

## 30 Day South American Odyssey & the Galapagos Islands

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<b>Tour by AVG Travels</b>	<b>Small Group Tour Max 20 Travellers</b>	<b>Centrally Located Hotels</b>
<b>English-speaking Local Guides</b>		

### Day by Day Itinerary

Buenos Aires, Iguassu Falls, Rio de Janeiro, Lima, Puerto Maldonado, Cusco, Sacred Valley, Machu Picchu, Puno, Lake Titicaca, Quito, Baltra, Isla Santa Cruz, Isla Santa Fe, Isla Floreana, Isla Isabela, Sierra Negra Volcano

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Experience an authentic Argentinian dinner in **Buenos Aires**
- Tour both sides of **Iguassu Falls** – one of the natural wonders of the world
- Visit some of the most iconic sights in **Rio de Janeiro** – Christ the Redeemer & the Lapa Steps
- Explore colonial **Lima** in a guided tour of the city
- Spend 3 nights in the **Amazon Jungle** exploring this raw, natural wonder
- Immerse yourself in the Incan culture throughout the **Sacred Valley**
- Gawk at the “Lost City of the Incas” – **Machu Picchu**
- Be guided through **Cusco** – one of Peru’s most beautiful cities
- Learn about the local people who call **Lake Titicaca** home on a full day tour of the region
- Marvel at the famous Galapagos Tortoises in the wild in **Santa Cruz**
- Learn from a local ex-fisherman about the island’s history in **Puerto Ayora**
- Explore **Santa Fe Island** and its special marine reserve where you can swim with sharks
- Take time to explore **Floreana** and it’s easy walks allowing you to view the local wildlife
- Explore the pirate caves and freshwater springs during a walk through **Asilo de la Paz**
- Visit the local giant tortoise breeding centre in **Isabela**
- Hike the **Sierra Negra Volcano** – the archipelago’s youngest volcano
- Enjoy a historical walking tour of Ecuador’s capital – **Quito**

## ITINERARY

### Day 1: Arrive Buenos Aires, Argentina

Welcome to Argentina!

On arrival into Ezeiza International Airport (EZE) or Aeroparque Internacional Jorge Newbery (AEP), you will be met by your private transfer and driven to your Buenos Aires accommodation.

pend the remainder of the day at your leisure.

**Meals:** n/a

**Accommodation:** Libertador Hotel 4\* or similar

### **Day 2: Buenos Aires**

Discover Buenos Aires today, one of the most captivating cities in Latin America and beyond. We'll start our journey at Plaza de Mayo, exploring its surroundings and iconic landmarks like the Cathedral, which serves as the final resting place of Argentina's founding father, José de San Martín.

As we visit Palermo, Retiro, and Recoleta, you'll see why Buenos Aires is often called the "Paris of South America." We'll admire Plaza San Martín, stroll along the prestigious Alvear Avenue, and visit the Basílica de Nuestra Señora del Pilar, one of the city's oldest churches. Our tour will also include a stop at the Recoleta Cemetery to pay our respects at Eva Perón's grave, a significant figure in Argentine history.

Next, we'll head to Puerto Madero, the city's newest neighbourhood, where we'll explore its modern docks and vibrant district of corporate, residential, hotel, and dining spaces.

Our journey continues to San Telmo, one of Buenos Aires' oldest neighbourhoods. Here, we'll delve into its rich history and wander through its charming cobblestone streets.

After San Telmo, we'll proceed to La Boca, known for its authentic character and Italian immigrant influence. We'll visit Caminito Street, which embodies the neighbourhood's passionate soccer culture, artistic flair, and tango-inspired ambiance.

In the evening, join us for The Argentine Experience – Dinner Experience. This interactive and enjoyable dinner event offers an immersive look into Argentine cuisine and culture. You'll learn to craft empanadas using the "repulgue" technique, order steak in Spanish, prepare your own "mate" drink, and explore typical Argentine words, phrases, and gestures.

The evening will kick off with an empanada-making class, where you'll compete to create the best empanada, with a prize for the winner. Enjoy your creations alongside grilled provoleta cheese and chorizo sausage with chimichurri. The main course features a delicious Argentine steak, paired with a lesson on the renowned "Malbec" wine from a sommelier.

For dessert, you'll make an "alfajor" filled with "dulce de leche," Argentina's beloved sweet treat. And of course, no meal is complete without a mate! You'll learn how to prepare it and join in a traditional round, just like Argentinians do when they gather.

