

MACLEAY VALLEY TRAVEL PTY. LTD.

33 Smith Street, Kempsey
NSW 2440
Australia

Email: info@macleayvalleytravel.com
Website: www.macleayvalleytravel.com

Telephone (02) 6562-6699
Toll Free 1800 81-0809
Fax (02) 6562-6276



The Essence of South America Tour

22 Day Conducted Tour

for **\$11,795** per person twin share

This price includes airport taxes and levies

SPECIAL OFFER – BOOK & PAY DEPOSIT BY 31 JULY TO RECEIVE \$400 OFF PER PERSON

This price is great value for such an extensive tour to this destination as it includes:

- ❖ Return air fares from Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane into Lima, Peru and out of Santiago de Chile with Lan Airlines and Qantas plus all flights within South America.
- ❖ A superb tour of South America by plane, coach and rail, visiting Chile, Peru, Bolivia, Brazil and Argentina. Some of the many highlights you will be seeing are:
Peru: Machu Picchu and Lake Titicaca
Cuzco: the Sacred Valley
Bolivia: La Paz
Brazil: Rio, Christ the Redeemer, Iguazu Falls and Sugar Loaf Mountain.



- ❖ Good accommodation throughout, mainly 3 ½ star to 4 star.
- ❖ Meals as per the itinerary.
- ❖ Many entry fees and national park fees.
- ❖ All transport and transfers.
- ❖ South American tour guides and if there are 10 or more tour participants there will be an national escort in South America.



If you don't have someone to twin share with, we will do our best to match you up, but this is not guaranteed. A single room is an extra cost of \$1,735.

There is an optional 5 day pre tour Galapagos Islands extension available for an additional \$6,069 per person twin share or \$8,425 single room.

There is also an optional pre tour Amazon extension available for an additional \$1,650 per person twin share or \$2,690 single room.

There is an optional post tour Patagonia extension available for an additional \$3,475 per person twin share or \$4,820 single room.

There is an optional post tour Easter Island & Tahiti extension available for an additional \$1,765 per person twin share or \$2,570 single room.

Tour departs on Australia 11th March and returns 1st April 2019

We try harder to find you the best travel deal

Itinerary for Essence of South America Tour

Note: Meals are included in the itinerary as B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner

11.03.19 Australia - Santiago de Chile - Lima, Peru

Melbourne passengers depart at 6.00am on Qantas flight QF 400, arriving in Sydney at 7.25am.

Brisbane passengers depart at 6.05am on Qantas flight QF 505, arriving in Sydney at 8.40am. All passengers depart Sydney at 11.10am on Latam Airlines flight LA 800, arriving in Santiago de Chile at 1.25pm the same day. You cross the International Date Line. (This flight goes via Auckland).

All passengers then depart Santiago at 4.20pm on LA 632, arriving in Lima at 6.10pm. Upon arrival we are met and transferred to the hotel.

Lima is situated in the coastal desert district between the Pacific Ocean and the western hills of the Andes Mountains. Lima seems to scare off some tourists because of its status as one of the biggest cities in the Americas, however Lima runs at a slower pace than many South American metropolises. Its rhythm is more traditional and its people reflect a steadier, calmer constitution. Lima's unusually amenable inhabitants give the metropolis the feeling, at times, of a cluster of smaller towns. Lima's physical atmosphere is slightly dreamlike, mostly because of the garua, a mist that settles over the city between May and October. Under its blanket, Lima's inhabitants meet at the penas (bars offering folk and Creole music), shop at the open market places and dine at Lima's celebrated restaurants. Several museums display and preserve Peru's golden past, including most notably the internationally famed Museo Nacional de Antropologica y Arqueologica and the Museo de Oro, the stunning museum of gold.

Every part of Lima has its own unique atmosphere. Downtown Lima is crowded and busy, both modern and colonial at the same time. The Plaza Mayor is considered one of the most beautiful plazas in Latin America. Most neighbourhoods around the centre are friendly and green, with many small parks and an unmistakable colonial touch, especially Jesus Maria and Magdalena del Mar. The other heart of Lima is the uptown shopping and business area, Miraflores. Here you can find stylish avenues and fancy beaches. Close to Miraflores is the romantic, village-like district of Barranco, overlooking the Pacific.

Accommodation: Casa Andina Standard Miraflores Centro Hotel

12.03.19 Lima - Cuzco - Sacred Valley, Peru

(B) Today there is a three hour sightseeing tour which offers the best of colonial and modern Lima. Included are Lima's most imposing colonial churches and mansions such as the Government Palace, the Plaza Mayor, the City Hall and the Cathedral, including the 17th Century San Francisco Monastery. The tour ends with a visit to the modern suburbs of San Isidro, where we will visit the pre-Inca pyramid of Huaca Huallamarca, before continuing to Miraflores, overlooking the Pacific Ocean.

Afterwards we are transferred to the airport for our flight to Cuzco. Upon arrival we will be transferred to our hotel in the Sacred Valley.

Note: Cuzco has a high altitude of 3310m which can cause breathing to be a problem. To combat the effect of the high altitude it is suggested you drink plenty of liquids on your first couple of days. Most people are fine, but some experience headaches, vomiting, dizziness.

Cocoa tea is a wonder. Check out the website www.high-altitude-medicine.com

Accommodation: San Agustin Monasterio de la Recoleta Boutique Hotel

13.03.19 Sacred Valley, Peru

(B/L) The area of the valley between Pisac and Ollantaytambo is known as the Sacred Valley of the Incas, a long narrow valley which, in the southern region goes back up to Urcos and towards

the north, crossing Ollantaytambo before it finally reaches the citadel of Machu Picchu. Over the years, the power of the Incas became more and more firmly implanted. The terraces are a testimony of the vast production of food, and the Ollantaytambo ruins reflect the ambitious plans of the leaders of Cuzco.

We visit Awanacancha, a weaving centre that still practices the traditional textile arts. Here we can see four members of the cameloid family, llama, alpacas, vicunas and guanacos. Alpacas have thick wool and are the most commonly used while the vicunas are small and delicate and have the finest fur. We learn about the harvesting of the different wools and the natural dying techniques, with a chance to see native weavers from different areas, showing their different weaving styles and dress. Next we continue to visit the ruins of Ollantaytambo, along with a visit to the colourful Andean market of Pisac for a chance to do some souvenir shopping. We will have lunch at a restaurant in the Sacred Valley. Afterwards we return to the hotel in the Sacred Valley.

NOTE: On the 14th March there is a rail trip to Machu Picchu, which has a luggage restriction of 5kg and 157cm (height + length + width) per person. Taking all of your luggage will incur an excess baggage charge of USD \$5 per kilo. We recommend packing a small bag for the next night, and the rest of the luggage will be driven back and stored in your Cuzco hotel at no charge.

Accommodation: San Agustin Monasterio de la Recoleta Boutique Hotel

14.03.19 Sacred Valley - Machu Picchu, Peru

(B/L/D) This morning we transfer to Ollantaytambo Railway Station to board the Vista Dome train for the rail service to Aguas Calientes Station and then a bus to Machu Picchu, the fabled city of the Incas. The joy of visiting Machu Picchu is not limited to the ruins themselves. After leaving Ollantaytambo, the railway enters the beginnings of a gorge, which grows narrower and deeper. The vegetation grows more prolific. We are entering the 'eyebrow of the jungle', and finally reach Aguas Calientes Station, 1.5 kilometres below Machu Picchu.

When Hiram Bingham rediscovered Machu Picchu in 1911, he mistakenly thought he had found the location of Vilcabamba, the lost city of the Incas. The true site of Vilcabamba was actually discovered by Gene Savoy in 1964. So, what was Machu Picchu? Many people say it was a secret refuge. The Incas actually had no written language but they have oral history records. However, the existence of Machu Picchu and the region seems to be entirely erased from official memory.

Was it a Royal Residence? A site of spiritual and ceremonial significance? or was it used for defence from the fierce jungle tribes? Garcia de Loyola mentioned an Inca fortress that was 'on a high eminence surrounded by rugged crags and jungles, very dangerous to ascend and almost impregnable'. Most visitors to Peru see Machu Picchu, which is perched on a narrow saddle of rock high above a hairpin curve of the Urubamba. The granite sugar loaf of Huayna Picchu towers above the ruin and shrouds of low clammy cloud often grip the surrounding forested hillsides. Such scenery makes Machu Picchu one of the world's most beautiful ruins.

The valleys below the spurs occupied by the fortresses of Vilcabamba were tightly wooded, not with the tall trees of the Amazonian rain forests, but with smaller, gnarled trees and dense vegetation clinging to the steep slopes. Many of the branches are loaded with gloomy, dripping moss and the woods are dark and sombre. Close to the rivers are thickets of *Nicotiana tormentosa*, the tree tobacco of the Andes, and Machu Picchu boasts a giant slipper wort with great flat leaves and brilliant yellow flowers.

