

## ***SOUTH AMERICAN SOJOURN***

Hosted by Phil and Jane Harris



**TRIP START:** Departs from Auckland Tue 2 June 2020

**TRIP END:** Arrives Auckland Sat 27 June 2020

### **TOUR HIGHLIGHTS:**

- ◆ Walking tour of Buenos Aires and Argentine Experience
- ◆ Explore off the beaten track coloured canyons of Nth Argentina
- ◆ Travel over the shimmering salt lakes of Uyuni and visit fascinating La Paz
- ◆ Experience the Uros floating reed islands & the unique culture of Taquile Island, Lake Titicaca
- ◆ Visit the lost City of the Inca's - Machu Picchu
- ◆ Indulge in fine Latin American cuisine including Andean specialities
- ◆ Explore the city of Cusco and Sacred Valley of the Incas
- ◆ Travel deep into the Amazon rainforest near Puerto Maldonado and spot exotic wildlife
- ◆ End with an insightful city tour of Lima, "City of Kings"

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## **ITINERARY - IN BRIEF**

<b>DAY 1</b>	<b>Arrive in beautiful Buenos Aires</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Tour Argentine side and head to Buenos Aires</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Half day walking tour of Buenos Aires and Argentine Experience with dinner</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Fly to Salta, walking tour in Salta</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Travel to Tilcara &amp; coloured canyons</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Cross border to Bolivia, travel to Tupiza</b>
<b>7 &amp; 8</b>	<b>4WD Safari - Uyuni Salt Flats</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>Continue to Uyuni &amp; fly to La Paz</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>La Paz ½ day city tour</b>
<b>11 &amp; 12</b>	<b>Travel to Puno &amp; Lake Titicaca - visit the floating islands and local communities</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>Travel to Cusco by train or bus over the Andes</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>Cusco – half day city tour and afternoon cooking class</b>
<b>15</b>	<b>Cusco – free day</b>
<b>16</b>	<b>Travel to the Sacred Valley of the Incas</b>
<b>17</b>	<b>Sacred Valley, Inca sites and local community visits</b>
<b>18</b>	<b>Machu Picchu guided tour and return to Cusco</b>
<b>19 to 21</b>	<b>Amazon Rainforest - stay in eco lodge</b>
<b>22</b>	<b>Fly to Lima</b>
<b>23</b>	<b>Lima full day city tour, final night dinner</b>
<b>24</b>	<b>Departure day</b>

# LAND ITINERARY - IN DETAIL

## Day 1: Arrival in Buenos Aires and transfer to hotel

You'll be met at the airport and transferred to your hotel where your tour leader will give you a trip briefing of the exciting journey ahead. There are no planned activities today, so relax and settle in, until your welcome dinner this evening and trip briefing. Meals included: None

## Days 2: Buenos Aires



Today we'll take you on an insightful walking tour of Buenos Aires visiting the Plaza de Mayo and Congress. We'll also head to the colorful Bohemian district of La Boca with its many artists and street markets. No visit to Argentina is complete without learning more about this unique culture. So we spend the evening enjoying the cultural and culinary delights of the "Argentine Experience" which will give you an fun, tasty and entertaining insight to Argentine Culture.

Meals Included: 1 Breakfast, 1 Dinner

## Day 3: Buenos Aires

This exciting cosmopolitan City, often known as the "Paris of the Americas" is a mix of colonial architecture and European influences - and a shopper's paradise. Our hotel is steps away from the major shopping area of Recoleta. Spend free time strolling the avenues, exploring the markets and in the evening we all head out to a spectacular Tango Show!

Meals Included: 1 Breakfast, 1 Dinner

## Days 4 & 5: Northern Argentina – Salta & Tilcara – altitude 1200m to 2500m

We catch an early morning flight to Salta and enjoy a walking tour in the afternoon.

Salta is truly one of the most beautiful cities in northern Argentina. However, the itinerary will depend on the very changeable flight schedules. This area is also known for its fabulous Torrontes wine and is the northernmost wine region of Argentina. This is also the first ascent to altitude over 2500m. The following day we head north to discover the surreal coloured hills and spend the night in Tilcara.