**Meals:** Breakfast & Dinner

**Accommodation:** Libertador Hotel 4\* or similar

### **Day 3: Buenos Aires - Iguazu Falls**

At the relevant time today, you will be transferred to the airport in time for your included flight to Iguazu Falls.

On arrival into Iguazu Falls, you will be met and transferred to your accommodation in Puerto Iguazu.

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Accommodation:** La Aldea de la Selva Lodge 4\* or similar

### **Day 4: Iguazu Falls**

Get ready to be awestruck by the Iguazú Falls: a stunning collection of 275 waterfalls reaching nearly 80 metres (260 feet) in height. Recognized as one of the New Seven Wonders of Nature and a UNESCO World Heritage Site, these falls are truly a natural marvel.

Iguazú National Park, located in the northwest of Misiones Province, just 11 miles from Puerto Iguazú, is part of the Paraná Jungle eco-region that spans nearly the entire province.

The Lower Circuit features a 0.8-mile (1.3 km) trail that brings you close to some of the smaller waterfalls on the Argentine side. This path, equipped with restrooms and snack bars, offers great photo opportunities, including a view of the Carlos Bozzetti Waterfall.

The Upper Circuit, which is wheelchair accessible, provides an elevated view of the majestic falls on the Argentine side, offering breathtaking panoramic vistas. From here, you can see the Argentine falls, San Martín Island, and parts of the Brazilian falls.

The Devil's Throat, the largest waterfall in the region, is where the majority of water flows through Iguazú Falls. At an impressive 350 feet (107 metres) in height, it's an essential feature of the falls. A newly constructed catwalk allows you to get up close to this powerful cascade.

Dinner awaits at Mercadito de Yabuticaba.

**Meals:** Breakfast & Dinner

**Accommodation:** La Aldea de la Selva Lodge 4\* or similar

#### **Day 5: Iguazu Falls, Brazil - Rio de Janeiro**

After breakfast, you will be taken on a guided tour of the Brazilian side of Iguaza Falls – be sure to have your passport handy for when you cross the border!

You'll experience some of the most spectacular panoramic views of the falls. We will take a glass elevator that ascends to a platform, offering even more breathtaking vistas.

Together with its counterpart in Argentina, Iguazú National Park constitutes the largest remaining rainforest in the southern cone of South America. Both the park and the waterfalls have been recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

From here, you will be transferred to the local airport in time for your included flight to Rio de Janeiro.

On arrival, you will be met by your local guide and transferred to your accommodation.

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Accommodation:** Regency Park Hotel 4\* or similar

#### **Day 6: Rio de Janeiro**

After breakfast, embark on a full-day tour to discover the highlights of Rio de Janeiro. We'll depart from the hotel and visit the city's most iconic landmarks, including a scenic drive along Rodrigo de Freitas Lagoon. We'll then arrive at the base of Corcovado Hill, where we'll board a comfortable train that ascends to the summit, home to the Christ the Redeemer statue perched 2,300 feet above sea level. This statue, often called the "wonder of Rio," is recognized as one of the Seven New Wonders of the World. At the top, you can take panoramic elevators or escalators to reach the statue's base.

After lunch, we'll explore the vibrant neighbourhood of Santa Teresa, situated on Morro do Desterro (Exile Hill). Known for its artistic and bohemian atmosphere, Santa Teresa is celebrated for its architectural charm and cultural vibe. Historic cable cars navigate the area's narrow streets, adding to its unique character.

At the foot of Santa Teresa, you'll find the Escadaria Selarón, commonly known as the 'Lapa Steps' (Escadaria da Lapa). This renowned staircase is the creation of Chilean artist Jorge Selarón, who described it as "my tribute to the Brazilian people." In the Lapa neighbourhood, we'll also visit the Carioca Aqueduct, or "Arcos da Lapa," an impressive structure built in the 18th century.

Spend the remainder of the day at your leisure.

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Accommodation:** Regency Park Hotel 4\* or similar

#### **Day 7: Rio de Janeiro**

Spend today at your leisure.

Perhaps book onto one of the optional tours available or explore the city at your own pace.

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Accommodation:** Regency Park Hotel 4\* or similar

#### **Day 8: Rio de Janeiro - Lima, Peru**

Today, you will be transferred to the airport in time for your included flight to Lima, Peru.

On arrival into Jorge Chavez International Airport (LIM), you will be met by a local representative in the arrivals hall and transferred to your accommodation.

Spend the remainder of the day at your leisure.

