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Latin Rendezvous Tour of South America

23 Day Conducted Tour

for **\$10,925** 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 Buenos Aires, Argentina and out of Santiago de Chile with Latam Airlines and Qantas plus all flights within South America.
- ❖ A superb tour of South America by plane, coach and rail, visiting Argentina, Brazil, Peru and Chile. Some of the many highlights you will be seeing are:
Peru: Machu Picchu and Lake Titicaca
Cuzco: the Sacred Valley
Brazil: Christ the Redeemer and Iguazu Falls
Chile: the incredible Atacama Desert
- ❖ Good accommodation throughout, mainly 3 to 4 star.
- ❖ Meals as per the itinerary, many entry fees and park fees.
- ❖ Prepaid gratuities to the main guides and drivers.
- ❖ All transport and transfers.
- ❖ South American tour guides and if there are 10 or more tour participants there will be a 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 \$2,045.

There is a post tour Galapagos Islands extension also available for \$3,470 per person twin share, or \$5,370 in a single room.



Tour departs on Australia 2nd August and returns 24th August 2020

We try harder to find you the best travel deal

Itinerary for Latin Rendezvous Tour to South America

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

02.08.20 Australia - Santiago de Chile – Buenos Aires

Brisbane passengers depart at 6.40am on Qantas flight QF 503, arriving in Sydney at 8.15am. Melbourne passengers depart at 7.00am on Qantas flight QF 410, arriving in Sydney at 8.25am.

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 2.45pm on LA 7891, arriving in Buenos Aires at 5.45pm. Upon arrival we are met and transferred to the hotel.

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

03.08.20 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). We may also see the surrounding buildings including 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. Then on to Recoleta, an elegant district, to visit Recoleta Cemetery where the famous are laid to rest (including Eva Peron). We 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

04.08.20 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.

Tonight we will experience a Tango show in Buenos Aires. We will have a one hour Tango lesson, including dinner and show.

After dinner we are transferred back to the hotel.

Accommodation: Intersur Recoleta

05.08.20 Buenos Aires – 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 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:** 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

06.08.20 Rio de Janeiro

- (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 Pepino Beach from where we can see hang gliding.
- Accommodation: Windsor Martinique Copa Hotel

07.08.20 Rio de Janeiro

- (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

08.08.20 Rio de Janeiro - Iguazu Falls

- (B) Today we will be transferred to the airport in Rio de Janeiro for our flight to Iguazu Falls. 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 wonderful perspective and a panoramic view of the entire falls. From the Brazilian side of the falls we 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 to our hotel.
- Accommodation: Recanto Cataratas Thermas Resort & Convention

09.08.20 Iguazu Falls, Argentina – Lima, Peru

- (B) Today we will cross into Argentina. Please remember to have your passport ready when passing the Argentine/Brazilian border. Here we commence 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.
- Afterwards we are transferred back into Brazil and travel to the airport for our flight to Lima, Peru. Upon arrival into Lima airport we make our way to the hotel located just across the road from the airport terminal. We can access the entrance of the hotel via the bridge between the airport and the terminal. The hotel is located on the first floor.
- Accommodation: Costa Del Sol Wyndham Lima Airport

10.08.20 Lima - Cuzco - Sacred Valley, Peru

- (B) This morning we will fly to Cuzco. Upon arrival we are transferred to our hotel in the Sacred Valley. If timing permits we will also visit the Awanacancha Weaving Centre and farm, which is known for its llama and alpaca wool.
- The Sacred Valley of the Incas was undoubtedly a key area of settlement to the Incas. Its agreeable climate and fertile plains make a rare and fruitful combination for the high Andes. It was also the route to the jungle and therefore an area with access to the fruits and plants of the tropical lowlands.
- The Sacred Valley served as a buffer zone, protecting Cuzco from incursions of the Antis, the fierce jungle tribes who from time to time raided the highlands. Today the Sacred Valley remains a lush agricultural region supplying the city of Cuzco with much of its produce such as maize, fruit and vegetables.
- 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 Hotel Urubamba