Meals Included: 2 Breakfasts



## Day 6: Travel to Bolivia - altitude 2850m



Today we continue towards the Bolivian border and spend the next night in Tupiza.

We need to be a little flexible with the itinerary due to conditions en-route and the border crossing, but you will be well rewarded. Tupiza is a great place to relax, before our 4 wheel drive adventure towards the Salar de Uyuni begins. It is also a great place to further acclimatize for higher altitudes ahead.

Meals Included: 2 Breakfasts

## Days 7 & 8: Uyuni Salt Flats 4WD safari, altitudes of 3000m and above

Today is an early start to our Bolivian 4WD adventure towards Uyuni and the incredible Salt Flats (Salar de Uyuni). We will visit the famous train cemetery, Uyuni Salt Flats and the fascinating Inca Huasi (Fish Island) with the tallest cactus in the world and great views over the Salar. The next day we visit the coloured lagoons and flamingos, heading to the Geyser of Sol de Mañana, lagoon Chalviri and its thermal waters.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

**Special note.** This is a true 4WD adventure across at times, rugged terrain and in high altitude. The itinerary can be subject to change at short notice, due to climatic conditions, and is a guideline only.



## Day 9: Uyuni to La Paz, altitudes of 3000m and above

Continuing our 4WD safari, we'll visit the valley of the rocks, the necropolis of Tomas Lakjas. Arriving in Uyuni for a late flight to La Paz. Once in La Paz, we'll transfer to our hotel for a well earned good night's rest. Meals Included: Breakfast and Lunch

## Day 10: La Paz - altitude of 3800m

Enjoy a 1/2 day city tour of La Paz which begins with an excursion to the Moon Valley, located 10 km from downtown of La Paz. They are impressive formations, composed mainly of clay and were created by the persistent erosion of mountains by the area's strong winds and rains. Then we will take the cable way and enjoy a wonderful panoramic view of the city. Finally, we will visit the Historic Center of La Paz where we will visit Witches' Market which will give us a little insight into some Andean beliefs and superstitions. Meals Included: Breakfast

## Days 11 & 12: Travel to Puno – altitude 3900m

Leaving La Paz, we drive via the Bolivian version of Copacabana located on the shore of Lake Titicaca, the world's highest navigable lake (3860 m above sea level) to Puno. Enjoy spectacular Altiplano scenery along the way, with plenty of photo stops and a chaotic but interesting border crossing.

The next day after breakfast we board our boat to explore the lake. Visiting the fascinating floating reed islands of the Uros people, where houses, schools, boats and the islands themselves are made of the Tortora Reed. Continuing on to Taquile Island to experience this unique community.



Make sure you take with you some small change as there are craft co-operatives on Taquile Island which sell fine hand knitted bags, hats and garments. All purchases help the entire community, not just one family. After a lunch of local lake fish, we head back to Puno by boat and arrive in the late afternoon to relax and explore this mostly Aymara town.

Meals Included: 2 Breakfasts, 1 Lunch

## Days 13 to 15: Travel over the Andes to Cuzco - ½ day city tour & cooking class

A half day tour today reveals to us the ancient city that was known by the Incas as the “Navel of the World”. We also visit the surrounding Inca site of Sacsayhuaman. Cuzco is an exquisite mix of Incan and Spanish colonial influences. A free day to explore Cuzco and enjoy the special atmosphere.

Browse in the many craft shops, enjoy a coffee overlooking the plaza, or relax in the courtyard of your colonial style hotel. The day is yours. Late in the afternoon, you will enjoy a fascinating Peruvian cooking class overlooking the city of Cusco.

Dinner tonight will be the results of your cooking experience.

Meals Included: 2 Breakfasts and 1 Dinner

## Days 16 & 17: Cusco to the Sacred Valley of the Incas – altitude 2800m to 3300m

Today we head out to the beautiful Urubamba Valley (Sacred Valley of the Inca's), visiting a weaver's village or local market on the way, depending on flight times. The following is an exciting mix of local culture and your first experience of an ancient Inca site.

Pisac Inca site and vibrant Pisac market, along with Ollantaytambo are all in the Sacred Valley, so we'll try and maximise time so as to best explore the area and Inca ruins.

