

Code SAR **South American Dreams**

## Tour Dossier Introduction

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

**Tour Code:** SAR

**Duration:** 39 nights / 40 days

**Joining City:** Rio de Janeiro

**Departure City:** Lima

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

**Nearest Departing International Airport:** Lima Jorge Chavez International Airport (LIM)

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

## Tour Documents

 PDF Document  Web Page

 [Peru Dossier](#)

 [Bolivia Dossier](#)

 [Brazil Dossier](#)

 [Paraguay Dossier](#)

 [Portuguese Language Survival Guide](#)

 [Spanish Language Guide](#)

## What's Included

- > Entry to Iguazú Falls in Argentina
- > Entry to Iguazú Falls in Brazil
- > Two full days in the Pantanal packed with activities
- > Drive on the Salar de Uyuni salt flats
- > Overnight excursion & homestay on Lake Titicaca
- > Two nights in the Amazon Jungle in Peru
- > Guided tour of Sacred Valley of the Incas
- > Guided tour of Machu Picchu
  
- > 33 night(s) in hotels, 2 night(s) on overnight buses, 1 night(s) on overnight trains, 1 night(s) in homestays, 2 night(s) in a Jungle Lodge
- > 22 breakfasts, 5 lunches, 5 dinners
- > Travel by local public bus, train, boat, taxi, on foot, 4WD, 4 flight(s)
- > Tucan Travel tour leader, English-speaking local guide(s) on included excursions

## What's not Included

- > 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 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.

Fantastic Rio de Janeiro has many things to see and do. A highlight for many would be to experience the majestic gaze of Christ the Redeemer at the top of Corcovado, the breath-taking panoramic views from the top of Sugarloaf Mountain, and the vibrant coloured tiles of the Selarón staircase. You can walk from the top of the staircase up to the quiet hill-top neighbourhood of Santa Teresa, with many quaint cafés and shops lining the cobblestone streets. In the city centre, you can stroll around Rio's old colonial buildings and wander around the skyscrapers of the financial district. Alternatively, you may like to visit the Botanical Gardens, one of the world-famous beaches of Copacabana or Ipanema, or the beautiful Rodrigues de Freitas Lagoon. If you are in Rio de Janeiro around February/March get ready for the world's biggest party, the Rio Carnival.

**Optional Excursions:** Full day Rio de Janeiro city tour – US\$75 • Pão de Açúcar (Sugar Loaf) cable car – US\$30 • Beaches – free • Maracanã Stadium tour US\$7-35 • Favela half day tour – US\$35 • Hang-gliding - US\$240

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

### Day 2 to 3 - Paraty

Following the stunning coastline south, we come to colonial Paraty, an old pirate town with streets made of stone slabs designed to let the tide wash over and clean them. You have an option to go on a full day boat cruise around the bay with plenty of time to swim in the turquoise waters and eat fresh seafood.

**Optional Excursions:** Paraty boat cruise – US\$40 • Visit to Trindade National Park – free • Visit to Cachoeira do Tobogã, a natural waterslide - \$10 per taxi

**Accommodation:** 2 night(s) in hotels

### Day 4 to 5 - São Paulo

We then visit Brazil's most populous city, São Paulo, which has a metropolitan population of 19 million. We can visit a snake farm and the Latin American Exhibition Centre designed by renowned architect Oscar Niemeyer, who also designed Brasília, the country's capital (optional tours). After a hard day of sightseeing we can relax and perhaps have a meal in the Japanese quarter.

**Optional Excursions:** Liberdade, the Japanese quarter – free • Ibirapuera Park • Edifício Bonespa, for panoramic views from one of the highest buildings in the city - free (passport required)

**Accommodation:** 2 night(s) in hotels

### Day 6 to 7 - Curitiba

Next we arrive at the university town of Curitiba where we spend the night before you have the option to take a scenic train trip to the coast. An overnight bus takes us through the rolling hills of Southern Brazil to the Brazilian town of Foz do Iguaçu, our base for visiting the famous Iguazú Falls - the most magnificent waterfalls in the world. Unlike most other waterfalls that have just one or two cataracts, at Iguazú there are 275 cataracts in a magnificent 3 kilometre long U shape that we will visit from both the Brazil and Argentinean sides.

**Optional Excursions:** Linha Turismo, sightseeing bus – US\$14 • Serra Verde scenic train – US\$50

**Accommodation:** 2 night(s) in hotels

### Day 8 to 9 - Foz do Iguaçu

On the Brazil side you can see the falls by walking through the rainforest and along catwalks above and below the rushing water or, for a bird's eye view a helicopter flight is on offer (optional). You can also visit the world's largest hydroelectric dam at Itaipu (optional) where you can learn more about the

ecological issues faced during the dam's construction. There is also a very interesting bird park nearby, perfect for that must-have photo with a toucan!

