

Code 6ZRC **Manaus**

Tour Dossier Introduction

Dossier Last Updated: 22-12-2014

Tour Code: 6ZRC

Duration: 41 nights / 42 days

Joining City: Rio de Janeiro

Departure City: Caracas

Nearest Joining International Airport: Rio Galeao Antonio Carlos Jobim Intl Apt (GIG), Rio de Janeiro Santos Dumont Airport (SDU)

Nearest Departing International Airport: Caracas Simon Bolivar Intl Airport (CCS)

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

Tour Documents

 PDF Document  Web Page

 [Optional Excursions in South America](#)

 [Brazil Dossier](#)

 [Venezuela Dossier](#)

 [Portuguese Language Survival Guide](#)

 [Spanish Language Guide](#)

What's Included

- Ubajara National Park
- Sete Cidades National Park
- Sail down the Amazon River by ferry
- 22 nights in hotels, hostels & guesthouses, 14 nights camping, 5 nights on overnight ferrys
- 35 breakfasts, 22 lunches, 14 dinners
- Travel by **Tucan Travel Expedition Vehicle**, boat, taxi, on foot
- 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
- Domestic flight taxes if applicable
- 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
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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 Rio de Janeiro

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.

Rio de Janeiro, or more commonly known as Rio, is the second largest city in Brazil and arguably one of the most beautiful cities of the world. In the late 17th century the Portuguese found gold and diamonds in the nearby state of Minas Gerais and thus Rio became the main port for exporting the new found wealth. During the colonial Portuguese period of 1763-1815, Rio was the capital of Brazil.

Visit Rio's stunning beaches, such as Copacabana, Ipanema or Leblon. There are excursions up Pão de Açúcar (Sugarloaf Mountain) and Corcovado with its famous 'Cristo Redentor' (Christ the Redeemer) statue and great city views. You can also wander around the cobblestoned streets of the hill-top neighbourhood of Santa Teresa. A walking tour of Rio's historic buildings in the city centre is also a lovely way to pass an afternoon, or you may like to visit the Botanical Gardens.

Day 2 to 3 - Ouro Prêto

Ouro Prêto is a fabulous city located deep in the valley of Minas Gerais' mountains. The city was part of what was once a mining region. Founded in 1711 it is now a UNESCO World Heritage Site and National Historic Monument due to its outstanding Baroque architecture.

We have time here to explore this fascinating city and take an excursion to see some of the old mines.

Day 4 to 4 - En route

We continue our journey through Brazil camping en route in the municipality town of Linhares located in the state of Espírito Santo.

Day 5 to 6 - Puerto Seguro

Next we make our way towards the beautiful coastal town of Puerto Seguro. It has miles of palm-fringed beaches and bars, which are great places to sample delicious fresh fruit juices, or the Brazilian national cocktail of caiparinha (be careful with this one though). Just north of here is where the Portuguese, led by Pedro Alvares Cabral, first landed in 1500 and a cross marks the site. There is plenty of typical Bahian food available in Porto Seguro and you may want to try the delicious moqueca, a hot spicy seafood casserole. This is also a great chance to top up the holiday tan or to experience some of the local nightlife.

Day 7 to 9 - Salvador

We enter the city of Salvador by ferry over the bay of all saints to the capital city of the state of Bahia. The centre of Salvador has many historical colonial buildings and dates back to 1549; it was the original Brazilian capital until 1763. It is situated on the bay of Todos los Santos which is the largest bay on the Brazilian coast and has 38 islands, some of which can be visited by ferry on an optional excursion. There are also enormous elevators going from the upper to the lower city, where the docks are situated. It is in this area, just outside Mercado Modelo, where we can find the Bahians practising the foot-fighting sport of Capoeira, which was originally brought to Brazil by black Angolan slaves. Another key feature of Bahian life is the Afro-Brazilian religion of candomblé and you may be able to see one of their amazing ceremonies (please check locally for schedules of these optional tours). Alternatively, we can enjoy the traditional music of the area with a strong emphasis towards drums in the evening. You can be sure that you will hear music all over the city during your visit.

Day 10 to 11 - Maceió

Our next stop is Maceió, a port city which is located between Lake Mundaú and the Atlantic Ocean. The city developed in the 19th century from exporting sugar, tobacco, coconut & leather. Here we will have the opportunity to hire jangadas, a typical Brazilian sailing boat. The boatmen can take you out to a natural reef swimming pool about two kilometres from the shore, where you can order cocktails and crayfish from the surrounding boats.

