way to ensure you have a safe and enjoyable tour. Alternative options available for those who like to keep their feet on the ground. *B*

Day 17 Monteverde/ Ometepe Island

Depart Monteverde by private vehicle for the Nicaraguan border and continue to San Jorge. From here it's a short ferry ride to the twin volcanic island of Ometepe. *B*

Day 18 Ometepe Island

A full-day tour of Ometepe includes visits to Altagracia Church and Museum, Santo Domingo's beach petroglyphs and the verdant hiking trails of Charco Verde. Enjoy impressive views of Concepcion and Maderas Volcanoes as you make your way around this stunning island. *BL*

Day 19 Ometepe Island/ Granada

After breakfast, take the ferry back to the mainland and continue by private vehicle to one of the America's oldest and best-preserved colonial cities, Granada. *B*

Day 20 Granada

Explore Granada's charming colonial centre on this morning's walking tour, including the leafy Parque Central, San Francisco Convent and the pedestrianised Calle de Calzada. Afterwards, board a boat and explore Las Isletas, a group of around 365 tiny islands formed when Mombacho Volcano exploded more than 20,000 years ago. *B*

Day 21 Granada

A day at leisure to relax and continue exploring the city. Ask us about optional tours to visit Mombacho Volcano, just 10km from the city and covered in dense cloud forest. *B*

Day 22 Granada/ Leon

Depart for Masaya Volcano, where you can peek over the edge of the crater and see clouds of sulphurous gases. Continue to

Masaya Craft Market, a fantastic place to purchase one of Nicaragua's famous hand-made hammocks. After lunch, travel to Nicaragua's cultural capital, Leon. *BL*

Day 23 Leon

Explore the rich history of this important city. Climb to the top of Central America's largest Cathedral and enjoy stunning views across the city. Visit San Francisco Convent and the indigenous neighbourhood of Sutiaba. Along the way you can see some striking political murals. *B*

Day 24 Managua

Transfer to the airport in Managua for your onward flight. *B*

B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner

ENHANCE YOUR EXPERIENCE

- Add a rustic and remote beach break, with a side trip to the San Blas Islands
- Stay in a divine over-water bungalow in beautiful Bocas del Toro
- Coincide your trip with the sea turtles' nesting season for an unforgettable experience
- Active option: ask us about adventure activities in Arenal and Monteverde
- Indulge yourself with a stay in one of Nicaragua's luxury eco-resorts

Central America



Highlights of Central America

1. Ecotourism in Costa Rica

With more than 25% of the country's territory protected, Costa Rica is one of the world's best ecotourism destinations.

2. Magical Maya Ruins

Guatemala and Belize boast a number of impressive Maya sites – Tikal and Caracol are the most extensive.

3. Colonial Architecture

The Nicaraguan city of Granada offers some of the best-preserved colonial architecture in Central America. Panama City's Casco Viejo is a striking contrast to the modern downtown area. Antigua in Guatemala boasts a picturesque historic centre and is surrounded by volcanoes.

4. Panama Canal

Named one of the seven man-made wonders of the world, the Panama Canal is an amazing testament to human ingenuity. A partial transit through the Canal is a great experience.

5. Stays of Distinction

Get away from it all with a remote retreat in one of the many luxurious lodges dotted throughout the region. See page 89 for some of the best.

6. Coastal Attractions

Choose from Caribbean or Pacific beaches, and the world's second-longest barrier reef is a must for snorkellers and divers.

PANAMA CITY STOPOVER

5 Days/ 4 Nights

Day 1 Panama City

Arrive at the airport and transfer to your hotel.

Day 2 Panama City

A half-day city tour exploring historic Casco Viejo and the modern parts of the city. *B*

Day 3 Panama City

Depart on a full-day tour visiting the indigenous community of Embera. Travel by dugout canoe to the village, where you will learn about Embera customs and their relationship with nature. After lunch, visit a nearby waterfall for a dip before returning to your hotel. *BL*

Day 4 Panama City

Today you will enjoy a partial transit of the Panama Canal! Departing from Flamenco in Amador and travelling through the Miraflores and Pedro Miguel locks, the partial transit allows you to experience first-hand the operations of the canal itself. This tour operates every Saturday, except when it runs as a full transit. *B*

Day 5 Panama City

Transfer to the airport for your onward flight or ask us about options to extend. *B*

CARIBBEAN BEACH BREAK

Panama
5 Days/ 4 Nights

Day 1 Panama City

Arrive in Panama City and transfer to your hotel.

