

20 DAY BEST OF SOUTH AMERICA

DESTINATIONS

—
BUENOS AIRES
IGUAZU FALLS
LIMA
CUSCO
MACHU PICCHU
RIO DE JANEIRO
PERU AMAZON JUNGLE
OLLANTAYTAMBO
SACRED VALLEY



TOUR ITINERARY

DAY 1

Destination	Buenos Aires
Meals included	
Hotel	4 ★ Tango de Mayo Hotel, or similar

Welcome to Argentina! Upon check-in at the hotel, you'll be handed a welcome note with your meeting time for tomorrow.

This beautiful city, on the banks of the Río de la Plata, is a city of contrasts. You'll find grand avenues with fine European architecture, and vibrant neighbourhoods buzzing with Latin American flair – it is the birthplace of tango, after all.

The food scene in Buenos Aires is *happening*. If you're a fan of steak, a visit to a *parrilla* (steakhouse) is in order – Argentines are known for their love of beef and asado (barbeque). Make like a Porteño and grab a choripán, a classic Argentinian hot dog made with chorizo. There are plenty of food stands dotted around the city where you can buy an empanada, the classic Argentine snack. You'll also find great ice cream, especially the Argentine favourite *dulche de leche* flavour.

People eat dinner late around here – and head out to nightclubs even later! Argentina's oldest and arguably most famous café, Café Tortoni, is a great place for coffee and people watching – and to see the tango performed onstage. Café con leche, anyone?

Check in: Passengers will be arriving at various times throughout the day from as early as 6am through to late evening. If arriving prior to standard check-in time, which is generally 3pm local time, you are welcome to leave your luggage with hotel reception and explore your surroundings until check-in becomes available, as there are generally no scheduled activities on Day 1 of the itinerary. The hotel may grant early check-in, however this is strictly subject to availability and at the hotel's discretion.

Please note: Buenos Aires is a thriving, dynamic city. We recommend those travellers wishing to explore it in depth arrive one or two days in advance and take part in some of the optional activities available.

FIESTA GAUCHA

Visit San Antonio de Areco, the cradle of Argentinian rural culture and folklore. Experience an unforgettable visit to a traditional *estancia* (ranch) in the country. We'll enjoy an authentic lunch and learn more about the legendary *gaucho's* way of life.

This tour starts at 09.30am and it lasts approximately eight hours.

OPTIONAL TOUR – COLONIA DE SACRAMENTO FULL DAY TOUR WITH LUNCH

Discover Uruguay's colonial charm and traditions with a visit to the small city of Colonia de Sacramento, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Travel by ferry along the Rio de la Plata river and then step back in time as you wander the narrow, cobbled streets and admire the 18th-century colonial architecture. This is one of the oldest towns in Uruguay, with a colourful history. Enjoy lunch with magnificent views of the Rio de la Plata and its harbour.

This tour starts at 8am and lasts approximately nine hours.

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TOUR ITINERARY

OPTIONAL TOUR – TANGO LESSON

Learn to tango with professional dancers! You'll learn about the dance's origin and rich history here in Buenos Aires, the home of tango. Wear comfortable clothes as you'll be learning the basic techniques to understand the rhythm of this energetic dance.

This tour starts at 4pm and lasts approximately three hours.

DAY 2

Destination	Buenos Aires
Meals included	Breakfast
Hotel	4 ★ Tango de Mayo Hotel, or similar

This morning, you'll meet your local guide and after a welcome briefing, head out to discover Buenos Aires. You'll enjoy a day's touring in this dynamic city today to see the sights and explore the varied, interesting *barrios* (neighbourhoods), each with their own charm and flair.

We'll head to Plaza de Mayo (Main Square) and see the pink-hued Casa Rosada (Government Palace) – this is, of course, where Juan and Eva Perón delivered famous speeches from the balconies. See Metropolitan Cathedral and City Hall before we head to San Telmo, known as the tango neighbourhood. It's the oldest neighbourhood in the city and its narrow cobblestone streets, colonial character, tango parlours and a lively street market make for a charming visit. You'll have some free time for lunch (not included).

Learn more about Argentina's passion – *fútbol* (football) – by visiting vibrant La Boca. We'll pass by La Bombonera, the iconic stadium of the Boca Juniors, and see Puerto Madero on the waterfront, the most modern neighbourhood of the city. We'll finish with a visit to the upscale Recoleta neighbourhood, with its elegant buildings and the most exclusive pocket of the city, Alvear Avenue.

neighbourhood of the city.

OPTIONAL TOUR - MALBEC WINE TRAIL

Vino, anyone? In a country famed for its red wine, enjoy a customised lesson and tasting session. You'll be whisked away to a hidden wine cellar and enjoy a tapas plate as you discover Argentine wine. This tour starts at 6pm from a central location (transfers are not included) and it lasts approximately three hours.

OPTIONAL TOUR - TANGO SHOW WITH DINNER

Experience the sensual dance of tango in a romantic and intimate atmosphere. International cuisine, regional dishes, desserts and a wide selection of Argentine wines will be offered to accompany the La Ventana Tango Show as you experience the tango, a dance which reveals the spirit of Buenos Aires' beginnings. This starts at 07.30pm and last approximately three hours.

