

THE BEST OF SOUTH AMERICA

13 DAYS



- Each departure limited to 16 guests
- Luxury hotels or best in each location
- 31 à la carte meals (table d'hôte, if unavailable) including beverages of your choice
- Professionally escorted
- All sightseeing, including entrance fees and special events as indicated in the itinerary
- Arrival and departure transfer by private car
- All gratuities included (also your tour manager's)
- Porterage of 2 suitcases per passenger
- Airport departure taxes

Your South American journey begins in Santiago, close to the foot of the Andes, at the northern end of Chile's great Central Valley. You travel through the lush green forests and along the glacial basins of the Lake District; you cross the Andes into Argentina and arrive at the famous resort of Bariloche.

You tango in the sophisticated capital of Buenos Aires and drive into the Pampas for a traditional barbecue at an *estancia* where you meet *gauchos* - distinctively dressed cowboys. You visit Iguassu Falls - the most

impressive falls in the world. In Brazil, you ride to the summit of the Corcovado and stand beside the famous statue of Christ the Redeemer, overlooking Rio de Janeiro and the sea beyond.

If your schedule permits, you fly to the former world rubber capital of Manaus and board a beautifully renovated ship to cruise the Amazon River.

COMBINE THIS TRIP WITH PERU AND THE AMAZON TRIP!

Day 1 (Wednesday)

USA – SANTIAGO

Depart USA on your overnight flight bound for Chile.

Day 2 (Thursday)

SANTIAGO

Arrive in Santiago, where you are taken by private car to your hotel, the **Hyatt Regency**, a new architectural landmark located in a smart residential district. Take your time to settle into your inviting split-level guest room, relax beside the pool or in the beautifully landscaped garden before joining your travel companions for cocktails and an à la carte dinner at the hotel. (D)

Day 3 (Friday)

SANTIAGO

From its rather humble beginning, Santiago has become a city more enlightened and abreast of the modern world than those of the more northern South American republics.

It has a stunning location, set amid a range of very impressive mountains.

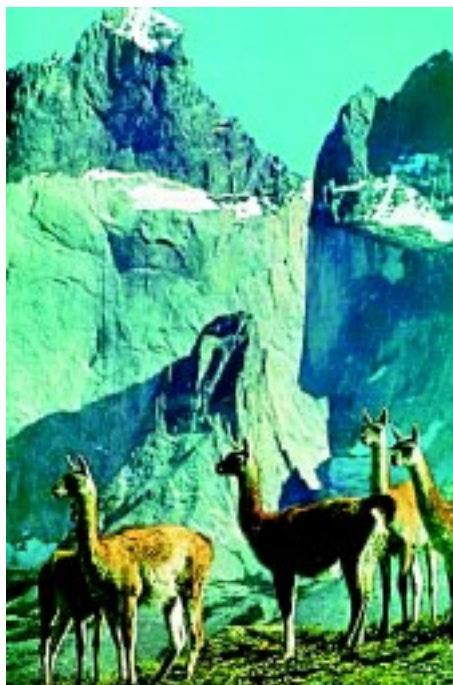
Although it is a widespread city, its center - punctuated by the Plaza de Armas - is rather small. In this historical plaza are the city's most important public buildings, you see the Cathedral, the National History Museum, and the former National Congress building. You also visit the Palacio de La Moneda - the residence of Chile's former presidents.

Chilean wines are considered the best in South America and are highly regarded throughout the world. This afternoon, you drive outside Santiago to visit one of the major wineries, where you see the wine aging process and participate in a wine tasting.

This evening, you dine at a local restaurant where you may select from local dishes, such as *curanto*, a delicious stew of fish, shellfish, and potato accompanied by special bread called *milcao*. A selection of local wines complements the assorted courses. Afterward, sample some of the pastries that are so popular here. (B,L,D)



Volcanoes and lakes of South Chile



Guanacos

Day 4 (Saturday)

SANTIAGO – PUERTO MONTT – PUERTO VARAS

After breakfast this morning, you board a flight for Puerto Montt – a major gateway in the southern Lake District. It occupies a narrow coastal plain with hills rising steeply behind it. This town was settled by German colonists in the mid-19th century. Its older architecture is middle European; the shingled houses have high-pitched roofs and lovely, ornate balconies.

