

## **THE BEST OF LATIN AMERICA- 13 NIGHTS/14 DAYS**

Latin America truly offers something for every interest and its top attractions are some of the most fascinating and memorable on the planet. Whisking you around some of South America's most amazing places, you'll visit the golden beaches of Brazil; travel to the awe-inspiring Iguazu Falls and Buenos Aires in Argentina; and Cusco and Machu Picchu in Peru. From sipping caipirinhas in Brazil, to watching the sunrise over Machu Picchu in Peru, you are sure to go home with many incredible travel memories.

### **Day 1: Arrive in the Marvellous City (Rio de Janeiro)**

Rio de Janeiro Upon arrival in Rio de Janeiro you will be welcomed by one of our representatives and shown to your hotel where we'll go over all your travel plans for your time in Brazil. The rest of the day is free for you to spend at your leisure, either relaxing at your hotel, or getting to know the beaches of Ipanema and Copacabana, and the restaurants and boutiques in the nearby boulevards. Sunset in Rio is spectacular, so why not join Rio's residents and head for the beaches where the mountains cast long shadows over sea and sand under a pink and golden sky. In the evening be sure to ask your Brazil Travel Expert for advice on where to find the best restaurants in the city - we will be happy to make both recommendations and reservations for you.

### **Day 2: Tijuca Forest & Corcovado (Rio de Janeiro)**

Rio de Janeiro After breakfast you'll begin a tour of the city with a trip through Tijuca Forest, the largest urban forest in the world, which sits atop the mountains of Rio and affords amazing views out across the different areas of the city. From here you'll continue to the top of Corcovado, the 710m mountain that is home to the iconic statue of 'Christ the Redeemer' that towers over the city. From here the views of Guanabara Bay, Sugarloaf Mountain, the beaches and the Atlantic Ocean are spectacular. You'll then return to your hotel and have the afternoon free to enjoy the beaches and the sunset at your leisure. Our Premium Service includes an evening experiencing the lively nightlife of Rio accompanied by one of our guides. The vibrant district of Lapa is home to some of Rio's best clubs, with live bands playing Brazilian music such as Samba, Pagode and Bossa Nova. This experience can take place on any of your nights in Rio de Janeiro.

### **Day 3: Historical Centre & Sugarloaf Mountain (Rio de Janeiro)**

Rio de Janeiro Today's tour of Rio takes you to see the historic city center in the morning, passing the Metropolitan Cathedral and the Candelaria Church, plus many more important buildings in the history of the city. You will then be taken to the base of Sugarloaf Mountain from where you'll ride a cable car to the top. This amazing feat of engineering was the first cable car in Rio, and the third in the entire world, taking passengers to the top of the granite mountain 300m directly above the sea. From the top the views over Guanabara Bay, Copacabana Beach and up to Corcovado are about as spectacular as you can get. The afternoon and evening are free for you to enjoy the beaches and boutiques at your leisure.

### **Day 4: A First Glimpse of Iguazu Falls (Rio de Janeiro to Iguazu Falls)**

Rio de Janeiro to Iguazu Falls You will catch the morning flight to Iguazu Falls, with your first chance to catch a glimpse of the 275 separate falls and surrounding jungle coming as the plane lands. After arriving, you head for an immediate tour of the Brazilian side of the falls for the best panoramic views of the world's most beautiful waterfall. Extra options on the Brazil side include experiencing the falls from above and below. The

Macuco Safari boat takes you for an adventurous river ride under the powerful curtains of water, while helicopter flights give you a birds eye view of the falls, with 10min flights over them. Both these activities are included for Premium Service, as is lunch at Porto Canoas Restaurant above the falls. The evening is free after transferring to your hotel.

#### **Day 5: Argentinean Iguazu (Iguazu Falls)**

Iguazu Falls After breakfast, you will be met for your tour of the Argentine side of Iguazu Falls. Here, walkways built over the river, around, and alongside the falls allow you to experience the majesty of Iguazu from very close up. You can see, hear and feel the water falling around 80m from the plateau to the bottom at many of the 275 separate falls. The undoubted highlight is standing on the very edge of The Devil's Throat as water pounds the bottom, creating the roar and the mist that mean Iguazu Falls can be heard and seen for miles around. You return to your hotel after lunch at La Selva Restaurant (Premium only). The evening is free for you to spend at your leisure, with a Latin American Dance Show being one possibility.

#### **Day 6: On to Buenos Aires (Iguazu Falls to Buenos Aires)**

Iguazu Falls to Buenos Aires Options for your final day at Iguazu Falls depend on your onward flight. You may have time to visit the Bird Park where thousands of colorful tropical species live in huge aviaries. A trip to Itaipu Dam, once the largest hydroelectric plant in the world, is another possibility. Tours take you around the site and even inside the huge dam wall. In the afternoon you will transfer to the airport for your flight to Buenos Aires. After arriving the rest of the day is free for you to relax at your hotel or explore the surrounding areas such as Recoleta, with its famous cemetery. Ask your Argentina Travel Expert for advice on where to find the best restaurants in Buenos Aires - we will be happy to make both recommendations and reservations for you.

#### **Day 7: South American Sophistication (Buenos Aires)**

Buenos Aires The Buenos Aires guided tour takes in many of the city's main attractions, including La Boca, San Telmo, the Plaza de Mayo, Casa Rosada, the cathedral, colonial Cabildo and the old Town Hall, before continuing on to the elegant Barrio Norte and finishing in the quieter residential neighborhood of Palermo. In the evening you will be attending one of the city's finest 'Dinner and Tango' shows, where you will experience the very best of Argentine cuisine accompanied by some fabulous wines. Following dinner the show will begin. Tango is a passionate and intense dance, and over the course of the evening you will have the opportunity to hear many of Argentina's most beloved numbers.