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TOUR ITINERARY

DAY 3

Destination	Buenos Aires ➔ Iguazu Falls
Meals included	Breakfast
Hotel	4 ★ El Pueblito Iguazú, or similar

Enjoy a relaxed morning to savour the last of this elegant city. At the appropriate time, you'll be transferred to the airport to board your flight to the wondrous Iguazu Falls, one of the world's most spectacular series of waterfalls.

The Iguazu Falls are located where the Iguazu River cascades over the edge of the Paraná Plateau, created by an enormous volcanic eruption more than 130 million years ago. Straddling the Argentine-Brazil border, the falls are made up of up to 275 individual waterfalls, lining a 2.7km-wide horseshoe-shaped gorge. It's a truly breathtaking sight to see the unyielding force of nature in such a magnificent setting.

DAY 4

Destination	Iguazu Falls
Meals included	Breakfast
Hotel	4 ★ El Pueblito Iguazú, or similar

These spectacular falls can be viewed from both sides; the Brazilian side offers a broader, panoramic view, and the Argentinian side offers a series of catwalks that allow you to experience the Falls up close.

This morning you'll explore Iguazu Falls from the Argentinian side. Beginning at the visitor's centre, you'll take a ride on the Rainforest Ecological Train before exploring the upper and lower circuit footbridges. These footbridges, raised off the jungle floor, provide panoramic views from above and below the falls.

A visit to monumental, roaring Devil's Throat – arguably the most spectacular of the falls – is one of the day's highlights. It's the heart of the falls and the highest, at about 80 metres. The noise as these mighty falls plunge to the bottom of the narrow canyon is almost deafening. There's the chance of getting under the falls, with an optional ride on the Gran Aventura.

You'll return to the hotel in the afternoon.

OPTIONAL TOUR - THE GRAN AVENTURA - 20 DAY ANTARCTICA WITH RIO & IGUAZU FALLS

The best way to experience the falls is to get right in the action. You'll travel through lush landscape by specially designed tracks. This five-kilometre long ride ends at Puerto Macuco. Board a small boat and explore Lower Iguazu River for as long as six kilometres, heading towards the waterfalls area to enjoy the sight of plenty of small cascades. From the Tres Mosqueteros Falls, see the falls on both the Argentinian and Brazilian sides crowned by the view of the Garganta del Diablo (Devil's Throat). Afterwards, it's surely a highlight when you face the incomparable San Martín waterfall. After that we'll navigate downriver to Puerto Macuco. You'll walk up the hill, about 150 metres, and ride a truck back to the starting point. This tour goes for 2 hours, 15 minutes.

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TOUR ITINERARY

DAY 5

Destination	Iguazu Falls ➔ Rio de Janeiro
Meals included	Breakfast
Hotel	4 ★ Arena Copacabana Hotel, or similar

Today, you'll cross the border to tour the relatively dry Brazilian side of the falls, with breathtaking panoramic views at every turn. Uninterrupted vistas of the Floriana Falls, the Devil's Gorge canyon and the Iguazu River are spectacular and guaranteed to impress.

You'll then be transferred to the airport for your flight to Rio de Janeiro.

_Bem vindo ao Rio _– Welcome to Rio! You'll be met at Galeao International Airport and transferred to your hotel in Copacabana, on the city's dazzling iconic shoreline.

Nicknamed a *cidade maravilhosa* (the marvellous city), Rio de Janeiro is world-renowned for its dazzling landscapes and location, nestled between steep, green mountains and crystal-clear seas.

The city is a UNESCO World Heritage Site for not only its 'staggeringly beautiful location', but its cultural landscape. The city is full of energy. *Cariocas*, the locals of Rio, are known for their carefree spirit and charm.

Rio is one of the most important cultural and economic cities in Brazil and is home to some of the country's most famous attractions, like Sugarloaf Mountain (Pão de Açúcar), Corcovado Hill, and Copacabana and Ipanema beaches. The city comes alive for Carnival celebrations each winter, an extravagant pre-Lenten spectacle with street parades and samba parties.

DAY 6

Destination	Rio de Janeiro
Meals included	Breakfast, Lunch
Hotel	4 ★ Arena Copacabana Hotel, or similar

This morning, you'll meet your local guide who will welcome you and brief you on the next couple days. Then we'll embark on a full day tour of Rio de Janeiro to see the city's famous landmarks, like Christ the Redeemer and Sugarloaf Mountain.

We'll take a scenic drive from Copacabana Beach, continuing along Botafogo Beach and passing imposing Guanabara Palace on the way to Corcovado Hill. At the top we'll find the greatest national icon, Christ the Redeemer, standing tall over the city with arms outstretched. This giant Art Deco statue was recently named as one of the New Seven Wonders of the World. The panoramic views of the city are lovely from up here, 709 metres at the summit.

We'll then continue on to the district of Urca and the world-famous rocky peak of Sugarloaf Mountain, where you'll board the first cable car to the top of Urca Hill, enjoying spectacular views of Guanabara Bay.