Day 2 Panama City/ San Blas

A short flight will take you to the pristine San Blas Islands in the Caribbean Sea. Home to the indigenous Kuna people, the islands are self-governing and tourism is limited to just a few islands to help the Kuna preserve their way of life. Your stay in San Blas includes two daily tours to nearby beaches, uninhabited islands or Kuna villages. *BLD*

Day 3 San Blas

Enjoy a free day on the San Blas Islands. Join a tour to a secluded beach or visit a Kuna community to learn about the customs of this interesting tribe, including the women's traditional dress, and Molas, which feature intricate geometrical designs inspired by nature. *BLD*

Day 4 San Blas/ Panama City

Fly back to Panama City and transfer to your hotel. Enjoy an afternoon tour to the Agua Clara Visitor Centre where you can learn about the construction of the Panama Canal while taking in great views over Gatun Lake and the canal expansion works. *B*

Day 5 Panama

Transfer to the airport for your onward flight. *B*

Central America

Antigua, Guatemala



CLASSIC COSTA RICA

8 Days/ 7 Nights

Day 1 San Jose

Arrive at San Jose airport and transfer to your hotel.

Day 2 San Jose/ Tortuguero

Depart San Jose, travelling through the lush Braulio Carrillo National Park to Guapiles. From here, take a long boat for two hours through jungle-fringed canals to Tortuguero National Park. Enjoy an afternoon walking tour of this tiny village. *BLD*

Day 3 Tortuguero

Take an early morning canoe ride along the extensive networks of canals and lagoons to spot wildlife such as monkeys, turtles and caimans. Later this afternoon, enjoy a guided hike through the National Park. *BLD*

Day 4 Tortuguero/ Arenal

Transfer by boat back to Guapiles and have lunch in a local restaurant. After lunch, a shuttle transfer will take you La Fortuna Village, dominated by the mighty Arenal Volcano. *BL*

Day 5 Arenal

A full-day tour will show you the best of this action-packed region. Start with a visit to Arenal's Hanging Bridges for a 3km walk through the rainforest canopy. Next, head to La Fortuna Waterfall for an inviting dip in the cool waters. Lunch is included

before heading to Arenal Volcano for a walk through the rainforest to reach a lava lookout point. Finally, drive to Tabacon Hot Springs to soak in the natural pools and enjoy dinner in this beautiful setting. *BLD*

Day 6 Arenal/ Monteverde

Transfer to the shores of Arenal Lake for a scenic 30-minute boat ride, with fantastic views of the Costa Rican highlands along the way. Continue by road for another hour and a half up a steep mountain road before arriving into Monteverde in time for lunch. *B*

Day 7 Monteverde

A half-day tour explores one of Costa Rica's most famous ecotourism destinations, Monteverde Cloud Forest. Orchids, bromeliads and strangler figs line the trail, and if you're very lucky you may spot the beautiful Quetzal. *B*

Day 8 San Jose

Transfer back to San Jose after breakfast to connect with your onward flight. *B*

NICARAGUA ECO ADVENTURE

7 Days/ 6 Nights

Day 1 Managua/ Granada

Transfer to Granada and take a private boat to the secluded Jicaro Island Ec lodge, located on a tiny private island. This luxury eco-resort boasts nine private, two-storey casitas with plenty of space to relax, enjoy the lake views and get away from it all. *D*

Day 2 Granada

A day at leisure. Consider a visit to Granada, one of the oldest colonial cities in America. *BLD*

Day 3 Granada

A day at leisure. Consider a kayaking trip to discover brilliant local bird species such as Montezuma's Oropendola. *BLD*

Day 4 Granada/ San Juan del Sur

Travel by boat and road to surfing mecca San Juan del Sur. Overnight at Morgan's Rock, a 15-bungalow hideaway on a mile-long picturesque sandy beach. *BLD*