11.08.20 Urubamba (Sacred Valley)

(B/L) Today's first destination is Chinchero, a quaint little town that houses an important Inca archaeological centre, built at the end of the 1400's as well as a lovely and very traditional church. We will visit Urpi, a famous textile centre where the townsfolk have preserved the traditional Andean spinning and weaving techniques. They will also show us how they get the vivid natural colours for their fabrics. On our way to Ollantaytambo, we will stop at the lookout point of Racchi, where we will have the chance to have some of the best views of the Sacred Valley. This is followed by an included lunch at a local restaurant.

We then reach Ollantaytambo, one of the most monumental architectural complexes of the ancient Inca Empire and one of the few places where the Spanish conquistadors lost a major battle. Very well known for its 'andenes' (terraces dug into the slopes of mountains for agricultural purposes), Ollantaytambo was a highly effective fortress that also served as a temple. Then, we will continue to the adjacent town of Ollantaytambo, 'the unique living Inca town' the best surviving example of Inca city planning, with narrow cobblestone streets that have been continuously inhabited since the 13th century. At the end of our tour we return to our hotel in the Sacred Valley.

NOTE: On the 12th August 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 Hotel Urubamba

12.08.20 Urubamba - Machu Picchu

(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.

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

13.08.20 Machu Picchu - Cuzco

(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 Vista Dome train to Cuzco. Upon arrival 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: Royal Inca II by Xima Hotels

14.08.20 Cuzco

(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, where the Order of the Dominicans built an incredible church. 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: Royal Inca II by Xima Hotels

15.08.20 Cuzco – Puno

(B/L) This morning we begin our journey from Cuzco to Puno by bus (approximate travel time is 7 – 8 hours). Enroute we visit the Church of Andahuaylillas, also called the 'Sistine Chapel of America', the Pikillacta ruins and of the temple of Raqchi. The remains of the central high wall of the Viracocha Temple, probably the largest roofed building built by the Incas, are impressive. On either side of the high wall, great sloping roofs were supported by rows of unusual round pillars, also of masonry topped by abode. Nearby are the remains of large living quarters and many round store-houses. The whole complex is surrounded by a large stone wall several miles long. A stop is made at La Raya Pass, at 4,321 metres to visit the steaming pools of hot water nearby. The trip continues toward Puno with a stop at the Inca Ruins of Pucara. We have a buffet lunch at a local restaurant in Sicuani and arrive in Puno in the afternoon. 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.

Upon arrival in Puno we are transferred to our hotel for a two night stay.

Accommodation: Casa Andina Standard Puno

16.08.20 Puno (Lake Titicaca)

(B/L) Today we have a full day 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 tortora 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 Standard Puno

17.08.20 Puno (Lake Titicaca) - Lima

(B) Today we are transferred to the airport for our flight to Lima. In the afternoon we have a city tour to visit the modern and colonial part of the city of Lima, known as the 'City of Kings' starting with the districts of Miraflores and San Isidro before heading to the Historic Centre. Once there we will visit the Main Square, where we can take pictures of the amazing colonial architecture that surrounds it. Then walk to the Chocolate Museum to have an exquisite experience with Peruvian cocoa. Afterwards we visit the impressive Convent of Santo Domingo. We will pass through Huaca Huallamarca and reach Miraflores. We will see the Love Park and can take stunning photos of the landscape of the Lima coast. Accommodation: Casa Andina Standard Miraflores Centro Hotel

