

Code TSR **Tierra del Fuego**

Tour Dossier Introduction

Dossier Last Updated: 30-10-2014

Tour Code: TSR

Duration: 41 nights / 42 days

Joining City: Santiago

Departure City: Rio de Janeiro

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

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

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

Tour Documents

 PDF Document  Web Page

 [Optional Excursions in South America](#)

 [Argentina Dossier](#)

 [Brazil Dossier](#)

 [Chile Dossier](#)

 [Paraguay Dossier](#)

 [Portuguese Language Survival Guide](#)

 [Spanish Language Guide](#)

What's Included

- > Lunch near Salto de Laja Falls
- > Entry to Torres del Paine National Park
- > Entry to Seno Otway Penguin Colony
- > Beagle Channel cruise
- > Guided tour of Trinidad ruins
- > Entry to Iguazú Falls in Argentina
- > Entry to Iguazú Falls in Brazil
- > Entry to Parque Das Aves Parque Das Aves Bird Park

- > 11 nights in hotels, hostels & guesthouses, 30 nights camping
- > 37 breakfasts, 35 lunches, 30 dinners
- > Travel by **Tucan Travel Expedition Vehicle**, boat, taxi, on foot
- > Tucan Travel tour leader, Tucan Travel driver, English-speaking local guide(s) on included excursions

What's not Included

- International flights and departure taxes
- Domestic flight taxes if applicable
- Tips on included excursions, visas, travel insurance, personal items and single rooms.
- Airport transfers and pre and post tour accommodation
- Spending money – budget for meals, snacks, drinks, limited souvenirs, laundry, tips and any extras
- 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 Santiago

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.

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

Day 2 to 4 - Pucón

We continue to the Lake District of Chile and the picturesque town of Pucón, a small resort on Lake Villarrica below the perfect cone-shaped Villarrica Volcano. The whole area is surrounded by lakes, mountains, forests, rivers and waterfalls and offers many exciting optional activities such as trekking to the top of the active volcano, white water rafting, horseback riding, mountain biking and water sports on the lake. We have a free day to allow time to take advantage of some of the great activities on offer or simply relax. Whilst in the area we will visit Salto del Laja, the waterfalls which drop an impressive 47 metres to the rocks below.

Day 5 to 7 - Bariloche

We cross over into Argentina to the resort town of San Carlos de Bariloche on the shores of Lake Nahuel Huapi. Bariloche is a famous winter ski resort that also has a great deal to offer during other seasons. Built by Swiss and German immigrants in the Alpine style, there are Swiss-style chalets, numerous chocolate shops and even St. Bernard dogs with brandy barrels around their necks. There are excellent optional opportunities to take in the breathtaking views from the cable car and also the chance for some hiking or cycling.

Optional Excursions: Museo de la Patagonia – ARG20 donation • Cerro Catedral ski lifts – from ARG155 • Mountain bike hire – ARG100 • ~~Chico~~ Chico, a 60km circuit of nearby attractions which can be completed by local bus • Lakeside beaches – free • Hiking in Parque Nacional Nahuel Huapi

Day 8 to 8 - En route

We now enter Patagonia, a dry windswept expanse stretching to the southern tip of the continent. Travelling along the barren windswept roads towards our destination of El Calafate, we will stop en route to camp for the night to break up this long journey.

Day 9 to 10 - El Calafate

El Calafate is a town on the edge of Lake Argentino which will be our base to visit the Ventisquero Moreno Glacier. With a height of around 60 metres and a width of five kilometres at the front, it is an incredible sight. You will have the chance to walk around some paths and terraces where we get some great views of the glacier. There is also a boat cruise which can take us across almost the full width of the glacier for amazingly close-up views. The glacier is constantly 'calving', so it's not possible to get too close.

Optional Excursions: Regional Museum of El Calafate – free • Boat trip on Lago Argentino – ARG120 • Reserva Municipal Laguna Nimez, bird watching small entry fee • Perito Moreno Glacier Tour – US\$42 + ARG215 national park entry fee

Day 11 to 14 - Torres del Paine National Park

We visit Torres del Paine National Park in Chile, named after the massive granite towers that rise above the earth. The scenery is stunning with snow-capped peaks, glaciers, beautiful lakes and valleys. The park is also home to interesting native flora and fauna. Some of the varied and amazing creatures

you might spot include Andean condors, guanacos (a relative of the llama) and rhea (a type of emu) to name but a few. We have plenty of opportunities to trek the many trails in the park. Some of the walks are quite demanding, but there is a good range for all grades of walker.