A second cable car takes you on to Sugarloaf, with 360-degree views of the city and surrounds. Sugarloaf Mountain towers over the harbour, 400 metres above the mouth of Guanabara Bay.

Afterwards, we'll pass through the famous beaches of Copacabana and Ipanema en route to a traditional Brazilian lunch at a local *churrascaria*, an all-you-can-eat barbeque.

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TOUR ITINERARY

After lunch, we'll visit the Maracanã Stadium, home of Bellini's statue and the Hall of Fame. Brazilians also love their football (soccer) and this is their biggest stadium. Entrance to the stadium is not included. And there will be a stop at the Sambadrome, the stadium for the city's main Carnival parade.

As we pass through the city's historic centre, you'll have a chance to see the Lapa Arches. Built in the middle of the 18th century, this aqueduct is an impressive example of colonial architecture and engineering. We'll also make a quick stop to see the colourful Selaron Stairs, an amazing urban work of art by the late Jorge Selaron. These steps are decorated with more than 2,000 brightly coloured tiles and mirrors.

We'll return to the hotel along Aterro de Flamengo (Flamengo Park), passing by the Monument to the Dead of World War II and the beaches of Flamengo and Botafogo.

DAY 7

Destination	Rio de Janeiro
Meals included	Breakfast
Hotel	4 ★ Arena Copacabana Hotel, or similar

It's a free day for you to enjoy the rhythm of this vibrant, bustling city. Your tour guide will be at hand to assist with suggestions and optional activities. Relax on the legendary beaches of Copacabana and Ipanema or take one of the tours on offer to explore more of this iconic city.

The famous crescent-shaped beach of Copacabana is a tourist hotspot. It's lively, vibrant and busy... round-the-clock busy. The golden sand stretches nearly four kilometres long, from Copacabana Fort to Leme Beach. It's lined with high-rise hotels, including the iconic Copacabana where Barry Manilow penned that hit in the 1970s.

Wander the iconic black and white promenade – it's everything you imagined. Swaying palm trees, skimpy bikinis and people sunning themselves, playing volleyball, dancing and swimming. Beach vendors stroll up and down the shore, selling all manner of snacks, souvenirs and drinks.

Ipanema Beach is more upscale, the place to see and be seen. You'll find more locals chilling out here.

If you are planning to take a dip in the warm Carioca waters, make sure you leave your belongings at your hotel. Unfortunately, opportunistic theft can be a regular occurrence.

If you want to relax off the beach, the Rio de Janeiro Botanical Gardens are lovely for a stroll. There's a Japanese garden, a pond filled with water lilies and 600 species of orchids.

Head to the Benedictine Church and Monastery of São Bento, founded in 1590. The unassuming exterior is in complete contrast to the intricate interior, covered with gilded carved wood and decorated with exquisite wooden statues. São Francisco da Penitência is an elaborate church – you have to see inside to believe it, with its rich gold leaf interior. The choir ceiling has the earliest trompe-l'oeil painting in the country, painted by Caetano da Costa Coelho in 1736.

For a taste of Rio nightlife – or just great people watching – head to the Lapa neighbourhood in downtown (where you saw the Lapa Arches yesterday). As Rio's party district, it's home to samba bars and a huge street party every weekend. Try the national drink *caipirinha*, a cocktail of sugar, cachaça and lime.

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TOUR ITINERARY

OPTIONAL TOUR - RIO GASTRONOMIC EXPERIENCE - 20 DAY ANTARCTICA WITH RIO & IGUAZU FALLS

Spend an evening tasting the flavours of Rio de Janeiro! Learn how to cook the most traditional of Brazilian meals, the feijoada, and be delighted by one of Brazil's favourite sweets. To quench your thirst, learn how to squeeze an authentic caipirinha, the national drink of Brazil.

DAY 8

Destination	Rio ✈️ Lima
Meals included	Breakfast
Hotel	4 ★ Hotel Antigua Miraflores, or similar

You'll be heading to Lima, City of Kings, this evening. Check-out time is midday and you can leave your luggage at the hotel until your transfer picks you up at approximately 3pm.

Welcome to Peru! Upon arrival, you'll be transferred to your hotel. Your local guide will meet you for a welcome briefing and offer some tips for this leg of your adventure.

While Peru's capital officially began life in 1535, Lima was in its prime during the Spanish colonial days and much of the city's attraction now lies in its well-preserved historical centre. You'll also find excellent museums – a given considering the history and culture of its surrounds – and interesting colonial architecture. One such museum, the Museo de la Nación, is the largest museum in Lima and an ideal place to begin exploring Peru's ancient history.

At night, the Magic Water Circuit show in the Parque de la Reserva is a tourist drawcard. Every one of the 13 fountains at the park is illuminated with different colours and synchronised to music.

DAY 9

Destination	Lima
Meals included	Breakfast
Hotel	4 ★ Hotel Antigua Miraflores, or similar

Get ready to discover Lima today!

In the morning, your local guide will meet you for a welcome briefing and offer some tips for this leg of your adventure.

On the way to the historic centre, we'll see the outside of the pre-Columbian site Huaca Pucllana, a magnificent ceremonial and archaeological centre built in the fourth century – considered a sacred village by the Incas.