Day 5 San Juan del Sur

A day at leisure. Morgan's Rock Private Reserve is frequented year-round by two species of turtles, and is home to howler monkeys, macaws, anteaters, sloths, and other species. *BLD*

Day 6 San Juan del Sur

A day at leisure. *BLD*

Day 7 Managua

Transfer to Managua Airport. *B*

Central America

Arenal Volcano



ACTIVE COSTA RICA

8 Days/ 7 Nights

Day 1 San Jose

Arrive at San Jose airport and transfer to your hotel.

Day 2 San Jose/ Poas Volcano

Depart this morning for Poas Volcano, visiting Doka Coffee Estate en route for an opportunity to taste some delicious Costa Rican coffee and learn about the process of cultivating, harvesting and roasting. At Poas Volcano you can admire the impressive main crater with its sulphur fumaroles. Afterwards, continue to La Paz Waterfall Gardens for lunch and a tour of the rainforest and falls. *BL*

Day 3 San Jose/ Arenal

After a shuttle transfer to Arenal, the afternoon includes a thrilling Sky Tram and Trek zipline tour with panoramic views of Arenal Volcano and the jungle canopy. The tour includes eight cross-sectional cables that together have a total length of 2.7km with a maximum height of 200m. *B*

Day 4 Arenal

A full-day tour will show you the best of this action-packed region. Start with a visit to Arenal's Hanging Bridges for a 3km walk through the rainforest canopy. Next, head to La Fortuna Waterfall for an inviting dip in the cool waters. Lunch is included before heading to Arenal Volcano for a walk through the rainforest to reach a lava

lookout point. Finally, drive to Tabacon Hot Springs to soak in the natural pools and enjoy dinner in this beautiful setting. *BLD*

Day 5 Arenal/ Manuel Antonio

Take a shuttle transfer to the famous Manuel Antonio National Park, considered to be Costa Rica's most beautiful park, with enchanting white-sand beaches ideal for swimming, and tropical rainforest alive with wildlife. *B*

Day 6 Manuel Antonio

Experience Costa Rica's striking coastline and abundant marine life on a kayak and snorkel tour. Paddle Biezas Bay for a refreshing swim and local snacks. Your guide will show you where to snorkel to explore the coral reef. After time to relax, you can paddle back and enjoy a hearty lunch. *BL*

Day 7 Manuel Antonio/ San Jose

A guided hike through the National Park provides the chance to see sloths, monkeys and tropical bird species. Later this afternoon, take a shuttle transfer to San Jose. *B*

Day 8 San Jose

Transfer to the airport for your onward flight or extend your trip to beautiful Nicaragua. *B*

PACUARE RIVER RAFTING

Costa Rica
3 Days/ 2 Nights

Day 1 San Jose/ Pacuare Lodge

Depart early for the Pacuare River, stopping for a traditional Costa Rican breakfast en route. After a safety briefing, you're ready to begin your rafting adventure! Paddle for an hour and a half downriver through scenic canyons and lush jungle vegetation to arrive at Pacuare Lodge. Optional activities such as a guided hike are available in the afternoon. *BLD*

Day 2 Pacuare Lodge

Wake to the sounds of birdsong and the rushing river. This is a full-day to enjoy optional activities such as a canopy tour or visit to a remote Cabecar indigenous village. *BLD*

Day 3 Pacuare Lodge/ San Jose

Spend the morning at leisure. In the afternoon, head back to the river for another exciting rafting adventure. Your guides will stop between the rapids for short hikes through the forest to pristine waterfalls. After lunch you'll board the minibus back to San Jose. (Rafting difficulty Class III-IV). *BL*

Stays of Distinction - Costa Rica



The pristine Osa Peninsula is bordered on the northwest by Drake Bay, on the west by the Pacific Ocean, and on the east by the Golfo Dulce. The peninsula offers untouched scenery, secluded beaches and abundant wildlife, as well as standout luxury lodges surrounded by lush primary rainforest. The best time to visit is November to late April – the dry season in Costa Rica. Direct flights are available from San Jose to Puerto Jimenez, the gateway to the Osa Peninsula.



