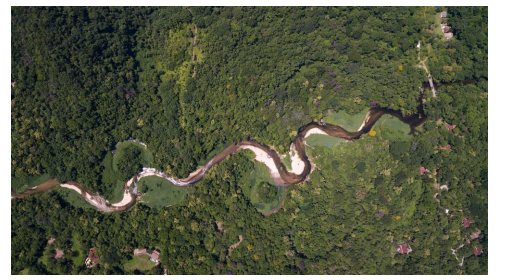




SOUTH AMERICA OVERLAND WITH CARNIVAL, (LTAV)

Cartagena to Boa Vista 158 Days, departing 13th November 2022



TRIP OVERVIEW

Trip Style: Overlanding

Route: Cartagena to Boa Vista

Duration: 158 Days

Transport: Overland Expedition Vehicle, Jeep, Boat, Private Bus, Train, Local Bus, Canoe, Metro, Ferry, Minibus

Accommodation: Comfortable Hotel 45 nights
Hammocks 2 nights
Basic Hotel 34 nights
Multishare Hostel 21 nights
Camping 41 nights
Guesthouse 5 nights
Homestay 1 night
Wild Camp 5 nights
Overnight Boat 2 nights

Meals: Breakfasts x 120, Lunches x 63, Dinners x 56

Physical Challenge:



The trip may include multi-day treks at high altitude, walking for 5-8 hours per day.

Lifestyle Challenge:



This is a fairly challenging trip; you may well be travelling at high altitudes, across deserts or through cold and windy or hot and steamy areas. The terrain and roads may be rough and the facilities can be very basic or non-existent. There may be some long drive days followed by wild camps, and physically and mentally it can be tough, but there will be some rest days and time to relax as well.



DAILY ITINERARY

Day 1 - Cartagena (13th November 2022)

Border Information: if joining in Cartagena, you will most likely enter Colombia at Cartagena Rafael Núñez International Airport (IATA code: CTG).

There will be an important group meeting at 6:00pm at the joining hotel - please look out at the hotel reception for a note from your leader with more details about this important meeting.

Please note that many of the options listed below will only be possible for those with extra time in Cartagena before the start of your trip with us - please contact the Sales team if you would like to book pre-tour accommodation with us to have extra time exploring Cartagena.

If you are continuing on from Panama, then your leader will have assisted you with airport transfers for your included flight to arrive in time for the joining meeting.

Accommodation: Hotel Villa Colonial "A"

Day 2 - Cartagena (14th November 2022)

Meals: Breakfast

Today we will have a full day in the beautiful coastal colonial city of Cartagena.

In the morning we will have an included walking tour of the city, and then the afternoon will be free to explore the city further, enjoy the many optional activities on offer, or simply relax on the beach.

Daily Activities

Included Activities

Explore Cartagena on a guided walking tour

Included

Optional Activities

Discover the brutal history of the Spanish Inquisition at their former headquarters in Cartagena the Palace of the Inquisition

Entrance: 15,000 COP

Guide: 10,000 COP

Days diving or snorkelling trip out to Islas del Rosario, Cartagena

Boat trip (speed boat): 70,000 COP

Learn all about Cartagena's naval tradition and history at the Naval Museum of the Caribbean

Entrance: 15,000 COP

Day 3 - Tayrona NP (15th November 2022)

Today we have a short drive to the stunning Tayrona National Park.

In Tayrona we will sleep in Hammocks, no food is provided, but there are restaurants and cafes nearby by. There is an hour walk from where we park our truck to our campsite.

Day 4 - Tayrona NP (16th November 2022)

Today we have an included walk in the National Park.

Daily Activities

Included Activities

Explore some of Tayrona National Park's scenic walking trails including a hike to the mysterious ancient ruins of Pueblito hidden in the jungles high above the coastline

Included

Day 5 - Lorica (17th November 2022)

This morning we will walk back to our truck and leave Tayrona National park. We will head south for the pretty colonial town of Santa Cruz de Lorica on the Sinu River.