We'll continue on to the colonial side of the city where we'll pass by the Cathedral, the Viceroyalty of Peru, the Government Palace, City Hall, and other important monuments. We'll visit the Plaza Mayor (Main Square), the historical centre of Lima. Although most of the buildings of the original city were lost in the earthquake of 1746, the bronze fountain in the centre of the square dates back to 1651.

Later, we'll visit the Bodega Y Quadra Museum, in a well-preserved house of the Peruvian Republican period. Then we'll see the 16th-century Santo Domingo Convent, one of Peru's oldest churches. There may be a chance to climb the bell tower for stunning views of Lima.

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Finally, we'll see the changing of the guards at Government Palace (subject to the Palace's program) before returning to the hotel.

You'll have the afternoon free to explore on your own. Your local guide will be with you to assist in anything you may need.

Feel free to head to the modern section of this great metropolis and visit the district of Miraflores with its shopping mall Larcomar, built on a spectacular cliff overlooking the Pacific Ocean and the traditional 'Parque del amor' (Love Park). Miraflores is home to the pyramid-shaped temple of Huaca Pucllana. If you have time, a leisurely stroll down the Miraflores Boardwalk will showcase the coastline views.

With its vibrant, varied flavours, Peruvian food will undoubtedly be a highlight of your trip and Lima is the country's gastronomic capital. *Ceviche* is Peru's most popular dish, and with the Pacific Ocean just west of the city, you'll find it everywhere – from cevicherias to street stalls to fine dining restaurants. You might like to end the day with the ubiquitous pisco sour, a popular cocktail made with the nation's favourite brandy.

DINNER IN HUACA

Located in the heart of the city, this spectacular pre-Inca structure is a 1,500-year-old pyramid built from seven staggered platforms. The complex is now home to a high-end restaurant, adjacent to the pyramid, overlooking the historic ruins of this fascinating archaeological complex. It's one of Lima's best restaurants, where classic techniques and contemporary style fuse with Peruvian flavours for a truly special culinary experience. This tour starts from 6.30pm and lasts approximately three hours, and includes transfers.

DAY 10

Destination	Lima → Puerto Maldonado
Meals included	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Hotel	Ñape Lodge (Eco Lodge), or similar

At the appropriate time, you'll be taken to the airport to board your flight for the Peruvian jungle town of Puerto Maldonado – gateway to the Peruvian Amazon.

Upon arrival, the staff will welcome you and take you to the nearby office to pack your bag for the jungle stay. Your luggage will be stored in a secure place while you are exploring the jungle.

Then, it's about a 45 minute bus trip to the indigenous community of Infierno. Your lodge in the Peruvian Amazon is 100% owned by this community. It was founded with the mission of promoting sustainability through eco-tourism and conservation efforts. All staff are members of the community and all income generated goes directly to support this indigenous community in one of Peru's most remote corners.

We'll take a motorboat along the warm, calm waters of the Tambopata River. Travel time is about 30 minutes, while we enjoy a delicious lunch typical of the Peruvian jungle.

This area is the least populated territory in Peru, with its lush tropical rainforest. Of course, it's more than a rainforest – it's a complex ecosystem, with a dazzling array of flora and fauna. You'll observe life in the jungle, its thrilling landscapes and the fascinating wildlife that call it home.

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When you arrive at the lodge and settle in, enjoy your first activity. A member of the community will explain how the Ese Ejja people made and used the bow and arrow to hunt in the area for food. You'll have a chance to practise this fun activity, using the bow from a long distance.

After dinner, you'll search for caiman. We'll return to the river with flashlights in search of the red reflection of caiman eyes lurking along the riverbank. With any luck, we'll see some nocturnal animals as well. It's a magical experience to witness them in the wilderness.

DAY 11

Destination	Puerto Maldonado
Meals included	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Hotel	Ñape Lodge (Eco Lodge), or similar

A day of adventure awaits!

In the morning, we'll travel by boat for 30 minutes and then walk for 25 minutes to reach the water's edge of the lake adjacent to Tambopata National Reserve. This reserve is one of the largest areas of untouched rainforest in the world, a vast expanse home to fascinating landscapes and wildlife.

Take in the amazing view of the lake, surrounded by *aguaje* palms. There is a vibrant array of jungle fauna, like hoatzin, monkeys, macaws, black caiman, flying parrot – perhaps even a family of endangered giant river otters (*pteronura brasiliensis*).

When we return, we'll pass a parrot feeding ground. After a 15 minute boat ride, we'll arrive at a hidden spot to see a cliff formed by the river – the inland *collpa*, or clay lick, where a dazzling array of famous macaws and other species of birds flock to feast on the nutrient-rich clay.

The macaws begin by ceremoniously circling the cliff area. The birds consume the salt for 20 to 25 minutes and they depart.

We'll return to the lodge for lunch and some relaxation before heading out again.

We'll head to the nearby medicinal garden to meet the shaman of the community, who will talk to us about the immense variety of medicinal plants and traditional remedies considered part of the 'natural pharmacy' used by inhabitants of this region. We'll then visit the facility where medicines are prepared.

