

Code BXGD1 **South American Adventure**

## Tour Dossier Introduction

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

**Tour Code:** BXGD1

**Duration:** 69 nights / 70 days

**Joining City:** La Paz

**Departure City:** Rio de Janeiro

**Nearest Joining International Airport:** La Paz El Alto International Airport (LPB)

**Nearest Departing International Airport:** Rio Galeao Antonio Carlos Jobim Intl Apt (GIG)

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

## Tour Documents

 PDF Document  Web Page

 [Argentina Dossier](#)

 [Bolivia Dossier](#)

 [Brazil Dossier](#)

 [Chile Dossier](#)

 [Portuguese Language Survival Guide](#)

 [Spanish Language Guide](#)

## What's Included

- 26 night(s) in hotels, hostels & guesthouses, 40 night(s) camping, 3 night(s) in a Hammock
- 60 breakfasts, 53 lunches, 43 dinners
- Travel by **Tucan Travel Expedition Vehicle**, boat, taxi, on foot
- Tucan Travel tour leader, Tucan Travel driver

## What's not Included

- Accommodation in Rio during Carnival. This is available at an extra cost.
- Sleeping bag & sleeping mat
- Local payment
- 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 La Paz

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.

La Paz is built in the basin of a spectacular ancient crater caused by a meteorite, with the snow-capped Illimani in the background. At an altitude of 3,660 metres, the city is said to host the highest football stadium in the world.

The city has colourful indigenous street markets including the 'witches market' where women in flared skirts sell, amongst other things, dead cats and llama foetuses which are placed under new buildings in a bid to keep evil spirits away. The main square, Plaza Murillo, is where many years ago a president of the republic was lynched from a lamppost. La Paz is one of the best places to see a traditional peña show of Andean music and dance where local musicians play their time-honoured instruments such as zampoñas (pipes) and charangos (ukulele).

There are plenty of excursions available in La Paz. Check out the Moon Valley with its strange rock formations shaped by the weather. Another fantastic excursion is to Coroico, the gateway to the Bolivian jungle region and a great place to see sub-tropical vegetation and plants. En-route you will cross a 5,000 metre high pass before descending to 1,300 metres on narrow mountain roads bordered by sheer drops. The excursion to Coroico can also be done by mountain bike, as it is downhill nearly all the way and very exhilarating, but beware, colloquially known as 'Death Road', it is not at all for the fainthearted and great care must be taken!

**Optional Excursions:** Red Caps walking tours – free (tips appreciated) • Death Road Mountain Biking – US\$110

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

## Day 2 to 3 - 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.

**Approximate Driving Time:** Full Day Drive

**Optional Excursions:** Silver mine tour – US\$15 • City tour – US\$13 • Hot springs – US\$15

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

## Day 4 to 5 - Sucre

Continuing through Bolivia, we make our way to Sucre, the official capital of Bolivia even though the governing of the country actually takes place in La Paz. Sucre is a small attractive city where, by law, all the buildings are painted white. The city is a UNESCO World Heritage site thanks to its well-conserved downtown with buildings from the 18th and 19th centuries. Nestled at the foot of the twin hills of Churuquilla and Sika Sika, Sucre is the gateway to numerous small villages that date from the colonial era.

**Approximate Driving Time:** Three Hours Drive

**Optional Excursions:** Mountain biking – US\$25-36 • Hiking – US\$31-42 • Horse riding – US\$42 • Museos Universitarios

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

## Day 6 to 8 - Uyuni

Travelling on we head to the desolate town of Uyuni in the south of Bolivia, to visit what is claimed to be the largest salt flat in the world, the brilliantly white and vast Salar de Uyuni. We will have an overnight stay here and you will have the opportunity to take an excursion onto the salar in four-wheel-drive vehicles, stopping at places such as Fish Island, where there are great views of the surrounding lake and giant cacti and llama 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. This area proves to be a very popular place for some creative photo opportunities.