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Accommodation:** Hotel Dazzler Lima Miraflores 4\* or similar

#### **Day 9: Lima**

We'll start our exploration of Lima with a journey through its Colonial past. Our first stop will be the Main Square, where we'll stroll to admire the exteriors of the Government Palace, the Cathedral, and City Hall—each a testament

to the grandeur of colonial architecture. Following this, we'll visit Casa Aliaga, a colonial mansion renowned as the oldest continuously inhabited private residence in the Southern Hemisphere.

Next, we'll head to Santo Domingo Convent, a religious and architectural treasure that features sacred paintings, images, and relics of Peruvian saints, along with historical records of the Dominican Order's efforts in the region. Finally, we'll wander through Barranco's charming streets, exploring traditional spots like the "Bajada de Baños" and the iconic "Puente de los Suspiros," both rich in history and beauty.

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Accommodation:** Hotel Dazzler Lima Miraflores 4\* or similar

#### **Day 10: Lima - Puerto Maldonado - Amazon Jungle**

Today, you will be transferred to the airport in time for your included flight to Puerto Maldonado – the gateway to the Peruvian Amazon Jungle.

On arrival, you will be transferred to your awaiting boat transfer which will take you on a 45-minute journey to your Amazon Jungle Lodge.

Upon arriving at your Jungle Lodge, you will have an orientation of the accommodation and its surrounding facilities, before being informed about your coming day's activities and schedule.

On your first day, you can embark on a guided walk along the trail system, providing a great introduction to the jungle ecosystem and opportunities to observe exotic birds and insects. In the evening, join us for a guided boat ride to experience the forest's transformation from day to night.

**Meals:** Breakfast & Dinner

**Accommodation:** IKAM Riverview Amazon Lodge or similar

#### **Day 11: Amazon Jungle**

In the morning, we'll embark on an excursion to Lake Sandoval within the Tambopata National Reserve. We'll explore the lake's waters in a wooden canoe, where we might encounter endangered species such as giant river otters, red howler monkeys, red-bellied macaws, anacondas, and side-necked turtles. After lunch, we'll visit the Inkaterra Canopy and the Anaconda Trail.

On this adventure, we'll walk through the tropical forest canopy for about a quarter of a mile, traversing a network of walkways that link eight observation platforms. This excursion offers the chance to spot vibrant toucans, woodpeckers, trogons, as well as monkeys, sloths, and various other Amazonian species.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

**Accommodation:** IKAM Riverview Amazon Lodge or similar

#### **Day 12: Amazon Jungle**

Today will include morning and afternoon activities spent on the tributaries of the Amazon River.

During the day, you will return to the lodge to have lunch, relax and freshen up before heading out for your included afternoon activities.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

**Accommodation:** IKAM Riverview Amazon Lodge or similar

#### **Day 13: Amazon Jungle - Puerto Maldonado - Cusco - Sacred Valley**

Today brings an end to your time in the Amazon Jungle.

You will be transferred by boat and vehicle to Puerto Maldonado Airport in time for your included flight to Cusco.

On arrival into Cusco, you will be met and transferred to your accommodation situated in the Sacred Valley.

Spend the remainder of the day at your leisure to explore the nearby ruins or perhaps to stroll along the Urubamba River.

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Accommodation:** Hotel La Casona de Yuca 3\* or similar

#### **Day 14: Sacred Valley**

Today, tour of the Sacred Valley: Maras Salt Pans, Moray Archaeological Site, and Ollantaytambo Fortress.

Our journey begins with a visit to the Salt Pans of Maras. The sight of these still-active salt mines, which have been

in use since Incan times, is truly striking, with the stark white of the salt pans contrasting sharply against the lush green mountain slopes. We will then proceed to the Moray Archaeological Site, renowned for its circular terraces that descend 490 feet (150 metres). These terraces served as an agricultural testing ground and are a testament to the advanced engineering skills of the Incas, who built in harmony with nature.

Finally, we'll explore Ollantaytambo, one of the last remaining Incan towns, known for its formidable fortress. Here, we'll uncover the extensive archaeological complex that once functioned as a rest stop for royal delegations. The surviving walls and towers of the fortress reveal the impressive defensive structures used to protect the citadel from potential invasions.

**Meals:** Breakfast & Lunch

**Accommodation:** Hotel La Casona de Yuca 3\* or similar

#### **Day 15: Sacred Valley - - Machu Picchu - - - Cusco**

Today you will be picked up from your hotel at the designated time and taken to the train station for your scenic train journey to Aguas Calientes filled with breathtaking views.