After dinner, an excursion into the Amazon rainforest promises real adventure. Explore this thrilling jungle on one of the lodge's trails, home to nocturnal animals with intriguing behaviour patterns. Experience this hidden world in the dark and search for insects, amphibians, tarantulas, bats and nocturnal birds. If lucky, we'll see some nocturnal mammals.

DAY 12

Destination	Puerto Maldonado ➔ Cusco 🚗 Sacred Valley
Meals included	Breakfast
Hotel	4 ★ Taypikala Valle Sagrado Hotel, or similar

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After breakfast, we'll take a ride back to Puerto Maldonado by motorised canoe. You'll pick up your belongings and transfer to the airport to board your flight to Cusco. Upon arrival you'll be met by your local guide and transferred to your hotel in the Sacred Valley.

The Sacred Valley was once the epicentre of the Inca Empire, running from the ancient capital of the empire, Cusco, to the breathtaking citadel of Machu Picchu. This lush green valley's agreeable climate and fertile plains provided an unusual abundance for the high Andes. Here the Incas sculpted the mountain flanks with vast contour terracing and irrigation channels.

DAY 13

Destination	Sacred Valley
Meals included	Breakfast, Lunch
Hotel	4 ★ Taypikala Valle Sagrado Hotel, or similar

In the morning we'll head to the Sacred Valley of the Incas.

We'll visit a community in the valley to learn about daily life for the locals. If the visit coincides with market day, you'll have time to browse the stalls for hand-painted beads or warm ponchos – or a chance to practise the local language, Quechua. Lunch will be served at the community.

In the afternoon, we'll visit the town of Ollantaytambo and there is the option of visiting the ruins here.

OLLANTAYTAMBO ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE VISIT

We'll travel along the Urubamba River towards the town of Ollantaytambo, one of the few places where the Incas defeated the Spanish. It's a magnificent example of Inca urban planning. You'll visit the ruins of Ollantaytambo, an important Inca construction built during the Empire's heyday. It's an extraordinary place, with its wonderful stonework. You may also see an amazing rock formation said to represent the Inca god Wiracocha.

DAY 14

Destination	Ollantaytambo 🚗 Machu Picchu Pueblo 🚗 Machu Picchu 🚗 Machu Picchu Pueblo 🚗 Ollantaytambo 🚗 Cusco
Meals included	Breakfast, Lunch
Hotel	4 ★ Xima Cusco Hotel, or similar

One of the New Seven Wonders of the World, this is the jewel in South America's crown – today we'll visit the breathtaking archaeological site of Machu Picchu.

Early morning you'll be taken to the station to board the fabled tourist train towards Machu Picchu Pueblo (formerly Aguas Calientes). It's a modern little town close to the sanctuary of Machu Picchu.

The train ride to Machu Picchu is one of the most beautiful journeys you can experience in Peru. It's an almost two-hour journey that passes through the Sacred Valley of the Incas, then descends gradually along the edge of the Urubamba River, before finally reaching the cloud forest. The train reaches its last stop in Machu Picchu Pueblo (formerly Aguas Calientes), on the foothills of Machu Picchu. From here it's a short bus ride – about 30 minutes – up the steep, zigzagging road to the famed ancient site.

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Upon arrival, we'll enter the archaeological zone of Machu Picchu and the tour guide will show you the most important sectors of this great Inca City, such as the great Intiwatana (solar clock) and the Sun Temple, among others. Machu Picchu is divided into two sectors, the urban sector in the northern part and the agricultural sector on the south-east side.

Now the most recognisable icon of the Inca civilisation, Machu Picchu was long thought to be legendary. Then, in 1911, explorer Hiram Bingham stumbled upon its remains. At 2430 metres above sea level, Machu Picchu is in the middle of a tropical mountain forest, in an extraordinarily beautiful setting. It was probably the most amazing creation of the Inca Empire at the height of their reign. The stonework has to be seen up close to truly comprehend its intricate beauty. Giant walls, terraces and ramps seem as if they have been cut naturally in the continuous rock escarpments.

After the tour, we'll return to Machu Picchu Pueblo (formerly Aguas Calientes) by bus before taking the tourist train back to Ollantaytambo town, followed by a private transfer to your hotel in Cusco.

DAY 15

Destination	Cusco
Meals included	Breakfast
Hotel	4 ★ Xima Cusco Hotel, or similar

You'll have a free morning to relax in Cusco. A UNESCO World Heritage Site, Cusco has a long and interesting history, from the first Inca ruler through to the Spanish conquest – and now a major tourist destination. It's the oldest continuously inhabited city in the Americas.

As you wander the streets and side alleys of the city you will witness the perfect tapering Inca stonework that provided the foundations for many of Cusco's colonial and modern buildings.

In the afternoon, we'll enjoy a guided walking tour to discover the sights of Cusco, vivid examples of the mixture of Inca and Spanish cultures. We'll start with the Stone of Twelve Angles at the Inca Roca Palace, on Hatun Rumilloc Street (check) before visiting

the most sacred Inca building, the Temple of Qorikancha – the Inca temple of the sun.

