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The Essence of South America Tour

22 Day Conducted Tour

for **\$10,995** per person twin share

This price includes airport taxes and levies

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 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 12 or more Macleay Valley Travel tour participants there will be an Australian tour escort.



If you don't have someone to twin share with, we will do our best to assign with another traveller, but this is not guaranteed. A single room is an extra \$1,730

There is an optional 6 day pre tour Galapagos Islands extension available for an additional \$5,260 per person twin share or \$7,450 single room.

There is also an optional pre tour Amazon extension available for an additional \$1,185 per person twin share of \$1,767 single room.

Tour departs on Australia 9th October and returns 31st October 2016

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

09.10.16 Australia - Santiago de Chile - Lima, Peru

Brisbane passengers depart at 5.30am on Qantas flight QF 503, arriving in Sydney at 8.05am. Melbourne passengers depart at 6.00am on Qantas flight QF 400, arriving in Sydney at 7.20am. All passengers depart Sydney at 10.55am on Lan Airlines flight LA 800, arriving in Santiago de Chile at 2.20pm. (This flight goes via Auckland). All passengers then depart Santiago at 4.10pm on LA 2632, 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 we can find stylish avenues and fancy beaches. Close to Miraflores is the romantic, village-like district of Barrananco, overlooking the Pacific.

Accommodation: Jose Antonio Hotel Miraflores

10.10.16 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. Afterwards we are transferred to the airport for our flight to Cuzco. Upon arrival in Cuzco we are met and 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 altitude it is advised to 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 site www.high-altitude-medicine.com

Accommodation: Hotel Boutique San Agustin Monasterio de la Recoleta

11.10.16 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.

During this tour we will have the chance 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 12th October 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: Hotel Boutique San Agustin Monasterio de la Recoleta

12.10.16 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, which is perched on a narrow saddle of rock high above a hairpin curve of the Urubamba. 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'. 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 Sanctuary Lodge Restaurant. After lunch there is free time to wander around the ruins. Then we transfer by bus to the town of Aguas Calientes for an overnight stay.

Accommodation: Inkaterra El Mapi Hotel

13.10.16 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. 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 Classic Cathedral Cuzco

14.10.16 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 you stop in Cuzco you 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 as a Cultural Heritage Site.

The half day city tour includes the Qoricancha (Temple of the Sun) and the cathedral. The tour drives along the Circunvalacion Road up to the famous fortress of Sacsahuaman, then to Q'enqo, Puca Pucara and Tambomachay. Our tourist tickets are also valid for the entrance to many museums and ruins.

Accommodation: Casa Andina Classic Catedral Cuzco

15.10.16 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 the first class 'Andean Explorer'. The Andean Explorer is exquisitely decorated in the fine manner of the great Pullman trains of the 1920's and boasts a full fleet of refurbished coaches including dining cars and an open-air observation bar car, which is unique in South America. 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. The glass-walled observation car provides the perfect opportunity to view the beautiful scenery. 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. In the outskirts, you can visit the spectacular Chullpas de Sillustani, a complex of impressive burial towers built by the Kollas, Juli, famous for its beautiful colonial churches, Lampa with its vice royal church built between 1675 and 1685, Llachon, a community that still maintains its centuries old customs and cultural expressions and Pucara, known for its pre-Inca pottery and for the 'toritos de Pucara' that the artisans of today create from clay.

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.

Upon arrival at Puno station we are met and transferred to our hotel.

Accommodation: Sonesta Posada del Inca Hotel

16.10.16 Puno, Peru

(B) Half day tour to Uros Islands to experience the Andean culture. The lives of the Uros Indians

are dependent upon the tortora reeds. You will note that 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: Sonesta Posada del Inca Hotel

17.10.16 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 he will be happy to share his 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, the traditional medicine 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. We take a catamaran cruise ship to Chua Harbour, then a land transfer to La Paz city. On arrival we will be transferred to our hotel.

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. 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: Europa Hotel

18.10.16 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 a typical Indian market, the famous Witch Doctor's Market and the San Francisco Colonial Church. The tour continues to the Plaza Murillo where the Cathedral, the Government Palace and the National Congress 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 La Florida. The tour ends with a visit to the unique Moon Valley where rose coloured volcanic rock formations can be seen.