There are many trekking options available in the Torres del Paine National Park, ranging from single-day trips to longer multiple-day hikes. Please be sure to advise your expedition leader as early as possible if you wish to complete an optional excursion in Torres del Paine National Park so that he/she can assist you with your accommodation and bookings.

Note: No food is allowed to be taken into Chile so please ensure you have eaten or disposed of any snacks you may have with you before we cross the border.

Included Excursions: Entry to Torres del Paine National Park

Day 15 to 15 - Punta Arenas

Punta Arenas is a duty-free port and early frontier town and will be a stopover on our way to the southernmost city in the world, Ushuaia. Enroute we will visit the nearby Magellanic Penguin colony at Seno Otway, where thousands of these strange, docile birds return annually to breed and make their homes by burrowing into the earth. The can be seen in great numbers between November and February moving on towards the end of the summer.

Included Excursion: Seno Otway Penguin Colony

Day 16 to 18 - Ushuaia

We cross the Straits of Magellan to Tierra del Fuego (Land of Fire) and re-enter Argentina, travelling to the town of Rio Grande which used to be an airbase during the Falklands war. From here it's only a short drive to Ushuaia. People come from far and wide to base themselves here and visit the spectacular surroundings. We will take an excursion on the Beagle Channel and visit the Isla de los Lobos (Sea Lion Island) where you can see colonies of sea lions. You can visit the nearby Lapataia National Park where the exhaustive Pan-American Highway ends. This park covers 63,000 hectares of mountains, lakes, deep valleys and rivers. You can trek along various trails through the beautiful beech forests spotting wildlife along the way. There are also some interesting museums in Ushuaia, such as the Maritime Museum and the Museum at the End of the World. If you want a bit more walking, the Martial Glacier can be climbed, which towers high above the town of Ushuaia. Those interested in steam trains might like to go for a ride on the 'Train at the End of the World' and send a postcard to friends and family with a stamp from the post office at... you guessed it... the end of the world!

Included Excursions: Beagle Channel cruise

Day 19 to 20 - En route

Heading northbound we follow the Atlantic coast passing through thousands of kilometres of virtually uninhabited wide open spaces with a couple of overnight stops along the way.

Day 21 to 22 - Puerto Madryn

Along our way we visit the Welsh community of Puerto Madryn, where in 1865 1,500 Welsh immigrants arrived from the Clipper Mimosas and named the natural port 'Port Madryn' then settled and founded the town.

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

Optional Excursions: Valdés Peninsula National Park – entry ARS130 / group guide US\$100 • Whale watching – US\$70

Day 23 to 23 - En route Azul

We have another night camping en route as we head towards Argentina's capital.

Day 24 to 27 - 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. From the balcony of the presidential palace, the Casa Rosada (Pink Palace), Eva Peron made many of her speeches. It's also the place where Madonna sang, "Don't cry for me Argentina" in the film Evita. Across the Plaza de Mayo you will also find the Cabildo (the old town hall) the Palacio Municipal (City Hall) and the cathedral. Every Thursday afternoon in this plaza the "Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo" march in remembrance of their family members who disappeared in the 1970s when the country was under military rule. There are many excellent restaurants in the Puerto Madero area and it is well worth a visit to the port of La Boca for its colourful buildings and cultural history. In nearby San Telmo, the bohemian area, there is a fascinating antique market every Sunday. The Recoleta Cemetery, almost like an enclosed city of its own, is where Eva Peron and many other rich and famous Argentines are buried - well worth a visit. The reputation of Buenos Aires' nightlife is not overstated as there are many nightclubs, bars, restaurants and cinemas open until all hours. For a

great evening out, you may want to see a tango show in the city where the dance originated, and you shouldn't leave Buenos Aires before trying one of the best steaks you'll find in the world!

Optional Excursions: Tango show & dinner – US\$90 • Tango lessons – from ARS200 for 1 hour • Hop on/hop off bus – ARS170 (US\$20 approx) • Explore La Boca and San Telmo artistic neighbourhoods – free • Various historic plazas & squares – free • Tigre Delta day trip, exploring the elegant neighbourhood by train and catamaran – ARS170 • Football match including transfers and guide – from ARS650 • Buenos Aires city tour – US\$20

Day 28 to 28 - En route

We pass through the town of Roque Saenz Peña as we make our way into the thorny scrublands of the Gran Chaco. This is also where the quebracho tree grows, the bark supplying much of the world with a red-brown tannin used for dyeing leather. Our journey takes us to Posadas through the Department of Mesopotamia, hopefully seeing the local cowboys (gauchos) and spotting rheas (South American emus) along the way. We will camp en route depending on travel times to continue our journey.