We'll then visit the heart of the city, the busy main square Plaza de Armas – a great place to people watch. Then, time at the San Pedro Market makes for some great food and souvenir shopping – you'll find local cheese and chocolate, herbal medicines and local handicrafts.

DAY 16

Destination	Cusco
Meals included	Breakfast
Hotel	4 ★ Xima Cusco Hotel, or similar

You'll have a free day to see Cusco at your own pace today.

Perhaps a visit to the traditional, picturesque neighbourhood of San Blas is in order – you can reach it by taking a short but steep walk from the Plaza de Armas. Here you'll find art studios, artisan workshops and many of the best bars and restaurants. It's a great place to wander and soak in the atmosphere.

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DAY 17

Destination	Cusco 🚌 Puno
Meals included	Breakfast, Lunch
Hotel	3 ★ Hotel Tierra Viva Puno Plaza, or similar

We'll set off for Puno today, a ten-hour bus journey. This is a gorgeous scenic journey. The first half is dominated by the magnificent Andean mountains towering over deep valleys, then you'll reach the gentler, rolling Andean Plains, where vicuñas and alpacas can be spotted.

Along the way, we'll visit charming landmarks with a rich history, like the Sistine Chapel of the Americas, or the Andahuaylillas Church, built during the 17th century, and the archaeological site of Raqchi (also known as Temple of Wiracocha). You'll get a beautiful view of the Chimboya glacier from the La Raya Pass. There will be a stop at the Pukara Lithic Museum, where you'll find archaeological gems like stone sculptures and impressive pottery among the artefacts.

We'll stop for lunch at a restaurant.

DAY 18

Destination	Puno 🚢 Lake Titicaca 🚢 Puno
Meals included	Breakfast, Lunch
Hotel	3 ★ Hotel Tierra Viva Puno Plaza, or similar

Today we'll take to Lake Titicaca, an ancient treasure trove of Andean culture that straddles the border between Peru and Bolivia. We'll spend the day touring by boat on this high altitude lake. There are numerous islands here whose inhabitants live with the same customs and traditions of their ancestors.

We'll spend time on the Uros Islands (floating islands). Centuries ago, the indigenous Uros tribe harvested totora reeds in the shallows of the lake, bundled them tightly and built floating island platforms with reed houses and canoes.

We'll then continue to Taquile Island, about an hour away. The *Taquileños*, Quechua-speaking locals who live here – about 2,200 of them – are known for their ancestral weaving skills (a UNESCO-protected art). Their fine handwoven handicrafts are incredibly high quality.

In the afternoon we'll return to Puno by boat.

DAY 19

Destination	Puno ✈️ Lima
Meals included	Breakfast
Hotel	4 ★ Hotel Antigua Miraflores, or similar

We'll head to the airport to board a flight to Lima.

On the way to the airport, we'll visit the pre-Incan cemetery of Sillustani, on the shores of Lake Umayo. You'll see the most important sectors of this archaeological site, for a deeper insight into Andean culture.

Tombs at this burial ground were built above ground in tower-like structures called *chullpas*. The remains of the Qulla people's elite are here – they were conquered by the Inca in the 15th century. We'll also enjoy a wonderful panoramic

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TOUR ITINERARY

view of the lake.

Upon arrival in Lima, you'll be met and transferred to your hotel.

DAY 20

Destination	Lima
Meals included	Breakfast
Accommodation	N/A

Enjoy one last delicious breakfast this morning, before your South American adventure comes to an end.

We hope you've been *inspired*.

Check out: Passengers will be departing at various times throughout the day. Standard hotel check-out times will apply no matter what time your flight is scheduled to depart. Check-out time is generally anywhere from 10am-12pm. You are welcome to leave your luggage at hotel reception and spend your final moments of free time exploring the area or alternatively please speak with hotel staff if you would like to extend your check-out time. Please note this service is subject to availability and will likely come at an additional cost.

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TOUR ITINERARY

Inclusions

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- 17 nights at quality accommodation, including 2 nights at stunning Peru Amazon Lodge
- 2-night exploration of Peru Amazon Jungle
- All internal flights, coach, rail and boat transportation
- Meals: Breakfast daily, 5 lunches & 3 dinners as per itinerary
- A small group of up to 20 people - It is a slow-paced itinerary with ample time for discovering at your own pace
- All accommodation as listed
- Activities indicated in the itinerary
- All entrance fees to the sites listed (except optionals)
- All activities listed in the itinerary unless a paid optional
- Comfortable, dedicated private transportation throughout
- 24/7 customer service and your own Dedicated Support Agent
- Click [HERE](#) to view flight-inclusive version of this package