LAPA RIOS

Puerto Jimenez

Described by National Geographic as one of the world's most authentic rainforest experiences, Lapa Rios is a model ecotourism project and a sustainability pioneer. Set in a private nature reserve spread over 1,000 acres of Central America's last remaining lowland tropical rainforest in the wild Osa Peninsula, Lapa Rios is paradise for wildlife, nature and beach lovers. Seventeen private bungalows line three ridges overlooking the pristine point where the Golfo Dulce meets the Pacific Ocean.



BOSQUE DEL CABO

Puerto Jimenez

Located in a unique and fortunate position at the very tip of the Osa Peninsula in the southern Pacific region of Costa Rica, Bosque del Cabo sits in a forest reserve of more than 750 acres. Choose from private, spacious bungalows and gorgeous houses perched atop the cliffs of Cabo Matapalo, each with beautiful ocean views, tropical breezes and the rainforest at your doorstep; or beautiful and rustic garden view accommodation surrounded by thriving rainforest. Hiking trails lead you through the forest to deserted beaches on both the Golfo Dulce and Pacific Ocean.



PLAYA CATIVO

Golfo Dulce

Accessible exclusively by boat, Playa Cativo Eco Lodge is nestled on the tranquil waters of Golfo Dulce, near Osa Peninsula in southern Costa Rica. Enjoy luxurious accommodation with stunning ocean views in a very romantic natural atmosphere. All the rooms are appointed in a natural yet luxurious fashion and focus on the unbelievable surroundings with a 180-degree view of the ocean and rainforest.



PLAYA NICUESA RAINFOREST LODGE

Golfo Dulce

Framed by dramatic mountains and accessible only by boat, Playa Nicuesa is an eco-friendly lodge set on a 165-acre private rainforest reserve. The nine spacious cabins feature jungle-chic decor, private entrances, beautiful hardwood floors, private open-air showers with rainforest views, wrap-around terraces with louvered doors and windows, and ceiling fans.

Central America

Lake Atitlan, Guatemala



BEST OF GUATEMALA

8 Days/ 7 Nights

Day 1 Guatemala City/ Antigua

Arrival transfer to the colonial city of Antigua.

Day 2 Antigua

In the morning visit *As Green as it Gets*, an organisation supporting small independent coffee producers. Visit a family of coffee farmers and help in their daily tasks – pick, ferment, wash, sort and grade the coffee. After lunch, return to Antigua for a walking tour of the historic centre. *BL*

Day 3 Antigua/ Lake Atitlan

Visit the colourful Comalapa Market and explore the Maya ruins of Iximche. Continue to Lake Atitlan and stay overnight. *BL*

Day 4 Lake Atitlan

Depart by boat across the lake to San Juan la Laguna to visit a women's textile co-operative. Continue to Santiago and learn about the indigenous T'zutujil Maya beliefs and spirituality. *B*

Day 5 Lake Atitlan/ Flores

Visit Guatemala's most famous market, Chichicastenango, in the morning (Wed and Sun only). Transfer to Guatemala City airport and fly to Flores. *B*

Day 6 Flores

A free morning before enjoying a sunset tour of Yaxha Ruins. Climb to the top of the temple before dark. Enjoy drinks and snacks while watching the sun set over the rainforest and nearby lake. *B*

Day 7 Tikal/ Guatemala City

A full-day tour of UNESCO World Heritage site Tikal National Park. Take an evening flight to Guatemala City and stay overnight. *BL*

Day 8 Guatemala City

Transfer to the airport for your flight or ask us about options to extend. *B*

HIGHLANDS & MARKETS

Guatemala
13 Days/ 12 Nights

Day 1 Guatemala City/ Antigua

Arrive and transfer to overnight in Antigua.

