

ARGENTINA - SOUTH AMERICA CIRCLE



INTRODUCTION

This tour is a suggested itinerary designed by our specialist team! Choose this itinerary or alter it to design your own Journey.

Start your 21-day journey around South America in Argentina's majestic capital, Buenos Aires, before flying to the spectacular Iguazu Falls. Continue your journey on to Rio de Janeiro, one of the most attractive cities in the world before flying to Peru. Spend some time in Cusco, the ancient capital of the Inca Empire, before experiencing the wonders of Machu Picchu. Cap things off with an unforgettable Amazon lodge stay before ending your trip in Chile's vibrant capital, Santiago.



TRIP CODE

MCTSSAC

DEPARTURE

Daily

DURATION

21 Days

LOCATIONS

Argentina, Brazil, Peru

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* Offer ends 21 August 2017, travel period: 17JAN THROUGH 30JUN18 2018. Blackout dates apply. Subject to availability, further conditions apply, contact us.

ITINERARY

DAY 1: Arrival transfer in Buenos Aires

On arrival into Buenos Aires you will be met and transferred to your hotel.

Buenos Aires, Argentina’s elegant, historic and cosmopolitan capital, is known as the “Paris of the South” due to its European atmosphere with glamorous avenues lined with fashionable shops and Parisian-style restaurants and cafes. Located on the western shore of the estuary of the Río de la Plata, Buenos Aires has many fascinating neighbourhoods to explore including the colourful and lively La Boca, home to art galleries and tango shows; San Telmo with its restored mansions and antique stores and Recoleta, the city’s most exclusive area.



TRIP CODE

MCTSSAC

DEPARTURE

Daily

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21 Days

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Argentina, Brazil, Peru

ARGENTINA - SOUTH AMERICA CIRCLE

DAY 2: Highlights of Buenos Aires City Tour

This morning at 0900 hours, you will be collected from your hotel for your 3 hour tour of Buenos Aires visiting the most important highlights of the city. At the first stop, discover the history of the Plaza de Mayo Square, the site of Argentina's most important historical events - see its surroundings and the most emblematic buildings and learn all about them. Then enjoy Mayo Avenue and wonder in awe at the oldest residential neighborhood in Buenos Aires: San Telmo. Live and feel the original Tango in the neighborhood of La Boca: walk along Caminito Street and enjoy the dancers and souvenir shops. See the mythical Boca Juniors soccer stadium. Contemplate the modernization of the city whilst traveling along Puerto Madero and its exclusive docks, full of excellent restaurants and large offices. Pass through the Retiro neighbourhood and move on to see Palermo and its most exclusive residential area before finally arriving at Recoleta. Once there, discover the final resting place of Eva Peron, "Evita" and wander through Recoleta Cemetery where she is to be found.

This evening enjoy an intimate & passionate tango show, housed in a cosy wood-panelled 19th century building in the heart of Buenos Aires's historic centre. The building has a colourful history as it was once a meeting point for poets and students. After being abandoned in the late 1970s, the bar was beautifully restored and reopened in July 1992 as El Querandí Tango Hall. The show, directed by Claudio Campos with musical arrangements by Ado Falasca, smoothly charts the history of Argentina's most authentic artistic expression from its origins to the modern day. With one of the most varied à la carte menus you will find at a tango show, the dinner is very good, and the show, at just over an hour long, is the perfect length. The three house singers, six dancers and four musicians put on a great show.



TRIP CODE

MCTSSAC

DEPARTURE

Daily

DURATION

21 Days

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Argentina, Brazil, Peru

ARGENTINA - SOUTH AMERICA CIRCLE

DAY 3: Transfer to the airport for onward destination

You will be collected from your hotel at the appropriate time and transferred to the domestic airport for your onward journey from Buenos Aires.

On arrival at Iguazu airport, you will be met and transferred to your hotel. *Please note the Iguazu Tourist Tax will now be charged on check out at all Iguazu hotels. The amount is currently ARS50 (USD3.40) per person per stay. Please note this tax is subject to change without prior notice.

DAY 4: Iguazu Falls

The spectacular Iguazu Falls that straddle the Argentine-Brazil border, are made up of 275 individual waterfalls lining a 2.7km wide horseshoe-shaped gorge. The Falls are located where the Iguazu River cascades over the edge of the Paraná Plateau. The Falls can be viewed from both the Argentinian and the Brazilian sides, the Brazilian side offering a broader, panoramic view, with the Argentinian side offering a series of catwalks that allow you to experience the Falls from close range.

