

SOUTH AMERICA - SOUTH AMERICA ON A SHOESTRING



TRIP CODE

MCTSSAS

DEPARTURE

Daily

DURATION

20 Days

LOCATIONS

Chile, Brazil, Argentina,
Peru, Machu Picchu



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.

Representing excellent value for money, this trip provides an excellent insight into the continent. It begins in Santiago, Chile where you will spend a few days before heading to Brazil's beautiful Rio de Janeiro. From there, visit the Brazilian side of Iguazu Falls, then cross over into Argentina where you will visit the striking capital, Buenos Aires. Next, get ready for Peru. Arrive into Cusco where you will journey to the past by visiting the ancient Incan ruins of Ollantaytambo and Machu Picchu. Finally, say farewell in Lima, the capital of Peru.

ITINERARY

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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. *Please note Australian passport holders are required to obtain a Chilean tourist visa or if transiting for longer than 8 hours before arrival.

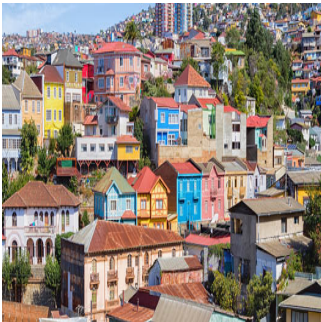


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DAY 2: Full Day Valparaiso Tour

This morning you will be collected from your hotel for a full day tour of Vina del Mar and Valparaíso 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.

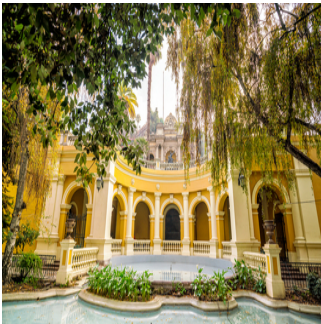


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DAY 3: Santiago Panoramic City Tour

This morning, you will be collected from your hotel for your tour of Santiago. Visit both the old and new areas of the city. Highlights include the Plaza de Armas, the city's central square and the heart of the city's old colonial core. The Plaza de Armas is home to the beautiful 18th century Metropolitan Cathedral, the early 19th century Royal Court Palace that houses the Natural History Museum and the Central Post Office completed in 1882. We will continue along to Government Palace and there we will have the opportunity to walk through some of the most traditional streets and neighbourhoods. Visit Cerro Santa Lucia, the hill on which Santiago was founded in 1541, now a park with fountains and stairs leading to a fort and a panoramic viewpoint across the city. On completion of your tour, you will be taken to your hotel. Please note this is small group tour and only operates in the morning.



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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 Rio de Janeiro

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. Please note this service is with a driver only. Please note, once you arrival at your hotel you will receive a welcome pack, which will provide you with all the useful information you will need about your trip in Brazil.



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DAY 4: Rio de Janeiro

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 5: Corcovado & Sugarloaf with Lunch

After departing from the hotel, the tour takes a scenic drive from Copacabana beach, continuing along Botafogo beach and passing the Palácio Guanabara, official residence of the State's Governor, on the way to Corcovado Hill (704m), and the greatest national icon - The Christ Redeemer of Rio de Janeiro. Here, you will have time to enjoy panoramic views of Rio and appreciate the giant statue, which was recently named as one of the seven new wonders of the world. From here, the tour continues to the district of Urca and the world-famous Sugar Loaf, where you will board the first cable car to the top of Urca Hill (215m), which offers spectacular views of Guanabara Bay. A second cable car will take you on to the Sugar Loaf (395m), giving you a chance to take in the spectacular 360-degree views of the city and surrounds. Upon descending from the Sugarloaf, we pass through the famous beaches of Copacabana and Ipanema en route to a traditional Brazilian BBQ lunch at a local Churrascaria (lunch is included - all beverages are at your own expense). Following lunch, the tour continues with a visit to the Maracanã Stadium (Bellini's statue and Hall of Fame. Entry into the stadium is not included) and a stop at the Sambadrome. While in the city's historic downtown area, you will have a chance to see the Duque de Caxias Palace, Itamaraty Palace, Tiradentes Square and Lapa Arches, followed by a visit to the Metropolitan Cathedral. From here the tour will also make a quick stop to visit the Selaron Stairs, an amazing urban work of art by the late Jorge Selaron. Returning to the hotel along Aterro do Flamengo, we pass by the Monument to the Fallen in World War II and the beaches of Flamengo and Botafogo. Lunch and all entrance fees (for Corcovado & Sugarloaf) are included.