Day 2 Antigua

Enjoy a half-day tour of Antigua's best street food. You'll get to try local specialities such as pupusas, chuchitos and rellenitos. *B*

Day 3 Antigua/ Xela

Visit Comalapa Market in the morning then transfer to Quetzaltenango, called 'Xela' for short. *BL*

Day 4 Xela

See highland women in traditional local dress during a morning tour of Almolonga market. Continue to Zunil, one of the few villages left in Guatemala where people worship the idol Maximon with offerings of cigarettes, alcohol and candles. After lunch, continue along the slopes of Zunil Volcano for a dip in natural thermal springs. *BL*

Day 5 Xela/ Totonicapan

Depart for the Maya village of Totonicapan, with a visit to picturesque San Andres Xecul en route. Overnight in a local family homestay – a unique and unforgettable cultural experience. *BLD*

Day 6 Totonicapan/ Huehuetenango

Depart for the chilly highland town of San Francisco El Alto, which hosts one of the country's most authentic markets every Friday. Continue to Huehuetenango and overnight in a rustic mountain lodge. *BD*

Day 7 Huehuetenango

Enjoy a scenic drive deep into the mountains of Huehuetenango to visit Todos Santos, a Mam Maya town located 2,500m above sea level. The village's isolation has helped preserve many traditional customs. *BLD*

Day 8 Huehuetenango/ Nebaj

Transfer to Nebaj, located in a spectacular valley and featuring cobblestone streets, a whitewashed church, and a backdrop of towering mountains. Overnight in Hacienda Mil Amores. *BD*

Day 9 Nebaj

This full-day tour explores the villages of the Ixil Triangle, an isolated but stunning part of Guatemala that includes the towns of Nebaj, San Juan Cotzal and Chajul, as well as a handful of outlying hamlets. You'll visit local churches, plazas and markets and get a close-up look at local life. Listen out for Ixil, the region's Mayan dialect. *BLD*

Day 10 Nebaj/ Lake Atitlan

Transfer to Lake Atitlan with a visit to Solola Market en route. Overnight on the shores of this stunning lake. *B*

Day 11 Lake Atitlan

Travel by boat across the lake to San Juan la Laguna to visit a women's textile co-operative and studios of the region's painters. Continue to Santiago and learn about the indigenous T'zutujil Maya beliefs and spirituality. *B*

Day 12 Lake Atitlan/ Antigua

Spend the morning exploring Guatemala's most famous market, Chichicastenango (Wed and Sun only). You'll also visit San Tomas Church where you can see an eclectic mix of Catholic and Maya rituals. After lunch, transfer to Antigua. *BL*

Day 13 Antigua

Transfer to the airport in Guatemala City for your onward flight. *B*

Central America



Lamanai Ruins, Belize

MAGICAL MAYA RUINS

Guatemala & Belize
7 Days/ 6 Nights

Day 1 **Peten**

Arrive in Flores and transfer to your hotel. Tour Yaxha Ruins, set among lush jungle foliage, in the afternoon. Before dark, climb to the top of the temple. Enjoy drinks and snacks while watching the sun set over the surrounding rainforest and nearby lake.

Day 2 **Peten**

A full-day tour will take you through UNESCO World Heritage-listed Tikal National Park, one of the most impressive Maya ruins in Central America. *BL*

Day 3 **Peten/ San Ignacio**

After breakfast, transfer across the border into Belize and continue to San Ignacio, home to some of Belize's best ruins and adventure activities. *B*

Day 4 **San Ignacio**

Depart this morning on a half-day tour of Xunantunich. Situated on the banks of the Mopan River, Xunantunich was a thriving city near the end of the Classic Period, with large plazas surrounded by pyramids. *B*

Day 5 **San Ignacio**

Visit the beautiful site of Caracol ('snail' in Spanish), the largest archaeological site in Belize, covering 30 square miles of thick jungle. After a guided tour and lunch, continue to Rio Frio pools and caves, where you'll have time for a swim. Return to your hotel in the afternoon. *BL*

Day 6 **San Ignacio**

A day at leisure. Optional activities include caving, tubing, birdwatching and horseriding. *B*

Day 7 **Belize City**

Transfer to Belize City airport for your onward flight. *B*

RAINFOREST & REEF

Belize
7 Days/ 6 Nights

Day 1 **Belize/ Orange Walk**

Arrive in Belize City and transfer to the Orange Walk district, located in the northwestern part of Belize and home to steamy jungle rivers and diverse wildlife. Check into your lodge where dinner is included – choose from Lamanai Outpost Lodge or the deluxe Chan Chich Lodge. *D*