We will have a free day to relax and discover the historic centre, learn about the traditional Vueltiao hat or head to the coast and soak up the sun in San Bernardo del Viento.

Day 6 - Lorica (18th November 2022)

We will have a free day to relax and discover the historic centre, learn about the traditional Vueltiao hat or head to the coast and soak up the sun in San Bernardo del Viento.

Day 7 - Medellin (19th November 2022)

Today we have a full days drive to vibrant city of Medellin. the following morning we will have a guided walking tour of the city. We then have plenty of time to relax or take part in some of activities available here.

Day 8 - Medellin (20th November 2022)

Meals: Breakfast

This morning we have an included half-day city tour of Medellin using our overlanding truck.

Daily Activities

Included Activities

Head out on a fascinating guided tour of Medellin and learn all about it's tumultuous past

Included

Optional Activities

Take the pioneering Metroline cable car up to Santo Domingo to see a very different area of the city and the revitalising effect the Metroline has had on the communities there

Cable car ride: 1,750 COP

Visit the colossal Catedral Metropolitana in the city centre built using over a million bricks between 1875 and 1931

Entrance: Free

Head out and discover some of Medellín's vibrant and unusual nightlife at the Dulce Jesus Mio club

Entrance: 10,000 COP

Day 9 - Medellin (21st November 2022)

Meals: Breakfast

Free day to explore Medellin.

Day 10 - Manizales (22nd November 2022)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today we will head into the heart of the coffee region to stay at a Hacienda near the town of Manizales.

Day 11 - Salento (23rd November 2022)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Today we will continue our journey south to the small town of Salento, the gateway to the spectacular Valle de Cocora.

Salento will be our base to take a guided trek through the Cocora Valley to see the Quindio wax palm trees, the largest palms in the world and the national tree of Colombia and also to do a coffee plantation tour.

Day 12 - Salento (24th November 2022)

Meals: Breakfast

Today we will take a guided trek through the Cocora Valley to see the Quindio wax palm trees, the largest palms in the world and the national tree of Colombia.

Daily Activities

Included Activities

Head out on a half-day guided trek through the spectacular Cocora Valley and see the incredible 50m-tall Quindio wax palms the tallest palm trees in the world!

Included

Day 13 - Salento (25th November 2022)

Meals: Breakfast

Today we have time to explore the coffee plantation and learn about coffee.

Daily Activities

Included Activities

Learn about Colombia Coffee and wander the plantation

Included

Day 14 - Popayan (26th November 2022)

Meals: Breakfast

Today we will drive to the beautiful town and former colonial capital of Popayán.

On the following day we will have a free day to explore Popayán or take part in some excellent treks or other optional activities in the surrounding area.

Day 15 - Popayan (27th November 2022)

Meals: Breakfast

Today we will have a free day to explore Popayán or take part in some excellent treks or other optional activities in the surrounding area.

Daily Activities

Optional Activities

Relax in the volcanic thermal springs near the village of Coconuco dramatically set in a steep-sided valley

Thermal springs trip: 60,000 COP

Trek to the 4650m summit of the towering Puracé volcano near Popayán

Hike: 130,000 COP

Day 16 - Ipiales (28th November 2022)

Meals: Breakfast

Today we will have a full day drive to the border town of Ipiales.

Day 17 - Otavalo (29th November 2022)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

We will leave Colombia behind today and cross the border into Ecuador, we will have time for an included visit to the beautiful Santuario de las Lajas, before heading to Otavalo.

Border information: Exit Colombia at Ipiales, enter Ecuador at Ipiales.

Daily Activities

Included Activities

Visit the jaw dropping Santuario Las Lajas on the outskirts of Ipiales

Included

Day 18 - Quito (30th November 2022)

Meals: Breakfast

We will head south for the final leg of our journey to the bustling capital, Quito. En route into the city we will have an included visit to Mitad del Mundo, the monument that marks the Equator.

Daily Activities

Included Activities

Visit the equator at Mitad del Mundo

Included

Day 19 - Quito (1st December 2022)

Border Information: if joining in Quito, you will most likely enter Ecuador at Quito Mariscal Sucre International Airport (IATA code: UIO).