Upon arrival in Aguas Calientes, we'll board a bus that will take us to the entrance of Machu Picchu.

Discovered by Hiram Bingham over a century ago, Machu Picchu is celebrated as one of the seven wonders of the world. Its stunning architecture, dramatic natural setting, and the mystical aura of its ancient buildings are truly awe-inspiring. We'll explore the enchanting citadel on a guided tour, following in the footsteps of the ancient Incas.

After the tour, we'll enjoy a delicious lunch at a local restaurant.

Finally, we'll return to the Aguas Calientes before taking the train and private vehicle towards Cusco, where you will check into your hotel.

**Meals:** Breakfast & Lunch

**Accommodation:** Xima Exclusive Cusco 4\* or similar

#### **Day 16: Cusco**

Embark on a half day guided tour of this enchanting city.

Cusco is undoubtedly one of Peru's most stunning cities. We'll explore its iconic squares, Inca architecture, and charming narrow streets. Our visit will include the Cathedral, the famous 12-Angle Stone, and the Qorikancha, a significant site with connections to the Amazon.

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Accommodation:** Xima Exclusive Cusco 4\* or similar

#### **Day 17: Cusco**

Today is spent at your leisure.

There are many different half day or full day tours that you can book onto today, both in and around Cusco.

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Accommodation:** Xima Exclusive Cusco 4\* or similar

#### **Day 18: Cusco - Puno**

Say goodbye to Cusco as the tour heads towards the highest elevated lake in the world – Lake Titicaca.

During the trip, you'll have the opportunity to explore various attractions along the route, including Pucara, Raqchi, and Andahuaylillas. The excursion also includes lunch at a local restaurant.

**Meals:** Breakfast & Lunch

**Accommodation:** Hotel Jose Antonio Puno 4\* or similar

#### **Day 19: Puno - Lake Titicaca - Puno**

Today, we will embark on a remarkable journey across Lake Titicaca, the world's highest navigable lake. Our adventure begins with a visit to the Uros floating islands, an intriguing cluster of about 40 small islands constructed entirely from totora reeds, which grow around the lake. The friendly residents will welcome us to experience their traditional way of life and customs.

Continuing our journey across the serene waters of the lake, we'll reach the charming Taquile Island. This tranquil

island harmoniously blends ancient Quechua traditions with modern life. We'll explore its unique landscape, featuring Incan terraces adorned with local flowers and crops. The vibrant colours of the local attire and their exquisite handmade textiles will captivate us. Above all, we will appreciate the warm hospitality of the Taquileños, who will ensure our visit is unforgettable. Before returning to Puno, we'll enjoy lunch at a local home.

**Meals:** Breakfast & Lunch

**Accommodation:** Hotel Jose Antonio Puno 4\* or similar

#### **Day 20: Puno - Lima**

Today, you will be transferred to the airport in time for your included flight back to Lima.

On arrival, you will be met and transferred to your hotel for your final night on tour.

**Meals:** Breakfast & Lunch

**Accommodation:** Hotel Dazzler Lima Miraflores 4\* or similar

#### **Day 21: Lima - Quito, Ecuador**

At the relevant time today, you will be privately transferred to Jorge Chavez International Airport (LIM) in time for your included flight to Quito, Ecuador.

On arrival at Mariscal Sucre Quito International Airport (UIO), please make your way to the starting hotel and spend the remainder of the day at your leisure.

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Accommodation:** Wyndham Quito Airport 4\* or similar

#### **Day 22: Quito - Baltra - Isla Santa Cruz**

Today, make your way to Mariscal Sucre Quito International Airport (UIO) in time for your included flight to the Galapagos Islands.

Upon arriving at Baltra Island, the gateway to the Galapagos, you'll find that this small island once served as a military base during World War II and now houses the main airport for the archipelago. The airport, known for its pioneering environmental design, was the first in the world to integrate advanced techniques aimed at minimising emissions and energy consumption. You'll notice some of these eco-friendly features as you walk through the facility.

Our adventure kicks off as soon as we land! We'll enter the airport through a special VIP lounge where you can change clothes, apply sunscreen, and enjoy a refreshing drink before we head to the Itabaca Channel. There, we'll explore the stunning turquoise waters and have the opportunity to kayak, snorkel, and stand-up paddleboard (SUP). Expect to see some of the Galapagos' iconic wildlife, including blue-footed boobies, sea lions, brown pelicans, various herons, and white-tipped reef sharks. There's no better way to start your Galapagos experience than by getting on the water right away! We'll glide through beautiful red mangrove forests and along dramatic lava rock cliffs, with crystal-clear water allowing us to see the marine life below. We offer both double and single ocean kayaks, and life jackets are provided. A support boat will accompany us throughout our activities, ensuring safety and offering water, snacks, and towels as needed.