Day 2 **Orange Walk**

Spend the day exploring the jungle with your guide. Look for wildlife or visit the nearby Maya ruins. *BLD*

Day 3 **Orange Walk**

Another day exploring the Belizean rainforest. You may, if you are lucky, spot one of the jaguars known to inhabit this part of the country. *BLD*

Day 4 **Orange Walk/ Ambergris Caye**

Transfer to Belize City and take a short flight or water taxi to Ambergris Caye, home to the world's second-longest reef system. *B*

Day 5 **Ambergris Caye**

A morning snorkelling tour begins at Hol Chan Marine Reserve, the first marine reserve in Central America, exploring the coloured reefs. Continue to Shark Alley where you'll encounter friendly stingrays, inquisitive brown nurse sharks and turtles, and an abundance of colourful reef fish, including snappers and jacks. *B*

Day 6 **Ambergris Caye**

A day at leisure to relax and explore. *B*

Day 7 **Belize City**

Take a flight or water taxi back to Belize City and connect with your onward flight. *B*

BELCAMPO BELIZE



Located in the southern Toledo district of Belize and a short flight from Belize City airport, Punta Gorda is home to the excellent Belcampo Belize, a jungle lodge, organic farm and 12,000-acre nature reserve.

The lodge has 16 private suites offering the best in luxury and comfort. A testament to Belize's natural beauty and craftsmanship, nearly every detail, from the woodwork to the tiles and artwork, is sourced from local artisans. Whether you're relaxing on one of the canopy beds or lounging on your own private verandah, you will experience the magic of the jungle from within the comfort of your room.

Activities include kayak trips along the Rio Grande, jungle foraging tours, and coffee and cacao masterclasses, as well as snorkelling, diving and fishing in the crystal clear waters of the Caribbean Sea. Indulge with a treatment at the hotel spa, which uses only locally sourced ingredients and botanicals.

Bespoke Itineraries

Created By Contours Travel's Clients

Contours Travel is Australia's longest-running and most experienced tour operator to Latin America. We are passionate about sharing our love of this incredible region – from iconic highlights to lesser-known gems. We've been helping clients create the perfect holiday for more than 40 years. Below are just a few of our favourite bespoke itineraries. Contact one of our expert consultants today for a tailor-made itinerary and quote!

97 Days, Dream Retirement Holiday



60 Days, by Mr & Mrs G.



40 Days, Latin American Honeymoon



85 Days, by Mr & Mrs H.



30 Days, The Road Less Travelled



Terms & Conditions

Contract

Contours Travel is a tour operator specialising in Latin America. All Services provided by Contours Travel are sold on these terms and conditions ("Terms").

Brochure and Website Validity

Information in Contours Travel current brochures ("Brochures") and on Contours Travel website ("Website") is valid from 1st April 2017 until otherwise changed or notified.

How to Book

In order for Contours Travel to confirm your booking it requires a completed booking form, a scanned copy of your passport and the relevant deposit. A booking is only accepted by Contours Travel once it receives the specified deposit and issues you or your travel agent with a confirmation of acceptance of your booking. Contours Travel reserves the right to accept or reject any booking it receives. If the specified service fee and deposit are not paid on time, your booking will automatically lapse and re-booking will involve additional fees. Special booking procedures and conditions apply for certain bookings. If special booking procedures and conditions apply, Contours Travel will notify you accordingly.

Deposits

A deposit of at least \$500 per person applies for all bookings. For bookings that include cruises in the Amazon, Galapagos, Fjords or Antarctica, Amazon lodges, Explora hotels, Inca Trails and other products, please contact Contours Travel for respective deposit requirements as these range from 30% up to 50% of the total booking cost.

Late Booking Fee

For all bookings made 30 days or less prior to the day you are due to depart from Australia, a late booking fee of \$50 per booking will apply.

