

Code TAR **Tango & Samba**

Tour Dossier Introduction

Dossier Last Updated: 24-08-2015

Tour Code: TAR

Duration: 15 nights / 16 days

Joining City: Rio de Janeiro

Departure City: Buenos Aires

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

Nearest Departing International Airport: Buenos Aires Ministro Pistarini Intl Apt (EZE), Buenos Aires Aeroparque Jorge Newbery (AEP)

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

Tour Documents

 PDF Document  Web Page

 [Argentina Dossier](#)

 [Brazil Dossier](#)

 [Uruguay Dossier](#)

 [Portuguese Language Survival Guide](#)

 [Spanish Language Guide](#)

What's Included

- Entry to Iguazú Falls in Brazil
- Entry to Iguazú Falls in Argentina
- Estancia Las Mercedes Ranch Tour
- Visit to San Ignacio Ruins
- 13 night(s) in hotels, 2 night(s) on overnight buses
- 11 breakfasts, 1 lunches
- Travel by Public Bus, Boat
- 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. There are trips up Sugar Loaf Mountain by cable car and Corcovado, with its famous Statue of Christ, for great city views. You can also wander around the cobblestone streets of the hill-top neighbourhood of Santa Teresa. A walking tour of Rio's historic buildings is also a lovely way to pass an afternoon, or you may like to visit the Botanical Gardens or one of the famous beaches, such as Copacabana, Ipanema or Leblon. 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\$20 • Beaches – free • Maracanã Stadium tour US\$7-35 • Favela half day tour – US\$35

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

Accommodation: 2 night(s) in hotels

Day 4 to 5 - São Paulo

We then visit the world's fastest growing 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 Banespa, for panoramic views from one of the highest buildings in the city - free (passport required)

Accommodation: 2 night(s) in hotels

Day 6 to 6 - 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 exceptionally planned city, there are many pleasant squares and parks to wander and quite a lively nightlife. We spend the night here giving you time to soak up the sights

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

Accommodation: 1 night(s) in hotels

Day 7 to 7 - Overnight Bus to Foz do Iguaçu

Today we will take 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.

Accommodation: 1 night(s) on overnight buses

Day 8 to 9 - Foz do Iguaçu

Staying in Foz do Iguaçu on the Brazillian side of the falls you get the best views by walking through the rainforest and along catwalks above and below the rushing water. 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 tucan!

Visiting the Argentine side of the falls from our base in Brazil, 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 fourteen falls drop with such force

that there is always a massive cloud of spray overhead.

Included Excursions: Iguazu Falls visiting both the Argentine and Brazilian sides from our base 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 10 - San Ignacio Mini

Next we head for our included ranch tour. We will spend the afternoon at Estancia Las Mercedes, an authentic working ranch. We will be welcomed with light snacks while our hosts tell tales of the history of the ranch. We will then be treated to an included lunch prepared on a traditional Argentine barbeque, including beef, chicken and local sausages. Delicious salads and local produce will also be served, along with delicious desserts. Argentine wines and beers will be available at additional cost. You will have free time to explore the ranch, relax by the pool, wander around the gardens or take a horseride or canoe excursion with a local guide (excursions not included).

We continue by bus to the Jesuit ruins at San Ignacio Mini, which were featured in the film 'The Mission'. Built in 1696, these are some of the best kept Jesuit ruins in the region and show how the Jesuits lived when they came here to convert the indigenous Guarani to Catholicism. The site, together with the nearby missions of Santa Ana and Loreto, is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Included Excursions: Estancia Las Mercedes Ranch Tour

Optional Excursions: Horse riding or canoeing at ranch – US\$25 • San Ignacio Mini Ruins sound & light show – US\$7 • Mountain bike rental US\$12 • Guided jeep excursion and trekking – US\$25

Accommodation: 1 night(s) in hotels

Day 11 to 11 - Overnight Bus to Salto

After visiting the ruins we embark on an overnight bus journey towards Salto

Accommodation: 1 night(s) on overnight buses

Day 12 to 12 - Salto

Crossing the river and the border to the well presented town of Salto, a centre for growing and processing citrus fruits. A popular excursion is to the nearby Salto Grande dam and hydroelectric plant. We have time to soak in the nearby hot springs or visit the aqua park.

