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TRIP DETAILS
27 days / 26 nts - Multi-country

Departures Daily
Trip Ref 2869

ITINERARY IN BRIEF

**PRICES FROM $5,110**

# South America Discovery

**Day 1: Arrival in Rio de Janeiro**
Arrive Rio de Janeiro and private transfer to the hotel. Overnight in Rio de Janeiro.

Rio de Janeiro - Capital of the State of Rio de Janeiro, and also Brazil`s capital from 1763 to 1961, is nestled between the mountains and the sea. Its magnificent shoreline includes charming bays and beautiful beaches, dotted with islands up and down the coast. Flying into Rio is a beautiful sight, whether it be at night or during the day, the visitor quickly finds out why Rio is known as the Wonderful City. It is also an important center for art and fashion.

**Day 2: Rio de Janeiro (Corcovado & Dinner show Plataforma)**
Depart from the hotel to visit the Christ Statue, recently elected as one of the seven modern wonders of the world. The statue sits 2,300 ft. above sea level, atop Corcovado Hill. Following a scenic drive along the Rodrigo de Freitas Lagoon, we will arrive at the foot of the hill, where we embark on a small train which climbs the beautiful mountainside. Upon reaching the top, visitors will experience a panoramic view of Rio de Janeiro and discover why it is known as the “Marvelous City”! The tour also includes a drive along Rio’s famous beaches. Return to Hotel.

Evening - Rio by night with dinner and show. Enjoy a nice dinner in one of Rio famous barbecue restaurants. After dinner we head to the most famous samba theater in Rio de Janeiro to enjoy an unforgettable performance of Brazilian Samba and folklore. A look into the magical world of Brazilian Carnival wrapped in the colors and the sounds of exotic percussion instruments (does not operates on Sundays-available from Monday to Saturday only). Overnight in Rio de Janeiro.

(Included meals: breakfast, BBQ Dinner)

**Day 3: Rio de Janeiro (Tijuca forest)**
Jeep half day tour of Tijuca Forest. Following pick-up in open-air jeeps at the hotel, guests will be taken to the stunning Tijuca Atlantic Forest - the largest urban forest in the world. We will make stops at the Chinese Vista with magnificent views of Ipanema and Copacabana beaches, Guanabara Bay and Sugar Loaf. During the tour, guests often spot tropical animals like monkeys, sloths and exotic birds. On the way back to the hotel, we will stop at Pepino Beach to watch the hang gliders fly through the air. Overnight in Rio de Janeiro.

(Included meals: breakfast)

**Day 4: Rio de Janeiro (free day)**
Day at leisure. Overnight in Rio de Janeiro.

(Included meals: breakfast)

**Day 5: Rio de Janeiro - Iguazu (Brazil falls & Macuco Safari)**
Morning private transfer to Rio de Janeiro airport for the flight to Iguazu falls. Arrival in Iguazu and transfer to the hotel.

Today you will enjoy a half day tour of Brazil falls and Macuco Safari. The trip begins at the Iguaçu National Park in Brazil. En route to the falls, we will drive through the lush, subtropical vegetation of the park. After arrival, we will take a descending trail of the canyon, from where we can enjoy panoramic views of more than 240 falls. We will board a glass elevator, which takes us to a platform were more exquisite views will be revealed. Along with its “sister” park in Argentina, The Iguassu National Park forms the most significant remaining rainforest in the southern cone of South America, which along with the waterfalls have been declared a National Heritage Site by UNESCO (for passengers staying at Hotel Das Cataratas, the tour departs from the hotel. We will end the tour with a visit to the artisans fair).