Due Dates for Payment

Payment of the total booking cost is required 60 days prior to the day you are due to depart from Australia. If your booking is made less than 60 days prior to the day you are due to depart from Australia, payment of the total booking cost is required upon confirmation of acceptance of your booking application by Contours Travel. If your booking is made less than 30 days prior to the day you are due to depart from Australia, payment of a deposit of 100% of the total booking cost is required in order to process your booking. If Contours Travel is unable to secure your booking it will refund this deposit less its relevant service fee. Special payment arrangements and conditions apply for certain bookings. If special payment arrangements and conditions apply, Contours Travel will notify you accordingly.

Contents

Contours Travel has taken considerable care to make sure all information in the Brochures and on the Website is correct. Circumstances beyond the control of Contours Travel may necessitate change in travel arrangements including but not limited to changes to itineraries, tours or cruises up to and after your departure date. Contours Travel cannot be held responsible for any changes to your travel arrangements which may occur. Contours Travel reserves the right to adjust the price of any of your travel arrangements at any time due to changes including but not limited to airfare and land arrangement price increases, currency devaluation, fuel surcharges or exchange rates. Before you book, please check with your travel agent or Contours Travel if there are any alterations to the travel arrangements you have selected.

Descriptions, Maps & Photographs

Descriptions featured in the Brochures or on the Website are based on current guides and are subject to change at any time. Maps and photographs are included for general information and may not necessarily reflect actual routings, locations or services. Hotel room photographs may not be specific to the actual room occupied.

Prices

Updated prices are available on the Website. Seasonal prices and any "Specials" will be available on the Website. Prices shown in the Brochures and on the Website are indicative only. Prices are based on costs and exchange rates at 1st April 2017. Our costs include but are not limited

to costs of research, consultation and communication with travel agents and overseas suppliers, marketing and advertising. All prices are per person and expressed in Australian Dollars, unless stated otherwise. All prices are subject to change without notice up to the day of departure due to factors including but not limited to currency fluctuation, government taxes, charges and levies. Any airfares quoted or confirmed are subject to change without notice prior to the ticket being written. Please note security and airport taxes around the world change daily. Prices shown in the Brochures and on the Website do not include costs that are not a compulsory part of the relevant tour, such costs may include but not be limited to the following: Visas, insurance, excess baggage, meals not mentioned, vaccinations, beverages, tips, shipboard gratuities, costs of a personal nature including but not limited to laundry, telephone calls, cost of passport and personal services to hotel rooms, emergency evacuation costs, airport departure taxes, security charges, other airport taxes, international and domestic airfares.

Amendments

Should you make an amendment to your confirmed booking, a fee of \$50.00 per amendment per country will apply to cover extra costs including but not limited to administrative costs, communication costs and any applicable supplier charges. Cancellation fees may also apply.

Cancellation

Written notice must be provided for all cancellations. If it is necessary to cancel your travel arrangements, the following fees will apply per person per booking. If travel arrangements are cancelled more than 60 days before the due date for departure – the Deposit. If the travel arrangements are cancelled less than 60 days before the due date for departure – up to 50% of total booking cost. If the travel arrangements are cancelled less than 30 days before the due date for departure – up to 100% of the total booking cost. Cancellation fees from service providers including but not limited to airlines, cruise operators, hoteliers and coach companies, may also apply. Special cancellation arrangements and conditions apply for certain bookings. If special cancellation arrangements and conditions apply, you will be notified by Contours Travel accordingly.

Minimum Stay

The company is a specialist tour operator and does not normally accept reservations of less than five nights. Exceptions may be made at our discretion and subject to an under-stay fee being charged.

No Show

If you fail to check in at a designated location or service as confirmed in your booking, a "no show" fee equal to 100% of the cost of that particular component of your travel arrangements will be charged.

Refund for Unused Service

Once you have left Australia, Contours Travel will not refund or compensate you for any service not used by you due to late arrival, failure of any transportation to operate as scheduled, early departure or by notice. Contours Travel does not authorise any overseas suppliers including but not limited to hotel management and staff to make any undertakings on our behalf or otherwise in respect of refunds or other matters.