We cross the Rio Paraná into the poor country of Paraguay, destined for Trinidad. It is here that we visit the Jesuit Ruins, which were built in the early 1700s and give us a good idea of how the Jesuit missionaries lived. The Jesuits came to this area to convert the indigenous Guarani population to Catholicism, but were eventually expelled from South America by the Spanish in 1767. Subsequently we camp at Mantaniel Park with its surrounding farmland and pristine swimming pool. The park is a great place to relax with optional horse riding available.

We make our way to the capital, Asunción, a pleasant city with a hot and humid climate. Built on the banks of the Paraguay River, the streets are laid out in the Spanish grid pattern and lined with beautiful trees. Asunción is a good place to stock up on cameras and electronic equipment as it's another duty free port. Along the riverfront are the Government and Municipal Palaces, the cathedral and a shantytown. There are a few markets where you can buy local handicrafts.

Day 29 to 29 - Trinidad

We enter Paraguay and visit the Jesuit ruins of Trinidad. The Jesuits came to Paraguay in the 16th century and built these magnificent missions to convert the indigenous Guarani population to Catholicism. The buildings fell into ruin with the expulsion of the Jesuits from South America in 1767. We camp at Mantaniel Park with its surrounding farmland and pristine swimming pool. This is a great place to relax, with optional horse riding available.

Day 30 to 31 - Asunción

We make our way to the capital Asunción, a pleasant city with a hot and humid climate. Built on the banks of the Paraguay River, the streets are laid out in the Spanish grid pattern and lined with beautiful trees. Asunción is a good place to stock up on copies of designer watches and clothing, as it's another duty free port. Along the riverfront are the Government and Municipal Palaces, the cathedral and a shantytown. There are a few markets where you can buy local handicrafts.

Day 32 to 35 - Foz do Iguazu

Welcome to Foz do Iguazu, home of over 275 separate waterfalls that cascade over a two-and-a-half-kilometre-wide cliff face. There is also an excellent bird park which we will visit near the entrance to the falls. The falls straddle the border between Argentina and Brazil and we visit both sides of the falls. From the Brazilian side there are panoramic views of the numerous falls and if you feel like a cooling-down, take a zodiac boat ride up the river and under the falls - a fun way to get a different perspective of these impressive falls. From the Argentine side, you can walk through rainforest along catwalks directly above the falls and the "Devil's Throat" (optional). For a bird's eye view take the optional helicopter ride.

You may like to take the option to visit the world's largest hydroelectric dam at Itaipu where videos show the environmental planning behind the dam project.

Included Excursions: Iguazú Falls in Argentina & Brazil • Parque Das Aves Parque Das Aves Bird Park

Optional Excursions: 4WD and boat trips – ARS180-380

Day 36 to 37 - En route

Making our way east we spend one night near the city of Sao Paulo and another near Curitiba, one of the most prosperous cities of Southern Brazil.

Day 38 to 40 - Parati

Following the stunning coastline along the Costa Verde where we arrive at Parati, which is a preserved Portuguese colonial town (1500-1822), with streets made of stone slabs designed to let the tide wash over and clean them. The town is renowned for its historical centre, the coast and mountains in the region. Parati was also a major port for the exportation of gold and coffee during the 17th and 19th centuries respectively. You have an option to go on a full-day boat cruise around the bay with plenty of time for swimming in the turquoise waters and eating the fresh seafood. We have plenty of time to

relax and soak up the coastal atmosphere.

Day 41 to 41 - Rio de Janeiro

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

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

Day 42 to 42 - Depart Rio de Janeiro

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

Day by Day Itinerary

Day	Activity	Country	Meals
Day 1	Santiago	Chile	
Day 2	Pucón		BLD
Day 3	Pucón		BLD
Day 4	Pucón		BLD
Day 5	Bariloche	Argentina	BLD
Day 6	Bariloche		BLD
Day 7	Bariloche		BLD
Day 8	Perito Moreno		BLD
Day 9	El Calafate	Patagonia	BL
Day 10	El Calafate		
Day 11	Torres del Paine National Park	Chile	LD
Day 12	Torres del Paine National Park		BLD
Day 13	Torres del Paine National Park		BLD
Day 14	Torres del Paine National Park		BLD
Day 15	Punta Arenas		BL
Day 16	Ushuaia	Argentina	BLD