Meals Included: 2 Breakfasts



## Day 18: Machu Picchu and Cuzco – altitude 2400m to 3300m

A highlight of the trip is taking a scenic train ride through spectacular mountain vistas to Aguas Calientes - then transfer by coach to Machu Picchu – the “Lost City of the Incas”.

Machu Picchu, rediscovered by archaeologist Hiram Bingham in 1911, is one of the most beautiful and enigmatic ancient sites in the world. After our guided tour of Machu Picchu, we return to Cuzco late in the evening.

Meals Included: Breakfast

**Special note:** Due to new visiting rules, we will try and take the afternoon option of 12.30 to 17.30. This means a long but rewarding day and a late arrival back to Cusco. Visiting times will be subject to availability.



## Days 19 to 21: Amazon Rainforest Lodge – altitude 200m to sea level for remainder of the trip

AMAZON EXCURSION - After a short flight we arrive in the steamy Amazon town of Puerto Maldonado, where we're met and taken to our lodge. First we ride by boat from the Tambopata Port to the lodge trail head, then walk 3km to stunning Sandoval lake, where we are canoed across to the lodge.

Amazon lodge – Nature walks, canoeing, medicinal plants and their uses, wildlife videos and lectures will have you enthralled. We have the chance to see spider, capuchin and howler monkeys, macaws, sloths, giant river otters which are resident in the lake, hummingbirds, caimans and a vast variety of insects. The lodge's unique location is sure to be a highlight of your trip.

Meals Included: 3 Breakfasts, 3 Lunches and 3 Dinners



## Days 22 & 23: Lima

We retrace our river and road journey back to Puerto Maldonado. A short flight takes us to Lima via Cusco.

Whilst there you will enjoy our fascinating city tour which takes you to the central square Plaza Mayor and San Francisco church with the eerie catacombs which hold the remains of all the monks who lived there. You'll get to know the city and discover the contrasts of its huge urban area. Your tour leader will take you on an afternoon walk through the neighbourhoods of Miraflores and Barranco, overlooking the Pacific Ocean. There is a coastal promenade which gives you great views and a chance to see the paragliders flying high above the cliffs. Our final dinner will feature regional Peruvian specialties.

Meals Included: 2 Breakfasts and 1 Dinner

## Day 24: Departure day – Adios y buen viaje

Depart any time today. Meals Included: Breakfast

**Ask about joining our Galapagos tour for a relaxing and unique way to end your South America Sojourn.**

## Group Size

Hosted from New Zealand based on Maximum 14 guests. Otherwise locally Hosted from Buenos Aires to Lima

**Costing \$16,500.00 per person (single supplement \$2,900.00)**

### Price Includes

- ◆ Flights ex Auckland
- ◆ Tour Hosts and Tour Leader
- ◆ Buenos Aires city tour and Argentine Experience & Tango show
- ◆ 4WD excursion in Bolivia through the Uyuni salt lakes
- ◆ Lake Titicaca full day guided tour
- ◆ Sacred Valley & Machu Picchu guided tour
- ◆ Cuzco cooking class and city tour
- ◆ Eco Lodge Amazon Excursion (3 nights)
- ◆ Half day Lima city tour
- ◆ Bilingual tour leader throughout and specialized local guides for excursions
- ◆ All flights and transport within South America, transport & accommodation
- ◆ Tips pool of USD120 per person for local guides & drivers
- ◆ The cost of entry fees for all scheduled tours.
- ◆ Local payment of US\$500
- ◆ Meals as listed

### Price Does Not Include

- ◆ All items of a personal nature, laundry, drinks, souvenirs etc.
- ◆ Travel insurance, this is compulsory in order for you to take part.
- ◆ Visas (none required for New Zealand citizens, Australians require a visa for Brazil)
- ◆ Tips for tour leader

### Deposit and Payment

\$1000.00 non-refundable deposit. (this will be refunded in full if the tour is cancelled)

### Accommodation

Accommodation is cosy 3-star standard but comfortable with en-suite rooms. Hotels are chosen for their safety, location, ambiance and friendly staff. We pride ourselves on booking small family run hotels wherever possible.