18.08.20 Lima – Calama – San Pedro de Atacama, Chile

(B) This morning we are transferred to the airport for our flight to Calama in Chile. Upon arrival we are met and transferred to San Pedro de Atacama. Because of its unique location in the middle of the Atacama Desert and on the banks of the River Loa, Calama has always been a mandatory stopping place for travellers heading for the villages of the High Plateau. Calama is located at what used to be the junction of the Inca of Cobja's Road leading to Upper Peru and the Arequipa Copiapo Road. From the city to the High Plateau there is an enormous number of towns and villages of special beauty and archaeological importance to visit. At kilometre marker 33 on the international road leading to Bolivia is the town of Chiu Chiu, which was founded by the Spanish and possesses the most beautiful church in the region. Very close by is the Pukara de Lasana, a fortress town of Inca origin dating from the 12th century with its narrow lanes and buildings of stone. About ninety kilometres to the southwest of Calama on the northern edge of the Atacama Salt Flat, lies San Pedro de Atacama. This town is considered internationally as being of 'exceptional touristic interest' and indeed it is the main centre of the old Atacamanean culture. On the square of San Pedro, the sixteenth century church stands out, as does an ancient Inca house. We have a three night stay in San Pedro de Atacama. Accommodation: Casa de Don Tomas

19.08.20 San Pedro de Atacama

(B) Today we have a Moon Valley tour and a visit to Cejas Lagoon. The Moon Valley is an interesting area with stone and sand formations. Located inside the Cordillera de la Sal, 13 kilometres west of San Pedro de Atacama, the valley receives his name thanks to the great similarity with the lunar landscapes. There is no life in the valley and no humidity, making it the most inhospitable place in the planet. The setting sun colours the edges of the hills and gorges, while the wind blows between rocks and the sky changes from a pink colour to purple and finally to black. Without a doubt it is one of the main attractions of San Pedro de Atacama, visited by hundreds of tourists year after year. Be impressed by its singular and unique beauty. The Cejas Lagoon is the first of three. The colour of its water is a deep emerald green and on its banks we can see deposits of white salt crystals. Swimming is allowed in this lagoon where the gravitational effect from the condensation of salt allows the body to float easily and relax. You should not walk barefooted because the banks have very sharp salt crests that can cut through the skin. After rinsing the salt from our bodies we head for the next instalment of our adventure and

arrive at the ethereal Ojos del Salar (Eyes of the Salt Flat). Capture unforgettable photographs of the magnificent mirrored lagoons during our free time.

We continue along the road to Tebinquinche Springs, which are small freshwater springs with a very deep bottom. Then we arrive at Tebinquinche Lagoon. Its water depends on the thaw and seasonal rainfall. Here we may see small amounts of flamingos, foxes and bird species. This lagoon is prominent for its salt crust, white as snow, strong and resistant, surrounded by vast pastures and wetlands.

Accommodation: Casa de Don Tomas

20.08.20 San Pedro de Atacama

(B) Today we have a tour to the Tatio Geysers. We begin our exploration towards the highest geothermic fields, located at 4,300 metres above sea level in the Andes. The steam fumaroles, which reach about 50 metres high, mix themselves with the breathtaking beauty of the Andes, with different colours and a wide range of wildlife. Among it there are vicunas, an American Camelid with an elegant walk and adapted to live in extreme weather and geographical conditions.

On our way back we will see mountain and volcano landscapes and the small rivers that follow their way until flowing into the Great Salar de Atacama.

Accommodation: Casa de Don Tomas

21.08.20 San Pedro de Atacama - Santiago de Chile

(B) Today we are transferred to Calama airport for our flight to Santiago. Upon arrival in Santiago we are 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.

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

22.08.20 Santiago de Chile

(B) Today we enjoy a walking tour of Santiago combining the main sites of the city with a unique cultural experience. On the tour we will hear unique, interesting and even shocking stories about Chile's culture and history. Exploring the centre of Santiago with stops at the Museum of Fine Arts, Santa Lucia Hill, the Central Seafood Market and Plaza de Armas Square, the Financial District, the Presidential Palace and the Paris-London neighbourhood.

The remainder of the day is at leisure. We can stay in our hotel rooms right up until our evening transfer to the airport for our flights home.