Our local guide will take us through the ruins. We then have lunch at the Belmond Sanctuary Lodge Restaurant. After lunch we take the bus to the town of Aguas Calientes for an overnight stay. Dinner this evening is included.

Accommodation: Inkaterra El Mapi Hotel

15.03.19 Machu Picchu - Cuzco, Peru

(B) This morning is at leisure. If you wish to visit Machu Picchu once again or climb the Huayna Picchu Mountain, you will need to contact us well in advance to pre purchase your entrance ticket. Huayna Picchu Mountain (The Young Mountain) is the famous mountain you can see in front of the citadel, appearing in most of the usual vistas of this amazing place. Only 400 passengers are permitted to climb this mountain daily and it is restricted to two time schedules of 7am and 11am.

In the afternoon we take the train to Cuzco, where we are met and transferred to the hotel.

Note: The entrance fees and bus fees for the second day to Machu Picchu are not included.

Accommodation: Casa Andina Standard Catedral Cuzco

16.03.19 Cuzco, Peru

(B) Cuzco is one of the most famous cities in South America, as it is the oldest continuously inhabited metropolis on this continent. The city itself was probably founded in 1000BC, but in 1534 the Spanish Conquerors re-founded it according to the European way. Wherever we stop in Cuzco we will find remains of ancient civilizations as this was the capital of the Incas and the place where most of their superb works were done. This city is considered as the archaeological capital of South America and has been declared by UNESCO a Cultural Heritage Site.

Our half day city tour will commence at the Qoricancha Temple, an ancient Inca palace and main worship centre of the Sun God. Then we tour the Plaza de Armas, where the cathedral and the beautiful Church of the Society of Jesus are located. We will continue to the colonial church of San Cristobal to enjoy a spectacular view of the city. We proceed to the famous fortress of Sacsahuaman, an Inca building known for its massive walls of hewn stone and its hilltop location. Later we visit the important archaeological complexes of Q'enqo and Puca Pucara.

Accommodation: Casa Andina Standard Catedral Cuzco

17.03.19 Cuzco - Puno, Peru

(B/L) We will be picked up from the hotel and transferred to the railway station in Cuzco for our train journey between Cuzco and Lake Titicaca aboard our first class train. This spectacular rail journey travels south from Cuzco, gently climbing to higher and colder altitudes. The first half of the journey is dominated by magnificent Andean mountains which tower over the deep valleys of the meandering Huatanay River. It then reaches the gentler, rolling Andean Plains, where vicunas and alpacas can be seen. We enjoy an excellent three course lunch on board the train, followed by coffee served in the observation car. A stop is made at La Raya Pass, at 4,321 metres. This is the highest point on the journey. Continue southward until arriving in Puno.

Puno was the territory of the Tiahuanacos (800A.D. - 1200A.D.) who were the highest cultural expression of the Aymara people that established themselves in what is today Peru and Bolivia. The Incas took over these lands in the fifteenth century and the Spanish, attracted by the mining industry which developed there, left an important colonial legacy throughout the entire area.

The city of Puno, with an altitude of 3280 metres, is situated on the shores of Lake Titicaca, the highest navigable lake in the world and the site of the Feast of the Virgen de la Candelaria. The lake contains numerous islands whose inhabitants continue to live as their ancestors have in custom and tradition. The Uros are an example of this. This group lives on 'floating islands' that they have artificially made entirely of totora reeds and they navigate in their traditional boats also made out of totora reeds. Taquile, Suasi and Amantani are known for their kindness, their ancestral skill in weaving, their pre-Columbian constructions and their lovely countryside. The Titicaca National Reserve (36,180 hectares) protects extensive stretches of

totora reeds and various species of plants and animals.
After alighting the train, we are transferred to our hotel.
Accommodation: Casa Andina Premium Collection

18.03.19 Puno, Peru

(B/L) Today we have a tour to Taquile and Uros Islands to experience the Andean culture. We begin by arriving at Huayllano Port on Taquile Island and visit the house of a local family to engage in some activities with them, such as weaving. Afterwards we enjoy lunch made from fresh local products. Next we walk to the town square and board our boat to sail to Uros Island. The lives of the Uros Indians are dependent upon the totora reeds. Their boats, their houses and even their islands are made from these reeds. The Uros on the islands have intermarried with the Aymara and no pure Uros exist. The present Puno Bay people still practise some Uros traditions, but Aymara influence predominates. The people are friendly, but very poor.
Accommodation: Casa Andina Premium Collection

19.03.19 Puno - La Paz, Bolivia

(B/L) Today we cross from Peru into Bolivia, via the lovely lakeside village of Copacabana with its remarkable church and views of Lake Titicaca. During the journey it may be possible to view the snowcapped mountains of the Cordillera Real. Our guide is also a naturalist who has a keen interest in flora & fauna of the lake and will be happy to share knowledge and answer your questions.

We will have an early land transfer to Copacabana Sanctuary and then board the catamaran cruise ship. We have lunch while sailing to Sun Island, the legendary birth place of the Inca Empire. Visit the Inca Garden, steps and fountain, then the Inti Wata Cultural Complex including the Ekako Underground Museum, and the Titicaca Reed Shipbuilders Display Centre, the Pachamama agricultural Inca terraces, a handicraft centre, the Intica lounge and the Manco Kapac lookout and see the largest variety of Andean cameloids. Also, Inti Wata Complex at Sun Island includes a unique sailing experience aboard a huge Titicaca traditional vessel to enjoy a panoramic visit of the Pilkakaina Inca Palace. Afterwards we transfer to our hotel in La Paz.

La Paz must qualify as one of the world's most dramatically located cities. It lies sheltered from cold winds within a steep canyon, just below the rim of the altiplano. The city's skyline is dominated with huge office blocks and the snow covered peaks of Mount Illamani (6439m). La Paz was founded by the Spanish in 1548. It has a population of nearly 1.3 million inhabitants and is now a modern city with few colonial buildings left except around Plaza Murillo, which at 3636m above sea level, marks the very heart of the city where the government buildings and the cathedral can be found.

Spain controlled La Paz with a firm grip and the Spanish king had the last word in all matters political. In 1781, for a total of 6 months, a group of Aymara people laid siege to the no longer peaceful city of La Paz. Under the leadership of Tupac Katari, they destroyed churches and government property. Thirty years later Indians laid a two month siege on La Paz. In 1809 the struggle for independence from the Spanish rule brought uprisings against the royalist forces. Today La Paz is a vibrant city, growing and expanding in all directions. 'Pacenos' as the locals are called, are quite traditional, maintaining strong ties with their indigenous ancestry. Interesting attractions include typical Indian markets, cathedrals and historical monuments.

Accommodation: La Casona Hotel Boutique

20.03.19 La Paz, Bolivia

(B) Today there is a half day city tour of La Paz and Moon Valley. The 'City of Contrast', La Paz is a blend of many civilisations. Today we will visit the famous Witch Doctor's Market, the San Francisco Colonial Church and craft shops on Sagarnaga

Street. The tour continues to the Plaza Murillo where the Cathedral, the Government Palace and Parliament buildings are located. Then, visit the famous colonial street Calle Jaen, where interesting museums are clustered together, followed by a visit to the replica of the semi-subterranean temple of the Tiwanaku culture. For a change of scenery, the tour continues to residential areas of Obrajes, Calacoto and Florida. The tour ends with a visit to the unique Moon Valley where we can take a short hike and visit a ceramic workshop with a demonstration of this art.

Accommodation: La Casona Hotel Boutique

21.03.19 La Paz – Buenos Aires

Today we are transferred to the airport for our early morning flights to Buenos Aires, via Santa Cruz. Upon arrival in Buenos Aires we are met and transferred to our hotel.

Buenos Aires is the Argentine Republic's capital city. Located on the southern bank of the River Plate, the population of greater Buenos Aires is around 13 million people. Buenos Aires has been virtually rebuilt since the beginning of this century and very few of the old buildings remain. The centre of Buenos Aires has maintained the original layout since foundation and the Plaza de Mayo is the heart. Buenos Aires is a city where the traveller yields to the charm of the tango, the atmosphere of its neighbourhoods and the activities of its business centre.

Accommodation: Intersur Recoleta

22.03.19 Buenos Aires

(B) This morning we have a half day city tour of Buenos Aires. Departing from the hotel, we drive down 9 de Julio Ave, the widest in the world. We pass the famous Colon Opera House, the Obelisk, commemorating the first founding of the city in 1536, to get to Plaza de Mayo (May Square). The buildings surrounding it include Government House, Metropolitan Cathedral with the Mausoleum of General San Martin, Argentina's greatest national hero and the Cabildo, the colonial town hall built in 1751. Then on to La Boca, the typically Italian district, where the first Italian immigrants settled and Caminito Street. The tour continues to Buenos Aires port area, past San Martin Square towards Palmero Chico residential district and Palmero Park with its jacaranda and pal borracho trees, which flower in the spring and late summer. The ride continues to Recoleta, an elegant district, to visit Recoleta Cemetery where the famous are laid to rest (including Eva Peron). Return to the hotel along the stylish Alvear Ave. If you wish you can request the guide to finish the tour in Recoleta and enjoy some shopping in this elegant part of Buenos Aires.