There will be an important group meeting at 6:00pm at the joining hotel - please look out at the hotel reception for a note from your leader with more details about this important meeting.

Please note that many of the options listed below will only be possible for those with extra time in Quito before the start of your trip with us - please contact the Sales team if you would like to book pre-tour accommodation with us to have extra time exploring Quito.

A note on altitude: If you are joining in Quito, we strongly recommend arriving at least 24 hours before the trip begins to allow additional time to acclimatise.

Daily Activities

Optional Activities

Take a walk around Quito's incredible Botanical Gardens, which showcases all of Ecuador's various ecosystems and their flora

Entrance: 4 USD

Visit the Museo Mindalae, the extremely original project showcasing Ecuador's rich cultural diversity

Entrance: 3 USD

Visit the Museo Nacional del Banco Central showcasing the countrys largest collection of Ecuadorian art and housing an impressive gold collection

Entrance: 2 USD

Day 20 - Ecuadorian Amazon (2nd December 2022)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today our journey begins with a drive to a village on the edge of the Amazon basin, near the town of Tena, where we head to our lodge for an incredible 3-night stay.

Our lodge is a great example of eco-tourism, built and run by the local community and volunteers, who work to re-forest the reserve land at the lodge with native trees and medicinal plants. The lodge is set in secondary and primary rainforest, an area at risk of deforestation.

Daily Activities

Included Activities

Spend 3 nights at our fantastic Ecuadorian ecolodge taking in many activities such as boat trips on the Napo River visits to local communities and treks through the jungle to some spectacular waterfalls and bat caves!

Included

Day 21 - Ecuadorian Amazon (3rd December 2022)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Over the next two days we will head into the Amazon jungle, enjoying rainforest treks exploring the nearby waterfalls and caves, and trips down the Napo River in motorised dugout canoes, hopefully spotting plenty of wildlife on the way. We will also see some ancient fossils and petroglyphs, and visit a local Quichua community.

Day 22 - Ecuadorian Amazon (4th December 2022)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Second full day in the rainforest.

Day 23 - Rio Verde (5th December 2022)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today we will drive through the highlands of Ecuador, arriving in Rio Verde near the famous Tungurahua volcano.

Day 24 - Rio Verde (6th December 2022)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

We will have two full days of free time to take part in a range of optional activities in Rio Verde, such as white-water rafting, trekking, canyoning, cycling, and other options. We will also have the opportunity to visit the nearby town of Baños and its popular volcanic thermal springs.

Daily Activities

Optional Activities

Head out for an exhilarating half-day canyoning trip through the gorges near Baños

Canyoning (half day): 25 USD

Take out some quad bikes on a tour around the winding trails near Baños

Quad biking: 36 USD

Go on an adrenaline-fuelled half-day rafting expedition on the Rio Pastaza near Banos one of the best rafting experiences in South America

Half day rafting: 25 USD

Go out on a half day rock climbing trip to the walls of natural lava rock just outside Banos

Half day rock climbing: 30 USD

Explore the stunning gorges forests and landscapes of the Baños area by foot

Machay waterfall entrance or Pailon del Diablo entrance: 2 USD

Take the famous zip-lining course through the Puntzan Canyon near Bañ

Zip line: 25 USD

Spend some time soaking in the hot springs

Entrance: 3 USD

Day 25 - Rio Verde (7th December 2022)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Second free day for optional activities.

Day 26 - Chugchilán (8th December 2022)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today we will drive to the remote village of Chugchilán, via the spectacular highland scenery along the road of the 'Quilotoa Loop'.

Day 27 - Chugchilán (9th December 2022)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today is a free day to enjoy optional activities such as mountain biking or horseback riding.

Day 28 - Cuenca (10th December 2022)

Meals: Breakfast

Today we will drive along the remainder of the Quilotoa Loop and then head south to the beautiful colonial town of Cuenca. We will pass through the stunning landscape of the Cajas National Park en route.

