INTRODUCTION

Choose this Tailor-Made itinerary or customise to create your own unique journey. Departs daily to suit your travel plans. Price based on Standard accommodation. Superior or Deluxe also available.

Enjoy the unparalleled scenery of Chile, Bolivia and Peru on this 24 day trip. Start your journey in the cosmopolitan city of Santiago, head to the world’s driest desert - the Atacama Desert, before crossing to Bolivia passing volcanoes and colourful lagoons until you reach the world’s largest salt lake, the Salar de Uyuni. This vast salt desert has a landscape that is unforgettable, stark yet awe-inspiring, a dazzling white that stretches to the horizon, interspersed with geysers and coloured mineral lagoons. Continue through to the highlands of La Paz and Lake Titicaca, the highest navigable lake that covers both Bolivia and Peru. The journey also includes Cusco, the ancient capital of the Inca Empire, the legendary Inca citadel of Machu Picchu and the amazing wonders of nature in the Amazon Jungle.

ITINERARY

DAY 1: Arrival transfer in Santiago

On arrival at Santiago Airport, please make your way through Customs and Immigration and only exit from the green doors marked ‘Meeting Point’. Our representative will be holding a sign with your name on it and waiting for you outside this exit. Please only make contact with our representative. This service includes a driver and local English speaking guide who will provide you with any useful information needed for your stay.
DAY 1: Santiago de Chile

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 2: Half Day City Tour with Los Dominicos

This morning you will be collected from your hotel for your city tour. Your guide will take you on a tour highlighting Santiago's most important historical sites, including the downtown area surrounding the Plaza de Armas and the La Moneda Presidential Palace. You will visit some of the lesser known barrios of Santiago including República and Concha y Toro, which were historically privileged neighbourhoods and home to Santiago’s high society. There will be time to walk around and take photos of the varied styles of architecture dating back to the 19th and early 20th century. Continuing through the cobblestone Lastarria neighborhood, you will walk through the Parque Forestal and pass by the Bellas Artes Museum. Then you will continue to the picturesque Los Dominicos Market where over 150 Chilean artists’ handicrafts are displayed. Stroll through the lovely artisan village, you could enjoy a tasty empanada at one of the outdoor cafés (not included). On completion of your tour, you will be taken to your hotel. Please note this is private tour.
DAY 3: Full Day Valparaiso Tour

This morning you will be collected from your hotel for a full day tour of Vina del Mar and Valparaiso are two of Chile’s unmissable destinations. Known as the “Garden City”, for originally being surrounded by largely green areas and for now preserving its extensive and beautiful urban gardens, with the Pacific Ocean as its backdrop, Vina del Mar is undoubtedly one of Chile’s unmissable destinations. Vina del Mar stands out for its beautiful architecture, its impressive palaces and famous Flower Clock, photographed by tourists from all over the world. During the tour, you will have the option to have lunch (not included in tour price) in one of the numerous restaurants in the city, with a variety of delicious sea food on offer. We will travel along the sea front, and enjoy the views of the Pacific Ocean, before arriving at the most important ports in Chile; Valparaiso. It was listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site thanks to its colourful beauty and the uniqueness of its location on the hills, which create a natural Amphitheatre with the ocean as its stage. We will visit Cerro Alegre, where you can truly appreciate the magic of the city, with its picturesque funiculars, multi-coloured neighbourhoods and unforgettable sea views. We will then head to the Sotomayor Square, to see the Monument of the Heroes of Iquique. At the end of the tour, we will return to Santiago and you will be taken to your hotel. Please note this is a small group tour.

DAY 4: 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 onward flight. This service includes a Spanish speaking driver only.
DAY 4: Arrival transfer in Atacama

On arrival, please make your way through to the Arrivals Hall where our representative will be waiting for you to transfer you to your hotel. He/she will be holding a sign with your name on it. This service includes a driver and local English speaking guide who will provide you with any useful information needed for your stay.

DAY 4: Atacama

The small oasis town of San Pedro de Atacama lies on an arid high plateau in the Andes Mountains in the heart of some of northern Chile’s most spectacular scenery. Overlooking the Licancabur Volcano, its dramatic surrounding landscape ranges from desert, salt flats, steaming geysers and hot springs to fascinating rock formations. The church, dating back to 1774 and featuring adobe, cactus wood and leather-bound beams and the Archaeological Museum are both worth a visit.