Visiting the Argentine side of the falls you can board a speed boat which will take you under the falls soaking you from head to toe, an optional adventure you'll never forget! On the Argentine side you'll also find the famous "Devil's Throat" where a huge arc of water drops with such force that there is always a massive cloud of spray overhead.

Please Note: To see Iguazu Falls from the Argentinian side, you may be required to pay a reciprocity fee to enter the country. The cost of this visa will vary depending on your nationality. See our [Visa Guide](#) for details.

**Included Excursions:** Entry to Iguazú Falls in Argentina • Entry to Iguazú Falls in Brazil

**Optional Excursions:** Helicopter – US\$120 • Bird Park – US\$14 • Rafain dinner and dance show – US\$50 • Itaipu Dam, including transport, ~~picnic~~ film and tour around the engineering marvel – US\$25 • Jungle 4WD and boat trips – US\$12-60

**Accommodation:** 2 night(s) in hotels

### Day 10 to 11 - Asunción

We travel through fertile farmlands, destined for the tiny Republic of Paraguay's capital city, Asunción. You can shop until you drop in the city's huge duty free zone and along the river-front are the Government and Municipal Palaces, and the cathedral.

**Optional Excursions:** Museo Dr. Andres Barbero – free • Botanical gardens - free

**Accommodation:** 2 night(s) in hotels

### Day 12 to 12 - Ponta Porã

We travel across the Paraguayan pampas, where we might spot the South American rhea bird (a type of emu) as well as the typical cowboys, (gauchos) en route. After sorting out our immigration procedures, at Pedro Juan Caballero, which you'll soon realise is the same town as Ponta Porã in Brazil, there is no border as such! You simply cross the road from one country to the other whenever you like. Only the change of language will give you a hint as to which country you are in!

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

### Day 13 to 14 - Bonito

We travel to Bonito in the Sierra do Bodoquena mountains, famous for its caving and river activities. The following day is free to try some of the snorkelling activities in the lakes and rivers (optional). For those who prefer to stay on dry land, spectacular walks through the forest and mountains are on offer.

**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:** 2 night(s) in hotels

### Day 15 to 17 - Pantanal

After a free morning in Bonito we make our way towards the fabulous Pantanal.

We enter the Pantanal National Park for sightseeing in this fantastic region. The Amazon may have all the fame and glory, but the Pantanal is a far better place to see wildlife. The area is a huge wetland in the centre of South America and is truly a birdwatchers paradise but is also home to a multitude of other animals. The ecosystem is known to be home to at least 3,500 species of plants, 650 species of birds, 400 species of fish, around 100 species of mammals, and 80 species of reptiles, with an estimated 10 million caimans alone. Keep your eyes peeled and you may see giant river otters, anacondas, iguanas, jaguars, ocelots, cougars, crocodiles, marsh deer, armadillos, giant and lesser anteaters, black howler monkeys and zebu bulls, to name but a few! You may have to work a bit to catch your lunch, but mind your fingers or they'll be piranha stew!

We stay in the Miranda Province, deep in the Pantanal with our ranch being set on over 800 hectares of protected land. Where three different ecosystems meet, the area surrounding the lodge contains many natural water springs which help to sustain and nourish the surrounding flora and fauna. On nature walks, boat rides and 4WD excursions out in to the Pantanal, you might have the chance to see large land mammals like the maned wolf, giant anteater, pampas deer, white-lipped peccary, tapir, puma and more.

All of the food is included as part of the tour and is all prepared for you. After arrival and check in we take a walk through the open land, marshy areas or dense forest, great for wildlife and bird watching before dinner. The following day, you will spend the day exploring the Pantanal by safari, on foot and by boat to get the best overview of the different ecosystems the Pantanal has to offer. On our final day in the park, we will go fishing for our lunch or take

another walk through the surrounding area

Please note: This is an example itinerary of your time in the Pantanal. The exact itinerary will be tailored by the English-speaking local guides depending on the arrival/departure time, time of year and weather forecast.

**Included Excursions:** Two full days in the Pantanal packed with activities • Walking & Jeep Safari • Boat Tour • Fishing

**Optional Excursions:** Horseriding - BR\$80

**Accommodation:** 3 night(s) in hotels

### Day 18 to 19 - Santa Cruz

We cross the frontier into Bolivia where we take an overnight train from Puerto Suárez to Santa Cruz and enjoy free time sightseeing.