The big adventure begins at the Macuco Safari entrance gates, located at kilometer 25 on the Cataratas Highway, inside the Iguassu

National Park. We will embark in open jeep-towed wagons permiting a free view of the scenery along the trail. During the three kilometers stretch through the jungle, multi-lingual guides point out and explain the flora and fauna of the Park. Second stage of the tour is an optional hike of 600 meters, which leads us to the waterfall baptized Macuco Falls. The Macuco Falls, perfect for a refreshing dip on days of intense heat, spill down from a height of approximately 20 meters. Access is via a stairway carved into an ancient rock. The last stop is the Macuco Safari dock on the Brazilian side of the Iguassu River. In the water the inflatable bi-motor boats are secure and efficient vessels, especially constructed to withstand the rigors of the excursion. Before embarking, passengers receive life-vests and plastic containers made to protect photographic and filming equipment. The boat travels up-river, passing the canyon, facing the rapids, at a speed permitting the appreciation of the scenery. Rocks, animals and a spectacular green landscape complete the scenery until we reach the great horseshoe known as the Devil's Throat. To top the tour off, the pilot will give everyone a splash by navigating through the spray of one of the falls! We recommend that passengers bring a change of clothes, due to the constant spray from the falls, and to not bring anything that can get wet - lockers are available at the pier before boarding. Duration: approximately 5 hours. Return to the hotel. Overnight in Iguazu.

(Included meals: breakfast)

**Day 6: Iguazu (Argentina falls)**

Today you will enjoy a half day tour to the Argentinean side of the falls. We will cross the Tancredo Neves Bridge, heading towards the Iguaçu National Park in Argentina A tour through the National Park in the parks own sightseeing train. Two stops will be made. We will walk to the highest point of the falls and, among the abundant nature filled with orchids, colorful birds and other wildlife, enjoy the spectacularly unique views of the 'Cataratas'. The highlight of the tour is a visit to the suspended platform at the very brink of the 'Garganta do Diabo' (Devil's Throat) waterfall - the largest fall in the park. Duration: approximately 4 hours. Return to the hotel. Overnight in Iguazu.

(Included meals: breakfast)

**Day 7: Iguazu - Buenos Aires**

Transfer from the hotel to the Iguazu airport (Argentina side). Arrival in Buenos Aires airport, reception and transfer to the hotel. Overnight in Buenos Aires.

(Included meals: breakfast)

**Day 8: Buenos Aires (city tour)**

Today you will visit the most interesting places in the city of Buenos Aires in a half day tour: the Casa Rosada, the Cabildo and the Metropolitan Cathedral and the Colón Theatre. Then you will continue towards San Telmo, a charming old quarter of cobbled streets, with its traditional Dorrego Square and the picturesque neighborhood of La Boca. Finally visit Palermo, the Planetarium and La Recoleta. Return to the hotel. Overnight in Buenos Aires.

(Included meals: breakfast)

**Day 9: Buenos Aires (free day)**

Day at leisure. Learn more about the country and its people through experiences such as culinary tours, soccer tour or take a cooking practice or a tango class and enjoy a must of Buenos Aires. Overnight in Buenos Aires.

(Included meals: breakfast)

**Day 10: Buenos Aires - El Calafate**

Transfer to the local airport to board the scheduled flight to Calafate (only driver). Arrival and reception at the airport; transfer to the hotel. If you have some time, spend the afternoon visiting the Glaciarium, the Patagonian Ice Museum with its Glaciobar, the only ice bar with glacier ice. Overnight in Calafate.

(Included meals: breakfast)

**Day 11: El Calafate (Perito Moreno Glacier)**

Departure from the hotel towards Perito Moreno glacier (entrance) situated within Los Glaciares National park. Perito Moreno glacier is an imposing ice river that descends from the Southern Patagonian Ice Field causing, during its slow advance, ice cracks and thunderous bursts that turn the glacier into a world marvel in constant movement. A show that is impressive not only for its beauty, but also for the continuous roars that are heard from its innermost recesses. Because of its breathtaking beauty it was declared a Mankind Heritage by Unesco. Take as optional a nautical safari, a short navigation from where you can get beautiful views from a different perpective. Return to the hotel. Overnight in Calafate.

(Included meals: breakfast)

**Day 12: El Calafate (free day)**

Day at leisure. Do not lose the opportunity to navigate between icebergs or experience a gourmet lunch with amazing ancient landscapes. Overnight in Calafate.