Accommodation: Intersur Recoleta

23.03.19 Buenos Aires

(B/D) Today is at leisure to shop or do as you please. When it comes to shopping, Buenos Aires can be one of the most charming cities in the world. From grand boulevards to the winding streets of Arroyo, the city offers an endless variety of boutiques, galleries and antique shops. Shopping malls have become a daily getaway and a convenient shopping location for many Portenos. You will find the most famous and exclusive stores in these huge malls as well as an assortment of restaurants, cafes, movie theatres and arcades. Shopping malls are open from 10.00am - 10.00pm, seven days a week.

A large number of stores that sell leather clothing as well as bags and other souvenirs are located close to the Plaza San Martin. Around the area there are many clothing warehouses that sell leather jackets and other leather goods at great prices.

Tonight we will experience one of the best tango shows in Buenos Aires. We are met at the hotel and transferred to Tango Porteno. Tango Porteno recreates the golden age of the forties, which is unquestionably known as the reign of the tango, the great Argentinean passion. Here we will have a one hour Tango lesson, including dinner and show.

After dinner we are transferred back to the hotel.

Accommodation: Intersur Recoleta

24.03.19 Buenos Aires – Iguazu Falls

(B) This morning we are transferred to the airport for our flight to Iguazu Falls (Argentine side). Upon arrival we will be met and transferred to our hotel for a two night stay.

Note: The city of Puerto Iguazu has a municipal tax for both the Argentine side and the Brazilian side of the city. For Argentina the cost of the tax is approximately \$2 USD per person, per night, payable directly to the hotel in cash. The hotel will provide a receipt for this city tax, which needs to be carried as it will be inspected at the control post on Route 12 on the way to the National Park, airport and/or city centre. If you forget this receipt you will be required to pay the tax again. For passengers staying on the Brazil side, the tax is payable when entering the city of Puerto Iguazu at the control post on Route 12.

Accommodation: La Aldea de la Selva

25.03.19 Iguazu Falls, Argentina

(B) The Iguazu Falls region contains great rivers, humid tropics, red earth and magnificent jungle. 18kms from Puerto Iguazu we enter the National Park of the same name where the famous falls are. The deep flowing waters of the river fall from a height of 70 metres through 275 falls over 2.7kms. The frontier with Brazil goes through the Garganta del Diablo (Devils Throat) where the falling water gives the illusion of magic rainbows. The National Park is full of exotic subtropical vegetation which surrounds the falls and has 2000 plant species - gigantic trees, ferns, lianas, orchids - 400 bird species - parrots, colibris, toucans - jaguars and yacares (caimans).

Today we will embark on a half day guided tour walking along the many tracks on the side of the river and observing the falls from platforms that bring us extremely close to the water. In the Indian Tupi Guarani language, Iguazu means large waters. Appropriately, the Iguazu River flows east west for 808 miles and then drops suddenly and violently into a 262 foot abyss at the falls, which is set amidst jungle.

From our hotel we are transferred to the visitor's centre inside the Iguazu National Park. We will board a small train to reach the beginning of the upper path, lower path and Devil's Throat. The upper path is a walk of about 500 metres and lasts about 45 minutes visiting the Two Sisters, Bosseti, Adam and Eve, Bernable Mendez, Mbigua and San Martin Falls. On the lower path, with a professional guide, we will walk 1.3kms of footpaths lasting approximately 90 minutes for a different view, but be warned, you may get a little wet! After riding 4km on board a small train, we will reach Devil's Throat Station surrounding the upper part of the Iguazu River. From here we will walk along a bridge (walkway) that leads to the balcony of Devil's Throat for the most spectacular view.

Accommodation: La Aldea de la Selva

26.03.19 Iguazu Falls – Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

(B) We have an early breakfast this morning and take a walk around the national park before being taken to the international bridge and cross the land border to the Brazil side. Remember to have your passport ready when passing the Argentine/Brazilian border. We visit the falls from the Brazilian side to give a different perspective and a panoramic view of the entire falls. Also from the Brazilian side of the falls we will have the chance to take an optional helicopter flight over the falls (approx. USD 100 per person - please note that this flight cannot be pre-booked). This flight takes around 7 minutes but it's worth every cent. Or for the adventurous, you can take an optional trip on the Macuco Safari boat, going upstream on the river, taking you extremely close to the falls. At the completion of the tour we are transferred to the airport on the Brazilian side for our flight to Rio de Janeiro. Upon arrival, we are transferred to our hotel for a three night stay.

In the early 16th century, the Portuguese first arrived at the site where Rio de Janeiro now

stands. What they found was a still-watered bay surrounded by a plentiful and lovely landscape. It was love at first sight. The Portuguese promptly built a fortress at the entrance of the bay to ward off those attracted to their tropical paradise, which they called Sao Sebastiao do Rio de Janeiro. By 1768 Rio had developed and grown to such an extent that the government was transferred from the previous capital, Salvador, Bahia. Rio was then, as now, a city of intensive trading activities.

Its primary asset, Guanabara Bay was not just a beautiful landmark, but also a natural port through which gold and diamonds, mined in the neighbouring Minas Gerais Mountains, flowed. The gems, used to adorn the ladies of the Portuguese Court, as well as the as yet rare sugar cane were important commodities in the European markets of this time. When King John VI of Portugal landed in Rio in 1808 along with his court and entire entourage, he fell in love with what he saw and experienced. He subsequently helped Rio to become one of the most important political centres in Brazilian history.

Brazil achieved independence from Portugal in 1822 and became an empire. Some years later in 1889, the city of Rio enthusiastically witnessed the Proclamation of the Republic of Brazil. Rio de Janeiro has evolved continuously since, remaining a centre for business and the arts while becoming one of the world's most dynamic cities.

Note: Australian passport holders require a tourist visa in order to enter Brazil. This must be organised prior to departure.

Also Note: There is a Government tax for accommodation in Brazil that must be paid locally and varies between USD \$1 - \$3 per room, per night.

Accommodation: Windsor Martinique Copa Hotel

27.03.19 Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

(B) Today our tour begins through downtown Rio, passing by the Sambodrome and the Metropolitan Cathedral, in pyramid form, with an internal diameter of 96 metres and a height of 80 metres. Get to know the traditional Cinelandia Square with the historical buildings, the Municipal Theatre, the National Library and the National Museum of Fine Arts. By taking the Aterro do Flamengo, we will go to the neighbourhood of Urca where one of the largest symbols of the city is located, the Sugar Loaf. This visit is made in two steps by cable car. The first cable car takes passengers to Urca Hill, which is 215 metres high and from where one can have a beautiful view to Guanabara Bay and its islands, the Rio-Niteroi Bridge and Corcovado Hill. From this stage, a second cable car will be taken up to the top 395 metres to find a splendid view of Copacabana Beach, the Santa Cruz fortress and some beaches of Niteroi.

Accommodation: Windsor Martinique Copa Hotel

28.03.19 Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

(B/D) Today we have a half day tour visiting Corcovado Mountain and Christ the Redeemer. From anywhere in the city visitors can see the imposing statue of Christ the Redeemer, located on the mountain of Corcovado, which is 710 metres above sea level and was inaugurated in 1931.

The tour begins in Cosme Velho's neighbourhood from where the cog train starts a trip through the Tijuca Forest, the largest urban forest in the world, up to the statue. Once there, a breathtaking panoramic view of Rio will be seen. Sights include the Sugar Loaf, Guanabara Bay, the beaches of Southern Zone and the Rodrigo de Freitas Lagoon. After the visit of the Corcovado, the tour will continue to Sao Conrado area with a brief stop at Pepino Beach from where we can see hang gliding.

This evening we feast on a scrumptious all you can eat 'churrasco' (Gaucho BBQ), including an irresistible buffet of seafood and typical Brazilian dishes. After dinner, we are transferred to the second highlight of the night, Ginga Tropical Show, which combines a variety of Brazilian dances.

Accommodation: Windsor Martinique Copa Hotel

29.03.19 Rio de Janiero – Santiago de Chile

(B) Today we depart the hotel and transfer to the airport for our flight to Santiago. Upon arrival in Santiago, we are met and transferred to our hotel.

Chile's capital, Santiago, is located in the central valley approximately 1800 feet above sea level, framed by the majestic Andean Mountain Range and only 120kms from the Pacific Ocean.

