

Code AQS **Andino**

## Tour Dossier Introduction

**Dossier Last Updated:** 17-06-2015

**Tour Code:** AQS

**Duration:** 55 nights / 56 days

**Joining City:** Quito

**Departure City:** Santiago

**Nearest Joining International Airport:** Quito Mariscal Sucre Intl Airport (UIO)

**Nearest Departing International Airport:** Santiago A Merino Benitez Intl Airport (SCL)

Please check this document just before departing in case of last minute changes to your tour.

## Tour Documents

 PDF Document  Web Page

 [Argentina Dossier](#)

 [Peru Dossier](#)

 [Bolivia Dossier](#)

 [Chile Dossier](#)

 [Ecuador Dossier](#)

 [Spanish Language Guide](#)

 [Inca Trail Passport Declaration Form](#)

## What's Included

- > Otavalo Market
- > Three Night Amazon Jungle Excursion in Ecuador
- > Entry to Lambayeque Museum
- > Guided tour of Chan Chán ruins
- > Guided tour of the Pyramids of the Sun & Moon
- > Boat tour of the Ballestas Islands
- > Visit the Huacachina Oasis
- > Entrance to Chauchilla Cemetery
- > Entrance to & guided tour of the Colca Canyon
- > Guided Tour of the Sacred Valley of the Incas
- > Inca Trail Trek
- > Guided Tour of Machu Picchu
- > Excursion to and overnight homestay on Lake Titicaca
- > Take a day trip on to the Uyuni Salt Flats
- > Guided tour of the Valley of the Moon
- >

- 31 night(s) in hotels, hostels & guesthouses, 19 night(s) camping, 2 night(s) in homestays, 3 night(s) in campsites on the Inca Trek
- 29 breakfasts, 38 lunches, 26 dinners
- Travel by **Tucan Travel Expedition Vehicle**, train, boat, taxi, on foot, 4WD
- Tucan Travel tour leader, Tucan Travel driver, English-speaking local guide(s) on included excursions

## What's not Included

- Sleeping bag & sleeping mat
- International flights and departure taxes
- Tips on included excursions, visas, travel insurance, personal items and single rooms.
- Airport transfers and pre and post tour accommodation
- Spending money – budget for meals, snacks, drinks, limited souvenirs, laundry, tips and any extras
- Optional excursions - Please see our optional excursions guide on the dossier page for a comprehensive list of optional activities and excursions available on this tour.

## Detailed Itinerary

### Day 1 to 1 - Arrive Quito

The first day of your tour is simply an arrival day with no pre-organised activities. In order to allow time to relax and see some of the sights you may wish to add pre tour accommodation. On arrival please ask at the reception for information on when the pre departure meeting will be held.

Quito, Ecuador is the second-highest capital city in the world at 2,850 metres above sea level. It was founded in 1534 by the Spanish prior to which it was an Inca stronghold. It is situated in a hollow at the base of the live volcano Pichincha and the whole length of the city can be seen from atop Panecillo hill where the enormous statue of the Virgin of Quito stands. The city has two main sections, the old and the new city. The latter is the main commercial area and has all the good restaurants and bars, whereas the old city is the colonial sector with steep calles, busy plazas and local markets.

UNESCO has listed Quito as having the largest best-preserved, and least-altered historic centre in Latin America. Along with Krakow, Quito was the first city inscribed onto the UNESCO World Heritage list in 1978. Some churches you might like to visit are the Cathedral of Quito, Church of the Society of Jesus (La Compañía), Church and Convent of St. Francis (San Francisco) and Basílica del Voto Nacional.

**Optional Excursions:** TelefériQo, a sky tram to the top of Volcan Pinchincha for views over the city – US\$3 taxi (approx.) and US\$4-7 entry • La Mitad del Mundo, where the equator crosses Ecuador – US\$3 • Museo Solar Inti Nan, located near to La Mitad del Mundo with exhibitions of astronomical geography and water and energy displays – US\$4 • El Panecillo, the hill just south of the old town where you have see the winged statue of Virgin of Quito – US\$3 approx. • Wander the Old Town – free • Walking tours – US\$10 • Plaza de la Independencia – free, cathedral entrance US\$1 • Plaza San Francisco and the Monastery of San Francisco (Ecuador's oldest church) – free • La Compañía de Jesús church – US\$1 suggested donation • Museo de la Ciudad, museum depicting daily life in Quito through the ages – US\$3

**Accommodation:** 1 night(s) in hotels, hostels & guesthouses

### Day 2 to 2 - Otavalo

Otavalo, the famous market town has a local population made up of a mixture of European descendents, mestizos (people of mixed descent) and indigenous people known as indígenas, who mainly wear traditional dress. The men keep their hair in long braids down their backs and wear calf length white trousers, blue ponchos, dark felt hats and sandals, while the women traditionally wear white frilly blouses with flared lace sleeves, black skirts with layers of gold, and coral necklaces twirled around their necks. Every Wednesday and Saturday you can visit one of the best markets to be found anywhere in South America. People come from remote villages to sell their livestock, produce and colourful textiles. The market offers a wide variety of wool handicrafts and high-quality wood carvings as well as polished leather products made by artisans from nearby villages. And whatever the wares you can be sure of fantastic photo opportunities.

**Included Excursions:** Otavalo Market

**Accommodation:** 1 night(s) in hotels, hostels & guesthouses

### Day 3 to 5 - Amazon Jungle

Descending into the steaming Amazon Jungle, the next three nights will be in thatch-roofed bungalows on the shoreline of the Arajuno River. The grounds

surrounding the cabins have lots of native trees and flowers attracting hummingbirds and toucans.

Your local guide will take you trekking in the jungle, explaining the different birds and the incredible variety of plants and trees and their medicinal value. The terrain is dense jungle and marsh with giant ferns and flowers – a true wilderness.

You'll also have a chance to meet and learn about the communities that live in the jungle which may include a visit to a local shaman, learning about the local crafts such as pottery and weaving, shooting arrows from a blow pipe and learning how they catch animals and fish. For a spot of relaxation enjoy the sounds of the jungle from a hammock back at lodge, or float down the river in an inflatable tube and take a swim to cool off.

**Included Excursions:** Three nights in the Amazon Jungle including local guides and excursions

**Accommodation:** 3 night(s) in hotels, hostels & guesthouses

### Day 6 to 8 - Baños

Along the edge of the rainforest we climb back up into the Andes along a spectacular route to Baños, a health resort renowned for its hot thermal springs. Before soaking in the hot pools, there are paths where you can walk or ride horses into the hills, or for the more athletic, there is the opportunity to go bridge swinging, canyoning, white water rafting & mountain biking (optional).

If you're more interested in chilling out you can spend your time laid back in cafés or buying souvenirs, have a relaxing massage or even try your hand at salsa dancing. This is also the best place to buy beautifully painted balsa wood animals.