After our time at the Itabaca Channel, we'll head to the Santa Cruz highlands and visit a private reserve adjacent to the National Park to see the famous Giant Tortoises in their natural habitat. Following lunch, we'll drive to Puerto Ayora town.

**Meals:** Breakfast & Lunch

**Accommodation:** Ikala Hotel 4\* or similar

Please note: a USD\$20 per person transit card is payable on departure at Quito Airport and a USD\$200 per person national park entry fee is payable on arrival on the islands. Please have cash on hand for these transactions as credit cards are not accepted.

Please note: please remember that the Galapagos enforces strict quarantine rules on bringing food to the islands, including many fruits and vegetables that are restricted. You'll have time to purchase snacks at the airport after check-in and before departure.

#### **Day 23: Isla Santa Cruz - Isla Santa Fe - Isla Santa Cruz**

Embark on a full-day sea adventure aboard a motorboat with a former fisherman, his friendly crew, and a knowledgeable naturalist guide, exploring the waters near one of the Galapagos' more remote islands. The recent

transformation of the Galapagos Islands has shifted the local economy from subsistence fishing and small-scale agriculture to a tourism-driven model, which now employs around 40% of the local population. We have partnered with local fishermen to help them transition from traditional fishing to promoting and preserving the Galapagos' rich marine ecosystem through sustainable tourism.

As we head towards Santa Fe Island and its unique marine reserve, you'll have the opportunity to experience the area's remarkable biodiversity. Enjoy a range of marine activities, including swimming with sharks and snorkelling to observe colourful fish, sea cucumbers, and other marine species. The journey takes you through stunning landscapes featuring sparkling turquoise waters and white sand. Along the way, you'll have the chance to witness wildlife in its natural habitat, including one of the most significant sea lion colonies in the reserve.

This full-day excursion includes both snorkelling and swimming opportunities. Please note that excursions are subject to availability and may be subject to changes without prior notice.

**Meals:** Breakfast & Lunch

**Accommodation:** Ikala Hotel 4\* or similar

#### **Day 24: Isla Santa Cruz - Isla Floreana**

After breakfast, we set off for Floreana Island with an early departure for our two-hour speedboat journey.

Floreana Island, home to the Galapagos' smallest human population with just 150 residents, is the least developed and most natural of the four inhabited islands. It was the first island settled in the Galapagos, and descendants of the original settlers still live here. Once a hideout for pirates, the island is steeped in mystery and legends about its early inhabitants.

During our visit, we'll hike, explore the island's intriguing history, and observe some of the Galapagos' unique wildlife. We might encounter giant tortoises, frigate birds, sea lions, Darwin's finches, petrels, and marine iguanas, among other species.

Upon arrival, we'll take an open-air 'chiva bus' to the Floreana Lava Lodge, which offers views of one of the Galapagos' most beautiful and secluded bays. The lodge is run by Claudio Cruz, a descendant of the island's original inhabitants. Claudio will share his extensive knowledge of Floreana's history with us, and we'll have the chance to meet his family, gaining unique insights into life on the island.

Once settled, we can either walk or kayak to nearby Black Beach for snorkelling. After our aquatic adventure, we'll enjoy lunch at a restaurant in the village, part of a community tourism initiative developed with Tropic's support since 2012.

In the afternoon, we'll take a walk to La Loberia, a sea lion breeding ground. There, we can snorkel and swim in the clear, calm waters with sea turtles, sea lions, rays, and a variety of tropical fish.

Later, we'll return to the lodge for a refreshing shower (a 30-minute walk) and watch the spectacular sunset before heading to the village for dinner, celebrating another remarkable day in the Galapagos.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

**Accommodation:** Lava Lodge 4\* or similar

#### **Day 25: Isla Floreana**

After breakfast, we'll set out to explore the Floreana highlands aboard an open-air bus (chiva)—a charming, historic, and comfortable way to experience the island.

Our naturalist guide will share intriguing stories about some of Floreana's early inhabitants, including the Wittmers (whose descendants still reside on the island), the 'Baroness,' and the pirates who once frequented the area. We'll also learn about the "Enigma of Floreana," a mysterious series of deaths from the 1930s that remains unsolved and was featured in the film "The Galapagos Affair."