DAY 5: Atacama Salt Lake & Toconao Tour

This afternoon you will be collected from your hotel to visit the Salar de Atacama, one of the world’s largest salt lakes and the most important lithium reserves in the world. At Chaxa Lagoon, we will be able to enjoy watching a variety of bird species, including the three types of flamingos that inhabit Chile -Andean, Chilean and James’- and the pink color of their feathers. The deep blue of the Atacama sky, the altitudes of the Andean volcanos and the red sunset will bid us farewell before returning to San Pedro de Atacama. En route to the Salt Lake, visit the town of Toconao. The houses in this small picturesque village are built from bricks of white volcanic stone and its friendly inhabitants are famous for their fine wool knitting skills. On completion of the tour you will be taken to your hotel. Please note this is a small group tour.
DAY 6: Archeological Quitor & Tulor Tour

This morning you will be collected from your hotel for a tour of San Pedro de Atacama, the archaeological capital of Chile. The small oasis town is one of the main cultural settlements in Atacama located near the mouth of the main river that feeds the salt flat. It lies on an arid high plateau in the Andes Mountains in the heart of some of northern Chile’s most spectacular scenery. During this excursion, visit the most important archaeological sites of San Pedro de Atacama. In the XII century aborigines built the fortress of Quitor to defend their people to the attack of enemies, foreigners or border natives. Tulor village is the oldest archeological human establishment of the entire region and it was occupied between 300BC and 500AC. Also visit the ayllus de Coyo, most important part of the archaeological route. There you will find circulars constructions, antiques Lickantantay’s residences and can appreciate the original fauna and flora. On completion of the tour, you will be taken to your hotel. Please note this is a small group tour.

DAY 7: San Pedro de Atacama - Hito Cajón - Villamar

This morning you will be collected from your hotel and transferred to Hito Cajon, located on the Bolivian border. Here you will meet your Bolivian guide to continue the journey to Villamar. Should you not be able to locate them, please refer to the front of your itinerary for emergency contact details of our representative office. Drive through the REA Reserve, visiting the Green lagoon in the foothills of Licancabur Mountain, the high desert in Pampas de Dali, Chalvirri lagoon and the hot springs of Polques and geysers Sol de Mañana. Continue to the Red lagoon, declared a RAMSAR site due to the nesting of over 30,000 Andean flamingos before finally arriving at Villamar via Polkes. A picnic lunch and dinner is included in today’s services. Overnight in Villamar.
DAY 8: Villamar - Uyuni Salt Flats - Colchani

This morning continue the road journey north passing the villages of San Agustin and San Juan, continue through the highlands to enter Uyuni Salt Flats, a natural wonder with over 10,000 km2 at 3,692 m of salt in Chuvica, cross north to visit Isla Incahuasi, a special habitat of giant cactus and volcanic rocks. Continue east to the village of Colchani, where the locals produce salt in the shores of the salt flats. A picnic lunch and dinner is included in today's services. Overnight in Colchani in a hotel made of salt.

DAY 9: Flight Uyuni to La Paz and visit Tiwanaku Ruins

This morning you will be transferred to the airport for your onward flight to La Paz. On arrival, please make your way through to the Arrivals Hall where our representative will be waiting for you to transfer you to your hotel. He/she will be holding a sign with your name on it. Should you not be able to locate them, please refer to the front of your itinerary for emergency contact details of our representative office. Enroute to your hotel visit Tiwanaku, considered to be one of the oldest American cultures. Visit the Temple of Kalasasaya, Gate of the Sun, monoliths Ponce and Fraile, Akapana pyramid and Semiunderground temple, as well as the local museums. Return to La Paz with the remainder of the day at leisure.

DAY 10: La Paz Full Day City & Moon Valley tour incl lunch

This morning you will be collected from your hotel to discover the fascinating city of La Paz, on a full day city tour. Visit the Gold, Murillo and Costumbrista Museums and also visit the 'Mirador de Killi Killi' from where you will magnificent views of the city. Also visit various street markets including a traditional market selling agricultural products from the highlands, and the famous Witches Market. Take a cable car ride (the highest in the world) for more outstanding views of the city before driving to the outskirts of the city to the Moon Valley. Lunch is included. On completion of your tour you will be transferred to your hotel.
DAY 11: La Paz - Copacabana - Island of the Sun

This morning you will be collected from your hotel for your road journey to Lake Titicaca. Travel north through the highlands and parallel to the Andes Royal Range to Copacabana, a small town on the shores of Lake Titicaca. Visit the famous Virgen Morena and its church and have a stroll through the town. Transfer to the pier to board the boat that will take you to the Island of the Sun. Enjoy a typical lunch “Aptapi” and hike for about 45 minutes to the Ecolodge La Estancia. Dinner included this evening.

DAY 12: Island of the Sun - Copacabana - Puno

Early morning wake up so you don’t miss the great sunrise. After breakfast, board the boat to La Chincana to see this great Inca ruins, continue cruising to the Moon Island to visit the Iñak Uyu ruins and then onto Copacabana. Travel by road to Puno where you will be taken to your hotel.