First settled in 1541 at the foot of the Santa Lucia Hill, it is now the fifth largest city in South America and is set in one of the most beautiful locations. Although essentially a modern capital, it still has some beautiful historic colonial buildings dating from the 16th century. You can ask the hotel for a map of the city and visit the colonial sector or maybe visit the Pre Columbian Art Museum, a museum that has a representative exhibition of objects from the pre Columbian cultures of Central America and the Andean Region.

Please note: When entering Chile, Australian passport holders are required to pay a reciprocity fee of USD \$117. The payment of this reciprocity fee is not a visa. This amount must be paid at the International Airport in cash or credit card only.

Accommodation: Luciano K Hotel

30.03.19 Santiago de Chile

(B) This morning we have a sightseeing tour of the city of Santiago. See the Civic Centre and La Moneda Presidential Palace, the house of government, that was originally built to coin money. In 1846 President Manuel Bulnes had La Moneda fitted out as the private residence of Chile's presidents, which it remained until 1958. Now the building has been renovated as a government palace, the seat of the Presidency of the Republic. The Plaza de Armas, originally following Spanish customs, was an open space where open air markets could be held and it wasn't until 1860 that the first flower gardens were planted together with trees that are still there to this day. The cathedral has three previous versions erected on the same site that have all fallen prey to fires or earthquakes. The fourth and present building was completed in 1775. We will pass the main post office, erected in 1882 using some of the walls from the former Governor's Palace in colonial times, the pedestrian streets of Huerfanos and Ahumada, indisputably the social, commercial and functional axis of Santiago, the prestigious Social Union Club, the National Library and Santa Lucia Hill, the site of the foundation of Santiago on February 12, 1541. Head towards Bellavista district. This area is home to many of Santiago's artisans and is lined with galleries, as well as open-air cafes, restaurants and nightlife. We will go to a lookout on San Cristobal Hill, with its tallest peaks rising 880 metres above sea level, for a panoramic view of the city. We continue towards the residential districts of Vitacura, Las Condes and Providencia, boasting modern high rise buildings and exclusive shopping malls. On completion of the tour we will have the choice of staying at the exclusive Parque Arauco shopping centre or returning to the hotel.

Late this evening we are transferred to the airport for our flights home. We will have access to our rooms up until our airport transfer.

Accommodation: Luciano K Hotel

31.03.19 Santiago - Australia

Depart Santiago at 00.35am on LA 801, arriving in Sydney at 9.15am the next morning (01.04.19 - This flight goes via Auckland).

01.04.19 Sydney – Melbourne & Brisbane

Brisbane passengers depart Sydney at 11.00am on Qantas flight QF 520, arriving in Brisbane at 11.30am.

Melbourne passengers depart Sydney at 11.00am on Qantas flight QF 427, arriving in Melbourne at 12.35pm.

Please note: Parts of this itinerary are subject to change due to possible flight rescheduling or other unforeseen circumstances.

Itinerary for Galapagos Islands Pre-Tour Extension

Included meals are indicated as B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner

06.03.19 Australia - Santiago de Chile - Guayaquil, Ecuador

Melbourne passengers depart at 6.00am on Qantas flight QF 400, arriving in Sydney at 7.25am.

Brisbane passengers depart at 6.05am on Qantas flight QF 505, arriving in Sydney at 8.40am.

All passengers then depart Sydney at 11.10am on Latam Airlines flight LA 800, arriving in Santiago de Chile at 1.25pm the same day, you cross the International Date Line. (This flight goes via Auckland).

All passengers depart Santiago at 7.00pm on LA 1446, arriving in Guayaquil, Ecuador at 10.25pm. Upon arrival we are met and transferred to our hotel.

Please Note: The Ecuadorian government requires that all passengers who visit the country need to have proof of their travel insurance. Without such proof, immigration officers may deny you entry to the country.

Accommodation: Wyndham Hotel

07.03.19 Guayaquil - Legend Galapagos Cruise

(B/L/D)

Today we have an early morning transfer to the airport for our flight to the Galapagos Islands. Please note that luggage is restricted to 20kg only for these flights.

On arrival we are met by naturalist guides and taken on a ten minute bus drive to the pier to board the MV Galapagos Legend. Enjoy this paradise, navigating in the 90 passenger, 5 star fully air conditioned ship with all the commodities of a cruise liner yet small enough for that intimate experience with nature that brings us to the Galapagos. You will benefit from the added comfort of extra space in your fully carpeted luxurious cabins, all with ocean views, wardrobes and private facilities offering hot and cold water, hair dryer, safe deposit boxes and other amenities. The Legend prides itself on having a highly trained hotel and ship crew. In addition the vessel also has the services of a 24 hour duty doctor and multilingual naturalist guides.

Other facilities include an auditorium for conferences, spacious social areas, culinary delights at the dining room, 24 hour coffee bar, swimming pool with broad sun decks and observation platforms. At night guests can enjoy live music at the piano lounge, cocktail bars, computers equipped with games and internet access, or keep in touch with family and friends using our long distance call facility.

A trip to Ecuador is not complete if a visit is not made to the Galapagos Archipelago, located almost 1,000 kilometres from the Ecuadorian continental coastline. Made up of 13 large islands, 17 small ones and 47 rocky islets, the archipelago covers an area of 8,000 square kilometres.

The islands were discovered in 1535 by Brother Tomas de Berlanga. Declared a National Park in 1959, the Charles Darwin Foundation was also organised in this year to commemorate the islands link with the evolutionary scientist. The province of Galapagos was legally created in 1973 and it was declared a "Natural Heritage of Humanity" by UNESCO in 1979.

Each year tourists flock to the islands attracted by the natural surroundings and the unique flora and fauna, often not found anywhere else in the entire world. The environment is informal and itineraries are planned so that two or more visits may be made daily to the islands.

The landings on the Galapagos are of two types, one being 'dry' where the small boats transporting the tourists from the larger ships to the islands anchor along rustic docks and

the other being 'wet' where the boats almost reach the shore and tourists disembark while still on the water.

Black Turtle Cove, Santa Cruz Island.

On the north shore of Santa Cruz Island, accessible only by sea, we will find four species of mangrove and turtles swimming in the calm waters, peaking their heads above the surface, while fish, rays and small sharks circle below. White-tipped reef sharks can be seen beneath the boat while seabirds including pelicans, herons and egrets all feed in the cove.

Difficulty level – Easy

Type of terrain – Dinghy ride

Duration - 1 hour

08.03.19 Galapagos Islands

(B/L/D)

Egas Port, Santiago Island, Wet Landing.

Egas Port is a black volcanic sand beach, visited by Darwin in 1835. The first section of the trail is formed of volcanic ash and the other half is an uneven terrain of volcanic basaltic rock. The unique and truly striking layered terrain of Santiago shore is home to a variety of animals including the bizarre yellow-crowned night heron and marine wildlife including lobster, starfish and marine iguanas crazing on algae beds alongside Sally light-foot crabs. It is easy to see colonies of endemic fur seals swimming in cool water volcanic rock pools.

Difficulty level – Intermediate

Type of terrain – Flat and semi-rocky

Duration – 1½ hour walk/1 hour snorkelling

Rabida Island, Wet Landing.

Dark red sand covers the unique beaches of this island, home of sea lion colonies. Rabida is considered the epicentre of the Galapagos Islands, due to the diversity of its volcanic geology. Enjoy a dinghy ride along marine cliffs to observe nesting seabirds, and snorkel off the coast where marine life is particularly active.

Difficulty level – Easy

Type of terrain – Sandy

Duration – 1½ hour walk/1 hour snorkelling/1 hour dinghy ride

09.03.19 Galapagos Islands

(B/L/D)

Urbina Bay, Isabela Island, Wet Landing on a volcanic black beach.

Depending on the season, we may find giant tortoises, land iguanas and the unusual Flightless Cormorant. After a short walk inland, snorkelling time is allotted, giving you yet another chance to swim with sea turtles, sea lions and countless tropical fish. Urbina Bay features a wide variety of plant life that changes depending on the season. We can observe the beautiful colours of plants that attract different insects, birds and reptiles. We will explore the uplifted coral reef that resulted from volcanic activity in 1954, with a spectacular view of Alcedo Volcano.

Difficulty level – Intermediate

Type of terrain – Flat

Duration – 1½ hour walk/1 hour snorkelling

Tagus Cove, Isabela Island, Dry Landing on Galapagos' largest island where we will learn about the eruption of the five volcanoes that form it. The trail leads to Darwin's salt-water crater lake and excellent views of lava fields and volcanic formations.

We will return by the same path for a dinghy ride along a shoreline full of marine wildlife, where we will admire a variety of seabirds, such as Blue-footed Booby, Brown Noddy, terns, Flightless Cormorant and depending on the season, a large number of Galapagos Penguins which are only 35cm tall and the only penguin species in the world to extend its

range into the northern hemisphere along the equator. The population of penguins on the islands is about 2,000, most of which live on this western portion of Isabela, others are scattered further south on the island. We will have the opportunity to snorkel in deep water. Graffiti believed to have been left by 19th century pirates is a curious reminder of an intriguing past.