**Optional Excursions:** Waterfall and volcano views • Hiking • Thermal pools – US\$3-4 • Trout fishing – US\$4.50 • Horse riding • Mountain biking (half day) • Bridge swing – US\$20 • Zip-lining – US\$12 • Butterfly farm – US\$1.50 • Canyoning – US\$50 • White water rafting – US\$40-75

**Accommodation:** 3 night(s) camping

### Day 9 to 10 - Cuenca

We continue on to the old colonial market town of Cuenca, Ecuador's third largest city, which was founded in 1557. Located in the highlands of Ecuador at about 2500m above sea level, the centre of Cuenca is listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site because of its many historical buildings, such as the Iglesia de El Sagrario, a cathedral built over 450 years ago. Cuenca is where the Panama hat originates, so why not visit a factory where you can see the entire hat-making process? It is also a great place to buy cheap, high-quality gold and silver.

**Optional Excursions:** Panama Hat museum – free • Museo de Arte Moderno – free • Museo del Monasterio de la Concepción with religious artwork – US\$2.50

**Accommodation:** 2 night(s) in hotels, hostels & guesthouses

### Day 11 to 13 - Punta Sal

After the banana plantations in the tropical lowlands, we cross into Peru and quickly the landscape changes to arid desert where vegetation is sparse. We pass through villages with fishermen working with their small hand nets, and onwards through the oil region where derricks pump out 'black gold'. We camp at Punta Sal, a semi-circular beach fringed by sand dunes and groves of carob trees, for three nights

**Accommodation:** 3 night(s) camping

### Day 14 to 15 - Huanchaco

Leaving Punta Sal, we drive through the Sechura Desert. Here the barren land is irrigated to create fertile fields of rice, sugarcane and other cereal crops. We will stop off en route at the Lambayeque Museum, one of Peru's finest museums, which displays artefacts found at the tomb of the Lord of Sipán, one of the richest archaeological finds of the 20th century. We continue on to the small coastal town of Huanchaco, where the fishermen still ride the surf in traditional reed boats. You too will be provided the opportunity to rent one of these reed boats for a paddle or race through the waves!

It is from Huanchaco that we visit the largest mud-city in the world at Chan Chán. Featuring ten walled citadels covering 26 square kilometres, the city is decorated with motifs of marine life. Built by Chimú kings, Chan Chán was once home to 30,000 people and is now a UNESCO World Heritage Site. While here, we take the opportunity to visit the Moche built pyramids known as Huaca del Sol and Huaca de la Luna (temples of the sun and moon). There is also an excellent museum in Trujillo (optional); the Cassinelli Museum which houses one of the best private collections of pottery (including erotic pottery), as well as a mummified baby in a bell jar. We enjoy another free day in Huanchaco where you have another opportunity to go surfing before making our way to the capital.

**Included Excursions:** Lambayeque Museum • Chan Chan Ruins • Temple of the Sun • Temple of the Moon

**Accommodation:** 2 night(s) camping

### Day 16 to 18 - Lima

On the way to the capital, we'll stop at Sechín Alto, another important ruin with temples dating back to 1500 BC, with over 500 carvings gruesomely depicting warriors and their captives. We'll then stop again at Paramonga, a well preserved temple by the side of the highway. From the Paramonga ruins we continue travelling to Lima, the capital of Peru.

Lima was founded by Francisco Pizarro in 1535 and called La Ciudad de Los Reyes (City of the Kings). It was the capital of the Spanish conquistadors until its independence in the early 19th century. Here you will find some of the finest museums in South America, such as the Gold Museum and the Museum of the Inquisition, to name but a few (optional). Our hotel is in close proximity to the main Plaza de Armas, where you'll discover fine old buildings with intricately carved wooden balconies and ceilings, a marvellous place for the culture vultures among us. The Government Palace facing the Plaza de Armas is beautifully built in white marble, as is La Cathedral, built in 1555, which also faces this square. You'll see an elegant bronze fountain at the centre of the square and standing tall behind the palace is the Cerro San Christobal Mountain, which offers great views of the city and the sea. San Francisco Monastery is a must see with its splendid interior, fine and detailed mosaics covering the walls, and the stunningly macabre catacombs with their thousands of bones - this display is certainly not for the faint hearted! With an estimated population of 8 million inhabitants, Lima is a melting pot of Peruvians, so you'll see a good cross section of the population. Lima has an array of churches, markets and other grand plazas plus an assortment of modern suburbs to visit.

**Included Excursions:** Sechin & Paramonga

**Accommodation:** 3 night(s) in hotels, hostels & guesthouses

### Day 19 to 19 - Pisco

Continuing south we arrive at Pisco. Peru's national drink, the 'pisco sour', was named after this town. We spend the night in Pisco where you will have the opportunity to try some wonderful local seafood and perhaps sample one (or two) of the finest pisco sours to be found in Peru. In neighbouring Paracas, we will travel by boat to the Ballestas Islands the following morning - sometimes known as the 'poor man's Galapagos' because of the excellent opportunities to view wildlife such as boobies, pelicans and penguins so near to the mainland. The trip takes us past the giant "Candelabra" figure etched onto the side of a mountain. After our visit to the colonies of seabirds and sea lions basking on the rocks we'll head deep into the desert towards the stunning Huacachina oasis where you have the chance to try your hand 'sandboarding' or take an exhilarating ride in a dune buggy down the enormous dunes. The brave can go for a dip in the murky lagoon, which is said to have therapeutic properties.

**Included Excursions:** Ballestas Islands • Huacachina Oasis

**Accommodation:** 1 night(s) in hotels, hostels & guesthouses

### Day 20 to 20 - Nazca

Nazca, an oasis town, is renowned for its mysterious parallel lines and geometrical figures etched onto the desert floor. Although there is a viewing tower, these giant designs can only be fully appreciated from the air. You can take a fascinating flight (optional) over the enormous lines and shapes, which include a monkey, hummingbird, condor, spider and even a spaceman. The designs are thought to have been made by three different groups of people: the Paracas (900-200 BC), the Nazca (200BC-600AD) and then new migrants from Ayacucho around 630AD. Other attractions around Nazca include watching workers extracting gold and a visit to ceramic workshops where you will receive a demonstration of their art.

**Accommodation:** 1 night(s) camping

### Day 21 to 21 - Puerto Inca

On our way out of town, towards Puerto Inca, we visit the incredible Chauchilla Cemetery. The sites have been excavated so you can see ancient mummies with their hair and even skin still intact. We travel along the rugged coastline to Puerto Inca, the Inca port which connected the coast with the ancient city of Cuzco up in the mountains. Just five minutes walk away are the preserved ruins, which once stored sea produce to be traded with wares brought down from the Andes. In Inca times, messages and fresh sea fish were sent 240 kilometres to Cuzco using a series of relay runners each doing seven kilometres, taking 24 hours to complete the journey.