#### **Day 8: The Tango City at your leisure (Buenos Aires)**

Buenos Aires This day is free for you to enjoy the city of Buenos Aires at your leisure. Many extra tours are available in and around the city, or you can choose to explore on your own. One option is a trip outside of the city to visit an estancia, where Gauchos (Argentinean cowboys) still maintain their traditional lifestyle. Boat trips around the Tigre Delta an hour outside the city are also popular, as is the trip across the Rio de la Plata to the historic town of Colonia del Sacramento in Uruguay. In the evening we can recommend restaurants across the city, and you may also want to visit one of the traditional tango clubs, or the milongas, where you can watch the locals dance, and join in if you wish. Tango lessons can also be arranged if you want to learn the basic steps before visiting a milonga.

### **Day 9: Over The Andes to Peru (Buenos Aires to Lima to Cusco)**

Buenos Aires to Lima to Cusco Following breakfast an early transfer takes you to the international airport for your flight over the Andes to Lima. On arrival in the capital of Peru, you will be assisted with your onward flight to Cusco, the Inca Capital. Once in Cusco you will be welcomed at the airport and transferred to your hotel where you will be briefed on all of your travel plans for your stay in Peru. You will have the remainder of the day at your leisure to rest and allow your body to acclimatize to the altitude.

### **Day 10: Captivating Cusco**

Cusco The morning can be spent over a leisurely breakfast in your hotel before either exploring the area, or relaxing at your hotel. Your guided tour of Cusco and its archaeological sites will begin in the afternoon, starting with a visit to the impressive Colonial Cathedral, followed by Korikancha, the Temple of the Sun. From here you will travel to the outskirts of Cusco for a tour of the archaeological site of Sacsayhuaman, later visiting the ruins of Puca Pucara, Qenqo, and Tambomachay. The evening hours will be spent at leisure. \*\*\* Please Note: Ask your Travel Specialist about the possibility of including an adventure trek on the famous Inca Trail to Machu Picchu. CAT offers the classic hike (4 days) or the shorter express hike (2 days).

### **Day 11: Through the Sacred Valley of the Inca (Cusco / Sacred Valley)**

Cusco / Sacred Valley Today your guide will collect you for your visit to the Urubamba Valley. You will make your first stop at the village of Pisac and its local market (T/Th/Su). Later on, in the early afternoon, you will enjoy lunch at Posada Yucay (Standard), or the Huayocari Hacienda (Premium - hosted by the owner of a private residence with an impressive collection of Inca and colonial art and artifacts). The afternoon will be spent exploring the impressive ruins at Ollantaytambo, and the evening back at your comfortable hotel in Cusco. (Meals - B, L) \*\*Please Note: Travelers in Premium have the opportunity to stay overnight after their private tour, then take the train from the Sacred Valley to Machu Picchu in the morning - this is highly recommended.

### **Day 12: Encounter the Majesty of Machu Picchu**

Machu Picchu You will depart during the morning for your train ride through the Sacred Valley to Machu Picchu. Upon arrival at the station in Aguas Calientes, your professional guide will retrieve your luggage and escort you to your transportation to the magnificent ruins of Machu Picchu that lie just a short drive from the small town. Following a guided tour of the ruins, you will have the rest of the afternoon free to explore until the sun begins to set over the beautiful Andes. Transportation is provided to the base of the mountain, where you can return to your hotel and spend the evening at your leisure. \*\*Please Note: The Premium Machu Picchu Tour is private (4 hrs); Standard is in small groups (2 hrs).

### **Day 13: First-Class Train back to Cusco (Machu Picchu to Cusco)**

Machu Picchu to Cusco Today you can spend at your leisure, you may well wish to return to the ruins for some further exploration, or for those looking for adventure CAT recommends the hike to Wayna Picchu. This trail requires approximately 4 hours to complete, and allows for spectacular views of Machu Picchu and the surrounding areas. Your train will depart in the afternoon and arrive in Cusco just after sundown. CAT highly recommends a ride in the first class VistaDome train (Premium), which allows for a spectacular view of the scenery as you wind your way back to Cusco. For those in the mood for a little luxury, the Hiram Bingham train will definitely be of interest - just ask your Travel Specialist for further details. Upon arrival in Cusco you will be met and

shown back to your hotel. This evening you may wish to dine inside the Pre Columbian Art Museum, considered to be one of the top private collections in all of Peru. We're sure it will leave you with plenty to talk about over a gourmet candlelit dinner - reservations upon request.

**Day 14: Home from South America (Cusco to Lima & Away)**

Cusco to Lima & Away After a relaxed breakfast and a morning spent at your leisure you will be transferred to the airport for your afternoon flight to Lima. You will be transferred to the Airport for your departure flight back home or onward destinations.

**Preferred Hotel**

<b>Destination</b>	<b>3 star</b>	<b>4 star</b>	<b>5 Star</b>
<b>Rio de Janeiro</b>	Astoria Palace	Porto Bay Rio International Hotel	Copacabana Palace
<b>Puerto Iguazu</b>	-	-	Sheraton Iguazu
<b>Buenos Aires</b>	Dazzler Tower San Martin	Loi Suites Recoleta	Grand Palladium Riveira
<b>Cusco</b>	Hotel Arqueologo	Novotel Cusco	Monasterio Hotel
<b>Machu Picchu</b>	El Mapi Hotel	Hatuchay Tower	Picchu Pueblo Hotel