Day 17	Ushuaia		BLD
Day 18	Ushuaia		BLD
Day 19	En route Rio Gallegos		BLD
Day 20	En route Comodoro Riadavia		BLD
Day 21	Puerto Madryn		BLD
Day 22	Puerto Madryn		BLD
Day 23	En route Azul		BLD
Day 24	Buenos Aires		BL
Day 25	Buenos Aires		B
Day 26	Buenos Aires		B
Day 27	Buenos Aires		B
Day 28	En route		BLD
Day 29	Trinidad	Paraguay	BLD
Day 30	Asunción		BL
Day 31	Asunción		
Day 32	Foz do Iguacu	Brazil	LD
Day 33	Foz do Iguacu		BLD
Day 34	Foz do Iguacu		BLD
Day 35	Foz do Iguacu		BLD
Day 36	En route (Sao Paulo)		BLD
Day 37	Parati		BLD
Day 38	Parati		BLD
Day 39	Parati		BLD
Day 40	Parati		BLD
Day 41	Rio de Janeiro		BL
Day 42	Rio de Janeiro		B

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

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

Travel Style

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

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

Local Payment

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

In general your local payment will cover:

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

Rio Carnival - Feb 13-17 2015

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

Rio Carnival Supplement

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

Joining your tour

Your joining location is:

Hotel Libertador
Avenida Libertador Bernardo O' Higgins 853
Santiago,
Chile

Tel: (+56) 2 639 4211

Fax: (+56) 2 632 7128

The hotel serves a continental breakfast consisting of bread, jam and tea/coffee or juice, or an American breakfast with eggs. Please check with reception for serving times and prices (breakfast is not included).

The hotel has safe deposit boxes for your use (you will get an itemised receipt). Please leave all of your important documents, money and travellers cheques here when you go out but remember to carry some form of ID and a photocopy of your passport with you.

It is advisable not to wear chains or expensive looking watches or jewellery while in major South American cities. You should also keep your camera concealed when not in use and carry daypacks on your front for extra safety.

Arriving in Santiago

On arrival in Santiago, we recommend you change enough money into the local currency (the Chilean peso) for the first four or five days of your trip. This is especially important if you are arriving on a Saturday night. The exchange rate at the airport is just as good as in the city centre. As you come out of immigration you will find the bank right in front of you before you turn left into the baggage claim area or you can use one of the ATMs outside the terminal.

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.

Contact your arrival transfer:

Contact: CTS

Phone: +56 9 9793181

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 can arrange to pay for a taxi at one of the pre-pay taxi desks just before you get to the luggage hall. You then hand a ticket to the driver rather than paying in the taxi. Licensed and unlicensed taxis are also available outside but you will have to haggle for a good price which can be difficult if you do not speak Spanish. If you do use these taxis you should agree a price before setting off and get the driver to write down the price (be clear on whether they are talking about pesos or US dollars). The airport is approximately 30 minutes from the city centre (depending on traffic) and the cost of a taxi to our hotel in Santiago should be approximately US\$18.

Pre-Departure Meeting

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

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

Missing the tour departure

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

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

Time Keeping

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

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

Emergency Contact Details

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

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

Email: sacrew@tucantravel.com

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

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

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

Keeping in Touch

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

Money

For personal spending money you should bring US dollars to use alongside the local currency (where applicable). Some countries do not accept US dollars printed before 2006 and it can be very difficult to obtain US dollars in Brazil. While bank cards provide a very good way to access funds overall, it is not recommended to rely on them as your sole source of funds as cash machines do not always work and may not be available in remote locations. Carry a mix of cards and cash with you, including notes in small denominations.

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

Tipping

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

Packing List

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

Luggage

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

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

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

Sleeping Bags and Mats

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

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

Clothing and Footwear

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

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

Essential items:

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

Suggested items:

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

Laundry

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

Electricity Supply

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

Health, Fitness & Safety

Vaccinations

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

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

Pack a Medical Kit

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

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

Fitness & Suitability

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

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

Safety & Security

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

Bathrooms

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

Travel Guides

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

Documents

Passport

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

Tour Documents

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

Final Balance

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

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

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

Visas

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

Important things to check when applying for visas:

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

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

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

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

Travel Insurance Policy

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

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

Document Checklist

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

Optional Excursions

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

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

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

Responsible Travel

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

Meet Up

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

Add-ons & Extras

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

Illegal Drugs

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