DAY 12: Puno

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.
DAY 13: Full Day Tour to Uros & Taquile Islands

Early this morning you will be collected from your hotel and transferred to the port located on Lake Titicaca. Travel by motorboat 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. Visit two of the 60 islands before continuing on to Taquile Island. The journey to Taquile Island takes approximately two and half hours, giving you the chance to enjoy the spectacular views offered by Lake Titicaca. On arrival at Taquile, 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. 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, descend down 500 steps to the main port of the island in time for an afternoon departure back to Puno City. On arrival at the port, you will be transferred to your hotel. Please note this is small group tour.

DAY 14: 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.
DAY 14: 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 snowcapped 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. The journey will take approximately 10 hours.

DAY 14: Arrival transfer in Cusco

On arrival at Cusco bus or train station, you will be met by a representative who will be holding a sign with your name on it, to transfer you to your hotel.

DAY 15: Cusco - Free Day

Today is at leisure allowing you to spend time wandering the cobble-stoned streets of the ancient Inca capital. With treasures around every corner, Cusco is a wonderful city to explore on foot. Vibrant markets and stores give the traveller a plethora of shopping opportunities set amongst fine Inca and Spanish colonial architecture. The UNESCO World Heritage city is lined with history and ancient monuments, a truly enthralling city to spend time in.

DAY 16: Private Transfer Cusco - Ollantaytambo

Transfer from Cusco to Ollantaytambo.
DAY 16: Sacred Valley Full Day Tour

This morning you will be collected from your hotel for your full day exploration of 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. Included in your tour price is the BTG (Tourist Ticket of Cusco) which allows you entrance into 16 attractions around Cusco in ten days. Please note this is a small group tour.

DAY 16: 360 Machu Picchu Train: Ollanta - Mapi

This evening travel by train from Ollantaytambo in the Sacred Valley to Aguas Calientes. *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)
DAY 17: Machu Picchu Guided Tour

You will be astonished by your first view of Machu Picchu, a stunning display of ancient architecture with incredible surroundings. 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. Enjoy a 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. The tour includes guided tour with local English speaking guide 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 at least 3 months in advance. Please contact your sales consultant if you would like to do this.

DAY 17: 360 Machu Picchu Train: Mapi - Ollanta PM

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)
DAY 17: Private Transfer Ollantaytambo - Cusco
Transfer from Ollantaytambo train station in the Sacred Valley to Cusco.

DAY 18: Cusco - City Tour
You will be collected from your hotel for 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. On completion of your tour, you will be taken to your hotel. Included in your tour price is the BTG (Tourist Ticket of Cusco). Please note this is a small group tour.

DAY 19: Depart Cusco
You will be collected from your hotel at the appropriate time and transferred to the airport for your onward flight.
DAY 19: Puerto Maldonado - Refugio Amazonas

On arrival at Puerto Maldonado Airport, you will be met by a representative of Refugio Amazonas to begin the journey to Refugio. Enroute we will stop at the local office so that you can repack your luggage and only take what is required for the next four days. The rest will be stored securely in the office. Continue by road and a two and a half hour boat journey to Refugio Amazonas, located in a 200-hectare private reserve. The boat ride from the Tambopata River Port to Refugio Amazonas takes us past the Infierno Community and the Tambopata National Reserve checkpoint and into the buffer zone of this 1.3 million hectare conservation unit. A boxed lunch is provided to eat along the way. On arrival to the lodge, you will be welcomed and given a brief orientation. After dinner at the lodge there is the option to join a night walk when most of the animals are active but sometimes difficult to see. The frogs are easier to see with their fascinating shapes and colours and fascinating sounds. Note: Please ensure your arrival flight is no later than 13:05

DAY 20: Refugio Amazonas

Refugio Amazonas have a set of activities where you can choose from onsite, allowing you to create your own personalised experience deep in the Amazon. Below are suggested options you may like to choose from through-out your stay. After breakfast venture out onto the lake by canoe or catamaran, looking for wildlife such as hoatzin, caiman, horned screamers, macaws and otters that are sometimes seen in the area. Back on land, a 30 minute walk from the lodge takes you to the 25 metre scaffolding canopy tower, complete with staircase running through the middle and providing safe access to the platforms above. The tower has been built on high ground to give views of the primary rainforest extending out towards the Tambopata National Reserve. Enjoy excellent views across the canopy and look for toucans, macaws and raptors. After lunch you will visit a farm to learn about local agriculture and Amazonian crops before an ethnobotanical tour to learn about the medicinal uses of the various plants and trees of the region. In the evening, Refugio Amazonas staff offer lectures covering topics such as conservation threats, opportunities and projects in the Tambopata National Reserve.
DAY 21: Refugio Amazonas