SIGHTSEEING HIGHLIGHTS

- Buenos Aires – Discover the sights and soul of this colourful capital, known as the ‘Paris of Latin America’
- Iguazu Falls – You’ll be awed as you witness the power of some of the most spectacular waterfalls on earth, from both the Brazilian and Argentinian sides
- Rio de Janeiro – Marvel at the unparalleled views of Guanabara Bay from the iconic Christ the Redeemer statue and Sugarloaf Mountain
- Rio de Janeiro – Soak up the sand and surf on dazzling Copacabana Beach
- Lima – Explore colonial Lima on your guided tour of the city’s sights and landmarks
- Peruvian Amazon – Spend two thrilling days exploring the Amazon jungle, from the comfort of your eco-friendly lodge in the Peruvian jungle town of Puerto Maldonado
- Sacred Valley of the Incas – Discover Inca culture and explore the stunning ancient ruins of Ollantaytambo
- Machu Picchu – Explore this enigmatic Inca citadel, hidden from the world until 1911, with a guided tour
- Cusco – Uncover the mysteries of the Inca Empire with a tour through the Empire’s capital, a UNESCO World Heritage Site
- Puno – Take a scenic bus ride from Cusco to Puno and marvel at the magnificent Andean mountains and plains
- Lake Titicaca – Discover Andean culture by visiting islands on this magical lake, home to indigenous tribes with rich traditions
- Puno – Explore the fascinating pre-Incan cemetery of Sillustani, with its towering tombs on the shores of Lake Umayo

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TOUR ITINERARY

Fine Print

HOW TO BOOK & PAYMENTS

Deposit & Payments

- Book now and secure your package with only a \$100 deposit per person.
- Pay a 2nd instalment of \$3,000 per person within 28 days.
- You will then be invoiced for final payment 90 days prior to departure.

Booking Process

- Select the purple 'Reserve Your Seat' tab to begin your booking (you must 'Sign Up' first by entering your email and creating a password)
- Then select the purple 'Book now' tab of the tour you have selected
- Select your Departure Date, Departure City, Number of Passengers, Room Configuration, any Upgrade Options, and enter any Special Requests
- Click the purple 'Proceed to Secure Checkout' tab
- Enter your credit card or PayPal details to secure your deposit/payment
- Once your order is complete, you will be prompted to complete a Booking Form so that we can fulfil your booking
- Your booking is confirmed once your Booking Form is submitted and you can begin the countdown to your Inspiring Vacation!
- You will then be allocated and contacted by one of our Dedicated Support Agent's (within 48 hours) who will support you right up until you return from your journey

EXTRA SERVICES

You can enhance your holiday by arriving or departing before or after the tour, adding a stopover package en-route or booking a tour extension. On this tour you can choose from the following options:

Pre and post-tour accommodation

- Pre-tour accommodation (Buenos Aires): \$186 per room per night (single or double/twin) including breakfast
- Post-tour accommodation (Lima): \$148 per room per night (single or double/twin) including breakfast

Arrival and departure airport transfers

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TOUR ITINERARY

- Airport transfers - Not available.

Please specify in the 'Special Request' field when making your purchase your preferred travel arrangements and if you would like our team to book additional nights' accommodation. The additional cost for these land arrangements will be added to your final payment invoice and are subject to availability. Alternatively, you may purchase 1 pre or post-night accommodation at time of booking.

Airport chauffeur Take the hassle out of getting to the airport with private chauffeur transfers to and from your home airport. Your personal chauffeur will meet and greet you, attend to your luggage and drive you to your destination in a luxury vehicle.

- Within 30km of airport: \$139 per vehicle (max 2 guests)
- Outside 30km of airport: You may add this option to your booking and the final price will be adjusted based on the transfer distance.

Additional surcharges may apply depending on pick-up time, tolls and government levies.

Airport Chauffeur can be selected once you have finalised your tour purchase and paid your deposit. When completing your Passenger Booking Form, you will be asked if you would like to add this service, where any applicable cost will be added to your final balance.

Airport lounges Escape busy airport terminals and relax at a cosy and catered lounge instead. Departure lounge access in Sydney \$70 per person (up to 6 hours); Melbourne & Brisbane \$55 per person (up to 3 hours).

Airport lounge passes can be selected once you have finalised your tour purchase and paid your deposit. When completing your Passenger Booking Form, you will be asked if you would like to add this service, where any applicable cost will be added to your final balance.

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OPTIONAL TOURS

To enhance your journey, we are offering a choice of the following 9 optional activities:

- Buenos Aires - Fiesta Gaucha (Day 1) - AUD \$212 per person
- Buenos Aires - Tango Lesson (Day 1) - AUD \$162 per person
- Buenos Aires - Colonia de Sacramento Tour With Lunch (Day 1) - AUD \$379 per person
- Buenos Aires - Malbec Wine Trail (Day 2) - AUD \$187 per person
- Buenos Aires - Tango Dinner Show (Day 2) - AUD \$281 per person
- Iguazu Falls - The Gran Aventura (Day 4) - AUD \$140 per person
- Rio - Gastronomic Experience (Day 7) - AUD \$250 per person
- Lima - Dinner in Huaca Pucllana (Day 9) - AUD \$121 per person
- Sacred Valley - Ollantaytambo Archaeological Site Visit (Day 13) - entry fee payable on arrival

Please note:

Day 1 - The 3 optionals on Day 1 are only available if arriving into Buenos Aires prior to Day 1. Fiesta Gaucha and Colonia de Sacramento tour with lunch are both full days tours, and you would need 2 full days to partake in both. The Tango lesson commences at 4pm.

Day 2 - Only one tour can be chosen.