**Approximate Driving Time:** Six Hour Drive

**Optional Excursions:**

Salar de Uyuni full day tour with lunch and 4WD – US\$45

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

#### Day 9 to 9 - 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.

**Approximate Driving Time:** Full Day Drive

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

#### Day 10 to 12 - Salta

We arrive in the striking city of Salta in the Lerma Valley at the foothills of the Andes, 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. A variety of excursions await you here including rafting, horse riding and mountain biking.

**Approximate Driving Time:** Full Day Drive

**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 13 to 13 - Cafayate

Just outside of Salta, the rugged landscape gives way to lush farmlands where you may catch a glimpse of traditional subsistence farmers at work. Stunning multi-coloured sedimentary rock formations offer beautiful photo opportunities near Cafayate. For an adrenaline rush you can hire mountain bikes for a couple of hours of thrilling descents or take a quad bike tour to explore less challenging terrain. For a more peaceful excursion you can stretch your legs on a trek, taking in beautiful local flora and fauna, as well as an impressive series of cascadas (waterfalls).

**Approximate Driving Time:** Four Hour Drive

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

#### Day 14 to 14 - Catamarca

We continue our way to San Fernando del Valle de Catamarca, more commonly known as Catamarca. The city offers both natural and cultural attractions and offers many activities such as hiking, mountain-bike rides and horse riding. We have a night here before we hit the road again.

**Approximate Driving Time:** Six Hour Drive

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

#### Day 15 to 16 - Cordoba

Cordoba is a busy modern industrial city near the geographical centre of Argentina in the foothills of the Sierras Chicas mountains. Established in 1573, Córdoba boasts the country's oldest university and a young, dynamic student population. During the day you can visit an array of richly decorated churches, including Argentina's oldest cathedral and the Manzana Jesuitica (Jesuit Block) which has been declared a UNESCO World Heritage site.

**Approximate Driving Time:** Six Hour Drive

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

#### Day 17 to 19 - Mendoza

Now we hit the wine producing heartland of Argentina making our way past the vast vineyards to Mendoza.

Mendoza is the location where General José de San Martín organised the army with which he liberated Chile and Peru from Spanish rule in 1818. Unfortunately, few historic buildings remain after an earthquake devastated the city in 1861. However, the city was rebuilt with broader tree-lined streets and beautiful large green plazas, irrigated by a network of 500 kilometres of water channels, fuelling Mendoza's reputation as an oasis of the region. There are great photo opportunities from the top of the hill "Cerro de la Gloria" at Parque San Martín, where you can also visit the local zoo. Beyond their limits you'll have the chance to get wet and wild on a white water rafting excursion, or try out your rope skills on a rappelling option. For a more chilled

experience you could hire bikes and take the 'Ruta de los Vinos' (wine route), visiting ancient cellars and tasting excellent local wines at your leisure.

**Approximate Driving Time:** Full Day Drive

**Optional Excursions:** White water rafting – from US\$40 • Wine/bodega tours • Wine & bike tour – US\$70 • Paragliding – US\$90 • Parque San Martin – free

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

### Day 20 to 22 - Santiago

Pedro de Valdivia established Santiago in 1541 but, except for Santa Lucia hill where the original fortress was constructed, not much remains of its original glory. The hill offers good views of the city below, but 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 the viewing area there are wine-tasting facilities and a couple of brilliantly located swimming pools. In the Plaza Constitucion at the Palacio de la Moneda you can see the changing of the guard or you can take an optional excursion to the port of Valparaiso and the resort of Viña del Mar. Santiago is a very clean modern city with fountains, parks and buildings and of course, excellent nightlife.

**Approximate Driving Time:** Full Day Drive

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

### Day 23 to 25 - Pucón

Heading south through vast vineyards, farmlands and pine-forests we come to Salto del Laja, where we stop for a photo of the waterfalls that drop 47 metres onto the rocks below. We continue to the Lake District of Chile and the picturesque town of Pucón, a small resort on Lake Villarrica below the perfect cone-shaped Villarrica volcano. The whole area is surrounded by lakes, mountains, forests, rivers and waterfalls and we have two free days to take advantage of the activities on offer such as volcano treks, white water rafting, horse riding, mountain biking and water sports.