Difficulty level – Intermediate

Type of terrain – Steep

Duration – 2 hour walk/40 minutes dinghy ride/ 1 hour deep water snorkelling

10.03.19 Galapagos Islands

(B/L/D) Fernandina Island, Dry Landing.

Espinosa Point is the only spot that we visit on Fernandina and from it we can see the island of Isabela across the Bolivar Channel, an area that boasts some of the highest diversity of endemic sea fauna, found mingling with sea lions and Sally Lightfoot Crabs. This is a great opportunity to encounter Flightless Cormorants at their nesting sites, Galapagos Penguins and the king of predators on the islands, the Galapagos hawk. ‘Pa-hoe-hoe’ and ‘AA’ lava formations cover the majority of the terrain. Vegetation is thus scarce inland, but we encounter Brachycereus cacti & extensive mangrove beds lining the shores.

Difficulty level – Intermediate

Type of terrain – Rocky

Duration – 2 hour walk/1 hour snorkelling

Isabella Island

Great deep-water snorkelling at one of the richest marine havens on Earth (Bolivar Channel). We take a dinghy ride along the coast to observe a great diversity of sea and coastal birds. The upwelling of coldwater currents in this part of the Galapagos gives rise to an abundance of marine life.

Duration – 1 hour snorkelling/ 1 hour dinghy ride

11.03.19 Galapagos Islands – Quito – Lima, Peru

(B) Santa Cruz Island, Dry Landing.

This morning we disembark the ship and have a 45 minute bus ride to the Santa Cruz highlands, located to the northwest of Puerto Ayora, where we will find a natural reserve with giant tortoises. These enormous and slow moving reptiles are responsible for the islands name and therefore approaching them in their humid and forested abode is always an inspiring adventure. They can weigh between 250 - 300 kilograms and can live up to 150 - 200 years.

Difficulty level - Easy

Type of terrain - Flat and muddy (depending on the season)

Duration - 45 minute drive / 1½ hour walk

Following this we are transferred to the airport for our flight back to Quito on the mainland. Upon arrival in Quito we transfer to our next flight, departing at 8.05pm on LA 1451, arriving in Lima at 10.25pm.

Upon arrival in Lima we are transferred to our hotel to commence the Essence of South America Tour.

Accommodation: Casa Andina Standard Miraflores Centro Hotel

Note: The cost for this Galapagos Islands pre-tour extension is \$6,069 per person twin share or \$8,425 single room/cabin. Also note that this itinerary is to be used as a guide only and is subject to changes due to unforeseen weather conditions, permits etc.

Itinerary for Amazon Pre-Tour Extension

Included meals are indicated as B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner

07.03.19 Australia - Santiago de Chile - Lima, Peru

Melbourne passengers depart at 6.00am on Qantas flight QF 400, arriving in Sydney at 7.25am.

Brisbane passengers depart at 6.05am on Qantas flight QF 505, arriving in Sydney at 8.40am.

Depart Sydney at 11.10am on LA 800, arriving in Santiago de Chile at 1.25pm the same day (You cross the International Date Line - this flight goes via Auckland).

Depart Santiago de Chile at 3.00pm on LA 642, arriving in Lima at 4.50pm.

Upon arrival in Lima we will be met by our guide and transferred to the hotel.

Lima is situated in the coastal desert district between the Pacific Ocean and the western hills of the Andes mountains. Lima seems to scare off some tourists because of its status as one of the biggest cities in the Americas. Lima runs at a slower pace however than many South American metropolises. Its rhythm is more traditional and its people reflect a steadier, calmer constitution. Lima's unusually amenable inhabitants give the metropolis the feeling at times of a cluster of smaller towns.

Every part of Lima has its own unique atmosphere. Downtown Lima is crowded and busy, both modern and colonial at the same time. The Plaza Mayor is considered one of the most beautiful plazas in Latin America. Most neighbourhoods around the centre are friendly and green, with many small parks and an unmistakable colonial touch, especially Jesus Maria and Magdalena del Mar.

The other heart of Lima is the uptown shopping and business area, Miraflores. Here you can find stylish avenues and fancy beaches. Close to Miraflores is the romantic village like district of Barranco, overlooking the Pacific.

Accommodation: Casa Andina Standard Miraflores Centro Hotel

08.03.19 Lima

(B)

This morning we have a half day city sightseeing tour of colonial and modern Lima. Included are Lima's most imposing colonial churches and mansions such as the Government Palace, the Plaza Mayor, the City Hall and the Cathedral, including the 17th century San Francisco Monastery. The tour ends with a visit to the modern suburb of San Isidro where we will visit the pre-Inca Pyramid of Huaca Huallamarca before continuing to Miraflores, overlooking the Pacific Ocean.

Accommodation: Casa Andina Standard Miraflores Centro Hotel

09.03.19 Lima - Puerto Maldonado - Refugio Amazonas, Peru

(B/L/D)

This morning we will be met by our guide in the hotel foyer and transferred to Lima Airport for our flight to Puerto Maldonado.

Depart Lima at 9.35am on LA 2075, arriving in Puerto Maldonado at 12.25pm (this flight goes via Cuzco). Upon arrival in Puerto Maldonado Airport we drop off our excess luggage for safekeeping. We then transfer to the Tambopata River Port, entering the native community of Infierno. We then have a 2½ hour boat ride past Infierno and the Tambopata National Reserve's Checkpoint and into the buffer zone of this 1.3 million hectare conservation unit. The boats used for transport are 20 foot long, roofed canoes with outboard motors. What to bring:

- Good binoculars
- Camera gear

- Tight-weave, light coloured long cotton pants
- Long sleeved tight-weave, light coloured cotton shirts
- Ankle high hiking boots and sneakers
- Flashlight with batteries
- Sunblock & sunglasses
- Broad brimmed hat
- Rain suit or poncho
- Insect repellent
- Small denomination bills
- Small daypack

Luggage is hand carried at various stages of the trip for long distances. We strongly recommend you limit your weight to 15 kg.

A remote settlement even for Peru, Puerto Maldonado is a frontier colonist town with strong links to the Cuzco region and a great fervour for bubbly jungle chicha music. With an economy based on gold panning and Brazil nut gathering from the rivers and forests of Madre de Dios, it has grown enormously over the last twenty years. From a small, laid-back outpost of civilisation to a busy market town, it has become the thriving, safe capital.

Refugio Amazonas is our 24 bedroom lodge opened in 2005 and built in a 200 hectare private reserve on the buffer zone of Tambopata National Reserve. The area provides excellent wildlife observation opportunities and a chance to immerse yourself in the local culture while staying in comfortable accommodation.

Upon arrival our lodge manager will welcome us and brief us with important navigation and security tips.

After dinner this evening we head out to the rivers edge and scan the shores in search of the red gleams of reflection from caiman eyes.

Note: There is a Tambopata National Reserve Fee applicable in the amount of USD \$13 per person.

Accommodation: Refugio Amazonas Lodge

10.03.19 (B/L/D)

Refugio Amazonas

A 2 hour hike takes us to Sachavacayoc Lake. We will then paddle around the lake in a catamaran, searching for the resident family of five giant river otters, which are seen by 30% of people who visit the lake. We also have the chance to see other lakeside wildlife such as caiman, hoatzin and horned screamers. We hike out at dawn, when otters are typically active, and then hike back to the lodge.

For those who do not wish to take the long hike, you may prefer to visit Condonado Lake, which is a 30 minute hike from the lodge.

After an included lunch we visit a farm and ethnobotanical garden. Five minutes downriver from the lodge lies a farm owned and managed by charismatic Don Manuel, from the neighbouring community of Condonado. He grows a variety of popular and unknown Amazon crops. Just about every plant and tree we see has a purpose. He has also identified and cultivated many of the medicinal plants used in the region in a little backyard garden.

Later we have an opportunity to hike a few minutes from the lodge to visit a beautiful old growth patch of Brazil nut forest that has been harvested for decades, if not centuries, and where the precarious remains of a camp that was used 2 months of the year by Brazil nut gatherers can be seen. We will explain the entire process from collection and transportation to drying.

After dinner we have a night walk, when most of the mammals are active but rarely seen. We will likely see frogs with shapes and sounds as bizarre as their natural history.

Accommodation: Refugio Amazonas Lodge

11.03.19 Refugio Amazonas

(B/L/D)

This morning we have a 15 minute boat ride and 60 minute walk from Refugio Amazonas to the parrot clay lick, where we will see dozens of parrots and parakeets descend on most clear mornings to ingest the clay on a river bank. Species such as dusky headed and cobalt winged parakeets descend at this clay lick.