You make the short drive northward to Puerto Varas, which sits on the shore of Lake Llanquihue, and was an important lake port during the 19th-century German colonization. Unlike most Chilean cities, it has a rather irregular street layout because of the hilly topography and curving lake shoreline. It is a thriving, beautiful city with roses growing abundantly along its streets and a captivating view across the lake toward Osorno Volcano. You check into the **Hotel Colones del Sur** and dine this evening on local cuisine; try the salmon, which is raised locally. (B,L,D)

Day 5 (Sunday)

PUERTO VARAS – BARILOCHE

Today, you use several modes of transportation as you leave Puerto Varas. Drive to Petrohue on Lake Todos, which is considered the “jewel” of the Lake District; it is a glacial basin set between the incredibly thick forests of the Rosales National Park. You have dramatic views of the Osorno volcano as you travel by cruise

boat across the lake to Peulla and then drive through an Andes mountain pass between Chile and Argentina.

Arriving in Bariloche, you check into the **Llao Llao Hotel**, which commands a breathtaking view from a high hill overlooking a crystalline lake with the Andes as a backdrop. In the tradition of other great hotels of the world, this establishment offers quality at every turn.

This evening, you dine in the hotel's restaurant, which offers delectable regional and international meals, followed by exquisite pastries filled with locally grown fruit – raspberries are a regional specialty. (B,L,D)

Day 6 (Monday)

BARILOCHE

Today you relax; allow yourself to be pampered by the staff at the hotel and enjoy the inn's amenities. There is a huge indoor pool that lies under a sloping glass ceiling before incredible views. You can make use of the tennis courts, the golf course, sailboards, canoes, mountain bikes and the spa. There is also fishing, hiking, bird watching and excursions to lakes, rivers, forests, mountains, and glaciers. The long pine gallery is lined with shops and art for those who prefer quieter activities.

This evening, you make your à la carte dinner selections at the hotel restaurant with the spectacular mountain and lake views. (B,D)

Day 7 (Tuesday)

BARILOCHE- BUENOS AIRES

Enjoy the natural surroundings here before departing for your flight to Buenos Aires, the sophisticated capital city of Argentina set on the southern bank of the Rio del la Plata (Silver River). Your hotel

is the **Alvear Palace Hotel**, the most elegant hotel in Buenos Aires – a 1932 Beaux-Arts building located in the stylish Recoleta neighborhood, near smart shops and embassies. Your accommodation features an elegant lobby with fine furniture, Palladian windows, chandeliers, and elaborate floral arrangements; a pianist entertains for afternoon tea.

This evening, your dinner at a restaurant in one of the older districts features a tempting variety of characteristic Argentine dishes. Beef specialties feature prominently, but you also may choose roasted chicken prepared with a mixture of herbs, garlic, oil and (sometimes) vinegar as well delicious stews and a variety of pasta.

No visit to Buenos Aires is really complete until you have participated in the tango scene. The tango started at the end of the last century from a mixture of various popular rhythms. Originally, only men danced to the music of the flute, violin, and guitar. The flute was eventually replaced by the accordion, which gave the music its distinctive tone. Join others on the dance floor to enjoy the spectacular blend of the traditional Argentine, and modern “piazola”-style, tango. (B,D)

Day 8 (Wednesday)

BUENOS AIRES

Driving outside the city, you see thousands of acres of flat grassland with large herds of cattle and wind pumps used to obtain water. Today you visit a cattle ranch and see the important influence such *estancias* have in promoting Argentina as a worldwide beef supplier. You see distinctively dressed horsemen – *gauchos* – and savor the delicacies that are prepared for you at a traditional barbecue.