Refugio Amazonas have a set of activities where you can choose from onsite, allowing you to create your own personalised experience deep in the Amazon. Below are suggested options you may like to choose from throughout your stay. Witness the audio and visual spectacle of a clay lick, watching vibrant coloured macaws, parrots and parakeets feast on clay. Species such as dusky-headed and cobalt-winged parakeets are often seen and with luck we may also see mealy and yellow-crowned Amazons, blue-headed pionus, severe macaw and orange-cheeked (Barraband’s) parrots. After lunch, take a short hike from the lodge brings us to a beautiful Brazil nut forest that has been harvested for decades. Here you can learn about the whole process of the rainforest’s only sustainably harvested product, from collection through transportation to drying. In the afternoon, there will be a visit to a peccary clay lick, this time to see mammals. Wild rain forest pigs show up in herds of up to twenty to eat clay, alongside deer, guan and parakeets.

DAY 22: Refugio Amazonas – Puerto Maldonado

After breakfast, return to Puerto Maldonado for your departure flight. Depending on airline schedules, this may require a dawn departure. Please note: Depending on airline schedules, this may require a dawn departure. We recommend flight LA2074 departing at 13:35. *Schedule of activities are subject to change without notice.

DAY 22: Arrival transfer in Lima

On arrival, please make your way through to the Arrivals Hall where our representative will be waiting for you to transfer you to your hotel. This service includes a driver and local English speaking guide, who will provide you with any useful information needed for your stay. He/she will be holding a sign with your name on it. Should you not be able to locate them, please refer to the front of your itinerary for emergency contact details of our representative office.
DAY 22: Lima

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 23: Lima City tour & Larco Museum

This morning you will be collected from your hotel to enjoy a complete city tour of Lima. First you will visit the Larco Herrera Museum and Huaca Pucllana. Have lunch in Miraflores. Afterwards, visit the modern district of San Isidro and Miraflores, where you will have a view of the Pacific Ocean from the Parque del Amor (Love Park), then you will continue with your tour of the “City of Kings” which begins in the downtown colonial district. Visit Plaza de Armas where you will see the Government Palace, the Cathedral, and the Santo Domingo Convent. This is a chance to appreciate Lima’s magnificent Colonial architecture as well as vignettes of its pre-Colombian past. On completion of this tour, you will be taken to your hotel. Please note this is a small group tour. Lunch is included. This tour operates daily except Mondays.

DAY 24: 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 onward flight.

INCLUSIONS & DETAILS
BOLIVIA - THE HIGHLANDS OF SOUTH AMERICA

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<td>This is a Tailor-Made itinerary which can be customised to create your own unique journey. Contact us to discuss your travel plans.</td>
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SUSTAINABILITY

Being environmentally accountable is a crucial part of our organisation. Chimu is currently striving towards using less paper, taking several initiatives to do so and tracking our progress along the way. Our goal: A paperless organisation. For this reason, all information given to you will be sent electronically. We encourage those who choose to travel with us to support our aspirations and actions and ask that you reconsider printing out documentation. To view these documents, you can download them to your iPad or portable computer before and during your trip.

Chimu is passionate and dedicated to sustainability measures and understands the crucial part sustainability plays within the tourism industry.

We use local guides and office staff to both maximise local employment opportunities and minimise carbon footprint. Local guides also ensure you benefit from the intimate knowledge, passion and culture of the country you’re visiting. Our guides are all highly qualified (most with university degrees) or equip with many years of experience and are paid above the standard wage. Whether it be our knowledgeable local guides, locally produced meals or the transport on tour, we do not use imported goods when local products are available. We aim to minimise our impact on the environment and give as much back as possible to the communities we work in.
On this trip you will stay at the eco-friendly lodge Refugio Amazonas, a proud partner of Wired Amazon, a citizen science program. They ensure that travellers have as little impact on the wildlife as possible and minimize disturbance and also encourage the education and visitation of protection and conservation services, specifically associate with the Amazon. While visiting the many national parks, heritage sites, museums and landmarks our travellers are encouraged to explore remain culturally aware and sensitive. We further encourage you to buy appropriate souvenirs and discourage the buying of anything wrongfully made or taken from the environment i.e. shells and endangered species products. Information on how you can be environmentally conscious, and travel responsibly will be made available in our Travellers Guides and provided during your travels by guides and staff.

For more information on our sustainability policies, including how we are striving towards being a paperless organisation, click [HERE](#).