**Included Excursions:** Chauchilla Cemetery

**Accommodation:** 1 night(s) camping

### Day 22 to 23 - Arequipa

We wind our way into the foothills of the Andes and the stunning colonial city of Arequipa, overlooked by the massive volcano "El Misti". This city has

some of the best examples of colonial architecture and the main plaza is quite magnificent, decorated with archways and dominated by the splendid cathedral, which was completed in 1612. Although an earthquake in 2001 damaged the cathedral, it has not diminished any of the splendour of this charming square. One of the 'must see' attractions here is the vast Santa Catalina Convent (optional), a maze of cobbled streets, cloisters and other decorative buildings, it has only been open to the public since 1970 and it is certainly well worth the visit.

Another popular attraction is the acclaimed 'Museo Santuarios Andinas', which highlights well preserved mummies including the famous 'Ice Princess Juanita' - a young Inca maiden who was sacrificed some 500 years ago atop the Nevado Ampato volcano. You can enjoy a free day in Arequipa to explore these sights and more, at your own leisure.

**Optional Excursions:** City tour – US\$12 • Monastery of Santa Catalina – S/35 • Museo Santuarios Andinas, where you can see the frozen Inca mummy princess 'Juanita' – S/20 • Plaza de Armas and churches – free • Local markets

**Accommodation:** 2 night(s) in hotels, hostels & guesthouses

### Day 24 to 24 - Colca Canyon

Our next destination is the Colca Canyon, one of the deepest in the world. The drive takes us through a high Andean desert, with amazing scenery all the way. We pass ghost towns destroyed by earthquakes and with luck we will see a condor or two soaring out of the canyon from our vantage point, 1,200 metres above the canyon floor. In the evening we have time to soak in the thermal springs near Chivay, where we spend the night.

**Included Excursions:** Colca Canyon

**Accommodation:** 1 night(s) in hotels, hostels & guesthouses

### Day 25 to 25 - Cuzco

The oldest continuously inhabited city in South America, Cuzco was the hub of the Inca Empire and features a population of around 300,000, most of who are indigenous. This marvellous colonial city is situated 3,310 metres above sea level and has numerous churches, some of which were built using recycled Inca masonry, as were many other buildings in Cuzco. The main square is called the Plaza de Armas, which has the beautiful cathedral on one side, which took a century to build, and the Church of La Compañía de Jesus on the other. The colonial arcades, which occupy the remainder of the plaza, are full of restaurants and shops. Enjoy a cup of coca tea at one of the local cafés and take time to acclimatise to the altitude. There are also many fascinating markets in Cuzco, the most well-known being San Pedro where all kinds of textiles and artisan merchandise are sold. Enjoy wandering the streets, visit the many markets and soak up the friendly atmosphere. If you're in the mood for a cultural experience, take a peek inside the 14th-century Inca palace which was later converted into the city's Museo de Arte Religioso (Museum of Religious Art). Well worth exploring during your time here is the ancient archaeological site of Sacsayhuaman, which has the largest and most impressive Inca stonework of all. It is also well worth your time to visit some of the nearby Inca ruins: Kenko, Tambomachay and Puka Pukara.

**Accommodation:** 1 night(s) in hotels, hostels & guesthouses

### Day 26 to 28 - Amazon Jungle Optional Excursion

Today you have a chance to visit the Amazon Jungle on a two-day optional excursion. This trip must be booked in advance as flights are required to get to Puerto Maldonado where you will stay in rustic lodges deep in the Amazon and enjoy guided walks and hikes through the forest.

Our rep will transfer you to the airport for your flight to the city of Puerto Maldonado located on the confluence of the Madre de Dios and Tambopata rivers. From here we take a canoe along the river into the heart of the Amazon rainforest.

Arriving at an eco-lodge located on the river's edge, you will be allocated a bungalow that is built from local indigenous materials. Each room is sealed by meshed netting to keep out mosquitoes and other insects. All rooms have basic private bathroom facilities. Due to the remoteness of the lodge there is no hot water and drinking water should be purchased. There is also limited electricity so please charge any electrical equipment prior to your arrival. In the evening the lodge and walkways are lit by oil lamps. Other facilities include a welcoming reception area, dining room and bar facilities. All excursions are led by English speaking local guides providing plenty of opportunity to enjoy marvelous jungle landscapes and rich diversity of flora and fauna.

After lunch we will set off on a trek through the rainforest along wooden walk ways. On the way our guide will stop to show you various species of bird and explain the medicinal plants and delicate ecological systems of the Amazon Jungle. The scenery is extremely varied incorporating dense jungle as well as marsh areas. You will see incredibly big trees, several metres in diameter and around 450 years old. There is an opportunity to take a canoe ride drifting along one of the small lakes hidden away in the jungle, observing caiman and the abundant bird life. We then return to the lodge for dinner.

After an early breakfast we hike deeper in to the jungle, enjoying the surroundings and exploring the delights and hidden wonders of the Amazon Rainforest. We may also catch a glimpse of the rare giant otter. Afterwards we will enjoy the view of the lake from our viewing point/observation platform, where you can experience the canopy wildlife such as parrots, guacamayos, toucans, camungos, shanshos, herons, turtles and caiman. We will return to

the lodge for a well deserved lunch.

After lunch, we take a short boat trip across the Madre de Dios River to Monkey Island. On the way over you may spot caiman from the boat. Once on the island it is possible to see a great variety of monkeys such as the 'maquisapa', black and white 'Martins', 'Leoncito de la Selva' (Little Lions), 'Ferial (Friars)', 'Achuñis', 'Ronsocos' as well as an array of birdlife. In the evenings it is often possible to enjoy the wonderful sunset, one of the most impressive sights of the forest (weather permitting).

If you choose not to do the optional into the Jungle you will have free time in the city of Cuzco with accommodation provided.

**Accommodation:** 3 night(s) in hotels, hostels & guesthouses

### Day 29 to 29 - Ollantaytambo

On our full day excursion to the Sacred Valley of the Incas we will visit the isolated Pisac ruins perched on a hill high in the mountains and visit the famous local market of the same name in the valley below. This is a great place to buy textiles, pottery and jewellery and a great place to admire the fantastic view. After some time at both the ruins and the markets, we move down the valley to the temple fortress of Ollantaytambo, with its enormous terraces climbing up the hillside. For those trekking the Inca trail, you will spend the night here in Ollantaytambo for your early start in the morning.

For those who have chosen not to trek the trail, you will continue back to Cuzco where you will have some time to further explore Cuzco before your trip to Machu Picchu by train. There are plenty of other optional excursions available, including white water rafting down the Urubamba River, horse riding through native villages and Inca ruins.

**Included Excursions:** Sacred Valley of the Incas Guided Tour

**Accommodation:** 1 night(s) in homestays

### Day 30 to 32 - Inca Trail Trek

You will have a briefing to prepare for the trek by your local guide. They will cover ideal things to take, what the porters will assist you with and what you can expect from the trek each day. This briefing will take place during your initial days in Cuzco.