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DAY 6: Rio de Janeiro - Free Day

Famed for its breathtaking setting, Rio is undoubtedly one of the most attractive cities in the world. Enjoy your day at leisure by exploring some of its remarkable sites or take the opportunity to relax on one of Rio's famous beaches such as Ipanema or Copacabana.



DAY 7: 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.



DAY 7: Iguazu Arrival And Brazil Falls Tour

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, you will visit the Brazil side of the falls. After arriving at the visitor centre, board one of the Park Authority's tourist buses and enter the National Park. Equipped with panoramic windows, the buses are designed to maximize your views of the falls, while the walkways and steps provide you with great panoramic views of the Argentinian side of the falls. Views of the Floriana Falls, the Devil's Gorge Canyon and the Iguazu River are spectacular and are guaranteed to impress. National Park Fee included. On completion of your tour you will be taken to your hotel. Please note this is a small group tour service and includes local english speaking guide.



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DAY 8: Iguazu Falls - Argentinean Side

After an early morning pick up from your hotel, we travel to the Argentinean side of the Iguazu Falls. Beginning at the visitor’s centre, we take a ride on the Rainforest Ecological train before exploring the upper and lower circuit footbridges. The footbridges, which are raised off the jungle floor, provide panoramic views from above and below the falls. A visit to Devil’s Gorge arguably the most spectacular falls, is one of the day’s highlights.



DAY 9: 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.



DAY 9: Arrival transfer in Buenos Aires

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.



DAY 9: Buenos Aires

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.



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DAY 10: El Querandi Tango Show & Dinner

This evening you will be collected from your hotel to experience a Tango Show with dinner. This is an intimate & passionate tango show, housed in a cozy wood-panelled 19th century building with a colourful history as a meeting point for poets and students in the heart of Buenos Aires's historic centre. After being abandoned in the late 1970s, the bar was restored and reopened in 1992 as El Querandí Tango Hall. The show is directed by Claudio Campos, with musical arrangements by Ado Falasca, and it smoothly charts the history of Argentina's most authentic artistic expression from its origins to the modern day. The dinner is better than many, and at just over an hour long, the show is the perfect length. The three house singers, six dancers and four musicians put on a great show. Dinner will be served from 8.30pm followed by the show commencing at 10.00pm. Please note timings are subject to change and will be confirmed directly to you. On completion of the show, you will be taken to your hotel. Please note this is a small group tour.



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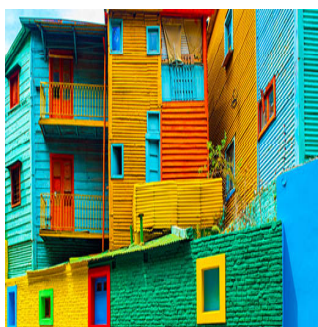
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DAY 10: Highlights of Buenos Aires City Tour

You will be collected from your hotel for your three-hour tour visiting the most important highlights of the city of Buenos Aires. 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 neighbourhood in Buenos Aires: San Telmo. Live and feel the original Tango in the neighbourhood 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. The tour comes to an end near the Recoleta Cemetery. Here you can choose to be taken back to the hotel with the group, or to continue unguided into the cemetery, where you can find the final resting place of Eva Peron, "Evita." Please note: This is a small group tour. If you wish to stay behind and visit the Recoleta Cemetery, there is an entrance fee of approximately \$15 USD, payable locally, you would then make your own way back to the hotel.



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DAY 11: Ranch & Countryside Tour

This morning you will be collected from your hotel for an authentic day in the countryside at an exclusive estancia in San Antonio de Areco. Travel by road from Buenos Aires to San Antonio de Areco across the endless pampas. This journey will take approximately an hour and half. On arrival at San Antonio de Areco you can take a short walking tour of this charming gaucho town, which includes a walk around the historical plaza. Continue to the exclusive 'El Ombu de Areco' Estancia. Once at the estancia, choose to either have a short horse ride, or ride in a sulky carriage perhaps! There is a typical welcome/starter of cold cuts, cheeses and beverages, and for lunch you will enjoy a typical Argentine country style asado prepared using only the finest quality meats. Dessert is accompanied by a folklore show, which is followed by a demonstration of gaucho skills. On completion of the tour, you will be taken to your hotel. Please note this is small group tour.