(Included meals: breakfast)

**Day 13: El Calafate - Ushuaia**
Transfer to the Calafate airport to board the scheduled flight. Arrival and reception at the Ushuaia airport and transfer to the hotel. Overnight in Ushuaia.

(Included meals: breakfast)

**Day 14: Ushuaia (Tierra del Fuego Nat. Park)**
In the morning, half day excursion to Tierra del Fuego National park located 12 km (7.5 miles) away from the city. A fascinating trip with assorted views on the Beagle Channel, surrounded by the most charming views offered by the southern tip of the Andes Mountain Range before plunging into the ocean and the Andean-Patagonian forest. A trip along peat bogs and beaver dams, leads to Lapataia River and Green Lagoon. From there you will travel the final part of Route 3 that finishes in Lapataia Bay. The primitive aborigine settlers have left their traces in the 'concheros', unbelievable archaeological deposits that provide interesting information about these people's every day life. Return to Ushuaia, stopping at Roca lake to admire the characteristic weather-changing colors of its waters. Return to the hotel. Afternoon at leisure. We suggest Beagle channel Navigation. Overnight in Ushuaia.

(Included meals: breakfast)

**Day 15: Ushuaia - Buenos Aires - Santiago**
Transfer to the Ushuaia airport to board the scheduled flight. Arrival in Buenos Aires local airport and private transfer (spanish speaking driver) to the Ezeiza International airport. Arrival in Santiago de Chile and private transfer to the hotel. Overnight in Santiago.

Considering the delays in migrations and customs, as well and the heavy traffic in the city, we recommend a minimum connection time of 5 hours.

(Included meals: breakfast)

**Day 16: Santiago (city tour)**
Morning at leisure. In the afternoon enjoy a half day city tour. Pick up from your hotel to explore the historic and modern sights of Santiago de Chile. We will start our trip at the Alameda Bernardo OHiggins, Santiagos main avenue, visiting La Moneda, the Government Palace, where your guide will explain to you the historical and actual meaning of this place. Following this we will enjoy a walk through the pedestrian streets of Huérfanos and Ahumada, where the main commercial activity of the city is concentrated. Afterwards we will visit the famous Plaza de Armas, the main square of the city, which is surrounded by the Metropolitan Cathedral and other historical buildings such as the City Hall and the Post Office, both dating from colonial times. We will continue by visiting the Santa Lucia hill, the hill upon which the Spanish founded Santiago in 1541. It is a lone steep rock, with many plants and an antique building rising steeply from the city below. From here you can see the Parque Forestal (park) on one side and the Mapocho River on the other. We will cross the river to visit Bellavista, the cultural and artistic neighborhood of Santiago. Overnight in Santiago.

(Included meals: breakfast)

**Day 17: Santiago (Viña del Mar and Valparaiso)**
Full day Vina del Mar & Valparaiso. Go on a full day excursion to Valparaíso, the oldest and most important port of Chile and to Viña del Mar, the famous beach resort. Pick up at your hotel to drive towards the Pacific Ocean, passing the agricultural valleys of Curacavi and Casablanca finally reaching Valparaíso. The port's picturesque layout, enhanced by the surrounding hills that seem to dive into the ocean, remind us of once the most important maritime destination in the Pacific coast before the Strait of Panama was opened in 1914. We will visit the downtown area with its new government house, the Plaza Sotomayor, the Plaza Victoria, the cathedral and the harbour area. Afterwards, we will discover the colourful hill neighbourhoods. Here, high above the city, there is a fantastic agglomeration of brightly painted houses and a fantastic view over the city. The upper and lower parts of the city are connected with 16 funicular railways constructed around the turn of the century when the city experienced tremendous growth. Travelling north along the coastline we will reach the city of Viña del Mar, the most famous and visited beach resort of the region. Its many parks of huge trees and palms gave Viña del Mar the well-deserved name of Garden City. We will visit the beautiful park Quinta Vergara and its amphitheatre, the beaches and the Casino, built in 1932 (La Sebastiana -Neruda´s museum- entrance fee not included, closed on Mondays). Overnight in Santiago.