**Approximate Driving Time:** Full Day Drive

**Optional Excursions:** Villarrica Volcano climb - US\$100 • Horse riding - US\$40-60 • Huerquehue National Park - US\$60 + US\$10 entry

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

### Day 26 to 28 - Bariloche

Crossing the Andes and heading down into Argentina we make our way through stunning scenery of the Argentine Lake District passing Lago Espejo (Mirror Lake). Further south we reach the resort town of San Carlos de Bariloche on the shores of Lake Nahuel Huapi. This town is a famous winter ski resort, but it also has plenty to offer during other seasons. Built by Swiss and German immigrants in the alpine style, here you will find Swiss-style chalets, numerous chocolate shops and St. Bernard dogs with brandy barrels around their necks. There are excellent optional opportunities to take in the breathtaking views from the cable car, also the chance for some hiking or cycling.

**Approximate Driving Time:** Full Day Drive

**Optional Excursions:** Museo de la Patagonia – US\$2.50 donation • Cerro Catedral ski lifts – from US\$20 • Mountain bike hire – US\$12 • Circuito Chico, a 60km circuit of nearby attractions which can be completed by local bus

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

### Day 29 to 29 - En route

Leaving San Carlos de Bariloche we enter Patagonia, a dry windswept expanse stretching to the southern tip of the continent; there are some long drives on this sector but some spectacular scenery at the end of most days. We will stop en route depending on travel times, and camp for the evening.

**Approximate Driving Time:** Full Day Drive

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

### Day 30 to 31 - El Chaltén

We continue to El Chaltén with the picturesque Fitzroy National Park nearby where you can enjoy some of Argentina's most scenic hiking. The park is at the foot of the Fitzroy Massif which has spectacular jagged snow-capped peaks. Depending on your budget, you can take a day's trek to - and on - the wonderful Viedma Glacier - reputedly the best ice-trekking in the country. Or walk to the Capri Lagoon or a variety of other free walks available in this stunning national park.

**Approximate Driving Time:** Full Day Drive

**Optional Excursions:**

Fly-fishing – from US\$108 • Horse riding – from US\$55 • Hiking • Ice trekking – from US\$55

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

### Day 32 to 33 - El Calafate

A short drive from El Chaltén takes us to the pleasant town of El Calafate, on the north-eastern edge of Lake Argentino. This is our base for visiting the Moreno Glacier, 80 kilometres away. The glacier is one of the few in the world that is still advancing. It is continuously moving at a rate of 1.5 metres per day and when you get close enough to the face you can hear cracking and creaking and see large lumps of ice crash into the lake below. With a height of around 60 metres, a width of five kilometres at its face and made up of various hues of blue, white and grey, it is an awesome sight.

**Approximate Driving Time:** Four Hours

**Optional Excursions:** Fly-fishing – from US\$108 • Horse riding – from US\$55 • Hiking • Ice trekking – from US\$55

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

### Day 34 to 38 - Torres del Paine National Park

On to the incredible Torres del Paine National Park, named after the massive granite towers that rise above the earth. The scenery is amazing with snow-capped peaks, glaciers, beautiful lakes and valleys. Some of the varied and amazing creatures you might spot include Andean condors, guanacos (a relative of the llama) and rhea (a type of emu) to name but a few. You have plenty of time to trek the main trails in the park to see the famous Torres (towers) and both the Francés and Grey Glaciers. You will also have the chance to travel by ferry across Lake Pehoé to wonder at this unbelievably panoramic panorama.

**Approximate Driving Time:** Seven Hours

**Optional Excursions:** Torres del Paine National Park entry fee – US\$32 • Horse riding – US\$40 • Kayaking (either between icebergs or down one of the major rivers) – US\$100 • Grey Glacier Boat Ride – US\$100 • Catamaran ride in Torres del Paine NP (return trip) - CLP24000

**Accommodation:** 5 night(s) camping

### Day 39 to 39 - En route

Leaving Torres del Paine behind we continue through the incredible Patagonian landscape, stopping en route to camp for the evening before we cross the Straits of Magellan by ferry to the archipelago of Tierra del Fuego (Land of Fire).