Accommodation: Europa Hotel

19.10.16 La Paz - Santiago de Chile

(B) This morning we are transferred to the airport for our flight to Santiago, via Lima.

Upon our afternoon 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: Atton El Bosque Hotel

20.10.16 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.

Accommodation: Atton El Bosque Hotel

21.10.16 Santiago de Chile - Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

(B) After breakfast we will make our way back to the airport for our flight to Rio de Janeiro. Please note that you will require your yellow fever vaccination book for this flight. On arrival at Rio de Janeiro, we will be met and transferred to our hotel.

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 Brazil.

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 Excelsior Copacabana

22.10.16 Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

(B/D) Today our tour begins through downtown Rio, passing by the Sambodrome, 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 be taken to the neighbourhoods 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.

Before enjoying the dazzling nightlife of Rio, feast on a scrumptious all you can eat 'churrasco' (Gaucho BBQ), including an irresistible buffet of seafood and typical Brazilian dishes.

After enjoying dinner, we are transferred to the second highlight of the night, the most famous show of Rio. During this traditional show, we will get acquainted with the seductive rhythm of the samba, which is the most typical of Brazilian popular music and the signature music of the best known carnival in the world.

Accommodation: Windsor Excelsior Copacabana

23.10.16 Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

(B) 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 the Pepino Beach from where we can see hang gliding.

Accommodation: Windsor Excelsior Copacabana

24.10.16 Rio de Janeiro - Iguazu Falls

(B) Today we will be transferred to the airport in Rio de Janeiro for our flight to Iguazu Falls. This is the region of the 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 yacaras (caimans). A visit to these falls is an unforgettable experience.

On arrival at Foz do Iguassu Airport (Brazil), we are met by our guide and transferred by bus to the Brazilian side of the falls to start our tour.

Visiting the falls from the Brazilian side will give a different perspective and a panoramic view of the entire falls. Also from the Brazilian side of the falls you will be able 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. Afterwards we are transferred across the border via the International Bridge 'Tancredo Neves' to the Argentine side of the falls and then to your hotel. Remember to have your passport ready when passing the Argentine/Brazilian border.

Note: Australian passport holders are required to pay a reciprocity fee of \$100 USD per person. The payment of this fee is not a visa, but is required to be applied for on the internet before entering Argentina. Payment is by credit card only.

Accommodation: Raices Esturion Hotel

25.10.16 Iguazu Falls, Argentina

(B) Today we will embark on a full 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 driving 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: Raices Esturion Hotel

26.10.16 Iguazu Falls - Buenos Aires, Argentina

(B) Today we are transferred to Iguazu Airport on the Argentinean side for our flight to Buenos Aires with Lan Airlines. On arrival at Aeroparque Airport, 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. Just one hour from the city by bus is La Pampa with its beautiful landscape, its gauchos and its comfortable ranches.

Accommodation: Novotel, Buenos Aires

27.10.16 Buenos Aires

(B/D) Today there is 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 Palermo Chico residential district and Palermo 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.

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 travel through time to the glory days of Buenos Aires when tango was enjoyed and breathed in every corner of the city.

After dinner we are transferred back to the hotel.

Accommodation: Novotel, Buenos Aires

28.10.16 Buenos Aires

(B) 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.

Accommodation: Novotel, Buenos Aires

29.10.16 Buenos Aires - Santiago

(B) Today we will be met by our guide and transferred to the airport for our flights home. Depart Buenos Aires at 8.20pm on LA 480, arriving in Santiago de Chile at 9.40pm.

30.10.16 Santiago - Australia

Depart Santiago at 12.55am on LA 801, arriving in Sydney at 9.05am the next morning (31.10.16 - This flight goes via Auckland).

31.10.16 Sydney – Melbourne & Brisbane

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

Brisbane passengers depart Sydney at 11.05am on Qantas flight QF 520, arriving in Brisbane at 11.35am.

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

Itinerary for Galapagos Islands Pre-Tour Extension

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

02.10.16 Australia - Santiago de Chile - Guayaquil, Ecuador

Brisbane passengers depart at 8.25am on Qantas flight QF 513, arriving in Sydney at 11.00am.