Following this we visit a mammal clay lick, which is a twenty minute walk from Refugio Amazonas. Wild rain forest pigs show up in herds of 5 – 20 to eat clay in the late morning. The chances of spotting them are approximately 15%, but well worth the short hike. We may also see other wildlife including deer, guans and parakeets.

After lunch we have a 30 minute walk from Refugio Amazonas to visit the 25 metre scaffolding canopy tower. The tower has been built upon high ground to increase your view of the continuous primary forest extending out towards Tambopata National Reserve. A bannistered staircase running through the middle provides safe access to the platforms above. From here views of bird species can be seen, including toucans, macaws and raptors.

This evening following dinner we have a Tambopata National Reserve lecture. These nightly lectures are prepared by the staff of Refugio Amazonas and cover topics such as conversation threats, and projects in the Tambopata National Reserve.

Accommodation: Refugio Amazonas Lodge

12.03.19 Refugio Amazonas - Puerto Maldonado - Cuzco - Sacred Valley, Peru

(B)

After breakfast we will be transferred by boat and road from the lodge to Puerto Maldonado. We collect our remaining luggage before heading to the airport in time for our flight.

Depart Puerto Maldonado at 12.55pm on LA 2076, arriving in Cuzco at 1.50pm. Upon arrival we are met and transferred to our hotel in the Sacred Valley.

Cuzco or Qosqo, was the capital of the Inca empire, one of the greatest planned societies the world has ever known, from the 11th to the early 16th century. Standing at 3310 metres above sea level, Cuzco has around 280,000 inhabitants, mostly descendants of the Quechua tribes. The city is remarkable for its many colonial churches, monasteries, convents and for its extensive Inca ruins. The heavy Incan influence can be seen on almost every street in the city centre with many remains of Inca walls, arches and doorways.

In the heart of the city is the Plaza de Armas, surrounded by colonial arcades and four churches. The cathedral from the early 17th century was built on the site of the Palace of the Viracocha. The cathedral is a fine example of colonial baroque art. Another church, the La Compania de Jesus was built on the site of the Palace of the Serpents (Amaru-cancha) and the interior is rich in murals, paintings and carved altars.

This evening meet your fellow travellers.

Accommodation: San Agustin Monasterio de la Recoleta Hotel Boutique

Note:

The cost for this Amazon pre-tour extension is \$1,650 per person twin share or \$2,690 single room.

Itinerary for Patagonia Post-Tour Extension

Included meals are indicated as B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner

31.03.19 Santiago – Punta Arenas – Puerto Natales

We have a very early morning transfer to the airport for our flight to Punta Arenas. Depart Santiago at 5.15am on LA 281, arriving in Punta Arenas at 8.40am. Upon arrival we will be met and transferred to the bus terminal for a scheduled bus transfer to Puerto Natales (approximate travel time is 3 hours). Upon arrival in Puerto Natales we are transferred to the hotel for an overnight stay.

The Chilean city of Puerto Natales, capital of the Puerto Natales district, is located 362km from El Calafate, the last city in Argentina. Founded in 1911, Puerto Natales has a population of around 19,000 inhabitants. It is the capital city of the province of Ultima Esperanza and it is situated on the headland of a mild slope. It is the main access to beautiful landscapes such as the world famous Torres del Paine National Park, 'Cueva del Milodon' Natural Monument and Los Glaciares National Park in Argentina. The city has many cafes, restaurants and a casino, the southernmost in the world. It also has small and picturesque stores, a historical museum and many more tempting activities.

Accommodation: Hotel IF Patagonia

01.04.19 Puerto Natales – Torres del Paine National Park

(B/L)

Today we have a full day visit to Torres del Paine National Park and Milodon Cave. At Torres del Paine National Park we admire the wonderful flora and fauna and the beauty of the lakes against the imposing backdrop of the Andes Mountains. The tour includes a visit to the famous Milodon Cave with a boxed lunch and entrance fees for Milodon Cave and Paine National Park. Without a doubt, Paine Towers is one of the most spectacular mountain areas on earth. In the centre of the park is a granite massif from which rise the Torres (Towers) and the Cuernos (Horns) of Paine, oddly shaped peaks of over 2,600 metres. There are 15 peaks in the park above 2,000 metres, the highest of which is Cerro Paine Grande. The valleys are filled with beautiful lakes and the enormous Campo de Hielo Sur Icecap gives the park four main glaciers; Grey, Dickson, Zapata and Tyndall. Two other glaciers descend from the west side of the central massif. There is an abundance of wildlife in the park due to a micro-climate especially favourable to plants and wildlife. There are 105 species of birds including 18 species of waterfowl and 11 birds of prey. Particularly noteworthy are condors (which are quite common), black-necked swans, rheas, kelp geese, ibis, flamingos and austral parrots. There are also 25 species of mammals including guanacos, hares, foxes, huemules (a species of deer), pumas and skunk.

At the conclusion of the day we are transferred to our hotel for a two night stay.

Accommodation: Hosteria Las Torres

02.04.19 Torres del Paine

(B)

Today is at leisure to relax, explore on your own, or enjoy the optional activities offered by the lodge.

Accommodation: Hosteria Las Torres

03.04.19 Torres del Paine – Puerto Natales

(B)

Today we are collected from the hotel and transferred back to Puerto Natales for an

overnight stay.

Accommodation: Hotel IF Patagonia

04.04.19 Torres del Paine - El Calafate

(B)

Today we are transferred to the bus terminal for the scheduled bus service to El Calafate. En route we cross the border into Argentina. Approximate travel time is four hours.

El Calafate is the centre of the tourist network in the deep south of mainland Argentinian Patagonia. It is one of the country's most visited tourist destinations. These offshoot attractions cluster around the tremendous bloated tuber of Lago Argentino, the greatest of all exclusively Argentinian lakes and the third biggest in all of South America. Lago Argentino has a surface area of 1600 square kilometres and is so deep that its temperature remains an almost constant at 8°C year round. When the weather is brighter, the lake soaks up the light of the Patagonian sky to reflect a glorious hue of polarized blue. Most of the lake is surrounded by harsh, rolling steppe, but the scenery becomes more interesting around its western tendrils. Transitional scrub and southern beech woodland press up to its shores and the snow-capped mountains that fringe the Southern Patagonian Icecap rear up behind.

Accommodation: Hosteria Los Hielos

05.04.19 El Calafate

(B)

Today we have a full day tour to Perito Moreno Glacier including the National Park entrance fee. We depart from El Calafate bordering the southern arm of the Argentine Lake to get to Los Glaciares National Park. It is an 80km long bus ride, which means there will be lots of photo opportunities as the bus makes several stops. All the way a guide from Los Glaciares National Park will be with us, giving us all the information about the surroundings, the history and mysticism of this unique glacier. Perito Moreno Glacier is about 30,000 years old. Its surface is 192 square kilometres and the front wall is 5km long, with some of its peaks 80 metres in height. The deep blue base is almost as dark as the water that surrounds it. The deep silence is suddenly interrupted by the tremendous noise of huge pieces of ice that crack from the glacier and fall into the lake to float on the Canal de los Tempanos (Icebergs Channel). The continuous advance of the glacier eventually separates this channel from the rest of the Lake. As the channel is its only communication with the rest of the lakes in the area, the lake grows to reach over 30 metres above its normal level and floods the surrounding areas. Such pressure opens a tunnel in the ice wall forming an arch that eventually collapses in the world famous 'breaking of the glacier'. This spectacle used to take place every 4 years but due to the planet heating it hasn't happened in the last 10 years. In order to get a closer look at this majestic glacier, our boat departs from Port Bajo de las Sombras inside the national park and sails along the Brazo Chico on Argentino Lake towards the Northern Wall of the Perito Moreno glacier. For almost an hour you will sail along the 70m wall getting an amazing view of the falling ice and a superb perspective of the entire glacier.

Accommodation: Hosteria Los Hielos

06.04.19 El Calafate – San Carlos de Bariloche

(B)

Today we are transferred to El Calafate Airport for our flight to Bariloche with Aerolineas Argentinas. Upon arrival we are transferred to the hotel for a two night stay.

Approaching from the north, we can appreciate the mountain backdrop of the holiday capital of Argentinean Patagonia, Bariloche, spread along the dry south eastern shores of Lago Nahuel Huapi. It banks up against the slopes of Cerro Otto, behind which rear

the spiky crests of the Cerro Cathedral Massif. Everything in town faces the lake, an impressive expanse of water that can seem like a benign Mediterranean one moment and a froth of seething whitecaps the next, lashed by the sometimes icy winds.

Please note: There is an ecotax for passengers staying in Bariloche hotels, which varies from 5 – 60 Argentine Pesos per person, per night (approx \$1 - \$3 USD). This amount is payable in cash, directly to the hotel.