**Approximate Driving Time:** Full Day Drive

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

### Day 40 to 42 - Ushuaia

We cross the border back into Argentina and carry on to Ushuaia, the world's most southerly town with a population of about 42,000. Here you can take an excursion on the Beagle Channel to visit the Isla de los Lobos (Sea Lion Island) where you will see colonies of sea lions and aquatic birds and, with a bit of luck, maybe a whale. You also have the option to visit the Tierra del Fuego National Park where there are various trails along the coast and the surrounding snow covered peaks. The park is also home to a large population of beaver (introduced by the Canadians), the world's most southerly train and it is also where the exhaustive Pan-American Highway ends at the Lapataia bay, 17,848 kilometres from its start in Alaska.

**Approximate Driving Time:** Full Day Drive

**Optional Excursions:** Beagle Channel Cruise – US\$60 • Tierra del Fuego National Park entry – US\$17 • Scenic flight from – US\$36-86 • End of the World train US\$35 + US\$15 park entry • Museum at the End of the World – US\$4 • Maritime Museum & Ushuaia Prison – US\$8

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

### Day 43 to 44 - En route

Heading north we cover great distances as we head for Puerto Madryn. We spend two nights camping en route depending on travel times.

**Approximate Driving Time:** Full Day Drive

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

### Day 45 to 46 - Puerto Madryn

As we continue on we eventually come to the Welsh community of Puerto Madryn, where in 1865 1,500 Welsh immigrants arrived from the Clipper Mimososa and named the natural port 'Port Madryn' then settled and founded the town.

From here we can visit the nearby Valdés Peninsula. The Valdés peninsula is renowned for its wildlife and you will hopefully see penguins, sea lions, elephant seals, armadillos, guanacos, rheas, southern right whales, killer whales, Patagonian hares and a great variety of seabirds.

**Approximate Driving Time:** Full Day Drive

**Optional Excursions:** Valdés Peninsula National Park – entry US\$15 / group guide US\$100 • Whale watching – US\$70

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

### Day 47 to 47 - En route

After crossing the Colorado River, we leave Patagonia and drive across the windswept 'pampas' where cattle graze and enormous fields of sunflowers sway in the wind (the oil from which is a large export for Argentina). Again, travel times will determine where we camp for the night.

**Approximate Driving Time:** Full Day Drive

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

### Day 48 to 51 - Buenos Aires

Buenos Aires is a beautiful city with lovely green parks, plazas and wide boulevards. Our hostel is an excellent location, within walking distance to many of the city's highlights and close to transport links to the rest of the city. The balcony of the presidential palace the Casa Rosada (Pink Palace) is where Eva Perón made many of her speeches and is also the place where Madonna sang, "Don't cry for me Argentina" in the film Evita. Across the Plaza de Mayo you will also find the Cabildo (the old town hall) the Palacio Municipal (City Hall) and the cathedral. Every Thursday afternoon in this plaza the "Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo" march in remembrance of their family members who disappeared in the 1970s when the country was under military rule. There are many excellent restaurants in the Puerto Madero area and it is well worth a visit to the port of La Boca for its colourful buildings and cultural history. In nearby San Telmo, the bohemian area, there is a fascinating antique market every Sunday. The Recoleta Cemetery, almost like an enclosed city of its own, is where Eva Peron and many other rich and famous Argentines are buried - well worth a visit. The reputation of Buenos Aires' nightlife is not overstated as there are many nightclubs, bars, restaurants and cinemas open until all hours. For a great evening out, you may want to see a tango show in the city where the dance originated, and you shouldn't leave Buenos Aires before trying one of the best steaks you'll find in the world!