Melbourne passengers depart at 9.00am on Qantas flight QF 418, arriving in Sydney at 10.25am.

All passengers then depart Sydney at 12.30pm on Lan Airlines flight LA 806, arriving in Santiago de Chile at 11.10am (this flight is operated by Qantas). All passengers then depart Santiago at 5.35pm on LA 1446, arriving in Guayaquil, Ecuador at 9.15pm. Upon arrival we are met and transferred to our hotel.

Guayaquil is the most densely populated city in Ecuador, estimated at 2,500,000 inhabitants, and is the capital of the Province of Guayas. The weather is tropical-humid with an average temperature of 25 degrees. The city was founded by Francisco de Orellana in 1537 and is the largest and most important port on Ecuadorian shores, bustling with commercial activity.

The city truly pays a tribute to gastronomy, the most famous of which is the jumbo shrimp as well as a wide variety of seafood with prawns, lobster, crabs, fish and oysters among the most popular. Several of the best known beaches of Ecuador lie a few kilometres from Guayaquil, such as Salinas, Punta Carnero and Playas General Villamil, which are all resting and recreation places for national and foreign tourists to enjoy.

Accommodation: Oro Verde Hotel

03.10.16 Guayaquil - Legend Galapagos Cruise

(B) 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.

A 45 minute bus ride will take us 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. Additionally, travellers can walk inside lava tubes and visit Pit Craters created from the collapse of surface materials into chamber fissures underground. It's a great place to spot the Vermilion Flycatcher as we walk inside an endemic Scalesia forest.

Difficulty level - Easy

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

Duration - 45 minute drive / 1.5 hour walk

Please note: The admission fee to the Galapagos National Park is USD \$100 per person and must be paid in cash on arrival. A Galapagos National Institute Migration Control Card (INGALA) must also be paid on arrival at a cost of USD \$20 per person. These amounts are subject to change and cannot be prepaid.

04.10.16 Legend Galapagos Cruise

(B/L/D) Santiago Island. Wet Landing.

We land on a beach of black volcanic sand, visited by Darwin in 1835. The first section of the trail is comprised of volcanic ash (eroded tuff) and the other half of partially uneven terrain is comprised of volcanic basaltic rock along the shoreline. The unique, truly striking layered terrain of Santiago's shores is home to a variety of resident and migrant birds, including the bizarre Yellow Crowned Night Heron and an astounding array of marine wildlife including lobster, starfish and marine iguanas, grazing on algae beds alongside Sally Light-foot Crabs. Colonies of endemic fur seals swimming in cool water pools formed by volcanic rocks are also a highlight. Snorkelling here offers rarities such as octopus and squid. We can also organise optional visits to the Salt Mines where you can observe the two species of sea lions, Fur and Galapagos.

Difficulty level - Intermediate

Type of terrain - Flat and semi-rocky

Duration - 1.5 hour walk / 1 hour snorkelling

If Salt Mines are chosen

Duration - 2.5 hour walk / 30 minute snorkelling

Bartolome Island. Dry Landing.

We discover a fascinating moonscape formed by different volcanic parasitic cones (lava bombs, spatter and cinder cones) as we hike to the summit for impressive views of the surrounding islands, including the eroded tuff cone Pinnacle Rock. We also encounter marine iguanas and lava lizards. Beach time is a great opportunity to snorkel and see (perhaps swim with) Galapagos Penguins, sea turtles and White-tipped Reef Sharks and a great variety of colourful fish. For many visitors this may turn out to be the best snorkelling experience. The water here is generally clear without too much surf, and full of marine life. Due to its geographical location, the lack of vegetation is immediately noticeable. Pioneer plants are observed, so called because they are the first to establish

roots on new ground. They include *Tiquilia nesiotica*, which is endemic to the island and *Chamaesyce*, (which in English is known as sand mat or spurge), lava cactus and *Scalesia* bushes. Behind the beach we have dunes covered by mangroves.

Difficulty level - Intermediate

Type of terrain - A trail made of steps (370 steps)

Duration - 1.5 hour walk / 1 hour snorkelling

05.10.16 Legend Galapagos Cruise

(B/L/D) Santa Cruz Island. Dry Landing.