Return to the city in time to relax



View from Hotel Llao Llao - Bariloche



Iguazu Falls

before dinner at the hotel, and an after-dinner stroll around the Recoleta, which is notable for its residences and parks. (B,L)

Day 9 (Thursday)

BUENOS AIRES - IGUASSU FALLS

After breakfast this morning, you explore the “Paris of the Tropics”, the financial and cultural center of South America. Although there is modern construction and dynamic activity here, old traditions and charming customs have been nurtured and preserved. You visit the Plaza de Mayo, which is surrounded by some of the city’s major public buildings; this is the historic heart of the city. You see the Casa Rosada (the Presidential Palace) which is notable for its statuary, elaborate furnishings and library. You also see Palermo Park – the city’s largest park - with lakes, rose gardens, and the Andalusian Patio.

This afternoon, you board your flight for Iguazu Falls, located on the Brazil-Argentina border. The original Indian name of *Y-Guazu* (meaning Big Water) was never changed; these are the most overwhelming and spectacular waterfalls in South America.

You check into the **Hotel Das Cataratas**, the only hotel located within the national park, just across the road from the breathtaking falls. The long, low Spanish-colonial main building of the hotel is accented by a tile roof and a cupola, its pale pink walls contrast starkly with the deep green of the jungle. Your à la carte dinner this evening features regional and Continental cuisine. (B,L,D)

Day 10 (Friday)

IGUASSU FALLS

After breakfast this morning, you visit the Iguazu Falls, considered by many to be the most impressive falls in the world. The water from thirty rivers joins the Iguazu River, which divides into more than 280 separate falls, 270 feet high, spilling over a gulf almost 3 miles wide. Most of the falls lie in Argentina, but the best view is from the Brazilian National Park, in which your hotel is located.

Across from your hotel, take the paved walkway that runs part of the way down the cliff; there is an extraordinary view of the entire Argentine side of the falls. The path ends up almost under the

powerful Floriano Falls; and from here, an elevator takes you to the top. You have a completely different view from helicopter as you fly over the Falls. (B,L,D)

Day 11 (Saturday)

IGUASSU FALLS – RIO DE JANEIRO

The subtropical rain forest provides an environment rich in flora and fauna. Bird watching can be particularly rewarding; there are five different members of the toucan family in this park. An enormous variety of birds can be observed in the adjacent bamboo stands and thick forests.

Your afternoon flight takes you to Rio de Janeiro, and you transfer to the **Copacabana Palace** - on the beach of the same name. It’s Rio’s most famous and highly regarded hotel (this is where Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers stayed in the film, “Flying Down to Rio”). High-ceilinged salons are reminiscent of the Orient-Express, with frosted glass, pale colors, inlaid woods, and elaborate floral bouquets.

Tonight, you dine in the **Cipriani** restaurant at the hotel, where you have a choice of regional or Italian fare prepared by their Venetian chef. (B,D)

Day 12 (Sunday)

RIO DE JANEIRO

Rio has a magnificent setting – between the mountains and the sea; the colorful city is strikingly beautiful in its natural tropical environment. The deep blue water of three large bays contrasts with the lush green mountain forests and expanse of gray granite peaks overlooking the harbor.

First settled by the French in the 16th century, the Portuguese ultimately took control of the region. It became an important port out of which gold was

ACCOMMODATIONS

Santiago, Chile – Hyatt Regency (2 nights), Condé Nast Traveler Gold List '01

Acknowledged as one of South America’s finest hotels, Hyatt Regency Santiago is located in an exclusive residential neighborhood minutes away from downtown Santiago.

Puerto Varas – Hotel Colones del Sur (1)

Bariloche, Argentina – Liao Liao Hotel (2), Condé Nast Traveler Gold List '01

Set in Nahuel Huapi Park in northwestern Patagonia, the hotel, a National Historic Landmark, commands truly breathtaking views of crystal blue lakes, snow covered mountains and unexplored forests. The Canadian lodge-style architecture is complemented by interiors replete with Argentine ranch furnishings.

Buenos Aires, Argentina - Alvear Palace Hotel (2)

Condé Nast Traveler Gold List '01, Leading Hotels of the World '01

A true Palace that opened its doors in 1932, it is located in the heart of the Recoleta, the most refined quarter in Buenos Aires. Frequent guests include the Emperor and Empress of Japan, the King and Queen of Spain, Jacques Chirac, Arthur Miller, and Ted Turner.

Iguazu Falls – Hotel Das Cataratas (2)

This superior first-class hotel and resort is the only one located inside a Brazilian national park. The track leading to the falls starts in front of the hotel.