### Difficulty of this Itinerary

This is an active sightseeing trip, designed for anyone who is of moderate fitness. It is a unique small group tour so be prepared to be more active than on a regular coach tour. You'll sometimes need to be responsible for moving your own luggage from your hotel to taxis or transport. There is walking involved on most days and all of the Inca sites have lots of steps. This can be a bit tougher with the altitude in areas like Cuzco, Puno and the Salt flats but we take it easy and give you time to acclimatize. There is a 3km walk through the rainforest to get to the Amazon Lodge, which in June, July & August is usually dry and dusty. Your bags will be carried by porters, so you only carry a day pack.

## Special Notes on Unforeseen Circumstances

This tour can involve traveling in areas of political unrest and there are some high altitude pass crossings. There is always a possibility that a pass or road may be closed, flights cancelled or changed unexpectedly. If this happens, we'll do all possible to arrive at our next destination with minimum disruption. However extra traveling and accommodation expenses, due to road closures, strikes, schedule changes etc., are the responsibility of the client and you must have adequate travel insurance cover in case these situations arise. We urge you to read our terms and conditions thoroughly when booking.

### IS THIS TOUR FOR YOU?

Fully escorted with a bilingual tour leader, plus some expert local guides. Choose this trip if you either think you will only visit South America once to sample of the highlights, or to get an idea of the area so you can then come back for further in depth travel to specific regions.

It will give you a taste of the diverse cultures and geography that is South America and will whet your appetite to explore further. You will experience a variety of climatic zones from the steamy Amazon Basin, to the cool heights of the Andean Altiplano.

We travel on a variety of transport from planes to motorized canoes, public coaches and mostly private vans. There are a few long travel days (10-12 hrs) and one long public bus trip on a comfortable long distance coach. Accommodation is simple but comfortable, on a twin share basis with en-suite rooms and hot water. Hotels are chosen for their safety, location, ambiance and friendly staff. If you enjoy unique journeys and look forward to special experiences, this will be the trip of a lifetime.

## FAST FACTS

### Argentina

**Population:** 41.45 million

**Capital City:** Buenos Aires

**Currency:** Argentine Peso

**Language:** Spanish

#### Now for the interesting bits:

By land area Argentina is the 2nd largest country in South America and the 8th largest country in the world.

The national sport of Argentina is Pato a game played on horseback. It takes aspects from polo and basketball. The word Pato is Spanish for 'duck' as early games used a live duck inside a basket instead of a ball.

There are over 30 national parks in Argentina.

Argentine beef is famous around the world and Asado (an Argentine barbecue) is very popular in the country which has the highest consumption of red meat in the world



## Bolivia

**Population:** 12 million

**Capital City:** Sucre

**Currency:** The Boliviano

**Language:** Spanish, Aymara, Quechua

**Now for the interesting bits:**

Largest land locked country in the Americas, 1,098,581 km<sup>2</sup>

There are actually 36 indigenous languages recognized in Bolivia

Empanadas and Salteñas, a stuffed type of pastry, are consumed by the millions

Salar de Uyuni is the largest salt flat in the world, 12000 km<sup>2</sup> approx

## Peru

**Population:** Just over 30 million,

**Capital City:** Lima, it's the 2nd largest capital to be located in the desert (after Cairo), approx 9 million people.

**People:** Amerindian 32%, mestizo (mixed Amerindian & European) 45%, European 20%, Afro & Asia Peruvians 3%

**Language:** Spanish, Quechua, Aymara, English

**Now for the interesting bits:**

It almost never rains in Lima, although a heavy mist appears for around 8 months of the year. It's called 'garua' and is caused by warm winds interacting with the cool waters of the Pacific Ocean.

The potato was first domesticated in Southern Peru sometime between 8000 and 5000 B.C.

The 160 or so Spanish Conquistadors who conquered the Inca Empire became rich beyond their wildest dreams. This inspired thousands of poor Europeans to try their luck, and so began the myth of 'El Dorado', an imaginary South American kingdom full of gold, invented by desperate, gold-hungry men.

## Best Season

The best season of the above itinerary the periods between: May to September

For further information Contact:

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