**Approximate Driving Time:** Six Hours

**Optional Excursions:** Tango show & dinner – US\$90 • Hop on/hop off bus – US\$20 • Explore La Boca and San Telmo artistic neighbourhoods – free • Tigre Delta day trip, exploring the elegant neighbourhood by train and catamaran – US\$22 • Football match including transfers and guide – from US\$80 • Buenos Aires city tour – US\$20

**Accommodation:** 4 night(s) in hotels, hostels & guesthouses

### Day 52 to 52 - En route

We make our way to San Ignacio Miní where we will find some of the best kept Jesuit ruins in the region. You will have the chance to visit the site. Founded in 1632, San Ignacio Miní was one of the many missions settled by the Jesuits in the Americas during the Spanish colonial period. San Ignacio Miní is one of the five Jesuit missions of the Guaranis that were inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1984. The ruins are one of the best preserved among the several built in a territory today belonging to Argentina, Brazil and Paraguay, and one of the most visited due to its accessibility.

**Optional Excursions:** Jesuit Ruins – US\$17 • Light and sound show – US\$17

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

### Day 53 to 54 - Puerto Iguazú

Continuing on we arrive in Puerto Iguazú. Here we visit the falls from the Argentinian side where you can walk through rainforest and along catwalks directly above the falls and you will also find the famous Garganta del Diablo, Spanish for "Devil's Throat", where fourteen waterfalls drop with such force that there is always a massive cloud of spray overhead. If you feel like cooling down, take a zodiac boat ride up the river and under the falls – a fun way to get a different perspective of these impressive falls. Tonight, visit some of the town's bars and clubs close to our hostel.

**Approximate Driving Time:** Eight Hour Drive

**Optional Excursions:** Iguazú Falls National Park entry – US\$25 • Jungle 4WD and boat trips – US\$12-60

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

### Day 55 to 56 - Foz do Iguaçu

We reach the little Brazilian town of Foz do Iguaçu (Iguazu Falls), where some 275 separate waterfalls cascade over a two-and-a-half-kilometre-wide cliff face. We first visit the stunning falls from the Brazilian side which offers panoramic views of the numerous waterfalls on the Argentine side.

For a bird's eye view over the entire falls you can take an optional scenic helicopter ride. There is also an excellent bird park nearby and you can visit the world's largest hydroelectric dam at Itaipu where videos show the environmental planning behind the dam project. If you're keeping a keen eye on your country tally you can pop into neighbouring Paraguay by public bus (you don't even have to get your passport stamped) for a bit of shopping in Ciudad del Esté.

**Approximate Driving Time:** Two Hours

**Optional Excursions:** Helicopter ride – US\$120 • Bird Park – US\$14 • National Park entry – US\$20 • Rafain Show – US\$50 • Itaipu Dam – US\$25

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

### Day 57 to 57 - En route

We hit the road making our way north in the interior of the continent towards Bonito. It is a long drive and we will stop for one night en route to break up the journey.

**Approximate Driving Time:** Full Day Drive

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

### Day 58 to 60 - Bonito

Bonito is located in the state of Mato Grosso do Sul and is renowned for the unbelievable blue of its rivers and cave lakes. The waters are filtered through the enormous quantity of limestone in the ground and the impurities are deposited at the bottom of the river bed making the rivers appear some of the clearest in the world.

We have time here to take in some great optional activities which include cave and river snorkelling, rainforest walks and wildlife spotting.

**Approximate Driving Time:** Four Hours

**Optional Excursions:** Rio da Prata snorkelling (7 hours) – US\$75 includes lunch and guide • Mimosa waterfalls tour – US\$38 includes buffet lunch  
Balneario do Sol, local swimming hole and games – US\$15 includes transport and entry

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

### Day 61 to 63 - Pantanal

Our next stop is the Pantanal Wildlife Reserve, a massive wetland. One of the unusual things about the Pantanal is that there are also many farms in the area and the animals from these farms live quite comfortably with the other wildlife in the region. Wild animals include birds, capybara, howler monkeys, pumas, jaguars, ocelots, coatis, yellow anacondas, marsh deer, caiman, tapir and many more. The Pantanal is excellent for wildlife watching as the region is more open and flat than a jungle setting.