Upon reaching the highlands, our hike begins at Asilo de la Paz (Peace Haven). We'll explore the historic pirate caves, visit the freshwater spring that supplies the entire island with water, and hear more about the island's history and stories from our guide. As we walk, we might spot giant tortoises moving through the vegetation or even along the trail.

From Asilo de Paz, we'll descend through a rural area where locals grow produce for their own use. This offers a fascinating glimpse into how island residents have adapted to their remote environment and developed methods to preserve their unique agricultural practices. On our way back to the coast, we'll visit Claudio's farm, La Primavera, where we can observe the impressive behaviour of frigate birds as they 'dance' while washing their wings in the farm's freshwater lake. With some luck, we might see the males inflating their red pouches to attract

females. We'll also see where some of the fresh fruit and vegetables served at the lodge are grown.

We'll enjoy a special barbecue lunch featuring delicious recipes from the Cruz family. In the afternoon, we'll return to the hotel.

**Meals:** Breakfast & Lunch

**Accommodation:** Lava Lodge 4\* or similar

### **Day 26: Isla Floreana - Isla Isabela**

Today, we begin with an early morning speedboat ride to Isabela Island, where we will check into our hotel.

Our adventure on Isabela starts with a visit to the local giant tortoise-breeding centre. On the way, we might spot pink flamingos feeding in a nearby lake. At the centre, our guides will explain the breeding process and the efforts to release these slow-moving giants into the wild. The breeding centre plays a crucial role in the conservation and recovery of the giant tortoise population, whose Spanish name (meaning "saddle") inspired the name of the Islands.

In the afternoon, we'll head to the Tintorerías, a cluster of small islands near Puerto Villamil, named after the white-tipped 'Tintorerías' reef sharks that inhabit these tranquil waters. Often described as a Galapagos in miniature, Tintorerías showcases almost all of the archipelago's iconic wildlife: white-tipped sharks, sea lions, turtles, rays, penguins, and, of course, pelicans and blue-footed boobies. You'll have the opportunity to snorkel in the bay, where you might even have some playful interactions with penguins or sea lions joining you in the water.

**Meals:** Breakfast & Lunch

**Accommodation:** Isamar Hotel 3\* or similar

### **Day 27: Sierra Negra Volcano**

The Galapagos Islands were all formed by volcanic eruptions, and today you'll have the opportunity to witness this geological process firsthand as we explore Isabela, one of the archipelago's youngest and most volcanically active islands.

We'll spend the entire day discovering the Isabela highlands, beginning with a hike up to the crater of the colossal Sierra Negra volcano, followed by a trek to the rim of Volcan Chico. Our journey often starts with morning fog and drizzle, which may linger around the volcano, adding to its enigmatic allure. Despite the drizzle, we might spot Galapagos Hawks, finches, flycatchers, and Short-Eared Owls along the way.

Upon reaching the rim of the Sierra Negra crater—second in size only to Tanzania's Ngorongoro—you'll be rewarded with breathtaking views that are hard to capture in photos, though you should still bring your binoculars and camera.

As we continue toward Volcan Chico, the landscape may make you feel as if you're on Mars due to its otherworldly appearance. Despite the seemingly barren terrain, you'll notice small lizards darting among the rocks. From the crater's rim, we'll take in more stunning vistas and explore lava tubes and fumaroles.

After our adventure at Volcan Chico, we'll relax under the shade of a beautiful jaboncillo tree and enjoy a box lunch with expansive views of the central and northern parts of Isabela. On a clear day, we can see Fernandina, Pinzon, and Santa Cruz Islands in the distance. We'll then head back down to complete our 16-kilometre (9.94-mile) hike and unwind on the beaches of Puerto Villamil.

**Meals:** Breakfast & Lunch

**Accommodation:** Isamar Hotel 3\* or similar

### **Day 28: Isla Isabela - - Baltra - Quito**

This morning, take an early morning speedboat back to Isla Santa Cruz, then transfer by road to Baltra Airport in time for your included flight to Quito.

On arrival into Quito, you will be met and transferred to your accommodation in the heart of the colonial district of the city.

Spend the remainder of the day at your leisure.

**Meals:** Packed breakfast

**Accommodation:** Hotel Patio Andaluz 4\* or similar

Please note: today, some passengers may be departing from the tour.

### **Day 29: Quito**



Today you will be met by your local guide who will take you on a colonial tour of Quito.