Day 29 - Cuenca (11th December 2022)

Meals: Breakfast

Today we will have a free day to explore the colonial city of Cuenca. The town is the birthplace of the famous Panama Hat, and we will have the opportunity today to visit one of the factories to learn about the manufacturing process.

Daily Activities

Optional Activities

Visit some of the volcanic thermal baths near to the colonial town of Cuenca

Entrance: 20 USD

Take a day trip out of Cuenca to visit the site of the Ingapirca ruins the largest known Inca ruins in Ecuador

Day trip: 25 USD

Visit the Museo Pumapungo in Cuenca featuring an impressive range of artistic historical cultural and ethnological exhibits and most famously housing a collection of shrunken heads from the Shuar civilisation

Entrance: Free

Visit one of the many factories that produce the ever-stylish Panama Hats Cuenca's most famous export!

Entrance: Free

Day 30 - Punta Sal (12th December 2022)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Border information: Exit Ecuador at Huaquillas, enter Peru at Tumbes.

Today we will have a long drive day south, crossing the border into northern Peru.

Day 31 - Punta Sal (13th December 2022)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today we have a full day to relax on the beach and enjoy some activities in and around the stunning coastal area of Punta Sal.

Daily Activities

Optional Activities

Try your hand at surfing in the ideal waters of the Pacific Ocean near Punta Sal or Mancora

Surfing: 20 USD

Explore the coastlines of Punta Sal by foot or head out trekking through the nearby hills and farms of Canoas

Trekking: 10 USD

Day 32 - Huanchaco (14th December 2022)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today we will have a full day's drive to Huanchaco, near the city of Trujillo.

Day 33 - Huanchaco (15th December 2022)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today we will have an included guided trip to explore the enormous adobe ruins of Chan Chan and the world-famous Moche archaeological site of Huaca de la Luna (Pyramid of the Moon).

Daily Activities

Included Activities

Guided tour of Moche Pyramids and the Chimu city of Chan Chan

Included

Optional Activities

Visit the fascinating Cassinelli Museum in Trujillo, a private collection of many exquisite examples of ancient pottery

Entrance: 15 PEN

Day 34 - Huaraz (16th December 2022)

Meals: Breakfast

Today we will have a spectacular drive up the winding roads of the 'Casma Route' into the Cordillera Blanca section of the high Andes, reaching the mountain town of Huaraz.

Day 35 - Huaraz (17th December 2022)

We have two days in the spectacular area of the Cordillera Blanca for exploration and optional activities such as visiting the incredible pre-Inca ruins of Chavín de Huantar or trekking and climbing to the nearby lakes and glaciers.

Daily Activities

Optional Activities

Go canyoning in the waterfalls and gorges of the Huaraz region

Canyoning: 90 PEN

Explore the incredible ancient ruins of Chavín de Huantar the religious centre for the Chavín culture which flourished in the area from 1200BCE-500BCE

Tour, guide and entrance: 45 USD

Take a horse riding trip from Huaraz to the incredible viewpoints of the Cordillera Blanca

Horse riding: 27 USD

Trek out to the phenomenal turquoise glacier lake of Laguna 69 in the shadow of Huascaran Peru's highest mountain

Trekking: 45 USD

Learn all about the area's incredible pre-Inca civilisations at the Museo Regional de Ancash

Entrance: 15 PEN

Day 36 - Huaraz (18th December 2022)

Enjoy a second free day in Huaraz

Day 37 - Lima (19th December 2022)

Today we will have another full day's drive back to the coast via the 'Paramonga Route' and then on to the enormous Peruvian capital of Lima.

Day 38 - Lima (20th December 2022)

Border information: if joining in Lima, you will most likely enter Peru at Lima Jorge Chavez International Airport (IATA code: LIM).

There will be an important group meeting at 6:00pm at the joining hotel - please look out at the hotel reception for a note from your leader with more details about this important meeting.

Please note that many of the options listed below will only be possible for those with extra time in Lima before the start of your trip with us - please contact the Sales team if you would like to book pre-tour accommodation with us to have extra time exploring Lima.