Accommodation: Kenton Palace

07.04.19 San Carlos de Bariloche

(B)

Today we have an included 'Circuito Chico' tour. Enjoy a 50km scenic drive skirting Lake Nahuel Huapi, offering vistas of the Andean peaks, including Tronador (Thundered), the highest peak at 3554 metres. The road winds along Lake Moreno to a panoramic point which offers breathtaking views of Lake Moreno, Lake Nahuel Huapi, Victoria Island and the Andes in all their splendour. We will have an opportunity for an optional stop at Cerro Companario to take the chair lift (additional cost) to the summit for a wonderful panorama of the surrounding area.

Accommodation: Kenton Palace

08.04.19 San Carlos de Bariloche – Puerto Varas, Chile

(B)

After breakfast we commence our trip to Puerto Varas, Chile. We cross the Argentine and Chilean Lakes District, the land of snow capped volcanoes, emerald green lakes, set amid beautiful mountains, spectacular waterfalls and friendly villages. After leaving the hotel we travel on a bus to Puerto Panuelo. Upon arrival we board El Condor Catamaran and sail the Blest Branch of Lake Nahuel Huapi. There is time for an optional lunch (not included in cost) at a cosy restaurant. Afterwards we commence our bus trip to Puerto Alegre, which borders the Frias River. We enjoy a short cruise of the lake from where we can see Tronador Hill. Upon arrival at Puerto Frias we clear Argentine customs and proceed by bus through lush Andean vegetation to the Vicente Perez Rosales pass. We proceed through Chilean customs and then have a short ride to board the Lagos Andinos Catamaran. We set out to cross the waters of Todos Los Santos Lake. We then continue by bus to Puerto Varas, travelling past Lake Llanquihue along the way. Upon arrival at the Lakes Crossing Office, we are met and transferred to our hotel.

Please note there is a port tax of US \$8 per person at Puerto Panuelo.

Accommodation: Bellevista Hotel

09.04.19 Puerto Varas – Santiago

(B)

This morning we enjoy a half day city tour of Puerto Montt and Puerto Varas. We drive along Costanera Avenue with a magnificent view of the Reloncavi Bay. We visit the main square facing the monument to the German Settlers, Cathedral Church, from the beginning of the century, Antonio Varas Street, main commercial district, Angelmo fishing village and the regional market. We travel towards the city of Puerto Varas, known as the 'City of Roses'. We pass Mount Calvario, Philippi Park residential districts and the municipal market. Afterwards we are transferred to Puerto Montt Airport for our flights home. Depart Puerto Montt at 7.45pm on LA264, arriving in Santiago at 9.35pm. Transfer to your next flight.

10.04.19 Santiago de Chile – Sydney

Depart Santiago de Chile at 00.55am on flight LA 801, arriving in Sydney at 9.15am the following day (this flight goes via Auckland).

11.04.19 Sydney – Melbourne & Brisbane

Brisbane passengers depart Sydney at 11.00am on Qantas flight QF 520, arriving in Brisbane at 11.30am.

Melbourne passengers depart Sydney at 11.00am on Qantas flight QF 427, arriving in Melbourne at 12.35pm.

Note: The cost for this Patagonia post-tour extension is \$3,475 per person twin share or \$4,820 single room.

Itinerary for Easter Island & Tahiti Post Tour Extension

Included meals are indicated as B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner

31.03.19 Santiago de Chile – Easter Island

You are transferred to the airport for your flight to Easter Island. Depart Santiago de Chile at 9.30am on flight LA 841, arriving in Easter Island at 12.55pm.

Upon arrival into Easter Island, you will be met by our guide and transferred to your hotel. Easter Island is one of the most isolated islands in the world but somehow 1200 years ago a double-hulled canoe filled with seafarers from a distant culture stumbled onto its shores. Over the centuries that followed, a remarkable society developed in isolation on the island. For reasons still unknown, they began carving giant statues out of volcanic rock. These monuments, known as 'moai' are some of the most incredible ancient relics ever discovered.

The people of Easter Island called themselves the Rapa Nui. Where did they come from and why did they disappear? Science has learnt much about the enigma of Easter Island and has put to rest some of the more bizarre theories, but many questions and controversies remain.

This afternoon we will have a half day sightseeing tour of Ahu Akivi, a site of the seven moais overlooking the sea. You will also go sightseeing to the caves of Ana Tepahu, among the largest on the island and Pun-a-Pau quarries on the slopes of a volcano and where the reddish topknots were sculpted.

Note: A yellow fever vaccination is required to visit Easter Island and you must carry your vaccination certificate while travelling.

Also Note: There is an entrance fee for Easter Island, which costs USD \$60 per person and is paid on arrival at the airport.

01.04.19 Easter Island – Papeete, Tahiti

(B/L)

Today enjoy a full day tour of Anakena with a boxed lunch. Visit the archaeological centre of Akahanga, Rano Raraku quarry where all the existing moais were sculpted, over 300 moais in different stages of their completion, Ahu Tongariki, with its archaeological ruins of once the largest platform until washed away by a tidal wave in 1969, Te Pito Kura, Ahu Ngau Ngau, including luncheon on Anakena Beach with its crystalline emerald-green waters.

Afterwards we are transferred to the airport for the flight to Tahiti.

Depart Easter Island at 11.55pm on LA 833, arriving in Papeete at 1.00am (02.04.19).

Upon arrival in Papeete you will be met with a traditional Polynesian welcome and transferred to your hotel.

Accommodation: Manava Suite Resort

02.04.18 Papeete

(B)

Tahiti, often called The Island of Love, is the largest of the 115 islands and atolls that comprise French Polynesia. The 1,042sq.km (402 sq.miles) of Tahiti's surface area consist of mountain peaks reaching over dense rainforest of soft ferns, waterfalls cascade into cool rivers and streams as well as flat coastal areas containing fields of taro and tropical flowers. The beaches on the island of Tahiti vary, you will find black sand beaches on the north east coast and white sand beaches on the south west side of the island. Most of the hotel resorts can be found on the west coast side of the island of Tahiti.

Papeete, the bustling capital of Tahiti and her islands, contains the government offices, hospitals, banks, boutiques and black pearl shops. Papeete is a modern city that hums with happy voices as the daily drama unfolds.

Please note: A local tax of XPF 150 per night, per passenger is to be paid directly to the hotel.

This afternoon we have a half day tour of the Island of Tahiti to discover some of the island's treasures. Highlights of the west coast include Marae Arahurahu, Tahiti's best example of Marae, ancient Polynesian temples and meeting places which is now maintained like a museum. The marae is now used for the re-enactment of old Polynesian ceremonies during the July Heiva Nui celebrations. Another highlight is Vaipahi Garden, which displays a wonderful selection of endemic plants set in a very exotic décor. A lovely waterfall adds to the charm of the place. A charming little boutique displays handycraft items to be purchased for souvenirs and seasonal fruits are also available.

Highlights of the East Coast are Arahoho Blow Hole, a lavatube designed by liquid lava flowing under cold and hard lava, creating a channel. When waves crash against the rocks and enter this channel, the result is a powerful sea water geyser that showers onlookers. Also Venus Point, located in the north on the edge of Matavai Bay, was the special scene of successive landings of European navigators. James Cook named it after the planet in commemoration of the transit of Venus that was observed during one of his scientific voyages to Tahiti. It is also one of the most beautiful black sand beaches in Tahiti.

Taharaa Lookout

Also known as One Tree Hill the Tahaaraa lookout point gives an outstanding 360° view over Tahiti with Moorea in the background. This stop not to be missed for some memorable pictures.

We will also walk along the river to see the Farrumai Waterfalls. At the conclusion of the tour we are returned to the hotel.

Accommodation: Manava Suite Resort

03.04.19 Papeete – Auckland

This morning we are transferred to the airport for our flights home.

Depart Papeete at 9.10am on flight TN 101, arriving in Auckland at 2.05pm the next day (you re-cross the International Date Line).

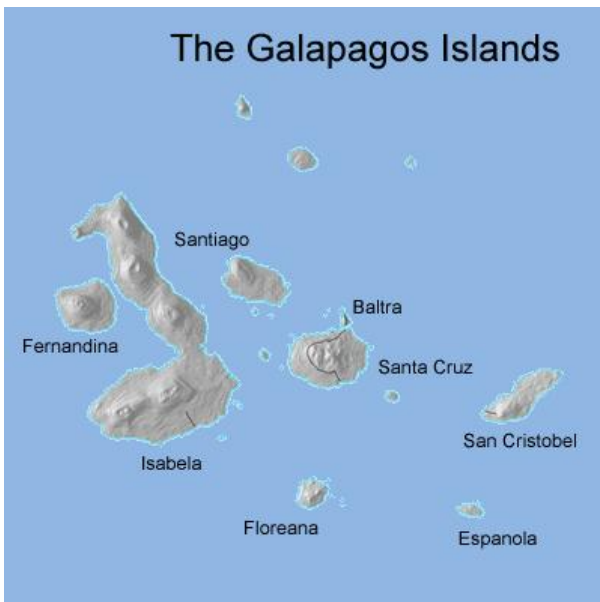
04.04.19 Auckland - Australia

Melbourne passengers depart Auckland at 3.25pm on flight NZ 125, arriving in Melbourne at 5.30pm.