Airlines

The depiction or recommendation of any domestic and international airline in the Brochures or on the Website does not commit the airline to any travel arrangements and the airline shall not be responsible for statements or literature relating to the travel arrangements in the Brochure or on the Website.

Holiday Variation

If unforeseen circumstances beyond the control of Contours Travel or suppliers, providers or representatives of Contours Travel require Contours Travel to make necessary changes to your travel arrangements, Contours Travel reserves the

right to cancel or reschedule your travel arrangements including but not limited to departures and itineraries. When it is necessary to change a hotel, Contours Travel reserves the right to substitute accommodation of at least a similar standard.

Travel Insurance

It is a condition of booking that you have adequate travel insurance for the full duration of your travel arrangements in respect of illness, injury, death, medical expenses, loss of baggage, personal items and deposits, cancellations and curtailment of tours en route.

Passport, Visa and Vaccination

It is mandatory that you familiarise yourself with any visa and health requirements that may be applicable in the countries you are visiting. You are responsible for all entry and exit health requirements and any other documents required by any law, regulation, order, demand or requirement of a country visited or transited. Please note that passport and visa requirements are not the responsibility of Contours Travel. Contours Travel cannot be held liable for any loss or expense due to your failure to comply with the above.

Warning

You must check with your doctor whether you are fit to travel to your selected destination. If you are travelling to certain South American cities situated at high altitudes, you must check with your doctor that you are fit to travel to these altitudes.

Limitations and Liability

Contours Travel, its employees and agents act only as booking agents and will not be responsible and exclude liability for injury, death, damage, loss or claims arising directly or indirectly from acts or omissions by suppliers or other service providers or from accidents, loss or damage to person or property, delays, changes in schedules, transport failures, strikes, wars, uprisings, acts of God or other causes over which Contours Travel, its employees and agents have no control. The Trade Practices Act 1974 (Cth) and corresponding legislation in other jurisdictions in certain circumstances imply mandatory conditions and warranties into agreements ("Consumer Warranties"). This clause does not exclude or limit the application of any Consumer Warranties or other warranties where to do so would contravene the law of the relevant jurisdiction or cause any part of this clause to be void. You hereby waive and Contours Travel hereby disclaims all warranties whether written or oral, express or implied, including but not limited to the Consumer Warranties. The liability of Contours Travel is limited to providing the Services again or payment of the cost of having the Services supplied again, the choice of which is at the option of Contours Travel.

Severance

If any provision of these Terms is held to be invalid or in any way unenforceable, it shall be severed from these Terms and the remaining provisions shall not in any way be affected or impaired and these Terms shall be construed so as to most nearly give effect to the parties intentions at the time when Contours Travel confirmed its acceptance of the relevant booking.

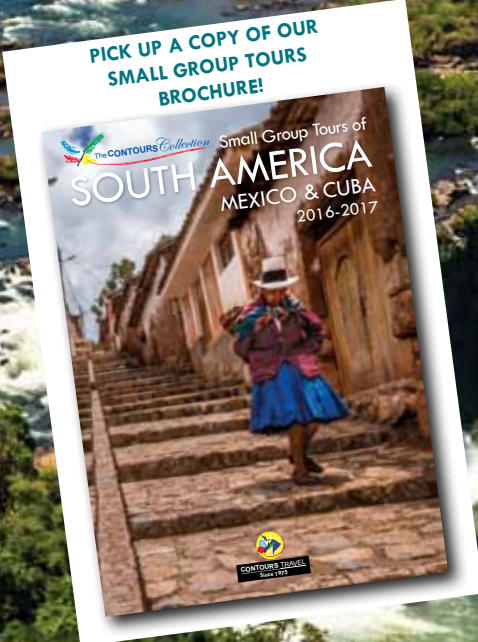
Governing Law

All matters in respect of the Services provided by Contours Travel but not in respect of other things are governed by the laws of Victoria.

Definitions

In these Terms, the following terms have the following meaning: (a) "Contours Travel" means Contours Travel Pty Ltd of 287 Victoria Street, West Melbourne, Victoria 3003, and (b) "Services" means booking and packaging by Contours Travel of accommodation, transportation, tour and other services provided by other suppliers.





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