We walk by a brackish lagoon where feeding flamingos can be occasionally found. The trail leads across typical dry zone vegetation, up to Dragon Hill, an important nesting ground for endemic land iguanas, offering lovely views of the anchorage and neighbouring islands. The forest is home to mocking birds, Darwin's finches, Yellow Warblers and Galapagos Doves.

Difficulty level - Intermediate

Type of terrain - Rocky

Duration - 2 hour walk

North Seymour Island. Dry Landing.

This is perhaps one of the busiest tourist destinations on the archipelago. Off Baltra Island (where the airport is located) and not far from Santa Cruz, North Seymour is the most accessible for day trips out of the main port of Santa Cruz, Puerto Ayora. We have approximately a two hour walk amidst large nesting colonies of Blue-footed Boobies, magnificent and great frigatebirds and swallow-tailed gulls for an in depth encounter with sea bird breeding cycles, as well as sea lions. We will also encounter land iguanas and on a lucky day we might even come across a Galapagos Snake.

Difficulty level - Intermediate

Type of terrain - Rocky

Duration - 2 hour walk

06.10.16 Galapagos Islands - Quito, Ecuador

(B) Bachas Beach (Santa Cruz Island), Wet Landing.

On the north side of Santa Cruz, behind the beach, lie two small flamingo ponds with iguanas, coastal birds, Darwin finches, mockingbirds and gulls, as well as interesting native and endemic vegetation, red and black mangroves, salt bushes and much more. This beach is one of the main nesting sites of sea turtles in the Galapagos. A female can lay eggs three or four times a year with an average of 70 eggs each, but then spends 3 - 5 years without breeding. At this paradisiacal site we will also find the remains of barges that sank long ago, once property of the United States Navy when they operated an airbase on Baltra Island during World War II. This is why the beach is called 'Bachas', because the word 'barges' in English was hard for the local people to pronounce.

Difficulty level - Easy

Type of terrain - Sandy

Duration - 1 hour walk / 1 hour snorkelling

Afterwards we disembark the MV Galapagos Legend and transfer to the airport for our flight to the mainland (Quito). Please note the luggage requirements for this flight is restricted to 20kg per passenger. Upon arrival in Quito we are met and transferred to our hotel.

Quito is the capital of Ecuador and of Pichincha, the country's most populous Andean province. Quito is situated 116 miles from the Pacific Coast at an altitude of 9,350 feet and is just south of the Equator. It has a pleasant climate that can be described as a "permanent spring". The city is one of the oldest in South America and is built in a small basin on the

lower slopes of Cerro Pichincha, a volcano that last erupted in 1666. Formerly the capital of the ancient kingdom of Quito and for several decades, prior to its occupation by Spaniards in 1534, it was a second (northern) capital of the Inca empire. Quito, more than any other South American capital, has preserved its colonial atmosphere, with squares, fountains, public buildings and houses built in the typical Spanish or Moorish style. Most attractive is the main square, Plaza Mayor, with its seventeenth-century cathedral, government palaces, municipal hall and other buildings. Quito is well known for its many small workshops producing native arts and for its outdoor Indian markets. Accommodation: Patio Andaluz Hotel

07.10.16 Quito, Ecuador

(B) Today we will have guided sightseeing of the Old City, starting with Guapulo, La Compania churches and San Francisco Monastery. Then continue to the Cathedral, the Presidential Palace, then to El Panecillo Hill with the statue of the Virgin Mary where we can appreciate the view of the entire city. We will then visit the Equatorial Monument for a visit to the Ethnographic Museum and a chance to stand in the two hemispheres at once. Afterwards we return to the hotel. Accommodation: Patio Andaluz Hotel