Santa Cruz is Bolivia's most populous city, and produces over a third of the country's gross domestic product. It is an important business centre and is classed as one of the fastest growing cities in the world. Despite the city's rapid growth, Santa Cruz has managed to preserve much of its local traditions, culture and cuisine, and there are many interesting cultural institutions to visit, ranging from the Noel Kempff Mercado Natural History Museum to the Museum of Contemporary Art. The city's main square, Plaza 24 de Septiembre, is surrounded by attractive colonial-style buildings and is a nice place to enjoy a coffee and people-watch.

**Optional Excursions:** Wildlife tour – US\$45

**Accommodation:** 2 night(s) in hotels

### Day 20 to 21 - Sucre

Landing in Sucre, the official capital of Bolivia, by law all buildings are painted white. Founded in 1538 it still has much of its colonial charm intact. The city is also famous for its warm and sunny climate. Don't miss a visit to the cathedral where you can see the jewel encrusted painting of Sucre's patron - the Virgin of Guadalupe. You have the option to visit the bustling Tarabuco market where 'people watching' is as interesting as the market itself. Try some of the cooked meals in the food market if you want to sample some of the locally grown hot chillies! Local indigenous people are famous for their multi-coloured textiles.

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

**Accommodation:** 2 night(s) in hotels

### Day 22 to 23 - Potosí

A short journey along new roads brings us to the mining town of Potosí. The city was established by the Spanish in 1545 soon after the discovery of a rich vein of silver in a nearby hill, the Cerro Rico (or "rich hill"). It soon became the world's largest silver producer and silver from Potosí underwrote the Spanish economy, particularly the monarchy's extravagance, for over two centuries. In Spanish there is still a saying 'valer un potosí' (to be worth a fortune).

Millions of the indigenous population, and later, African slaves, worked in the mines in appalling conditions. You have the option to visit the mines, stopping first at the miners market to buy gifts such as coca leaves, dynamite and cigarettes. In the mines we will experience the difficult conditions in which the miners work - including 50°C heat. We'll pass several of the shrines they have made to 'el Tio,' who they hope will protect them while they are working in what they believe is the devil's territory. If you'd like to learn more of the historic silver industry you can take a tour of the Casa de Moneda, a museum exhibiting coins, artwork, mummies and many other interesting artefacts from Potosí's history.

**Optional Excursions:** Silver mine tour – US\$15 • City tour – US\$13 • Hot springs – US\$11

**Accommodation:** 2 night(s) in hotels

### Day 24 to 26 - Uyuni

Travelling along scenic passes we come to the desolate town of Uyuni in the south of Bolivia. From here we visit what is claimed to be the largest salt flat in the world, the brilliant white vast Salar de Uyuni, which covers some 10,500 square kilometres and estimated to contain 10 billion tons of salt. A 4WD excursion takes us to a hotel made entirely of salt and then surrounds you with a world of white and blue. Fish Island provides stunning views of the lake which prove quite otherworldly as giant cacti and wandering llama punctuate the scene and provide perfect photo opportunities. The fantastic contrast of the brilliant blue sky (weather permitting of course) and the pure white of the salt flats will take your breath away. We then return to Uyuni for one more night.

Please Note: The local transport timetable on this route changes frequently and this sometimes necessitates a small change to the itinerary. Your tour leader will advise as early as possible if this is likely to happen on your tour.

**Included Excursions:** Visit the Salar de Uyuni Salt Flats

**Accommodation:** 3 night(s) in hotels

### Day 27 to 29 - La Paz

Built on a series of hills and considered one of the world's most beautiful cities, La Paz was established in the basin of a canyon with the snow-capped Mount Illimani in the background. Our hotel is very centrally located and is just around the corner from the city's colourful indigenous street markets including the fascinating and suitably named "witches market" where bowler hat wearing women in their flared skirts sell such items as dead cats and llamas foetuses said to ward off evil spirits. The main square, Plaza Murillo, is also within walking distance. The square still retains its colonial buildings including the Presidential Palace. La Paz is possibly the best place to experience a traditional peña show of Andean music and dance where local bands play time-honoured instruments such as zampoñas (pipes) and charangos (ukulele).

There are also many optional excursions available. You might like to visit the Moon Valley with its strange rock formations shaped by the weather. Another fantastic excursion is to the emerald green area of 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 not for the fainthearted!