(Included meals: breakfast)

**Day 18: Santiago - Lima**
A private transfer to the Santiago airport for your flight to Lima, Peru. Upon your arrival in Lima, we will provide assistance at the airport and transfer you to the hotel. Overnight in Lima.

(Included meals: breakfast)

**Day 19: Lima - Cuzco**
We will transfer you from the hotel to the airport for your departure flight. Upon arrival in Cusco, assistance at the airport and transfer to the hotel. Leisure time to acclimatize. Overnight in Cuzco.

(Included meals: breakfast)

**Day 20: Cuzco (city tour)**
Morning at leisure. In the afternoon, aprox 1pm. City tour of Cusco, including the Santo Domingo convent monastery. This former Colonial monastery was previously the Korikancha temple, one of the most important temples devoted to the worship of the sun. According to the chronicles, it was covered in gold Leaf and filled with golden representations of nature. Visit also the Cathedral, the most important temple of the city which houses the headquarters of the Diocese. After touring the most interesting sites of the city, you will be driven to the countryside outside Cusco to visit some of the remarkable Inca ruins in the area. Included are the cult centre of Sacsayhuaman, the temple and amphitheatre of Kenko, and the Red Fortress of Puca Pucara. At the end of the tour, transfer to the hotel. Overnight in Cuzco.

(Included meals: breakfast)

**Day 21: Cuzco - Sacred Valley of the Incas**
Take a trip to Urubamba the Sacred Valley of the Incas. At aprox. 8AM you will begin your tour visiting Awanakancha, where South American camelidae are bred. Learn about the llamas', alpacas' and vicuñas' superb fibres, as well as the ancient weaving techniques which are still in use. Proceed to Pisac where you will have the opportunity to bargain with vendors at its local handicrafts market. Enjoy lunch at a pleasant hostelry in the countryside and continue to the Inca fortress of Ollantaytambo. The site was built just as the Spaniards arrived and evidence of how it was is still visible. Overnight in the Sacred Valley.

(Included meals: breakfast, lunch)

**Day 22: Sacred Valley - Machu Picchu**
Transfer to Ollanta station to board the train to Machu Picchu. Upon arrival to Aguas Calientes you will take a 25-minute motorcoach ride to "The Lost City of the Incas", which was discovered by American explorer Hiram Bingham in 1911. Located on the left bank of the Vilcanota river lies the wonderful old city of Machu Picchu, which in quechua means "Old Mountain". According to research, Machu Picchu would have been one of the vacation residences of Pachacutec, the first Inca emperor between 1438 and 1470. However, some of its finest buildings and the evident ceremonial purpose of the main access road to the village, prove that it was used as a religious shrine. Machu Picchu is considered both a masterpiece of architecture and engineering because of its unique architectural and landscaping features. Prominent constructions among its buildings are the Main Square, the Royal Quarters, the Temple of the Three Windows, the Circular Towers, the Sacred Sun Dial and the Burial Grounds, among others of singular architecture and importance. Your guide will narrate and explain all about this splendid citadel, which is a truly amazing experience. Lunch at café Inkaterra. Overnight in Aguas Calientes.

(Included meals : Breakfast, Lunch)

**Day 23: Aguas Calientes - Machu Picchu - Cusco**
We strongly recommend that you wake up early to see the sunrise over Machu Picchu (entrance included - no guide-). This is a once-in-a-lifetime sight. In the afternoon return by train and then transfer to the Hotel in Cusco. Overnight in Cusco.

Optional: For hiking enthusiasts, we suggest a walk up to the peak of Huayna Picchu

(Included meals : Breakfast)

**Day 24: Cusco - Puno**
Transfer from the hotel to the bus station. Assistance on departure. Touristic Bus ride to Puno along the dramatic landscapes of the highland plateau, with occasional views of tiny Andean villages and herds of llamas and vicunas. We will stop at Andahuaylillas, where there is a beautiful baroque church built at the beginning of the XVIIth century.It is very well known thanks to its beautiful mural paintings.We will make a second stop at Raqchi, where there is an Inca temple built to worship Wiracocha, one of the most important Inca gods. Finally, we will stop at the archaeological site of Pukara (200BC-AD300). We will lunch at a restaurant en route. Upon arrival in Puno, assistance at the bus station and transfer to the hotel. Overnight in Puno.