08.10.16 Quito, Ecuador

(B/L) Today we will be visiting one of the most famous markets in South America. Ponchos, wooden goods, jewellery and Indian handicrafts are sold here. The market is centred around 'Poncho Plaza'. All day long, the whirl of cotton candy machines, Andean pipe music and Quichua, the native tongue derived from the Incan tongue, drift across the square. A blinding maze of coloured textiles spills from the square out across town, encompassing the area between Quito, Calderon and Bolivar. As we stroll the streets we can find everything from clothing to armadillo shell guitars, wall hangings to ceramic fried eggs. Don't restrict yourself to Poncho Plaza, as you'll probably get better bargains away from the main square (the more items you buy, the lower the prices you can haggle) and the goods on display start to diversify as the market weaves its way through the side streets. On the stretch of Jaramillo between Quito and Quiroga, mothers and infants share the street with geese, puppies, pigeons and cuyes (guinea pig - a popular local food). Down on Quiroga (in front of the Plaza de Toros), the ponchos and babywear are supplanted by potted plants, skinned calf heads and bleating goat herds. The northern edge of the textile market is bounded by Calderon, where salesmen extolling the joy of tupperware stand between stalls of snakeskin, herbal remedies, and bars of magical soap used to ward off jealousy. There may also be the option of visiting the wood carving centre of San Antonio de Ibarra. In the afternoon we will visit Cotacachi city, which is famous for leather goods and then return to Quito. Accommodation: Patio Andaluz Hotel

09.10.16 Quito - Lima, Peru

(B) This morning we are transferred to Quito airport for our flight to Lima, Peru. Upon arrival in Lima we are met and transferred to the hotel. This evening meet your fellow travellers. Accommodation: Jose Antonio Hotel Miraflores

Note: The cost for this Galapagos Islands pre-tour extension is \$5,260 per person twin share or \$7,450 single room. 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

05.10.16 Australia - Santiago de Chile - Lima, Peru

Depart Brisbane at 5.30am on QF 503, arriving in Sydney at 8.05am.

Depart Melbourne at 6.00am on QF 400, arriving in Sydney at 7.25am.

Depart Sydney at 9.55am on LA 800, arriving in Santiago de Chile at 12.10pm.

Depart Santiago de Chile at 2.00pm on LA 642, arriving in Lima at 4.55pm.

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: Jose Antonio Executive

06.10.16 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 and on-site museum before continuing to Miraflores, overlooking the Pacific Ocean.

Accommodation: Jose Antonio Executive

07.10.16 Lima - Puerto Maldonado - Posada Amazonas, Peru

(B/L/D)

This morning we will be met by our guide from 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. Upon arrival in Puerto Maldonado Airport we drop off our excess luggage at the local office in town for safekeeping. We then transfer to the port for our 45 minute boat transfer to the lodge. 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
- 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 Cusco 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.

Posada Amazonas is a 30 bedroom lodge owned by the local community of Infierno and managed with Rainforest Expeditions. Located within the territory of the Infierno Community and built within the 2,000 hectare, private communal reserve, which is also directly adjacent to the Tambopata National Reserve. Thanks to its location and accessibility to nearby reserves, Posada Amazonas provides excellent wildlife observation opportunities and a chance to immerse yourself in the local culture while staying in comfortable accommodation. It is an ideal 2 night introduction to the Amazon.

After a brief welcome, we will be shown our rooms and taken on our first excursion along the canopy tower. We walk for approximately twenty minutes through the forest to reach the canopy. Here a bannistered staircase runs through the middle to provide safe access to the platforms above. From atop we will have spectacular views of the vast expanses of standing forest with the Tambopata River winding through the middle. Now and then toucans, parrots or macaws can be seen flying against the horizon. Return to the lodge for dinner and an ecotourism lecture. These guided talks explaining our surroundings are held daily.

Accommodation: Posada Amazonas Jungle Lodge

08.10.16 Posada Amazonas

(B/L/D)

After breakfast we will visit the Tres Chimbadas oxbow lake. After a 30 minute boat ride and 45 minute hike we will board the catamaran to explore the lake. There is a resident family of nine giant river otters living here (60% of lake visitors see them) and other wildlife such as caimans, hoatzin and horned screamers to look for. Return to the lodge for lunch before embarking on our afternoon outing. We visit the community's ethno botanical centre. The Centro Nape is a communal organisation that produces medicines out of forest plants and administers them to patients who choose their little clinic. They have produced a trail which explains the different medicinal and other uses of selected plants.

Return to Posada Amazonas for dinner. You may wish to join an optional night walk to look for amphibians and insects. Mammals are active but rarely seen at this time.