**Optional Excursions:** Red Caps walking tours – free (tips appreciated) • Death Road Mountain Biking – US\$110 • Extended city tour to El Alto including a flea market, cholita wrestling and having your fortune told by a witch doctor - US\$25 • Bolivian cooking class – US\$28

**Accommodation:** 3 night(s) in hotels

### Day 30 to 32 - Puno & Lake Titicaca

Leaving La Paz we travel across the scenic Altiplano (high plain), eventually following the shores of Lake Titicaca as we make our way towards Peru. We cross the border and carry on around the lake through typical villages. The lovely scenery continues all the way to Puno on the shores of Lake Titicaca, which at 3,855 metres above sea level, is the highest navigable lake in the world. We hope to arrive in time so you can visit the colourful local market.

The next morning departing Puno for our overnight excursion we visit the floating reed islands in the Bay of Puno to see the Uros islanders way of life and we will have the option to ride in a traditional reed boat before continuing our boat journey to the island of Amantaní. Unlike other islands in the area, Amantaní Island is not manmade or floating but is at high altitude. On arrival, we will be assigned local families to stay with, enjoying the hospitality of the local Aymara/Quechua families, sleeping in their homes, enjoying their food and learning about their way of life. We recommend you purchase gifts for the families at the port of Puno before leaving to offer to the families – they will greatly appreciate this gesture as it is often difficult and expensive for them to acquire goods from the mainland. There is limited/no electricity in the homestays and very basic bathroom facilities. We recommend charging your cameras in Puno.

Tonight you will have the chance to dress up in local costumes and take part in traditional dances and celebrations put on in your honour on the island. You can also watch the sunset from the top of Amantaní Island for exceptional views and participate in football matches with the local children.

The next morning we visit Taquile Island, where the men stand around knitting distinctive woollen hats while the women work the fields. You can buy some of these unique handicrafts in the local cooperative shops. After lunch we board our boat for the return journey to Puno.

**Included Excursions:** Overnight Excursion & Homestay on Lake Titicaca

**Accommodation:** 3 night(s) in hotels

### Day 33 to 33 - Cuzco

Leaving Puno we first pass through the bustling town of Juliaca, before travelling along roads abundant with herds of llamas, alpacas and vicuñas until we reach the highest point, the La Raya pass at 4,321 metres. From here you can see the research station for high altitude animals, past hot mineral pools, snow capped mountains and through villages where the indigenous locals sell food, fur hats and alpaca sweaters. We arrive in legendary Cuzco, where your tour leader will take you on an orientation walking tour of this ancient Inca capital.

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

### Day 34 to 35 - Amazon Jungle

Our Tucan Travel rep will transfer you to the airport for your flight to the jungle community of Puerto Maldonado, the starting point for our visit to the Amazon rainforest.

In Puerto Maldonado you can pick up any last minute drinks or snacks in the busy markets and shops. The first leg of our journey is by bus followed by

canoe, a 35 kilometre journey along the river (approx two hours total). The canoes are very safe.

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

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

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

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

On the final day we awake to the sounds of the jungle before departing this jungle haven and returning to Puerto Maldonado for our flight on to Cuzco, where you have the rest of the day free to explore this fascinating ancient capital. Those who are trekking to Machu Picchu either following the traditional Inca Trail Trek or the Lares Trek will have a briefing to prepare for the next few days and an early departure the following morning. More information on the treks can be found on our website under the highlights section.

**Included Excursions:** Excursions in to the Amazon Jungle on foot and by boat

**Accommodation:** 2 night(s) in a Jungle Lodge

### Day 36 to 37 - Sacred Valley of the Incas

A full day is spent visiting the Sacred Valley of the Incas. Firstly we visit the Pisac ruins, perched on a hilltop with incredible views of the surrounding mountains. We then go down to the famous traditional market of the same name, which is full of colour and atmosphere. A great place for souvenirs! After lunch, we continue along the valley to the temple/fortress of Ollantaytambo with its enormous Inca terracing constructed on the side of a steep mountain.

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

**Accommodation:** 2 night(s) in hotels

### Day 38 to 38 - Machu Picchu

The lost city of Machu Picchu (Old Mountain) was originally completely self-contained, surrounded by agricultural terraces sufficient to feed the population, and watered by natural springs. Located high above the fast flowing Urubamba River, the cloud shrouded ruins have palaces, baths, temples, storage rooms and some 150 houses, all in a remarkable state of preservation that will simply take your breath away. The ruins were only discovered by the outside world in 1911, when American explorer Hiram Bingham found them while looking for another "lost city" called Vilcabamba. Due to their isolation many of the buildings are still quite intact and you can't help but admire Huayna Picchu (Young Mountain), which towers above the ruins.