If you have chosen to hike the Inca Trail you will cross spectacular passes and visit more Inca ruins en route to the Lost City of the Incas, Machu Picchu. A local guide will lead this expedition and there will be cooks and porters to carry the main equipment, leaving you with just a small daypack. The trek begins after a short bus journey and the first day is a relatively easy four-and-a-half hour, 13-kilometre-walk, which will get you limbered up for the highest pass at Warmiwañusca (4,200 metres) which you will reach before lunchtime on the second day (Warmiwañusca translates as 'Dead Woman's Pass') . During the second day you will cover approximately nine kilometres in about five to seven hours and after the high pass it's all downhill as the trail winds its way down old Inca-built stairs to our campsite. On the third day we pass the ruins of Runkurakay, Sayacmarca and Phuyupatamarca, walking approximately 15 kilometres in seven hours. The last morning, after an overnight stop at Wiñay-Wayna, you will rise early for the final walk to Machu Picchu and greet daybreak over the famous "Sun Gate". There will then be time to explore on your own or simply take in the magnificence of the place after your guided tour.

The Lost City of Machu Picchu was originally completely self-contained, surrounded by agricultural terraces sufficient to feed the population, and watered by natural springs. Located high above the fast flowing Urubamba River, the cloud shrouded ruins have palaces, baths, temples, storage rooms and some 150 houses, all in a remarkable state of preservation that will simply take your breath away.

The ruins were only uncovered by the outside world in 1911, when American explorer Hiram Bingham found them while looking for another 'lost city' called Vilcabamba. Due to their isolation many of the buildings are still relatively intact and you can't help but admire Huayna Picchu or 'Young Mountain' (Machu Picchu means 'Old Mountain'), which towers above the ruins. After spending most of the day at Machu Picchu you have the chance to soak your tired muscles in the hot springs at Aguas Calientes or meander through the markets before returning to Cuzco by train.

Due to a limited number of people being allowed on the trail a day, permits are limited and can sell out far in advance. If you wish to book the Inca Trail, please provide your Reservations Agent with your passport details by email as soon as possible so that we can secure your permit. Without your passport details, we are unable to arrange your Inca Trail Trek. Please [click here](#) for more information. For information on the Lares Trek including which meals are included, [click here](#). If you are not participating in either trek then you will visit Machu Picchu by train and have plenty of free time to enjoy the activities available in and around Cuzco. Meals are not provided.

**Included Excursions:** Inca Trail Trek • Guided tour of Machu Picchu

**Accommodation:** 3 night(s) in campsites on the Inca Trek

### Day 33 to 34 - Cuzco

Returning to Cuzco after the Inca Trail, enjoy your first hot shower in days and grab a drink at one of the lively bars.

**Accommodation:** 2 night(s) in hotels, hostels & guesthouses

### Day 35 to 37 - Puno & Lake Titicaca

We are now destined for the town of Puno, on the shores of Lake Titicaca. The journey takes us alongside majestic snow-capped mountains before reaching the La Raya pass at 4,321 metres. There is a research station, which studies high altitude animals such as llamas, alpacas and vicuñas. From Puno we visit the astounding floating reed Islands of the indigenous Uros people and experience their way of life. We will have the option to take a ride in a traditional reed boat made of totora plants, which also form a staple part of the local people's diet and medicine. We then make our way to Amantani Island to spend the night in the homes of local families. This beautiful, traditional island is home to Aymara people and is situated in the centre of Lake Titicaca. The following morning we'll stopover at Taquile, where the men stand, knitting typical woollen hats, while the women tend the fields. We return to Puno in time to do more shopping, Puno is one of the best places to bargain for alpaca sweaters.

**Included Excursions:** Lake Titicaca excursion & homestay

**Accommodation:** 3 night(s) in hotels, hostels & guesthouses

### Day 38 to 40 - La Paz

Just about every building in La Paz is built on some sort of hill, so sightseeing will literally take your breath away! Our hotel is close to the fascinating indigenous markets. One is called the 'witches market' because the bowler-hat-wearing women here sell dead cats, llama foetuses (these are placed under the buildings to keep evil spirits away) and other strange potions. The main square is the Plaza Murillo, where a president of the republic was once lynched from a lamppost. One of the evenings here can be spent at a peña listening to locals playing "Andino" music on zampoñas and charangos.

**Accommodation:** 3 night(s) in hotels, hostels & guesthouses

### Day 41 to 42 - Potosí

We now travel across the Altiplano to Potosí, the highest city of its size on Earth at 4,070 metres, with a population of 110,000 people. The history of Potosí, its fame and splendour, as well as its tragedy and horror, is closely linked to silver. The city was founded in 1545 soon after the discovery of silver in a nearby hill, the Cerro Rico (or Rich Hill). The veins proved to be so prolific that they quickly became known as the world's richest source of the precious metal. Silver from Potosí underwrote the Spanish economy, particularly its monarchy's extravagance, for over two centuries. Millions of indigenous people, and later, African slaves, were made to work in the mines where conditions were so appalling and dangerous that miners died in horrific numbers, either in accidents or from silicosis pneumonia. During the three centuries of colonial rule, it is estimated that eight million Africans and locals died in the Potosí mines. Reminders of the grand colonial city are still evident in the narrow streets, formal balconied mansions and ornate churches. We offer you the opportunity to visit one of the mines (optional) where you will learn from first-hand experience some of the hardship that miners still suffer. You soon realise that the mines are worked today in much the same way as they were under Spanish rule.

**Accommodation:** 2 night(s) in hotels, hostels & guesthouses

### Day 43 to 44 - Uyuni

Travelling along scenic passes we come to the desolate town of Uyuni in the south of Bolivia. From here we visit what is claimed to be the largest salt flat in the world, the brilliant white vast Salar de Uyuni, which covers some 10,500 square kilometres and is estimated to contain 10 billion tons of salt. A four-wheel-drive excursion across the lake takes us to a world of white and blue. Fish Island offers stunning views of the lake which can prove quite otherworldly as giant cacti and wandering llama punctuate the scene and provide perfect photo opportunities. The fantastic contrast of the brilliant blue sky (weather permitting of course) and the pure white of the salt flats is surreal.

**Included Excursions:** Uyuni salt flats excursion

**Accommodation:** 2 night(s) in hotels, hostels & guesthouses

### Day 45 to 45 - Tupiza

Winding our way along the dusty roads of Bolivia, which are some of the most rugged in South America, we head towards the Argentine border amidst the vividly coloured rock formations and giant cacti. We arrive at Tupiza where we will take respite from the arid surrounds and dusty road. Legend has it that Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid met their end at the hands of the Bolivian army near Tupiza, concluding their notorious string of bank raids.

**Accommodation:** 1 night(s) in hotels, hostels & guesthouses

### Day 46 to 48 - Salta

Our next stop is the attractive city of Salta in the Lerma Valley, established in 1582. Salta has many old colonial buildings, a Cathedral with ancient statues of the Cristo del Milagro (Miracle of Christ) and the Virgin Mary, which were brought over from Spain in 1592. You will also find pavement plaques, which will guide you on an interesting walking tour of the city. During our time here a great optional excursion you may like to take is a day trip to Cafayate, one of Argentina's great wine regions.