In the early morning we will visit the Iguazu Falls on the Argentinian side. We will ride the Rainforest Ecological train and then explore panoramic views from above and below the waterfalls. We will visit the Devils Falls, which is said to be one of the most spectacular falls and you have the option of taking a boat ride under the Falls. National Park fees included.



TRIP CODE

MCTSSAC

DEPARTURE

Daily

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21 Days

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Argentina, Brazil, Peru

ARGENTINA - SOUTH AMERICA CIRCLE

DAY 5: Half Day Iguazu Brazilian Falls

Today we see the falls from the Brazilian side of the border. After arriving at the visitor centre, we board buses for a tour of the park. Equipped with panoramic windows, the buses are designed to maximize your views of the falls, while the walkways and steps allow you to get up close to the spray. Views of the Floriana Falls, the Devil's Gorge Canyon and the Iguazu River are spectacular and are guaranteed to impress. National Park fees included.



You will be transferred to the airport for your onward flight from Iguazu. Includes Guide.

On arrival into Rio de Janeiro you will be met and transferred to your hotel.

Known as the "Cidade Maravilhosa", or Marvellous City, Rio never fails to amaze with its sandy beaches, carefree lifestyle and unparalleled natural beauty. As the capital of Brazil until 1960, Rio is today one of the most culturally and economically prominent cities in the country, receiving more tourists than any other part of Brazil.



DAY 6: Corcovado & Sugarloaf with Lunch

After an early pick up from the hotel between 7:00 & 7:30am, the tour makes its way to the bottom of Corcovado Hill, where we ascend the mountain by vehicle. Climbing 4km through the Tijuca Forest, the world's largest urban National Park, we will arrive at the statue of Christ the Redeemer. After taking in the panoramic views we continue to the Maracana Stadium. We also pass the Sambadrome and the Metropolitan Cathedral, before passing through the bohemian neighbourhood of Lapa and its famous arches en-route to Copacabana. We have a traditional Brazilian BBQ lunch before visiting the famous Sugarloaf Mountain with views across the entire city. After descending the mountain, you will be dropped off at your hotel. Included: All transport, tickets and entry fees, lunch (beverages not included). Approximate duration of tour: 8 hours.



TRIP CODE

MCTSSAC

DEPARTURE

Daily

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21 Days

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ARGENTINA - SOUTH AMERICA CIRCLE

DAY 7: Rio de Janeiro - Free Day

Today is a free day for you to relax on one of Rio's famous beaches such as Ipanema or Copacabana, or explore the city further at your leisure.



DAY 8: Transfer to the airport for onward destination

Transfer from your hotel to the airport in a private vehicle.

On arrival into Lima you will be met and transferred to your hotel. Guided assistance is included.

Lima, the capital of Peru, sits on the country's arid Pacific coast. Founded in 1535, its colonial centre is well preserved, but today Lima is a bustling metropolis and one of South America's largest cities. The city is home to the various museums including the Museo Larco that houses a collection of pre-Columbian art and the Museo de la Nación, tracing the history of Peru's ancient civilizations. Lima is known as the "gastronomical capital of the Americas", encompassing specialties from ceviche and traditional coastal cooking to refined global fare. It even boasts several of the top restaurants in the world.



DAY 9: Lima - City Tour

Today is spent touring Lima, the Colonial 'City of Kings'. On the city tour you will visit a number of well-known sites including the Cathedral, the Presidential Palace, the Plaza de Armas as well as the Catacombs located beneath the San Francisco Convent. This is a chance to appreciate Lima's magnificent Colonial architecture as well as vignettes of its pre-Colombian past.



TRIP CODE

MCTSSAC

DEPARTURE

Daily

DURATION

21 Days

LOCATIONS

Argentina, Brazil, Peru

ARGENTINA - SOUTH AMERICA CIRCLE

DAY 10: Transfer to the airport for onward destination

You will be collected from your hotel and transferred to the airport for your outward flight from Lima.