Optional tours can be selected once you have finalised your tour purchase and paid your deposit. When completing your Passenger Booking Form, you will be asked if you would like to add Optional Tours, where any applicable cost will be added to your final balance. If you choose not to select them at this time, you can choose to add them later by logging in to your Account online or speaking with your Dedicated Support Agent for assistance.

Please note that you must select your Optional Tours no later than 65 days before departure, after which you will be required to purchase them on tour. Please keep in mind that anything purchased on-tour is subject to availability and prices may vary as you will be paying in local currency. We appreciate your understanding.

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EXCLUSIONS

- International Airfares
- Airport Transfers
- Visas (if needed)
- Travel insurance (compulsory)
- Tipping
- Anything not mentioned in the itinerary
- Optional activities
- Personal expenses

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Fitness Requirements

While the tour itinerary should give you some guidance and overview to the expected requirements, to determine if this tour is right for you we categorise each of our tours in terms of their intensity. These guidelines are to ensure that each tour group is conducted as expected and to ensure the overall satisfaction of all Inspiring Vacations customers.

As a general rule, portage is not included, therefore at all times you are expected to handle your own luggage where help may not be available.

This particular tour is categorised as a “3”.

3 – Moderate Tour: A good level of fitness and mobility is required, as this tour includes a moderate level of physical activity and is considered a medium-fast paced tour. You should be able to walk up and down stairs, get on and off the coach and able to walk reasonable distances of approximately 2 kilometres per day or more with ease. Any physical ailments you may have must be disclosed at the time of booking to determine your suitability. If you have any form of walking aids, other than a walking stick or hiking poles, then this tour is not suitable.

No strenuous or fast-paced walks are required to complete this itinerary. However, you must be able to walk for approximately 2 to 3 kilometres in (at times) hot and humid conditions, or muddy and slippery paths. You also need to be able to get on and off small boats in the Amazon Jungle – though assistance is always provided.

Travelling at altitude Cusco sits at 3,399 metres above sea level where it's common for travellers to experience some adverse health effects due to altitude – regardless of age, gender and fitness. It's important that you discuss this itinerary and your travel plans with your doctor beforehand. Prescription medication to prevent altitude sickness is available. If left untreated, altitude sickness can lead to serious health complications or even be fatal. While on tour, safety is paramount and it's important that you discuss any altitude sickness symptoms with

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your local guide, so that appropriate medical attention can be provided. Follow this [link](#) for more helpful information on altitude sickness.

Yellow fever According to the World Health Organisation, yellow fever is present in some destinations on this itinerary (Iguazu Falls, Rio de Janeiro & the Amazon Jungle in Peru). The best prevention of mosquito bites is to simply wear neutral-coloured (beige, light grey) long-sleeved, breathable garments and to use mosquito repellent.

Tipping

A friendly reminder that tipping is not included in your package. Tipping is not compulsory on your trip, but they can make a big difference to locals employed in the tourism industry and is a welcome way to show your appreciation. If you feel that your guide/s and driver have done an impeccable job, you can choose to give a gratuity, but this is entirely your decision.

The suggested tipping amounts are: USD 2-3 per person per day for local guides; USD 1-2 per person day for your driver and USD 2-4 per person per day for your tour leader. In restaurants and cafes, 10% of the bill is normally expected. Please note that this information is to be used as a guideline only and it's based on the recommendation from our ground teams and past travellers. Tipping in local currency is the norm.

Accommodation

The accommodation listed is subject to change. Any changes will be of an equal or higher standard. Bedding configurations (double or twin) are requests only. All efforts will be made to meet your preferences, however any changes are beyond our control.

Single Supplement

Single supplement is \$1,900 per person in addition to the twin-share price.

Triple Share

Available. If you wish to purchase triple-share please phone 1300 886 688. The third person will also be charged the twin-share price.

Travel Insurance

Travel insurance is required to protect yourself against the unexpected.

We have partnered with nib to offer our customers competitive rates for their travel insurance. You can book comprehensive or budget cover simply by clicking [HERE](#) to arrange your policy.

Visa & Passport information

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It is the traveller's responsibility to ensure they have a valid passport. The passport must be valid for a minimum of 6 months from the intended date of return.

No visas are required for the countries visited on this itinerary, for travel less than 30 days.

Please note that these details are subject to change without notice. We recommend visiting <https://smartraveller.gov.au> for up to date information in terms of entry requirements.

Tour Documentation

Final documentation including, e-tickets and hotel details, will be provided approximately 30 days prior to travel.

Group Size

4 to 20 people.

Trip Style - Small Group Tour

A section of this trip runs as a group tour, where you will be joined by up to 20 guests and escorted by an expert tour leader. On other sections, a local guide will meet and greet you, coordinate your activities in town and be reachable to assist you as needed.

Children

Children must be 5 years old or above and share a room with parents at all times. Children are charged the same price as adults.

Tour Length

The total length of the tour in days includes time spent inflight and is subject to change, depending on the flight schedule. Please refer to the day-by-day itinerary for the time spent in your destination(s).

WHAT CLIMATE TO EXPECT

Click [HERE](#) for more information on the weather in Argentina.