**Optional Excursions:** Full day rafting with BBQ lunch – US\$60 • Horse riding at ranch with BBQ lunch – US\$70

**Accommodation:** 3 night(s) camping

### Day 49 to 52 - San Pedro de Atacama

We head due west and cross the mighty Andes before entering Chile via the border at Jama. Over the Jama Pass, we drive by way of salt lakes and volcanoes and, if we're lucky, we may see pink flamingos and a variety of other wildlife before our descent into the arid Atacama Desert, the driest desert in the world (it hasn't rained for over 250 years). Here our first camp is the quaint little town of San Pedro de Atacama. From here you have the option to visit the excellent archaeological museum at San Pedro de Atacama, housing a good selection of mummies and other ancient artefacts. We visit the Valley of the Moon with its eerie landscape and eroded salt mountains as we drive south we pass through the mining town of Calama. After passing by Antofagosta, we stop for a group photo at a strange figure of a gigantic hand rising from the desert. We then arrive on the coast where we camp by the beach at Bahía Inglesa (English Bay).

**Included Excursions:** Valley of the Moon

**Accommodation:** 4 night(s) camping

### Day 53 to 54 - La Serena (Guañeros)

We make our way to La Serena, a pleasant little town founded in 1544. The surrounding district is one of the most important astronomical centres on earth, with observatories dotted among the hills. We have another full day in La Serena where we can laze around on the long beach, visit the interesting town or stroll to neighbouring Coquimbo along the bay. In the evening you can enjoy a barbeque or a night out at one of the many nightclubs (optional).

**Accommodation:** 2 night(s) camping

### Day 55 to 55 - Santiago

Pedro de Valdivia established the city of Santiago in 1541 but not much remains of its original glory. At Santa Lucia hill where the original fortress was constructed, there are excellent views of the city below. However, for even better photo opportunities, take a funicular railway to the top of San Cristobal where the Statue of the Virgin overlooks the capital and the distant Andes. At this pleasant viewing area there are wine-tasting facilities and a couple of beautifully situated swimming pools. Santiago is a clean, modern city with fountains, parks and imposing buildings. In the Plaza Constitución at the Palacio de la Moneda you can see the changing of the guard on most days or you can take an optional excursion to the port of Valparaiso and the resort of Viña del Mar.

**Accommodation:** 1 night(s) in hotels, hostels & guesthouses

### Day 56 to 56 - Depart Santiago

Your adventure of a lifetime comes to an end today. If you have a late flight or have lengthened your stay by adding post tour accommodation you will have more time to explore the sights.

## Day by Day Itinerary

Day	Activity	Country	Meals
Day 1	Quito	Ecuador	
Day 2	Otavallo		
Day 3	Amazon Jungle		LD
Day 4	Amazon Jungle		BLD
Day 5	Amazon Jungle		BLD

Day 6	Baños		BLD
Day 7	Baños		BLD
Day 8	Baños		BLD
Day 9	Cuenca		BL
Day 10	Cuenca		B
Day 11	Punta Sal	Peru	BLD
Day 12	Punta Sal		BLD
Day 13	Punta Sal		BLD
Day 14	Huanchaco		BLD
Day 15	Huanchaco		BLD
Day 16	Lima		BL
Day 17	Lima		
Day 18	Lima		
Day 19	Pisco		L
Day 20	Nazca		LD
Day 21	Puerto Inca		BLD
Day 22	Arequipa		BL
Day 23	Arequipa		
Day 24	Colca Canyon		
Day 25	Cuzco		L
Day 26	Cuzco / Jungle Option		
Day 27	Cuzco / Jungle Option		
Day 28	Cuzco		
Day 29	Ollantaytambo		
Day 30	Inca Trail Trek		LD
Day 31	Inca Trail Trek		BLD
Day 32	Inca Trail Trek		BLD
Day 33	Cuzco		B
Day 34	Cuzco		
Day 35	Puno		L
Day 36	Lake Titicaca		LD

Day 37	Puno		B
Day 38	La Paz	Bolivia	L
Day 39	La Paz		
Day 40	La Paz		
Day 41	Potosí		L
Day 42	Potosí		
Day 43	Uyuni		L
Day 44	Uyuni		L
Day 45	Tupiza		L
Day 46	Salta	Argentina	LD
Day 47	Salta		BLD
Day 48	Salta		BLD
Day 49	San Pedro de Atacama	Chile	BLD
Day 50	San Pedro de Atacama		BLD
Day 51	San Pedro de Atacama		BLD
Day 52	Bahía Inglesa		BLD
Day 53	La Serena (Guaqueros)		BLD
Day 54	La Serena (Guaqueros)		BLD
Day 55	Santiago		BL
Day 56	Santiago		B

(B - Breakfast, L - Lunch, D - Dinner included)

For tours that include the option of a single supplement, a ? will indicate in which destinations single rooms are available. The detailed and day by day itineraries above are provided in good faith and it is our intention to adhere to the published route. Changes may be made before or during your tour for operational or safety reasons or to incorporate improvements. Impromptu changes may also occur whilst you are travelling as a result of one-off circumstances such as an excursion being closed on a particular day, weather conditions or transport. Delays are rare but occur occasionally and for this reason and the reasons above this itinerary should be considered as a guide only. Published transport times are approximations and may vary depending on local conditions.

## Travel Style

This is an Adventure Tour, we see a destination from the locals' perspective using a variety of transport and staying in small locally owned accommodation. There is a maximum of 16 travellers with an average group size of 8-12. All our Adventure Tours are priced per person on a shared room basis meaning there is no compulsory extra payment for those travelling on their own. Please read the Adventure Tour travel style dossier to ensure you understand the style of travel you are undertaking: <http://www.tucantravel.com/travel-styles/dossier/adventure-tours>

### I'd like my own room

If you are a solo traveller, a single room is available on most occasions at an extra cost. Price information can be found on the price page of each tour. This must be booked in advance.

## 4-day Inca Trail Trek or Train to Machu Picchu

## Inca Trail Trek

This tour includes the famous Inca Trail trek. The Inca Trail trek is a permit regulated activity which can have limited availability and sometimes sells out months in advance. It is closed in February for maintenance. Permits are booked with your passport details which must be provided to us in writing. We cannot guarantee permit availability until we have received your deposit, passport details in writing and have applied for your permit with the government-run office in Cuzco. You can view the current Inca Trail permit availability on our permit calendar: [www.tucantravel.com/travel-highlights/inca-trail-trek/booking-and-inca-trail-permit](http://www.tucantravel.com/travel-highlights/inca-trail-trek/booking-and-inca-trail-permit).

If permits are not available over your dates we offer an alternative trek called the Lares Trail - [www.tucantravel.com/travel-highlights/lares-trek/lares-trek-overview](http://www.tucantravel.com/travel-highlights/lares-trek/lares-trek-overview). Both treks involve high altitude and require a certain level of fitness. Please check this with your doctor before travel and contact us if you have concerns.