Accommodation: Posada Amazonas Jungle Lodge

09.10.16 Posada Amazonas

(B/L/D)

At dawn we will head out 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. This clay lick is most active at dawn and in the late morning and mid afternoon and species of Mealy and Yellow headed Amazon, Blue-headed parrots as well as Dusky Parakeets are known to frequent here.

After breakfast we will embark on a two hour hike crowned by the largest tree in the vicinity, a giant ceiba tree. During the hike, the specialist guides will focus on the

natural history of the rainforest and its principal taxonomic groups. After lunch we will visit a farm in the community of Infierno. The owner grows a diverse variety of popular and unknown Amazon crops. In his garden, just about every plant and tree serves a purpose. Dinner this evening is at the lodge.

Accommodation: Posada Amazonas Jungle Lodge

10.10.16 Posada Amazonas - Puerto Maldonado - Cuzco - Sacred Valley, Peru

(B)

After breakfast we will be transferred by boat from the lodge to Tambopata River Port. From here we will be transferred back to the office to pick up 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 and 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.

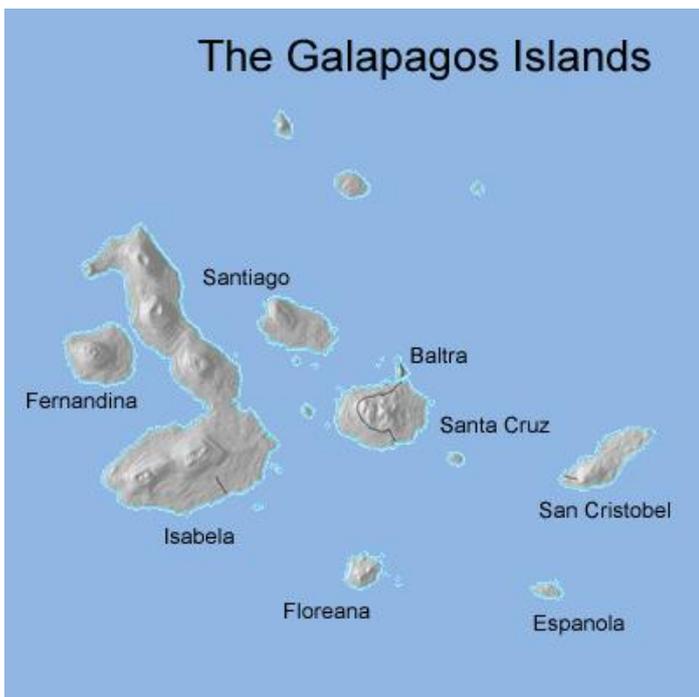
In the heart of the city is the Plaza de Armas, surrounded by colonial arcades and four churches. The cathedral from the early 17th century was built on the site of the Palace of the Viracocha. The cathedral is a fine example of colonial baroque art. Another church, the La Compania de Jesus was built 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: Hotel Boutique San Agustin Monasterio de la Recoleta

Note:

The cost for this Amazon pre-tour extension is \$1,185 per person twin share or \$1,767 single room



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 13 weeks prior to departure.

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 bear 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 visa is required at a cost of \$216 plus \$30 processing fee. The Brazilian Consulate requires a minimum of 30 working days to process a visa application, not including postage time. To obtain your Brazilian visa the Consulate requires a copy of a current bank statement covering at least one month from a savings account which has a minimum of \$2,500.

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. An Argentinean visa reciprocity fee is also required and needs to be completed online prior to entering Argentina at a cost of \$100 USD. Payment for this can only be made by credit card. 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 can only be accepted if 2% is added to the price to help defray the heavy merchant fees charged to us by the credit card companies. 3% surcharge for Diners Club. 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.****

Tipping - 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.

Galapagos Islands Extension - If you are doing the pre-tour Galapagos extension, there is an admission fee to the Galapagos National Park of USD \$100 per person and must be paid in cash on arrival. A Galapagos National Institute Migration Control Card (INGALA) must also be paid on arrival at a cost of USD \$10 per person. These amounts are subject to change and cannot be prepaid.

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 of 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.

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: _____

Passport Nationality _____

(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

Do you have any existing medical conditions?: _____

Special Dietary Requests: _____

Optional Extensions: _____

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

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.