Each excursion in to the Pantanal will vary slightly but you will spend three nights exploring the vast region, searching for the elusive jaguar and anteater, camping on the wetlands. From walking tours to horseback riding, your days will be spent enjoying the scenery while nights are spent around the campfire with a beer in hand.

**Approximate Driving Time:** Five Hour Drive

**Accommodation:** 3 night(s) in a Hammock

### Day 64 to 65 - En route

We continue our trip making our way towards the Costa Verde. During the drive you will get some idea of the size of Brazil as it will take two days driving before we hit the coast. We will camp en route to break up the journey with travel times determining the locations.

**Approximate Driving Time:** Full Day Drive

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

### Day 66 to 68 - Parati

Getting to the Costa Verde we arrive at Parati which is a preserved Portuguese colonial town (1500-1822). The town is renowned for its historic town centre, the coast and mountains in the region. Parati was also a major port for the exportation of gold and coffee during the 17th and 19th centuries respectively and recommended excursions include a sailing schooner cruise around the bays, rainforest treks and walking the gold trail.

**Approximate Driving Time:** Four to eight hours depending on the day before

**Optional Excursions:** Parati boat cruise – US\$40

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

### Day 69 to 69 - Rio de Janeiro

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.

The city has so much to offer from its natural sites to its famous landmarks including Pão de Açúcar (Sugarloaf Mountain) and Corcovado with its famous 'Cristo Redentor' (Christ the Redeemer statue) - both of which offer great views over the city. You of course have to visit the famous beaches of Copacabana, Ipanema and Leblon. And of course, if you are in Rio around February/March time, get ready for the world's biggest party, the Rio Carnival!

Please note that the four nights during Rio Carnival are not included in the tour price and it is essential to pre-book accommodation if you wish to stay on for the Carnival. Please see our brochure or the 'Useful Information' section of our website for important booking info and prices.

**Approximate Driving Time:** Six Hour Drive

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

### Day 70 to 70 - Depart Rio de Janeiro

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	La Paz	Bolivia	
Day 2	Potosí		BL
Day 3	Potosí		
Day 4	Sucre		L
Day 5	Sucre		
Day 6	Uyuni		L
Day 7	Uyuni		
Day 8	Uyuni		
Day 9	Tupiza		L
Day 10	Salta	Argentina	BLD
Day 11	Salta		BLD
Day 12	Salta		BLD
Day 13	Cafayate		BLD
Day 14	Catamarca		BLD

Day 15	Cordoba		BL
Day 16	Cordoba		B
Day 17	Mendoza		BL
Day 18	Mendoza		B
Day 19	Mendoza		B
Day 20	Santiago	Chile	BL
Day 21	Santiago		B
Day 22	Santiago		B
Day 23	Pucón	Patagonia	BLD
Day 24	Pucón		BLD
Day 25	Pucón		BLD
Day 26	Bariloche	Argentina	BLD
Day 27	Bariloche		BLD
Day 28	Bariloche		BLD
Day 29	En route		BLD
Day 30	El Chaltén		BLD
Day 31	El Chaltén		BLD
Day 32	El Calafate		BL
Day 33	El Calafate		
Day 34	Torres del Paine National Park	Chile	LD
Day 35	Torres del Paine National Park		BLD
Day 36	Torres del Paine National Park		BLD
Day 37	Torres del Paine National Park		BLD
Day 38	Torres del Paine National Park		BLD
Day 39	En route		BLD
Day 40	Ushuaia	Argentina	BLD
Day 41	Ushuaia		BLD
Day 42	Ushuaia		BLD
Day 43	En route		BLD
Day 44	En route		BLD
Day 45	Puerto Madryn		BLD