## Train to Machu Picchu

If you prefer not to trek, you can take the train to Machu Picchu. This is included in the tour price at no extra charge.

## Inca Trail Packing List

You will need a good warm sleeping bag and ideally a sleep sheet for added warmth and comfort. Sleeping bags can be hired locally for approximately \$10 but we cannot guarantee the quality of these, so we recommend bringing your own if possible. Roll mats are provided on the Inca Trail however for greater comfort and warmth, Thermarest style mattresses can also be hired in Cuzco for US\$10.

Additional advice on packing for the Inca Trail can be found here: <http://www.tucantravel.com/travel-highlights/inca-trail-trek/inca-trail-trek-packing-list>

## Joining your tour

Your joining location is:

Hotel Majestic  
Mercadillo 366 y Versalles  
Quito,  
Ecuador

Tel: (+593) 2 2543 182

Fax: (+593) 2 2504 207

[info@majesticquito.com](mailto:info@majesticquito.com)

The hotel has safe deposit boxes for your use (you will get an itemised receipt). Please leave all of your important documents, money and travellers cheques here when you go out but remember to carry some form of ID and a photocopy of your passport with you. It is Ecuadorian law that you carry a copy of your passport with you at all times. It is advisable not to wear chains or expensive looking watches or jewellery while in major South American cities. You should also keep your camera concealed when not in use and carry daypacks on your front for extra safety.

## Arriving in Quito

Quito is located at 2,800 metres above sea level, making it the second highest capital city in the world. You may feel the effects of altitude, which affects all people differently. If you have just arrived it is suggested you take it very easy for the first day and follow the below recommendations:

- Drink plenty of water, around two to two-and-a-half litres per day. Bottled water is available everywhere.
- The affects of alcohol and cigarettes are made considerably worse by the thin air. Try to avoid these in excess for the first few days.
- Take it easy. Walk slowly and avoid sudden movements

On arrival in Quito we recommend you change enough money into the local currency for the first four or five days of your tour. The currency used in Ecuador is the US dollar. These are available from ATMs or with US\$ travellers cheques. Ecuadorian notes tend to be of poor quality and you will have trouble exchanging these if you are travelling outside of Ecuador.

## Airport Transfers

Airport transfers are not included in the tour price and must be booked separately in advance through Tucan Travel. If you have booked an airport/hotel transfer with us, please look out for someone with a sign which has your name, Tucan Travel, or both after exiting the customs hall.

If you have booked an arrival transfer with us and you are going to be delayed by more than two hours, you must advise us of the delay at least six hours before arrival. If we are advised in time, we will make every effort to reschedule your transfer and your driver will be asked to wait for two hours after your new expected arrival time. However, if we are not made aware of any change, the driver will only wait for two hours after the original scheduled arrival

time and after this point it will be up to you to arrange transport to your hotel at your own expense. Please contact us on the emergency contact details below if you are likely to be delayed.

## Making your own way

If you would prefer to make your own way to and from your hotel, you will find a 24-hour taxi rank outside the airport. You shouldn't have any problem getting a taxi as they are all metered (yellow taxis) and tend to wait in an orderly line outside the terminal. Unlicensed taxis are also available but you will have to haggle for a good price which can be difficult if you do not speak Spanish. In 2013, Ecuador opened its new international airport in Quito. The airport is approximately 90 minutes from the city centre (depending on traffic) and the cost of a taxi to our hotel in Quito should be approximately \$25-35. Given the airport's location out of town, please allow plenty of time to arrive at the airport before your departure.

## Pre-Departure Meeting

When you arrive on day one of your trip, you should find some local information at the hotel lobby. Your tour leader will be staying in the hotel and should have put up a welcome note to let you know what room they are in. A pre-departure meeting is usually held in the afternoon or early evening of day one. You will need to bring the following important items to the meeting with your tour leader:

- Your passport, including any necessary visas and at least one photocopy to give to your tour leader
- Vaccination certificates if relevant to any destinations on your tour
- Travel insurance policy and a photocopy to give to your tour leader
- Your travel voucher
- Your local payment in US\$ cash (Budget Expeditions only)

## Missing the tour departure

If you miss the start of your tour, please ask at the reception of the hotel for a message from your tour leader which will give you instructions on how to catch up with the group. Any associated costs will be at your own expense (although, depending on the reason, you may be able to claim these from your travel insurance so ensure you keep all receipts).

If you know in advance that you are unlikely to arrive on time, please contact Tucan Travel immediately so we can inform the tour leader. Tucan Travel cannot be held responsible should your airline/boat/coach be delayed and we are unable to refund any unused portion of your tour.

## Time Keeping

Punctuality is very important and throughout the tour your tour leader will give you the time to meet in reception. Tour leaders will often post notes at reception with meeting times, so remember to always look out for these.

Although rare, delays can occur and we therefore advise you not to arrange your onward travel too close to the end of the tour. We take no responsibility for any missed flights or additional expenses if the group arrives late into the departure city at the end of the tour.

## Emergency Contact Details

In the case of an emergency before you meet your tour leader, please contact Rolf Stanley, Latin American Destination Manager:

Tel: (+51) 984 76 21 64 (phone only)

Email: [sacrew@tucantravel.com](mailto:sacrew@tucantravel.com)

In the unlikely event that you are unable to reach the number above, please contact Keiko on (+51) 984 65 3726

Please note that these numbers are a service for emergency calls only. We respectfully request that you consider the urgency of your enquiry. Non-urgent enquiries should be made during office hours. Please be considerate of time zones.

Opening Hours: Monday-Friday 9am-5.30pm; Saturday 9am-1pm (based in Peru)

## Keeping in Touch

Your tour leader will point out internet cafes in all major cities and towns and Wi-Fi may be available in some hotels. Mobile phones may not work locally depending on your network. If you have an unlocked phone you may be able to purchase a local SIM card. Hotel details, apart from the joining hotel, are not given in advance and are subject to change, so if someone needs to contact you urgently during your tour the best method is to contact our office who can pass a message on to the tour leader.

## Money

For personal spending money you should bring US dollars to use alongside the local currency (where applicable). Some countries do not accept US

dollars printed before 2006 and it can be very difficult to obtain US dollars in Brazil. While bank cards provide a very good way to access funds overall, it is not recommended to rely on them as your sole source of funds as cash machines do not always work and may not be available in remote locations. Carry a mix of cards and cash with you, including notes in small denominations.

Your spending money should cover some meals, optional excursions, souvenirs, drinks, laundry, border and airport taxes and any visas obtained locally. We provide guideline prices for optional excursions in the itinerary to help you budget, but ultimately the amount you will need to budget for your trip very much depends on your individual requirements. We recommend bringing extra money to cover emergencies or unexpected situations.

## Tipping

Tipping is a part of the life in South America, but you should not feel obliged or pressured to tip if you have not received good service. A gratuity of 10% of the total bill is recommended in restaurants. Gratuities are usually expected for local guides on included and optional excursions. Tips are also appreciated by Tucan Travel tour leaders at the end of your tour and we recommend an average of \$2-\$4 per person per day for the duration of your tour. This is only if you feel that their service was up to standard and is completely at your own discretion.