**Included Excursions:** Scenic Train and Guided Tour of Machu Picchu

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

### Day 39 to 39 - Lima

Our Tucan Travel rep will transfer you to Cuzco airport for your flight to Lima, also known as the "City of the Kings". Here you will be met by another of our Tucan Travel reps and transferred to our hotel for one more night. You then have a free afternoon for last minute sightseeing and shopping.

**Optional Excursions:** Museum Inquisition – free • Monastery and Catacombs – US\$3 guided tour • Plaza San Martin, one of the largest and most impressive squares • Paragliding – US\$60

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

## Day 40 to 40 - Depart Lima

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	Single Room
Day 1	Rio de Janeiro	Brazil		✓
Day 2	Paraty		B	
Day 3	Paraty		B	
Day 4	São Paulo		B	✓
Day 5	São Paulo		B	✓
Day 6	Curitiba		B	✓
Day 7	Overnight Bus to Foz do Iguaçu		B	
Day 8	Foz do Iguaçu			✓
Day 9	Foz do Iguaçu		B	✓
Day 10	Asunción	Paraguay	B	✓
Day 11	Asunción		B	✓
Day 12	Ponta Porã	Brazil	B	✓
Day 13	Bonito		B	✓
Day 14	Bonito		B	✓
Day 15	Pantanal		BLD	
Day 16	Pantanal		BLD	
Day 17	Overnight train to Santa Cruz		B	
Day 18	Santa Cruz			✓
Day 19	Sucre	Bolivia	B	✓
Day 20	Sucre		B	✓
Day 21	Sucre		B	✓
Day 22	Potosí		B	✓
Day 23	Potosí			✓
Day 24	Uyuni			✓
Day 25	Salar de Uyuni			
Day 26	Overnight Bus to La Paz			

Day 27	La Paz			✓
Day 28	La Paz			✓
Day 29	La Paz			✓
Day 30	Puno	Peru		✓
Day 31	Lake Titicaca		LD	
Day 32	Puno		B	✓
Day 33	Cuzco			✓
Day 34	Amazon Jungle		LD	
Day 35	Amazon Jungle		BLD	
Day 36	Cuzco		B	✓
Day 37	Cuzco			✓
Day 38	Cuzco			✓
Day 39	Lima			✓
Day 40	Lima			

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

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

## Travel Style

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

### I'd like my own room

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

## 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.

## Getting to Machu Picchu

This tour takes a scenic rail journey through the Andes, visiting Machu Picchu by train and includes a guided tour of the ruins. This itinerary does not include or allow time to complete the 4-day Inca Trail hike which is the alternative way of reaching Machu Picchu. If you wish to complete the Inca Trail hike as part of your journey, please contact us and we can advise you on alternative itineraries.

## Joining your tour

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

Hotel Regina  
Rua Ferreira Viana 29,  
Flamengo,  
Rio de Janeiro

Tel: +55-21-3289 9999  
www.hotelregina.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 serves a buffet breakfast consisting of eggs, fruits, bread and juices from 6 to 10am. The breakfast is included in your tour or accommodation costs.

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.

## 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.

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](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

It is important to bring luggage you can carry and lift comfortably, potentially up several flights of stairs in hotels where elevators are not available and between bus/train stations and hotels. There may be times when you have to get your luggage through crowded streets which may be cobbled or store your luggage in lockers. Luggage too large for lockers will have to be left insecurely or carried for the duration of the day.

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

Accommodations provide adequate bedding and sleeping bags are not required for the majority of Adventure Tours with the exception of the following:

- Tours including the Inca Trail or Lares Trail
- Tours including camping in the Torres del Paine National Park in Patagonia

Thick blankets are supplied on the the Amantani Island (Lake Titicaca) homestay, but they can be dusty, so you may wish to bring a sleeping bag or sheet (they cannot be hired locally). You may also wish to bring a sleeping sheet if you are going into the Amazon Jungle. A sleeping bag liner/sleep sheet is optional on all Adventure Tours. Some passengers like to use them on long bus journeys and overnight trains.

## 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.

## 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 public transport-based tour so it is essential that you be able to carry your bags over distances between bus and train stations and hotels, generally for up to 20 minutes. Disruptions happen 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 and help your tour leader are essential ingredients for a successful and happy 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 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. Tucan Travel cannot accept responsibility for any valuables left in safe deposits in hotels or on public transport.

## Age Restrictions

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.

**Please note:** Children under the age of 13 are unable to hike the Inca Trail Trek to Machu Picchu.

## 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.