Day 12 to 13 - Olinda

Following the coast northward our next exciting destination is the old colonial town of Olinda, which has a variety of historic churches, convents and monasteries, dating back to 1537. Nearby is Recife, a city built on three islands and joined by a series of bridges. Here an old prison has been converted into a cultural centre, which is not only impressive and interesting, but also houses some unique shops. If you want to see how the other half live in Brazil, then you can visit the rich suburb of Boa Viagem. Continuing our journey north we enter the State of Rio Grande do Norte, which is famous for its beautiful

beaches.

Day 14 to 15 - Praia da Pipa

As we work our way up the coast we will take another break with a stopover in Praia da Pipa, one of Brazil's most famous beaches. The area offers some decent surfing options, crystal-clear waters with the chance to see dolphins, fine white sands and some reasonable restaurants. A great time to soak up some sun and relax.

Day 16 to 17 - Canoa Quebrada

Continuing our travels, we carry on to Canoa Quebrada, a fishing village built on a sand dune with long deserted beaches ideal for relaxation and swimming. For the more active there are two exciting optional activities: sandboarding down the dunes or horse riding along them. The nightlife, however, is not to be missed.

Day 18 to 18 - Ubajara

Leaving the coast behind, we head inland to our next stop at Ubajara National Park famous for its caves, spectacular forest scenery and waterfalls.

Included Excursions: Ubajara National Park

Day 19 to 19 - Sete Cidades

About half a day's drive brings us to the Sete Cidades National Park, which contains mysterious rock formations over 190 million years old, caverns and natural swimming pools. Sete Cidades Park was named after the 'seven cities' its rock formations are said to resemble.

Included Excursions: Sete Cidades National Park

Day 20 to 20 - En route (Santa Ines)

Continuing inland we travel along the rough roads of Brasil's northern region, making an en route stopover near Santa Ines before we reach the mouth of the mighty River Amazon and the port of Belém.

Day 21 to 22 - Belém

Belém is located on the banks of the Pará river, part of the greater River Amazon system. The city's extremes go from modern buildings and skyscraper to colonial tree-filled squares, churches and blue tiles in the old town. See the fascinating waterfront markets, the Theatre of Peace (one of the largest theatres in Brazil) and the excellent Goeldi Museum which houses a zoo. There are plenty of restaurants on offer as well as many stalls in the markets for cheap and tasty meals. Another interesting spot to visit is the Bosque Rodrigo Alves, a public garden with many species of native flora as well as a small collection of animals.

Day 23 to 27 - Amazon ferry

From Belém we change means of transport and board a riverboat to cruise up the South America's longest river, the Amazon, which flows for 6,200 kilometres. We travel by riverboat for a total of 1,368 kilometres, heading into the jungle. At the start of this adventure the river is narrow as we travel through one of the hundreds of estuaries in the delta but it soon widens to in excess of 10 kilometres and it is still around eight kilometres wide at our destination, the city of Manaus. As we are going upriver, the boat stays mostly close to the shoreline to avoid the stronger currents coming downstream in the centre of the river. Accommodation on the riverboat is in hammocks for five nights (upgrades to cabins may be available, your tour leader can advise once the riverboat is confirmed) and usually each boat has a bar and restaurant on board. The duration of the cruise is usually five days, but this will be dependent on the river flow. A stop is generally made at the port city of Santarem so you can take respite from the boat and get a taste of solid ground again.

Being onboard the river ferry provides a great opportunity to relax, read books and enjoy incredible sunsets. Make sure to keep an eye out for the pink dolphins on the first couple of days. We will disembark the riverboat in Manaus with new Brazilian friends and fond memories of the mighty Amazon.

Day 28 to 34 - Manaus

The jungle city of Manaus used to be the world's largest supplier of rubber. During that heady era the famous Teatro Amazonas (opera house) was built and completed in 1896. Manaus will be our base for the opportunity to join an exciting optional excursion deep into the jungle by boat or dugout canoe in search of caiman, fresh water dolphins, jaguar and many other creatures of this threatened rainforest. The local guide on this trip will give you an in-depth view of the past- and present-day lives of the indigenous Amazonian population. They will also explain the importance of manioc (a root vegetable which must be processed to remove the cyanide) to the indigenous economy and diet as well as explaining the uses of numerous other jungle plants. You will

also go to the meeting point of the black waters of the Rio Negro and the yellow-brown waters of the Solimões River, where they run side by side for several kilometres, providing an excellent photo opportunity. We return to Manaus where we highly recommend a visit to the fascinating waterside markets.

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

Day 35 to 35 - Boa Vista

Back onboard our expedition vehicle we hit the road again and head north through the jungle with a photo stop at the Equator Monument. We gradually leave the jungle behind, as we reach the drier climate near the city of Boa Vista.