## Packing List

The best advice when packing is to travel light and leave space for souvenirs in your bag.

### Luggage

The majority of the time, your luggage will either stay in the overland truck or a few metres away in your tent. However, it is important to remember that in some major cities and towns, you will be staying in hotels and hostels and the overland truck may struggle to get down narrow or busy roads and you may need to walk from the parked truck to your accommodation, potentially down cobbled streets or dirt roads. Space is also an issue on the overland truck and with up to 34 other passengers, it is important to take a versatile and sturdy rucksack that can take wear and tear.

We recommend a frameless backpack or a sports type shoulder bag which fits comfortably on your shoulders, as they are less bulky and easier to handle than rigid suitcases or framed backpacks. Suitcases are not suitable for our tours and are not recommended. Tucan Travel takes no responsibility for damage to your luggage while on tour.

In addition to your main bag, you will need a small daypack for your everyday excursions. Try to keep this bag as light as possible and make sure that all main sections of your bags can be padlocked. This daypack should have enough room to carry food and snacks for long hikes and treks and space to carry belongings for overnight excursions.

### Sleeping Bags and Mats

Sleeping bags and sleeping mats are essential. For all tours through Patagonia and areas of high altitude (such as the Inca Trail) we recommend a four season bag with side zip which can be opened out when you reach warmer weather. If you do not have a four season sleeping bag, you may be able to purchase extra blankets locally. If you are doing an 'Amazonia' Overland Tour, you do not need a thick sleeping bag as the climate will be warmer. However, please be aware that weather can change from region to region and quite suddenly.

Therm-a-rest self inflating mattresses are comfortable and provide protection against the cold ground, while foam roll mats are compact, inexpensive and have similar features. Avoid air mattresses as these can be bulky and puncture easily.

### Clothing and Footwear

We recommend packing lightweight and durable clothes. Nights can be cold at higher altitude (Peru, Bolivia and Ecuador) and in southern Patagonia, so it is a good idea to bring at least one pair of warm trousers plus several thinner sweaters / fleeces which you can layer. Please avoid military or camouflage-patterned clothing as it can cause problems and in some countries may be illegal.

Good, comfortable walking shoes are essential. These do not need to be expensive boots, but they should have good ankle support and grip, be worn in and ideally waterproof.

Essential items:

- A lightweight water/windproof jacket with hood
- Easy to pack wide-brimmed hat or cap
- Towel - you will need a towel for most overnight excursions
- Swimwear
- Sandals or thongs/jandals/flip flops

Suggested items:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Money belt  | <input type="checkbox"/> Plastic bags for waterproofing   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sunglasses  | <input type="checkbox"/> Inflatable pillow  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Small calculator  | <input type="checkbox"/> Swiss army type penknife   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Small collapsible umbrella  | <input type="checkbox"/> Binoculars   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Universal washbasin plug  | <input type="checkbox"/> Travel plug adaptor with a USB port  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Head torch or flashlight  | <input type="checkbox"/> Small sewing kit   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Travel alarm clock  | <input type="checkbox"/> Insect repellent (DEET 35% min) and bite cream   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lip balm, sun block with high UV factor   | <input type="checkbox"/> Antibacterial hand clensing gel  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wet wipes   | <input type="checkbox"/> Ear plugs and sleep mask   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cheap plastic watch   | <input type="checkbox"/> Travel sickness tablets  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Plenty of spare memory cards for your camera  | <input type="checkbox"/> Spare pair of spectacles or contact lenses and solution  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Spare rechargeable batteries for camera   | <input type="checkbox"/> Hard drive or USB stick to back up your photos   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Writing materials, address book and diary   | <input type="checkbox"/> Pocket size phrasebook   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Travel games, cards and a couple of paperbacks  | <input type="checkbox"/> Pegless washing line & travel laundry detergent (bio-degradable preferable)  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Toilet paper (best to carry a roll with you at all times and/or tissues)  | <input type="checkbox"/> As gifts for local children - pens, coloured pencils, small notepads. To discourage a begging mentality we recommend that you try to give these gifts at schools or childcare centres rather than on the street. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Small medical kit with diarrhoea remedy, rehydration salts, antiseptic cream, sterile dressings, plasters, bandages, pain-killers, safety pins etc. |   |

## Laundry

There are usually laundromats or laundry services in or near most of our hotels. Hotel services can be pretty costly however your tour leader will be able to recommend cheaper options. If you wash clothes yourself take care not to be too obvious where you hang them as most hotels do not like guests washing and drying their clothes in the hotel rooms.

## Electricity Supply

The power supply and plug types in South America vary from country to country. The power supply in Peru, Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay is 220-240 volts and uses either a typical European rounded two prong plug or North American flat pronged plug (Argentina also sometimes uses a 3-pronged plug such as that used in Australia). In Colombia, Ecuador and Venezuela it is 120 volts with North America flat pronged plug. Brazil has both voltages depending on the region and uses a number of different outlets. We recommend bringing a universal plug adaptor with you. You can also charge your iPods, MP3 players, laptops, cameras, etc using power boards aboard the overland truck, while travelling.

## Health, Fitness & Safety

### Vaccinations

It is important to consult your doctor or travel clinic in good time before your tour departs to determine what vaccinations you require. You may need several vaccinations and/or malaria tablets and you should be aware that some inoculations require more than one visit and can take several weeks to administer. Always carry your International Certificate of Vaccination with your passport.

For areas with malaria, make sure you pack sufficient prophylactics for the duration of your tour and the incubation period after. Some countries prevent entry for travellers without a valid Yellow Fever certificate. This must be acquired before departure and takes ten days for your body to build up a resistance. This certificate must be taken with you on your tour with a photocopy stored somewhere safe.

### Pack a Medical Kit

A medical kit is handy for minor wounds and ailments. In areas with limited or dubious medical facilities, an emergency medical kit containing sterile syringes is also advisable. By law our staff are not allowed to administer first aid or give drugs to travellers, so please be prepared with your own supplies.

If you are taking medication, please ensure you bring an adequate supply and a letter from your doctor to avoid potential issues at border crossings.

### Fitness & Suitability

This is a participatory tour involving camping and with basic facilities at times. Disruptions are likely, and while your tour leader will make every effort to ensure your trip runs smoothly, patience, a sense of humour and willingness to get involved are essential ingredients for a successful and happy overland group.

If you have any pre-existing medical conditions please let us know at the time you book or as early before departure as possible. Depending on the severity of the condition, you may be asked to produce a medical certificate from your doctor approving your participation in this tour. While this would only happen in very exceptional circumstances, if we consider you incapable completing this tour or you have concealed an existing medical condition which is affecting your ability to participate in the tour of Tucan Travel reserve the right to turn you away without reimbursement.