On arrival into Juliaca you will be met and transferred to your hotel in Puno, stopping on the way to take in the pre-Inca burial ground of Sillustani. Here you can wander through the remarkable tombs built from volcanic stone. Known as Chullpas, these funerary towers reach heights of up to 12 metres. Overlooking the beautiful Lake Umayo, Sillustani is considered to be one of the most important necropolises in the world.

Puno lies on the shores of Lake Titicaca, the highest navigable lake in the world. It is the largest city in the Southern Altiplano and an important agricultural and livestock (llamas and alpaca) region. It sits at an altitude of over 3,800 metres and is a picturesque hillside city and a melting pot of the Aymara and Quechua culture.



TRIP CODE

MCTSSAC

DEPARTURE

Daily

DURATION

21 Days

LOCATIONS

Argentina, Brazil, Peru

ARGENTINA - SOUTH AMERICA CIRCLE

DAY 11: Full Day Tour to Uros & Taquile Islands

The excursion begins at 6:30am with a transfer from your Puno hotel to the port. We travel by motorboat (35 feet long with 25 individual seats and a covered section in case of rain or cold weather) to the floating reed islands of Uros, situated four kilometres from Puno. Here the locals continue to practice their traditional way of life, living by fishing. The original inhabitants of these floating islands are said to descend from one of the oldest cultures of the Americas. The Uros Islands, as well as the houses on them and the boats used by their inhabitants, are all made from the totora reeds that grow in Lake Titicaca. Optional rides on traditional reed boats can be arranged. We visit two of the 60 islands before continuing on to Taquile Island. The journey to Taquile Island takes 2.5 hours, giving you the chance to enjoy the spectacular views offered by Lake Titicaca. On arrival at Taquile, we hike for around 45 minutes along a long path that gradually ascends to a village with a unique community. The views along the way are incredible. We visit the communal cooperative where there are craft textiles of a high quality. Lunch is served at one of the many local restaurants. After lunch we descend down 500 steps to the main port of the island in time for a 2:30pm departure back to Puno City. We arrive into Puno at 5.30pm and on arrival you will be transferred to your Puno hotel. Lunch is included on the tour. Approximate duration of tour: 10 hours.



TRIP CODE

MCTSSAC

DEPARTURE

Daily

DURATION

21 Days

LOCATIONS

Argentina, Brazil, Peru

ARGENTINA - SOUTH AMERICA CIRCLE

DAY 12: Transfer from Puno hotel to bus or train station

This morning, you will be collected from your hotel and transferred to either the bus or train station for your journey from Puno to Cusco.

The spectacular journey from Puno to Cusco takes you across the Altiplano and you will travel accompanied by an English-speaking guide. The drive takes you through sleepy Andean villages and past spectacular snow-capped mountains, sheer cliffs and rampaging rivers. Stops along the way include the atmospheric towns of Pucara and Andahuaylillas and the pre-Inca ruin of Raqchi. Lunch is included and you will arrive in the famous city of Cusco in the early evening. Approximate duration of drive: 10 hours.

On arrival into Cusco, you will be met and transferred to your hotel.

Cusco, set at an altitude of 3,400 metres in the Peruvian Andes, was once the capital of the Inca Empire. It is known for its Spanish colonial architecture and Incan remains. Narrow, cobblestoned streets lined by Inca walls stretch out from the main plaza in every direction. Many of the colonial buildings were built on top of Incan foundations and the stonework is unparalleled in its precision and beauty.



DAY 13: Cusco - City Tour

Take a sightseeing tour through Cusco, the heart of the Inca Empire. Visit the fascinating Qorikancha Temple of the Sun, the 12-Angled Rock and the Cathedral, built on the ruins of an Inca Palace. From here head to the archaeological remains located around the city, including the fortress of Sacsayhuaman, Qenqo (giant rock), the ancient site of Puca Pucara and finally the Water Temple of Tambomachay.