Day 36 to 36 - Salto Kama

Continuing north, we cross into Venezuela, a country renowned for its large oil reserves. This is savannah country, dotted with hundreds of mountains and the whole region is known as La Gran Sabana. This area was totally inaccessible until the 1970s when a road was built. It was finally completed in 1990 and is now one of the best roads in the country. We take this road to Santa Elena travelling through the Gran Sabana region which has an abundance of delightful waterfalls, lagoons and flat-topped mountains called tepuyes. Santa Elena is known for its population of indigenous peoples and has a community called Manakrū (mah-nah-CREE) populated entirely by indigenous people.

Day 37 to 40 - Ciudad Bolívar

Ciudad Bolívar is located on the Orinoco River. The town was once called Angostura and is where Angostura Bitters originate. It is also where Simón Bolívar was declared President of Gran Colombia. The city has a well preserved historic centre with original colonial buildings around the Plaza Bolívar.

Ciudad Bolívar is a popular base for excursions to the famous Angel Falls located in Canaima National Park. At a height of 979 metres (3,212 feet), Angel Falls is the world's highest falls and is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The falls are named after an American pilot, Jimmy Angel, who was the first person to fly over them in 1937.

From here we will have the choice to take an optional excursion out to the falls. We will fly out to Canaima, with a flight over of the falls to get a bird's eye view.

You can then choose to spend the day visiting sites in Canaima National Park, or stay overnight and take an excursion to the falls by dug-out canoe and foot. These options are dependent on the season and weather conditions.

Canaima National Park has an abundance of delightful waterfalls, lagoons and flat-topped mountains called tepuyes. Throughout the park you can see many local Pemòn settlements in this sparsely populated land, which covers an area of 30,000 square kilometres. You will never forget the beauty of this 'lost world' region.

If you do not wish to travel out to Angel Falls on the optional excursion you can enjoy some free time in Ciudad Bolívar with accommodation included.

Day 41 to 41 - Caracas

Venezuela's capital city, Santiago de León de Caracas, more commonly referred to as Caracas, is 960 metres above sea level and is renowned for having one of South America's most pleasant climates.

Venezuela is one of the largest oil producers in the world and Caracas is a very modern city with an efficient metro system, which goes from our hotel area into the city centre in minutes. Caracas has many lovely plazas, parks, museums and impressive buildings and was the birthplace of the Liberator, Simón Bolívar, whose presence is still seen everywhere. Because of the warm climate there are many outdoor cafés and restaurants where you can sit and watch the world go by.

Day 42 to 42 - Depart Caracas

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 | Rio de Janeiro | Brazil | |
| Day 2 | Ouro Preto | | BLD |

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|--------|-----------------------|--|-----|
| Day 3 | Ouro Preto | | BLD |
| Day 4 | Linhares | | BLD |
| Day 5 | Puerto Seguro | | BLD |
| Day 6 | Puerto Seguro | | BLD |
| Day 7 | Salvador | | BL |
| Day 8 | Salvador | | B |
| Day 9 | Salvador | | B |
| Day 10 | Maceió | | BLD |
| Day 11 | Maceió | | BLD |
| Day 12 | Olinda | | BL |
| Day 13 | Olinda | | B |
| Day 14 | Praia da Pipa | | BL |
| Day 15 | Praia da Pipa | | B |
| Day 16 | Canoa Quebrada | | BL |
| Day 17 | Canoa Quebrada | | B |
| Day 18 | Ubajara | | BLD |
| Day 19 | Sete Cidades | | BLD |
| Day 20 | En route (Santa Ines) | | BL |
| Day 21 | Belém | | BL |
| Day 22 | Belém | | B |
| Day 23 | Amazon ferry | | B |
| Day 24 | Amazon ferry | | B |
| Day 25 | Amazon ferry | | |
| Day 26 | Amazon ferry | | |
| Day 27 | Amazon ferry | | |
| Day 28 | Manaus | | |
| Day 29 | Manaus | | |
| Day 30 | Manaus | | B |
| Day 31 | Manaus | | B |
| Day 32 | Manaus | | B |
| Day 33 | Manaus | | B |

| | | | |
|--------|----------------|-----------|-----|
| Day 34 | Manaus | | B |
| Day 35 | Boa Vista | | BL |
| Day 36 | Salto Kama | Venezuela | BLD |
| Day 37 | Ciudad Bolívar | Venezuela | BLD |
| Day 38 | Ciudad Bolívar | | BLD |
| Day 39 | Ciudad Bolívar | | BLD |
| Day 40 | Ciudad Bolívar | | BLD |
| Day 41 | Caracas | | BL |
| Day 42 | Caracas | | |