Day 46	Puerto Madryn		BLD
Day 47	En route		BLD
Day 48	Buenos Aires		BL
Day 49	Buenos Aires		B
Day 50	Buenos Aires		B
Day 51	Buenos Aires		B
Day 52	En route		BLD
Day 53	Puerto Iguazú		BL
Day 54	Puerto Iguazú		B
Day 55	Foz do Iguacu	Brazil	BLD
Day 56	Foz do Iguacu		BLD
Day 57	En route		BLD
Day 58	Bonito		BLD
Day 59	Bonito		BLD
Day 60	Bonito		BLD
Day 61	Pantanal		BLD
Day 62	Pantanal		BLD
Day 63	Pantanal		BLD
Day 64	En route		BLD
Day 65	En route		BLD
Day 66	Parati		BLD
Day 67	Parati		BLD
Day 68	Parati		BLD
Day 69	Rio de Janeiro		B
Day 70	Rio de Janeiro		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 a Budget Expedition for young people aged 18 to 35 in South America, travelling by custom built vehicle and staying in a mixture of camping, hotels and hostels. There is a maximum of 34 travellers with an average group size of 15-24. Please read the Budget Expeditions travel style dossier to ensure

you understand the style of travel you are undertaking: <http://www.tucantravel.com/travel-styles/dossier/budget-expeditions>

## 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. You are required to pay the local payment that is current at the time of your tour's departure. This amount may change throughout the year and we advise clients to check your specific tour page on our website for the current amount if you are unsure about this. 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 05-10 2016

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

Your joining location is:

Hotel Sagarnaga  
Calle Sagárnaga no. 326 - 328  
Zona Rosario  
La Paz

Tel: (+591) 2 235 0252 / 231 0893  
[www.hotel-sagarnaga.com](http://www.hotel-sagarnaga.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 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 La Paz

At over 3,600 metres above sea level La Paz is the highest capital on Earth and 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 recommendations below:

- 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

When arriving at El Alto International Airport in La Paz we suggest that you change some money into the local currency at the exchange office ("Cambio") in the main terminal building. The local currency is the boliviano. Change enough money to see you through the first few days of your trip – particularly if it is a weekend. Please note you can only change cash (not traveller's cheques) at the Cambio in the airport. There are also ATMs at the airport.

## 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 decide not to pre-book an arrival transfer, you will find a 24 hour taxi rank outside the airport (all the taxis are white). You shouldn't have too much of a problem getting a taxi as they all wait in an orderly line outside the terminal and are fairly safe to use. The cost of a taxi from the airport to our hotels in La Paz should be approximately 50-80 bolivianos (US\$7-10). Taxi drivers do have a tendency to switch their lights off at night (to save the battery!) so if they do this, insist that they switch the lights back on. To get to the hotel, the taxis will have to drive through the sprawling city of El Alto, which can be an interesting experience. Make sure you lock the taxi doors, as theft can be a problem in La Paz and El Alto. The drive into the city however has spectacular views.

## 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

- East 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:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Money belt</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Sunglasses</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Small calculator</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Small collapsible umbrella</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Universal washbasin plug</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Head torch or flashlight</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Travel alarm clock</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Lip balm, sun block with high UV factor</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Wet wipes</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Cheap plastic watch</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Plenty of spare memory cards for your camera</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Spare rechargeable batteries for camera</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Writing materials, address book and diary</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Travel games, cards and a couple of paperbacks</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Toilet paper (best to carry a roll with you at all times and/or tissues)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Small medical kit with diarrhoea remedy, rehydration salts, antiseptic cream, sterile dressings, plasters, bandages, pain-killers, safety pins etc.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Plastic bags for waterproofing</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Inflatable pillow</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Swiss army type penknife</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Binoculars</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Travel plug adaptor with a USB port</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Small sewing kit</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Insect repellent (DEET 35% min) and bite cream</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Antibacterial hand clensing gel</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Ear plugs and sleep mask</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Travel sickness tablets</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Spare pair of spectacles or contact lenses and solution</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Hard drive or USB stick to back up your photos</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Pocket size phrasebook</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Pegless washing line &amp; travel laundry detergent (bio-degradable preferable)</li> <li><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.</li> </ul> |
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## 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 other 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 you for purposes of medication, please inform your tour leader and ensure that you carry a copy of your prescription or letter from your doctor.