TRIP CODE

MCTSSAC

DEPARTURE

Daily

DURATION

21 Days

LOCATIONS

Argentina, Brazil, Peru

ARGENTINA - SOUTH AMERICA CIRCLE

DAY 14: Sacred Valley Full Day Tour

Today, explore the Sacred Valley of the Incas. This fertile river valley was home to many important sites for the Incas, both strategic and religious. The first stop is the village of Pisac, with its famous market. The colonial village of Pisac sits at the base of the spectacular Pisac Ruins – a hilltop Inca citadel and fortress with impressive agricultural terracing. On market days Pisac comes alive with locals from nearby hillside villages in traditional dress selling local fruit and vegetables as well as handicrafts. There is free time to wander the colourful market stalls before a typical Andean lunch at a local restaurant. Continue your journey along the River Urubamba, to Ollantaytambo. The town, which is dominated by a giant Inca fortress, is perhaps the best surviving example of Inca town planning and was the scene of a rare Inca victory over the invading Spanish. At the end of the tour you will be transferred to the train station in Ollantaytambo to take the train to Aguas Calientes. Lunch is included.

Travel from Ollantaytambo to Machu Picchu in this comfortable train, and let your feet have rest. Enjoy an authentic Andean experience, while relaxing in modern and comfortable interior design illuminated by Latin American music. Comfortable seats with tables in front to share the journey with friends and partake of a refreshing beverage. On-board services includes a fun and refreshing selection of drinks prepared using Andean herbs and fruits, all of which boast revitalising properties to fill you with energy and keep you ready for the next adventure waiting ahead of you. *Due to limited space for luggage storage on trains, luggage restrictions apply: one bag or backpack (carry-on luggage) with a maximum weight of 5.0 kg/11 lb, measuring no more than 62 linear inches/157 linear cm (height + length + width)

TRIP CODE

MCTSSAC

DEPARTURE

Daily

DURATION

21 Days

LOCATIONS

Argentina, Brazil, Peru



ARGENTINA - SOUTH AMERICA CIRCLE

DAY 15: Machu Picchu Guided Tour

Machu Picchu is a 15th century Inca site, located 2,430 metres above sea level on a mountain ridge above the Sacred Valley. It is the most famous of all Inca sites, but it was not until 1911 that it was brought to the world's attention by the American historian Hiram Bingham. The Incas abandoned the city just prior to Spanish colonisation, the city was never pillaged and as a result the ruins are still in fantastic condition. With its location on a dramatic ridgeline surrounded by sheer cliffs and the Urubamba River on three sides, the city of Machu Picchu is a remarkable place to visit. Machu Picchu was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1983 and in 2007 it was voted one of the new Seven Wonders of the World. The tour starts with a bus ride from Aguas Calientes to Machu Picchu. You will be astonished at your first view of Machu Picchu, a stunning display of ancient architecture with incredible surroundings. Enjoy a guided tour of the ruins and monuments such as the Main Square, the Circular Tower, the Sacred Solar Clock, the Royal Quarters, the Temple of the Three Windows and the Cemeteries. Tour includes guided group tour and return bus from Aguas Calientes village. Please be aware that your tour of Machu Picchu does not include an entry permit to Huayna Picchu (the iconic hill behind the Machu Picchu ruins). If you want to climb Huayna Picchu then you need to pre-book your permit with at least 3 months in advance. Please contact your travel specialist if you would like to do this.



This afternoon travel by train from Aguas Calientes to Ollantaytambo. *Due to limited space for luggage storage on trains, luggage restrictions apply: one bag or backpack (carry-on luggage) with a maximum weight of 5.0 kg/11 lb, measuring no more than 62 linear inches/157 linear cm (height + length + width)

Transfer from Ollantaytambo train station in the Sacred Valley to Cusco.

TRIP CODE

MCTSSAC

DEPARTURE

Daily

DURATION

21 Days

LOCATIONS

Argentina, Brazil, Peru

ARGENTINA - SOUTH AMERICA CIRCLE

DAY 16: Transfer to the airport for onward destination

You will be collected from your hotel at the appropriate time and transferred to the airport for your flight from Cusco.

You will be met on arrival in Puerto Maldonado. From Puerto Maldonado we travel by bus, canoe and on-foot to the Lodge on Lake Sandoval. Once there, we'll spend the remainder of the day learning about the lodge and exploring the lake and surrounding forests spotting birds, butterflies, monkeys and maybe the elusive Amazonian giant otter, as we go. Then, as night falls, we'll look for the large and extremely rare black caimans, which grow up to four metres in length. After dinner, we'll enjoy a short video or presentation about the area. There will also be a chance for an optional night-walk through the forest situated behind the Lodge. Lunch and dinner included.