23.08.20 Santiago de Chile - Sydney

Depart Santiago at 1.30am on LA 803, arriving in Sydney at 6.15am the next morning (24.08.20 - This flight goes via Auckland).

24.08.20 Sydney – Melbourne & Brisbane

Flights arrive in Sydney this morning.

Melbourne passengers depart Sydney at 9.00am on Qantas flight QF 427, arriving in

Melbourne at 10.30am.

Brisbane passengers depart Sydney at 9.05am on Qantas flight QF 512, arriving in Brisbane at 10.35am.

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

Itinerary for Galapagos Islands Post Tour Extension

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

23.08.20 Santiago de Chile - Guayaquil, Ecuador

Depart Santiago at 8.10pm on LA 1446, arriving in Guayaquil, Ecuador at 12.35am (24.08.20). 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

24.08.20 Guayaquil – Baltra – Santa Cruz Island, Galapagos Islands

(B)

This morning we are transferred to the airport for our flight to the Galapagos Islands. Please note that luggage is restricted to 20kg only for these flights.

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.

Upon arrival in Baltra we take a shuttle to Santa Cruz Island and head for the highlands, with its green vegetation. We stop at a ranch to see the giant turtles in their natural habitat. Afterwards we head to Puerto Ayora to check in to our hotel.

Accommodation: Ikala Galapagos Suites

25.08.20 Galapagos Islands

(B/L)

Today we have a boat tour from Santa Cruz to South Plaza Island. South Plaza is situated off the east coast of Santa Cruz Island, it's formed from uplifted marine lava and is one of the smallest islands on the archipelago. Despite its size, the highland has a high concentration of wildlife.

We will disembark in a small dock frequently occupied by sea lions. After this we will continue through a small forest of prickly pear cacti with their yellow flowers where we may come across land iguanas waiting for their fruits and flowers to fall to the ground. We proceed to the summit to hopefully see a shoal of the endemic yellow-tailed mullet. The cliff summit is an excellent place to view swallow-tailed gulls, tropic bird, frigate birds and pelicans. At the eastern end of the island bull sea lions are known to congregate.

Accommodation: Ikala Galapagos Suites

26.08.20 Galapagos Islands

(B)

Today is at leisure to explore Santa Cruz Island on your own, or perhaps pick up one of the optional activities.

Accommodation: Ikala Galapagos Suites

27.08.20 Galapagos Islands – Quito - Lima

(B) After breakfast this morning we will be transferred to the airport for our flights home. Depart Galapagos Islands at 12.00pm on Lan Ecuador flight XL 1414, arriving in Quito at 4.30pm. Then depart Quito at 8.15pm on LA 1455, arriving in Lima at 10.30pm.

28.08.20 Lima – Santiago de Chile - Sydney

(B) Depart Lima at 00.25am on LA 2479, arriving in Santiago at 4.55am. Depart Santiago at 1.30pm on LA 807, arriving in Sydney at 5.50pm the next day (you re-cross the International Date Line).

Note: The cost for this Galapagos Islands post-tour extension is \$3,470 per person twin share or \$5,370 in a single room. The tour price includes the Galapagos Islands fuel surcharge. 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.

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.

Tour Difficulty Level 4

1	2	3	4	5
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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 Latin Rendezvous Tour

Deposits and Payments - A non-refundable deposit of \$600 per person is payable within 7 days of booking. If you are doing the post-tour Galapagos Islands extension, there is an additional deposit of \$250 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. Until this time the travel insurance may not 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. As from June 2019, Australian passport holders no longer require a visa for Brazil. 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 2.75% surcharge for American Express.

The following departure taxes are payable direct at Buenos Aires \$18 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.

Tipping - Tipping has been included/prepaid to the main guides and driver on the Essence of South America, but is not included for any pre or post tour extensions. In South America tips often represent a substantial part of 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. Please inquire with our office for prices on any tour extensions.

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.