Rio de Janeiro - Copacabana Palace (3), Condé Nast Traveler Gold List '01, Leading Hotels of the World '01

South America’s grandest hotel, superbly located opposite the famous Copacabana Beach, yet only minutes from the center of Rio de Janeiro. Built in the early 1920s, this impressive Mediterranean style building is famous for its superb cuisine and impeccable service.

shipped in addition to an important export/import center for the surrounding agricultural lands. Today it is a true melting pot of lifestyles, cultures, religions, and ethnic backgrounds.

This morning, on your tour of the city, you visit the Rodrigo de Freitas Lagoon, where Rio's rowing and small-boat sailing clubs are active, and the Botanical Gardens, with a striking network of avenues with 100-foot high royal palms. Here you can see more than 7,000 varieties of plants from around the world, including some endangered species. Look for monkeys in the trees.

You take two cable cars to the summit of the mountain called Pao de Acucar (Sugar Loaf). At a height nearly twice that of New York's World Trade Center, you are rewarded with an impressive bird's-eye view of Guanabara Bay, the city, and its beaches. You also see the Teatro Municipal (Municipal Theater), one of the most magnificent Eclectic style buildings in Brazil. You visit the Mosteiro (monastery) de Sao Bento and its church – simple and unadorned on the exterior, but extraordinary carvings and gilding are within. (B,L,D)

Day 13 (Monday)

RIO DE JANEIRO

Today, you drive northward out of Rio - to visit the historical "imperial city" of Petropolis, which has kept the colonial style, with its cobblestone streets, horses, and carriages. Your ride to the summer hill resort takes you along a steep, scenic mountain road in the Serra da Estrela range, 2,000 feet above sea level in a lush green valley.

The city is also nicknamed the "city of hydrangeas" because of the abundance of these flowers here. The higher altitude here provides cooler temperatures than in Rio, making the location a popular one for wealthy city residents who wanted to escape the summer heat. In the mid-19th century, Emperor Pedro II ordered the building of an imperial palace in Petropolis, and he made it his administrative headquarters for six months of each year. You visit the elegant neoclassical palace that has exhibits of the Crown Jewels and the furnishings of both Pedro I and Pedro II.

Tonight, after dinner in Rio, you attend a lively musical performance. Song and dance have been shaped by Brazil's rich ethnic background; they are very evident at Carnival time, but are also very significant in the everyday life. Whether it is the samba, the salsa, or the merengue, the music will have you moving your feet in no time. (B,D)



Rio de Janeiro by night

Day 14 (Tuesday)

RIO DE JANEIRO - USA

After breakfast, you travel to the Corcovado Mountain – nicknamed "Hunchback" because of the shape of its peak. Ascending by way of a cog railway, at the summit you see the famous statue of Christ the Redeemer, with arms outstretched over the city. On your return, visit the Tijuca National Park, the largest urban-forested national park in the world.

Your afternoon is free before you are escorted to the airport for your overnight flight back to the states. (B,L)

OR (JOURNEY



Copacabana Palace

EXTENSION) RIO DE JANEIRO – MANAUS

Those of you who have chosen to continue your journey by including an Amazon cruise are escorted to the airport for your flight to Manaus.

D A T E S

Depart-WED (from USA) Aug 27	Return-TUE Sep 09
2004 Dates:	
Feb 11	Feb 24
Aug 25	Sep 07

C O S T P E R P E R S O N

Land Portion (Double occupancy)	\$ 6,480
Single supplement	\$ 1,450
Domestic Airfare (Santiago-Puerto Montt, Bariloche-Buenos Aires-Iguassu-Rio de Janeiro)	\$ 940
International Airfare (Miami-Santiago, Rio de Janeiro-Miami)	\$ 915
<i>(If you combine this trip with another one, "International Airfare" does not apply. You only pay add-on airfare to connect to other tour(s). Please call us for quote.)</i>	
<i>All airfares are subject to availability and to change by the airlines. Cancellation penalties and surcharges may apply. Fares from other U.S. cities, as well as First and Business Class rates, are also available.</i>	