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DAY 12: 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 driver only.



DAY 12: Arrival transfer in Cusco

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. Please note this service is with a driver only.



DAY 12: Cusco

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.



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DAY 13: Cusco Walking City Tour

This morning you will be collected from your hotel to explore the wonders of Cusco, the ancient Inca capital city on foot. With your private guide, explore the city's fascinating history, from the Inca times to colonial rule to the present day. Winding through narrow cobble-stoned streets and markets, this half day tour will show you the baroque Cathedral, which took 96 years to complete commencing in 1550. The Cathedral includes many priceless colonial religious paintings including the Black Christ. Cusco is famed for its mix of Colonial and Inca architecture, and you will also sample impressive Inca constructions at the Korikancha ruins - the Inca temple of the Sun. With the entire city a UNESCO World Heritage Site, this tour will be one of the highlights of your adventures in Peru.



DAY 14: Sacred Valley Full Day Tour

You will be collected from your hotel for a day of exploring 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 and Inca Ruins. There is free time to wander the colourful market stalls before heading uphill to the Pisac, Intihuatana, Q'allaqasa and Kinchiracay ruins. Enjoy a fine buffet lunch in gardens overlooking the Valley. 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. Transfer to your hotel for the night or should you be returning to Cusco, visit Chinchero en route, an important Inca town with a colonial church and plaza.



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DAY 14: Ollantaytambo to Aguas Calientes

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. *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 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 shared 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. Return by bus to 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.



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DAY 15: 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 15: Private Transfer Ollantaytambo - Cusco

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



DAY 16: Transfer to the bus Station

You will be collected from your hotel at the appropriate time and transferred to Cusco bus or train station for your onward journey.



DAY 16: Touristic Bus: Cusco - Puno

This spectacular journey from Cusco to Puno takes you across the Altiplano. This drive will take you through sleepy Andean villages, 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 Puno in the early evening. The journey will take approximately 10 hours.



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DAY 16: Arrival transfer in Puno

On arrival at Puno 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. Should you have trouble locating him/her, please refer to the front of your itinerary for emergency contact details.



DAY 16: 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 17: 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.



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DAY 18: 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.



DAY 18: 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.



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DAY 18: 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. If you have any free days during your stay, we recommend that you take a visit to the Larcomar shopping centre. Located on a cliff with spectacular views of the Pacific Ocean in the heart of Lima's Miraflores district, it is worth the visit. You can either walk from Barranco or have your hotel arrange a taxi for you. Additionally, Huaccu Pucllana is a massive adobe and clay pyramid built between 200 and 700 AD. It served as an important ceremonial and administrative centre for the advancement of Lima culture, constructed from seven staggered platforms. Take a taxi to this amazing site in Miraflores (closed on Tuesday's). You can take a tour upon arrival, or simply admire the structure while sipping a coffee or a pisco sour in the lovely Peruvian restaurant overlooking the site (open for lunch until 3pm). Or if you are interested in history and archaeology, a visit to the one-of-a-kind private Museo Larco could be an unforgettable experience. Discover over 5000 years of ancient Peruvian civilisations and the intimate bond that existed between pre-Columbian societies and the natural world. Open daily, however it is a good idea to check if a guided tour in English is available prior to visiting.



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DAY 19: Lima - City Tour

Today you will be collected from your hotel for your tour of 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, Santo Domingo Convent and the Plaza de Armas. 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.



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DAY 20: Transfer to the airport for onward destination

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INCLUSIONS & DETAILS	
Accommodation	Standard
Inclusions	<div> Private airport transfers Internal flights Accommodation with breakfast daily Tours as detailed in itinerary Other meals where stated </div> <div> Exclusions International flights Visa & reciprocity fees (if applicable) Gratuities for guides/drivers Optional activities not mentioned in itinerary </div>
Difficulty Rating	3 Light Adventure (High altitude in some areas)
Single Surcharge	Available upon request
Notes	This itinerary can be done in reverse. Contact us for more details.
Price Dependent upon	Season and availability

SUSTAINABILITY

Chimu Adventures 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

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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.

We ensure that we have as little impact on the wildlife as possible and minimize disturbance. We also encourage the education and visitation of protection and conservation services, specifically associate with the area. You will also find that we visit many national parks, heritage sites, museums and landmarks of which we encourage you to explore yet advise you to 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 pre-departure information and en-route by guides and staff.

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.

For more information visit our [sustainability page](#).

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