Optional Excursions: Hot pools – US\$4 • Massage – US\$20 • Aquamania water park – US\$7

Accommodation: 1 night(s) in hotels

Day 13 to 13 - Montevideo

The city of Montevideo has a blend of many capitals and architectural styles with an international port and seaside at either end of the interesting old city. You might get the feeling that time has turned back to the 1930s as much of the architecture is from that era, as are many of the vehicles. Many buildings in the centre have fine stone and iron work and there are many museums and historic houses to visit. There are also plenty of outdoor markets and indoor malls if you want to shop.

Near the port, the old railway station is now remodelled and overflowing with steak and seafood restaurants. But if steak and seafood is not your thing, Montevideo has a thriving café culture to keep you busy while you listen to the strains of tango music.

Optional Excursions: Ciudad Vieja, the historic quarter – free • Mercado del Puerto, a great market for food lovers • Carnival Museum – US\$3 • City tour (4 hrs) – US\$30 • Tango Show – US\$65

Accommodation: 1 night(s) in hotels

Day 14 to 14 - Colonia de Sacramento

Along the river's edge we travel to charming Colonia de Sacramento in southwestern Uruguay. Founded in 1680 by the Portuguese, the city was later taken by the Spanish and used as part of a smuggling route. The atmospheric barrio histórico or old city has been designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site and is well worth exploring.

Optional Excursions: Lighthouse – US\$1 • Museums – US\$2 • City tour – US\$9

Accommodation: 1 night(s) in hotels

Day 15 to 15 - Buenos Aires

The beautiful city of Buenos Aires is known as the "Paris of South America" due to its lovely green parks, plazas and wide boulevards. Explore the quirky neighbourhoods and artistic markets of the city, where European and Latin American influences have mixed together to create a city like no other. To make sure you see as many of the city's historic sites as possible in the time available, we suggest taking a sight-seeing bus, which you can hop on and off as you wish. You'll see Avenida 9 de Julio (the widest avenue in the world), the impressive Teatro Colón, one of the world's best opera houses, and the famous Casa Rosada, Argentina's presidential palace, from where Juan and Eva Perón famously addressed the crowds gathered on Plaza de Mayo in 1945.

Buenos Aires has a variety of craft markets, where you may come across live bands, barbecues, make-shift bars and practising tango dancers for a truly atmospheric Latin-American experience. San Telmo is the best market for antiques, while the market at Recoleta has great hand-made crafts. No visit to Buenos Aires would be complete without a stroll around the upmarket boutiques and cafés of the Palermo district, and the contrasting bohemian barrio of La Boca, where poor inhabitants of the area used left-over paint from the nearby shipyards to paint their humble houses made of scrap metal in bright, block colours.

The city is also world-renowned for its incredible nightlife, with many nightclubs, bars, restaurants and cinemas open all night. For a great evening, you could see an authentic tango show in the city where the dance originated, and you can't leave Buenos Aires without trying some of the best steaks in the world!

Optional Excursions: Tango show & dinner – US\$90 • Hop on/hop off bus – US\$20 • Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes – Free

Accommodation: 1 night(s) in hotels

Day 16 to 16 - Depart Buenos Aires

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 Iguazu		B	
Day 8	Foz do Iguazu			✓
Day 9	Foz do Iguazu	Argentina	B	✓
Day 10	San Ignacio Mini		BL	
Day 11	Overnight Bus to Salto		B	
Day 12	Salto	Uruguay	B	✓
Day 13	Montevideo			✓
Day 14	Colonia de Sacramento		B	✓

Day 15 Buenos Aires Argentina ✓

Day 16 Buenos Aires

(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.

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

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 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.