Ecuador offers a rich blend of history, captivating indigenous cultures, meandering rivers, lush tropical forests, dramatic snow-capped volcanoes, and some of the world's most thrilling wildlife.

Our journey begins in Colonial Quito, a city known for its narrow cobblestone streets and charming whitewashed buildings, all framed by the impressive steeples and domes of its beautifully decorated historic churches. Quito boasts one of the best-preserved colonial centres in South America, a status recognized in 1978 when the United Nations designated it a World Cultural Heritage site.

We'll stroll through the Main Plaza, where you'll encounter the Government Palace and several significant churches from the 16th and 17th centuries, including La Compañía and the San Francisco Monastery, which began construction just five days after the city's founding in 1534.

Our exploration will also take us to La Ronda, Quito's most famous colonial street, where we'll delve into traditional trades and crafts from Colonial Quito.

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Accommodation:** Hotel Patio Andaluz 4\* or similar

### **Day 30: Depart Quito**

Unfortunately, today marks the end of your time in Ecuador. At a suitable time, you will be transferred to Mariscal Sucre Quito International Airport (UIO) in time for your departure flight.

**Meals:** Breakfast

## **INCLUSIONS**

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- **Small group tour – maximum of 20 travellers**
- 29 nights in 3 to 5-star accommodation, including 3 nights in the Amazon Jungle
- Breakfast daily, 12 lunches & 7 dinners plus a box breakfast
- English-speaking, local guides throughout
- Private airport transfers on day 1 & day 30
- Private, air-conditions transportation throughout
- Private transportation via boat through the Galapagos Islands
- Domestic economy class flights; Buenos Aires to Iguazú Falls, Iguassu Falls to Rio de Janeiro, Lima to Puerto Maldonado, Puerto Maldonado to Cusco and Puno to Lima and Quito to Baltra return
- International, economy class flight; Rio de Janeiro to Lima and Lima to Quito
- Entrance into national parks, museums, natural reserves as mentioned in the itinerary
- Entrance fee into Machu Picchu site, including bus transportation
- Return train ticket from Ollantaytambo to Aguas Calientes

## **EXCLUSIONS**

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- International flights into Buenos Aires and out of Quito
- Visas
- Travel insurance
- Tipping
- Anything not mentioned in the itinerary
- Optional activities
- Personal expenses
- Transit control card (when in the Galapagos Islands): US\$20
- Galapagos entrance fee: US\$200 (adults) – US\$100 (children)

## **DEPARTURE DATES: PRICE IS QUOTED IN \$ PER PERSON**

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DEPART AU	RETURN DATE	PRICE	NOTE	RESERVE YOUR SEAT
<b>Sunday</b> 23 Mar 2025	<b>Monday</b> 21 Apr 2025	\$13,999		<b>Sold Out</b>
<b>Tuesday</b> 22 Apr 2025	<b>Wednesday</b> 21 May 2025	\$13,999		<b>Book</b>
<b>Tuesday</b> 13 May 2025	<b>Wednesday</b> 11 Jun 2025	\$13,999		<b>Sold Out</b>
<b>Tuesday</b> 03 Jun 2025	<b>Wednesday</b> 02 Jul 2025	\$13,999		<b>Book</b>
<b>Tuesday</b> 24 Jun 2025	<b>Wednesday</b> 23 Jul 2025	\$13,999		<b>Book</b>
<b>Thursday</b> 24 Jul 2025	<b>Friday</b> 22 Aug 2025	\$13,999		<b>Book</b>
<b>Tuesday</b> 05 Aug 2025	<b>Wednesday</b> 03 Sep 2025	\$13,999		<b>Sold Out</b>
<b>Tuesday</b> 26 Aug 2025	<b>Wednesday</b> 24 Sep 2025	\$13,999		<b>Book</b>
<b>Tuesday</b> 16 Sep 2025	<b>Wednesday</b> 15 Oct 2025	\$13,999		<b>Sold Out</b>
<b>Tuesday</b> 07 Oct 2025	<b>Wednesday</b> 05 Nov 2025	\$13,999		<b>Book</b>
<b>Tuesday</b> 28 Oct 2025	<b>Wednesday</b> 26 Nov 2025	\$13,999		<b>Sold Out</b>
<b>Tuesday</b> 18 Nov 2025	<b>Wednesday</b> 17 Dec 2025	\$13,999		<b>Book</b>

## OPTIONAL TOURS

### FINE PRINT

#### FLIGHT INFORMATION

This is a **land package** only.