DAY 17: Sandoval Lake Lodge Day 2

A pre-dawn wake-up call will enable us to be on the lake for sunrise and a chance to see some incredible wildlife including water birds fishing for their breakfast and the pre-historic looking hoatzins. The rest of the day will be spent exploring the area some more with a walk to see the towering Brazil nut trees, a relaxing catamaran tour of the eastern side of the lake to see some monkeys and an optional black caiman search or night-walk. Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner included



DAY 18: Sandoval Lake Lodge Day 3

After an early morning breakfast, we'll cross the lake by catamaran and take a short walk into the interior of the Mauritia palm forest to enjoy the impressive morning congregations of parrots, parakeets and large and small macaws. Following the parrot show, we'll cross the lake to explore a primary forest trail with our resident wildlife expert. The afternoon is free for those wanting to rest or explore the forest trails independently or maybe join a trip aboard the catamaran to see a spectacular sunset, before a final evening search for black caiman or night-walk. Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner included.



TRIP CODE

MCTSSAC

DEPARTURE

Daily

DURATION

21 Days

LOCATIONS

Argentina, Brazil, Peru

ARGENTINA - SOUTH AMERICA CIRCLE

DAY 19: Sandoval Lake Lodge Departure

Departure Transfer – Before our return to Puerto Maldonado, we'll take a final early morning paddle along the palm swamps of the west end of the lake in search of the resident giant otter family. Transfer to Puerto Maldonado for your onward flight to Cusco or Lima Breakfast included.

Arrive at Lima and transfer to your hotel.



DAY 20: Transfer to the airport for onward destination

You will be collected from your hotel and transferred to the airport for your outward flight from Lima.

On arrival into Santiago you will be met and transferred to your hotel.

Santiago, Chile's capital and largest city, lies in a valley surrounded by the snow-capped mountains of the Andes and the Chilean Coastal Range. Founded in 1541, Santiago has been Chile's capital since colonial times. It is a vibrant and cosmopolitan city and although it features many colonial buildings, it has grown into a modern metropolis and the cultural centre of the country.



DAY 21: Transfer to the airport for onward destination

You will be collected from your hotel at the appropriate time for the transfer to the airport for your onward flight from Santiago.

TRIP CODE

MCTSSAC

DEPARTURE

Daily

DURATION

21 Days

LOCATIONS

Argentina, Brazil, Peru

INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

Accommodation

Hotels throughout tour. Lodge in the Amazon.

ARGENTINA - SOUTH AMERICA CIRCLE

Inclusions	<p>Airport transfers Internal flights Accommodation with breakfast All inclusive accommodation in the Amazon Tours as stated in the itinerary Other meals where stated</p> <p>NOT INCLUDED Entrance fee to Tambopata National Reserve (Refugio Amazonas US\$13 & Tambopata Research Center US\$65 approx.) Tips, personal expenses Alcoholic drinks International flights</p>
Difficulty Rating	2 (High altitude in some areas)
Single Surcharge	Standard category from US\$ 1,550 per person Superior category from US\$2,845 per person
Notes	This tour can also be done in reverse. Contact us for more details.
Price Dependent upon	Season and availability

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MCTSSAC
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SUSTAINABILITY

Chimu Adventures undertakes a number of sustainability measures within its operations including:

- 1) Only using local guides and office staff to both maximise local employment opportunities and minimise carbon footprints. Local guides also ensure you benefit from the intimate knowledge, passion and culture of the country you're visiting.
- 2) Where possible, using locally owned and operated boutique hotels to maximise the return to the local community.
- 3) Chimu's "Pass it on" programme has provided funding to hundreds of local community projects in Latin America. Our aim is to empower local communities, helping them to develop their own infrastructure for the future. Since 2006, we have been working with Kiva (a well-known Non-Governmental Organisation), providing hundreds of loans to local businesses all over South America.
- 4) In our pre tour information we provide a range of tips and advice on how to minimise your impact on both local environments and communities.
- 5) Chimu Adventures' offices also take a number of sustainability measures including carbon offsets for company vehicles and most staff travel. Chimu Adventure's internal processes are also structures to create a paperless office and to reduce waste. There are also internal programmes to help staff minimise their carbon footprint such as our staff bike purchase assistance plan which encourages office staff to commute to work via bicycle. Currently almost half of our office based staff commute to work via bicycle.