(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 Overland Tour, travelling by custom built vehicle and camping along the route. There is a maximum of 34 travellers with an average group size 6-15-24. Please read the Overland Tour travel style dossier to ensure you understand the style of travel you are undertaking:

<http://www.tucantravel.com/travel-styles/dossier/overland-tours>

Local Payment

The tour price is divided into a set amount paid in advance and a compulsory local payment which is due to your tour leader in US\$ cash at the group meeting on the first day of your tour. The local payment amount is found on the tour price page and will be printed on your invoice and tour voucher. Our brochures are updated in September/October each year and the local payment you will pay will be the cost published at the time of your departure. It can be very difficult to obtain US\$ in some South American countries and virtually impossible in others, so we recommend organising your local payment before you arrive for your tour.

In general your local payment will cover:

- Meals while camping and some lunches on travel days on the expedition vehicle
- Campsite fees and cooking gas
- Hotels and hostels when staying in towns/cities (and possibly lodges if bad weather on camping days)
- National park entrance fees when visited in the expedition vehicle

Rio Carnival - Feb 13-17 2015

Each year this tour meets the famed Rio Carnival. We offer a 4 night/5 day Add-on before/after tours that meet Carnival which includes accommodation in designated Tucan Travel hotels as well as a ticket to the Samba parade at Sambadrome (sector 13) to see the main event. If you add Rio Carnival to your booking, you will stay in the same hotel as your fellow tour participants, enjoy the convenience of a helpdesk from 9-11 am and 5-7 pm, and attend the parade with your group. Over carnival dates, accommodation in Rio de Janeiro can only be booked as part of the Rio Carnival Add-on and cannot be booked separately. Read more about [Rio Carnival here](#).

Rio Carnival Supplement

If you are in Rio de Janeiro on a group tour or have pre or post accommodation booked in Rio de Janeiro on the Thursday night immediately before or the Tuesday night immediately after the Rio Carnival weekend you will be required to pay a supplement of US\$119 or equivalent per night. This is paid in addition to the cost of your tour, pre or post accommodation or local fund. The supplement is to cover the markedly increased cost of accommodation in Rio de Janeiro at this time. If you have booked a single supplement on your group tour, please be aware we cannot guarantee a single room on the night

directly before/after Rio Carnival.

Joining your tour

Unless your tour meets Rio Carnival, your joining location is:

Hotel Monte Alegre

Rua Riachuelo,

213, Lapa

20230-011

Tel: (+55) 21 2277 7300

Fax: (+55) 21 2224 0716

www.hotelmontealegre.com.br

If your tour meets Rio Carnival in February (regardless of whether or not you are adding the Rio Carnival package to your booking) your joining hotel may be different to the above and you will be informed of your joining hotel closer to the time of departure.

The hotel serve a continental breakfast consisting of bread, jam and tea/coffee or juice, or an American breakfast with eggs. The breakfast is included in your tour or accommodation costs. Please check with reception for serving times.

The hotel has safe deposit boxes for your use. 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 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.

The Hotel Monte Alegre is located in downtown Rio de Janeiro, near the popular Lapa district and with easy access to museums, theatres and other attractions. including Headquarters Petrobras, the Consulate North America, the Municipal Theatre, Santos Dumont airport and the Museum of Modern Art. The rooms are equipped with air conditioning, minibar, cable TV and telephone, as well as free internet access. A business centre, coffee shop, bar, restaurant and 24-hour reception are also available.

Arriving in Rio de Janeiro

On arrival in Rio de Janeiro, we recommend you change enough money into the local currency (real) for at least the first four or five days of your trip, especially if you are arriving on a Saturday night. (Those on the Manaus and Amazonia tours we recommend you stock up on as much local currency as you can as soon as you arrive in Brazil, because it is usually very difficult later on.)

The exchange rate at the airport is just as good as in the city centre. There is the 24-hour Banco do Brasil on the third floor which will give cash advances with visa cards (also has ATMs). Please note that this bank gives better rates than the Cambio on the first floor of the international arrivals area.

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 can either take a taxi from the rank outside or you buy a ticket at one of the pre-pay taxi desks just after you get out of the customs/luggage hall. You then hand your ticket to the driver rather than paying in the taxi. Licensed and unlicensed taxis are available outside but you will have to haggle for a good price which can be difficult if you do not speak Portuguese. It is also best to get them to write down the price (be clear on whether they are talking about Reals or US dollars). The airport is approximately 45 minutes from the city centre (depending on traffic) and the cost of a taxi to our hotel in Rio de Janeiro should be approximately US\$20.

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

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.

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.