Brisbane passengers depart Auckland at 4.00pm on flight NZ 7396, arriving in Brisbane at 4.35pm.

Sydney passengers depart Auckland at 6.55pm on flight QF 148, arriving in Sydney at 8.35pm.

Note: The cost for this Easter Island and Tahiti post-tour extension is \$1,765 per person twin share or \$2,570 single room.



Tour Difficulty Ratings & Advice

To ensure that you select the right tour for you, Macleay Valley Travel has provided a clear set of tour difficulty and fitness recommendations for our tours. The ratings, from 1, being the easiest, to 5 the most strenuous, will give you a good idea of what is reasonably required for you to be able to participate on each tour. Most tours require a moderate to good level of fitness, however there are others that are quite challenging. For your enjoyment of the tour, and also the enjoyment of your fellow travellers, please consider whether or not the suggested difficulty level for the tour you are interested in is compatible with your health and fitness.

1	2	3	4	5
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Tour Difficulty Level 4

This tour rating typically involves an above average level of physical activity, such as tolerating high altitudes, ascending stairs, getting into a bathtub shower, being responsible for your own luggage at airports and hotels, boarding trains quickly with your luggage, walking distances of up to 2 kilometres at a time over possible uneven ground and/or cobblestone streets. Walking tours of considerable distances should be expected on tours with this rating as well as early departures.

Conditions for Macleay Valley Travel's Essence of South America Tour

Deposits and Payments - A non-refundable deposit of \$600 per person is payable within 7 days of booking. If you are doing the pre-tour Galapagos Islands extension, there is an additional deposit of \$750 per person. These deposits are not refundable should you later cancel. The balance is payable in full 10 weeks prior to departure. Macleay Valley Travel often has to adhere to strict payment deadlines and your booking on the tour may be cancelled if final payment is not received by the due date, with no refund applicable

Refunds and Cancellations - Cancellations after final payment will result in a refund limited to whatever we can recoup from the airline.

Insurance - Adequate travel insurance is essential. We can arrange this for you if desired. Macleay Valley Travel offers Suresave Travel Insurance. Please note that we can only process your travel insurance when we have received full payment for the insurance and the signed Suresave Travel Insurance application form, located on the last page of the Suresave Travel Insurance information booklet. Until this time the travel insurance cannot be processed and will not be valid. Macleay Valley Travel will bare no responsibility for any consequences that may occur as a result of an incomplete insurance application.

Yellow Fever - You will need to have a Yellow Fever injection before departure and you will need to take the yellow card with you when travelling.

Passports - All travellers require a current passport with at least 6 months left on it at the end of the tour. Non-Australian passport holders require a re-entry visa for Australia. A Brazilian Evisa is required at a cost of \$45 USD per person. To obtain the Brazilian Evisa we require a completed questionnaire, a good colour photocopy of the front page of your passport and a recent passport photograph. A Chilean visa reciprocity visa fee applies for Australian passport holders and must be paid for locally on arrival into Chile, at a cost of \$117 USD cash. Please note that these prices are not included in the tour price and conditions for these visas & fees imposed by the respective governments of each country are subject to change.

Basic Tour Price and Taxes - Air taxes and fuel levies are included in the basic tour price if the tour is paid in full on or before the due date on the final invoice. Macleay Valley Travel reserves the right to charge for any increase in air taxes and fuel levies if the tour is not paid in full by the due date.

Not Included in the Cost - All items of a personal nature such as telephone calls, drinks, excess baggage, tips, meals, (except those specified in the itinerary), travel insurance etc. Similarly, credit card payments (Visa/MasterCard) can only be accepted if 1% is added to the price to help defray the heavy merchant fees charged to us by the credit card companies. There is a 2% surcharge for American Express.

The following departure taxes are payable direct at Buenos Aires \$18 USD, La Paz \$28 USD, Rio de Janeiro \$5 USD, Argentina approx \$8.50 USD. **** Please note that these taxes are subject to change**** There are also hotel taxes applicable in some cities on this tour, which must be paid directly to the hotel at the time of stay. Please refer to the itinerary for more information.

Tippling - In South America tips often represent a substantial part of a workers earnings as wages are generally low. We suggest USD \$6 per person, per day for the tour guides and USD \$3 per person, per day for the drivers.

Breakaway Fee - All fully inclusive prices are based on group travel and any deviation from the set itinerary will incur a breakaway fee.

Booking through other Agents - As we keep the cost of our tours as low as possible, there is insufficient margin for us to be able to pay commission to other travel agents, so some bookings can only be accepted if the client pays the other agent's commission.

Accreditation - Macleay Valley Travel is a fully accredited travel agency under the AFTA (Australian Federation of Travel Agents) ATAS - AFTA Travel Accreditation Scheme. As such, you are assured off a consumer focused and quality assured business, ensuring professional conduct and ethical business practices. We are happy for any prospective traveller with us to check us out with your local Consumer Affairs (Fair Trading) department.

Twin Share Bookings - If you do not have a travel partner, but wish to travel at twin share rates, we will try and assign you with another traveller but this is not guaranteed. We assign passengers by their gender, on a first come, first served basis and do not assign twin share passengers according to their age, profession, interests etc. There are risks with sharing a room with a person you do not know, and Macleay Valley Travel accepts no responsibility if you are incompatible with your assigned room mate. Additionally, if you are assigned a travelling companion to share with and they cancel off the tour prior to making the final payment, then you will either be required to pay the single room supplement or we will try our best to assign you with another twin share passenger, if one is available.

Limitation of Liability - As Macleay Valley Travel acts only as agent for the Airlines, Hotels, Coach Companies etc., providing accommodation, transportation and other services, Macleay Valley Travel shall not be liable or responsible for death or injury to any person or loss or damage to any property including baggage arising out of or connection with any transportation, accommodation or other services, or resulting directly or indirectly from acts of God, fire, breakdown in machinery or equipment, acts of Government or other authorities, de jure or defacto wars, whether declared or not, hostilities, civil disturbances, strikes, riots, thefts, epidemics, quarantines, medical or customs regulations, delays or cancellations caused by changes in schedules or itinerary, or over bookings or defaults or for any causes beyond Macleay Valley Travel's control or any loss or damage resulting from improper or insufficient passports, visas or other documents and neither Macleay Valley Travel, and its servants or employees shall be or become liable or responsible for any additional expenses or liability sustained or incurred by the tour member as a result of the foregoing causes. Additionally you must meet the entry requirements for each country you visit. Macleay Valley Travel will not be liable if you are denied entry to a country for any reason, including a past criminal history. Macleay Valley Travel reserves the right to decline bookings made for any group tour. Any tour booking confirmation is conditional, contingent on our view of the ability of a person to be able to participate in a tour without the likelihood of conflict between members of a tour whether perceived or actual.

Macleay Valley Travel reserves the right to modify the itinerary or the accommodation if circumstances make this necessary, provided that the amended itinerary is of equal value or greater value than that of the original program.

MACLEAY VALLEY TRAVEL - BOOKING FORM

PLEASE PRINT DETAILS CLEARLY IN BLOCK LETTERS AND ALSO

A PHOTOCOPY OF YOUR PASSPORT MUST BE SENT WITH BOOKING FORM

Name of Tour : _____ Departure Date: _____

Passenger 1 (as written in passport) _____

Title: **Mr. Mrs. Ms. Miss. Dr.** _____ Age: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Passenger 2 (as written in passport) _____

Title: **Mr. Mrs. Ms. Miss. Dr.** _____ Age: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Postal Address: _____

_____ **PostCode** _____ **Email** _____

Telephone / Fax Number: _____ **Mobile** _____

Passport Number: _____ Expiry Date: _____

Passport Number: _____ Expiry Date: _____

Passport Nationality: _____ Preferred Name: _____

Passport Nationality _____ Preferred Name: _____

(Passport must have 6 months validity from the time of tour completion)

Single room / Twin beds / Double bed: (Room type is subject to availability)

Circle which airport you wish to depart from: SYDNEY / MELBOURNE / BRISBANE

Special Dietary Requests – Passenger 1: _____ Passenger 2: _____

Optional Extensions: _____

Would you like receive details of our travel insurance?: YES / NO (Please Circle)

Any existing medical conditions – Passenger 1: _____ Passenger 2: _____

In case of emergency, please notify :

Name: _____ Relationship: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Please return this sheet with your non-refundable deposit of \$600 per person.

DECLARATION: I have read and understand fully the booking conditions and I accept them.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

A copy of passport is required to verify spelling of name; If this is not provided and the information we have for the airline is incorrect and ticket is issued, then the airline will charge a reissue fee.