(Included meals : Breakfast, lunch)

**Day 25: Lake Titicaca**
Take a motor boat trip to some of the most unique islands of Lake Titicaca, starting with Taquile Island, which is inhabited by quechua speaking natives who have developed both an efficient and original social system and a fine hand weaving technique over several generations. Then travel to the utterly fascinating Uros Islands, a group of 40 large floating islands completely man made of reeds, located 6 kms. from the port of Puno and at 3,812 masl, where its inhabitants still live like their ancestors and continue to maintain them as they were since pre-columbian times, using Totora reeds from the lake. Return to the hotel. Overnight in Puno.

(Included meals : Breakfast, lunch)

**Day 26: Puno - Lima (city tour)**
Transfer from the hotel to Juliaca airport. Assistance on departure flight. Arrival in Lima.

Tour of the "City of the Kings". Panoramic visit to the Huaca Pucllana, archaeological center that was active between the 5th and 8th centuries A.D. Proceed to San Isidro and enjoy a panoramic view of the Olivar of San Isidro, that stands out among the parks of the hemisphere and symbolizes the virreynal and republican tradition of this district, highlighted by its magnificent olives dating from virreynal times. Continue to the Historical Centre of Lima and see the Plaza Mayor, the Government Palace, the City Hall, the Cathedral and the Archbishop's Palace. Then on to the San Francisco Monastery, a masterpiece of colonial architecture housing important colonial paintings. At the end of the tour, transfer to your hotel. Overnight in Lima.

(Included meals : Breakfast)

**Day 27: Fly out of Lima**
Transfer from the hotel to the airport and assistance on departure flight.

(Included meals : Breakfast)

| 2009 Price per person $6,132 |
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| Quoted hotels: Rio: Mar Palace, Iguazu: San Martin, Ouro Preto: Pousada Luxor, Tiradentes: Pousada Pequena Tiradentes, Manaus: Tropical Business, Manaus: Amazon Eco Park Lodge, Buenos Aires: De las Americas, Calafate: Cerro Calafate, Santiago: Galerias, Lima: Jose Antonio, Cusco: Novotel, Urubamba: Sol y Luna, Machu Picchu: Sumaq |

Prices subject to change without previous notice

**Included:** accommodations with breakfast, meal/services as per the itinerary. Regular shared group services with english / spanish local guides (except when mentioned).

**Not included:** International and domestic air fare, airport taxes, Brazil hotel tax, entrance fee/ meals/services not mentioned, early check in / late check out at hotels, gratuities, personal expenses.

**Notes:**
- Prices per person in US dollars.
- This program may be altered depending on the airline`s schedule.
- Services are subject to the availability/rates at the moment of the reservation.
- Specific properties may be replaced for others of same quality.
- Prices do not apply on Easter, Christmas, New Year ´s Eve and Carnival weeks
- We recommend you check well in advance with the Consulates near your country, to find out if there are any special requirements that you will need to enter these countries.
- In some cities like Rio de Janeiro, Salvador, São Paulo etc the hotels charge a Tourism City Tax (per room and per night), on behalf of the Conventions Bureau. Prices vary depending on hotel category, from USD$2 to $7). These taxes are not included on hotel rates and may change without previous notice. (Hotels charge this tax directly).
- For all those guests wanting to hike Huyna Picchu, Peru located inside the Machu Picchu site, it is important that you advise us so we can purchase the entrance prior to your hike. The cost of the entrance is $15pp. This is Day 23 of this itinerary. In addition, there are two groups of 200 people each and the schedules are as follows: 1st group: Between 7 - 8 am / 2nd group: Between 10-11am. Punctuality is important as you may loose your tickets, and there is no restriction as to the amount of time spent at the top of the mountain.
- The itineraries are planned with great care, although, for operational reasons, it may be necessary to change the sequence of activities in the itinerary or the specified route, and though such cases are exceptional, in general the itinerary should be treated only as a basic guideline.

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