## Safety & Security

South America is generally very safe, even more so in a group. Reasonable precaution is advised; do not bring valuable jewellery or watches (even fakes can catch the eye of a thief), do not walk by yourself at night, heed your tour leader's advice and always keep an eye and a hand on your camera and bags in public places.

## Age Restrictions (Overland Tours only)

We have a minimum age on all our group tours of 12 years old. Children aged between 12 and 18 must each be accompanied by a legal guardian or parent and we recommend that children have a companion of a similar age to them so that they have company along the way. While we do not have an upper age limit, the nature of our group tours can be very fast paced and travellers might be required to walk long distances, often in the heat. Please read through our **Tour Suitability** page or contact a member of our Reservations Team if in doubt.

## Bathrooms

In some countries it is customary to leave a gratuity of 20-50 cents when using public conveniences. An attendant may collect this or a dish/box will be left out. Our vehicles do not have toilets on board for hygiene and logistical reasons. This may mean roadside toilet stops on travel days and our crew always try and stop in isolated areas with as much privacy as possible if this is necessary. There will be some occasions where free camping is necessary. On these occasions there will not be any facilities available and you will have to use the facilities mother nature provided. On these occasions we recommend wet wipes while your Tour Leader will tell you about environmentally sound 'bush toilet' practises.

## Travel Guides

If you would like to discover more about your destination, including history, geography, climate and language, please have a read of our country travel guides available here: <http://www.tucantravel.com/destination-travel-guides/south-america-travel-guides>.

## Documents

### Passport

Your passport should be valid for at least 6 months after you have finished your tour with sufficient blank pages for visas and immigration stamps. Photocopy your passport, leaving one copy at home and taking one with you on tour. If you lose your passport while on tour, you will be responsible for any expenses incurred such as extra accommodation and transport while replacing your passport and will not be entitled to a refund of any unused portion of your tour.

### Tour Documents

Before you depart you will be issued with a voucher for your tour and separate vouchers for any extra services such as airport transfers and pre/post tour accommodation. Please print these out and bring them with you. This dossier is updated regularly, so we recommend checking our website for the latest version just prior to the start of your tour.

### Final Balance

The balance for your tour is due no later than 60 days prior to the start of your tour and no tour vouchers will be issued until this is received. In addition please send the following details at least 60 days before you depart:

- Passport number, date of issue, date of expiry, nationality and place of issue
- Your full name and date of birth
- Flight arrival details in your starting city
- Special requirements, e.g. special dietary requirements or allergies

Please let us know if you are travelling with another person on the tour but have made separate bookings and we will endeavour to make suitable rooming arrangements.

### Visas

All countries have visa requirements that are subject to change at short notice. A general guideline for visa requirements is available here: <http://www.tucantravel.com/before-you-go/visa-guide>, but you must check with your local embassy or consulate for the very latest visa requirement information based on your nationality. It is your responsibility to ensure that you have all necessary visas for your tour. If you would like help

applying for visas, we have recommended visa agencies on our visa page that we work with regularly.

Important things to check when applying for visas:

- Does the validity of the visa cover the duration of your time spent in the country?
- Do you require a single or multiple entry visa(s) for your tour?
- Are you required to show additional documentation when you arrive in a country? (Examples include proof of onward travel and travel itinerary)

Some visas are only valid for entry within three months of the date of issue which means on some of our longer tours the visa would expire before you are scheduled to enter the country. In these cases you must obtain the relevant visa during your tour. If it is necessary for you to obtain any visas en-route, please contact Tucan Travel or your travel consultant and inform your tour leader at the start of the tour. If you do not have the appropriate visas, Tucan Travel will not reimburse any expenses incurred in acquiring visas or any unused portion of the tour.

It is best to apply for visas in your home country if possible. If applying for visas by post, please allow plenty of time before departure and send your application by registered mail. Postal applications tend to be given a lower priority than in person applications and can take longer to process.

**Special Note:** If you have dual nationality it is advised not to obtain different visas in different passports. Although this may sometimes be cheaper, you may encounter problems at border crossings if your exit stamps from one country are not the same as your visa for the next.

### Travel Insurance Policy

Travel insurance is compulsory for all tours. You must be adequately insured for medical, hospital, baggage and personal expenses, any necessary extra travel (rejoining tour or repatriation) as well as curtailment and cancellation.

We strongly recommend that all clients carry a copy of their full policy document with them at all times, together with any certificate showing the policy number and emergency contact details. Your tour leader will also ask for a photocopy of your insurance document, so please take this to the pre-departure meeting at the start of your tour. You will not be able to commence your tour unless you can provide proof of insurance to your tour leader.

### Document Checklist

- Tour Voucher & Vouchers for extra services
- Passport (with photocopies of information pages and visas)
- Tour Dossier
- Cash & credit/debit cards (best to take a mixture and more than one card in case one does not work)
- Travel Insurance Certificate and photocopy for tour leader
- Travel consultant's phone number and email address
- Proof of onward travel, ie airline ticket

### Optional Excursions

Optional excursions are not operated by Tucan Travel and while every effort is made prices may not be up-to-date and are intended as a general guide to help you budget for your trip. Prices for vehicle-based excursions such as game drives are approximate based on the optimum number of participants and the actual price may vary depending on group size.

Sufficient safety equipment such as helmets and life jackets are sometimes not available and Tucan Travel is unable to provide this equipment. If you intend to participate in an optional excursion you may like to consider bringing your own safety gear.

Excursions are run by a local operator or third party with both Tucan Travel and the Tour Leader acting as a booking agent only. Optional activities are not part of the tour and Tucan Travel's booking conditions do not apply to them. It is your responsibility to ensure you have the correct travel insurance for the excursions you intend to take part in and Tucan Travel is not liable for any injuries incurred.

### Responsible Travel

We work hard to ensure our tours are sustainably and ethically run. You can read our responsible travel policy and advice on how you can travel responsibly here: <http://www.tucantravel.com/about-us/responsible-travel>.

### Meet Up

Our free Meet Up app, available on Facebook, on iTunes and Google Play is an opportunity to chat with others passengers before you depart or keep in touch when you arrive back from tour. Information on the app is available here: <http://www.tucantravel.com/before-you-go/meet-up>

## Add-ons & Extras

On many of our Group Tours, we spend one night in our arrival and departure cities. If you want to explore these cities more we can book pre and post tour accommodation, city tours and airport transfers for you. Price information can be found on the price page of each tour. We also have **Add-ons** - short packages that can be booked alongside a tour or on their own and have been carefully designed to ensure you don't miss out on popular highlights.

## Illegal Drugs

The possession or use of illegal drugs will not be tolerated on our tours. When overseas you are subject to local laws and the penalties for breaking these laws can be harsh. In order to safeguard the interests of the group as a whole, our tour leaders have been instructed to insist that any person found with illegal drugs leave the tour immediately – without refund. The tour leader's decision on this matter is final. If you need to carry certain drugs with your purposes of medication, please inform your tour leader and ensure that you carry a copy of your prescription or letter from your doctor.