If you would like to add airfares to your booking, please select the departure city where we have the economy return flights add-on for your selection. If you would like to book the business class or premium class, please contact us anytime and our ticketing expert would assist you. Currently we use Emirates Airlines or similar.

#### Flight requests, amendments or preferences

We understand customers may wish to request changes to their included airfares. If you wish to fly with a certain airline, land at a certain time or change your flight in other ways we will gladly provide you with a personalized quote tailored to your specific requirements.

We would be more than happy to provide you with a quote for the following requests:

Airline Preferences – You may wish to fly with a particular airline

Cabin Preferences – These include upgrading to premium economy or business class

Extensions (start and end cities must remain the same) – You may request to extend your stay pre or post tour.

Meal Requests – You may request a specific meal for dietary requirements.

Seat Requests – If you would like to request particular seating. However please note, not all airlines allow the selection of pre-purchased seat arrangements.

## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

### **Tour by AVG Travels**

Our AVG Travels Experts have crafted this itinerary, blending local insights and travellers preferences to create this unforgettable experience. We have considered attractions, logistics, and unique opportunities, ensuring each detail aligns perfectly. Our expertise transforms trips into seamless adventures, offering bespoke inclusions that will ultimately enhance your time touring with AVG Travels.

### **Accommodation**

The accommodation listed is subject to change. Any changes will be of an equal or higher standard. Bedding configurations (double or twin) are requests only. All efforts will be made to meet your preferences however any changes are beyond our control.

### **Single Supplement**

Single supplement is **\$2,965 per person** in addition to the twin share price.

### **Physical Requirements**

A reasonable level of fitness is required. Participants should be comfortable navigating stairs, boarding and disembarking from the coach and ship, and walking reasonable distances, typically around 2 kilometres per day or more. Please disclose any physical conditions at the time of booking to assess suitability for the tour.

Due to the high altitude of our destinations, some individuals may experience altitude sickness, regardless of their age, gender, or fitness level. Even Sir Edmund Hillary faced this challenge!

Visitors are required to be accompanied by a Machu Picchu guide (not our trip leaders) and must adhere to designated routes within the site. This trip includes a guided visit to Machu Picchu, lasting approximately 1.5 to 2 hours. Your leader will provide additional information to help you make the most of your time at this remarkable site.

This trip includes a couple of longer drives. Although these journeys are by private vehicle and may feel a bit tiring, they offer a wonderful opportunity to relax, enjoy the scenery, and chat with fellow travelers.

As per Machu Picchu regulations, all visitors must follow a designated route within the site in a single direction. Once the guided visit begins, exiting and re-entering is not allowed. After the guided visit, visitors must exit the site, as personal exploration of Machu Picchu is not permitted. For further details, please refer to the itinerary.

### **Tipping**

A friendly reminder that tipping is not included in your package.

Industry standard is USD\$10-15 per person per day – however the final amount you may wish to give, is completely at your discretion.

### **Group Size**

Minimum: 4

Maximum: 20

### **Visa & Passport information**

It is the traveller's responsibility to ensure they have a valid passport. The passport must be valid for a minimum of six months from the intended date of return and must have more than 2 blank pages.

AU Passport holders:

No visa is required to travel to **Argentina** for a maximum of 90 days.

Visa for **Brazil** is required from 9 April 2025 onwards – e-visa application [here](#).

No visa is required to travel to **Peru** for a maximum of 90 days.

No visa is required for **Ecuador** for a stay of less than 90 days.

Travellers must complete a transit control card that the Galapagos Government Council issues.

Travellers must complete the pre-registration form online at least 24 hours before the flight to issue the transit control card.

This transit control card can be obtained via this link [here](#).

**IMPORTANT:** Visa requirements may change at any time without notice. You should contact the nearest high commission/embassy or consulate for the latest details.

**Children**

Children under the age of 18 years will not be permitted to travel on this tour.

**Travel Insurance**

Travel insurance is recommended to protect yourself against the unexpected. In addition to the support that a policy may provide, you may be asked to present a copy of your travel insurance documentation while traveling. We have partnered with **NibTravel Insurance** to offer our customers competitive rates for their travel insurance. You can book Comprehensive or Essentials cover for your domestic, international or multi- trip journeys simply with us.

**HOW TO EXTEND YOUR STAY**

No pre or post tour services are offered as part of this package.

**AVG Travels**

Australia Call: 1800 229 339

New Zealand Call: 0800 220 920

US Call: 1 888 440 6001