Daily Activities

Optional Activities

Visit the Gold Museum & Catacombs of Lima

Entrance: 40 PEN

Take a ceviche and pisco sour class at one of the top restaurants in Miraflores a lively district of Lima

Ceviche class: 40 USD

Explore the Rafael Larco Herrera Museum in Lima containing the largest private collection of pre-Colombian art in the world

Entrance: 30 PEN

Day 39 - Huacachina (21st December 2022)

Meals: Breakfast

Today we will have a very early start to leave Lima before the rush hour, and drive 270kms south to Paracas. There we will board one of the local boats for an included trip to the Ballestas Islands to view its incredible array of resident wildlife and birds.

After lunch, we will continue south to arrive at the stunning desert oasis town of Huacachina, where we have the option to head out for an evening of sand boarding and dune bugging.

Daily Activities

Included Activities

Boat trip to see the seals & seabirds on the Ballestas Islands

Included

Optional Activities

Dune bugging or boarding in the spectacular sand dunes of Peru Desert

Dune buggy and sandboard: 20 USD

Day 40 - Nazca (22nd December 2022)

Today we continue south to the world-famous village of Nazca, the location of the mysterious Nazca Lines. On the drive, we will stop at a viewing platform to get a glimpse of some of these lines. The Nazca Lines are a series of figures, lines, and geometric shapes that were etched into the ground of the desert plateau over a thousand years ago by the ancient Nazca culture, and their purpose is still unknown to this day.

In the afternoon, we will have the opportunity to take an optional 30-minute flight over the Nazca Lines in a small aircraft - this is by far the best way of seeing the figures, and we use a local operator with an excellent safety record.

Daily Activities

Optional Activities

Visit to the Nazca Lines viewing tower

Entrance: 3 PEN

Fly over the Nazca lines

Scenic flight (not incl 35 PEN airport tax): 120 USD

Day 41 - Puerto Inca (23rd December 2022)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

This morning we head south of Nazca, and have an included visit to the nearby ancient sites of the Chauchilla Cemetery and the Cahuachi Pyramid, thought to have once been the religious centre of the Nazca civilisation.

In the afternoon we will continue our drive to the coastal resort of Puerto Inca.

Daily Activities

Included Activities

Visit the incredible ancient Nazca sites of the Chauchilla Cemetery

Included

Day 42 - Arequipa (24th December 2022)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Today we will start our drive inland, and head uphill to the beautiful 'White City' of Arequipa.

Day 43 - Arequipa (25th December 2022)

Meals: Breakfast

Today we will have a free day to explore the colonial city of Arequipa, or for some optional activities in and around the city.

Daily Activities

Optional Activities

Take a fascinating cooking class in Arequipa learning how to create some iconic Peruvian cuisine and taking a tour of the nearby food markets

Class and market tour: 150 PEN

Explore the Museo Santuarios Andinos

Entrance: 20 PEN

Take a 'Reality Tour' of Arequipa - a walking tour with an alternative focus on the daily lives of the local people and contemporary issues facing modern Peru

Tour cost for 1 pax (75 PEN per pax if 2 pax, 70 PEN per pax if 3 or more pax): 150 PEN

Guided tour of Arequipa's Santa Catalina convent

Entrance: 40 PEN

Head out for an exciting morning of white-water rafting on the Chili River near Arequipa

Rafting: 35 USD

Day 44 - Chivay (26th December 2022)

Meals: Breakfast

We will have some more free time to explore Arequipa this morning, before continuing our drive to the highland town of Chivay after lunch.

Day 45 - Chivay (27th December 2022)

Meals: Breakfast

This morning we will head out on a short drive to some of the best viewpoints along the spectacular Colca Canyon, one of the deepest canyons in the world! The canyon is famous for its resident condors, and we will spend a good amount of time at the viewpoints to give ourselves the best chance of spotting them. We will also visit a couple of local communities on the way back to Chivay.

We will have a free afternoon to explore Chivay, and possibly take an optional trip to the nearby hot springs.

Daily Activities

Included Activities

Guided trip to see Colca Canyon and Andean condors

Included

Optional Activities

Visit the thermal springs in Chivay

Entrance: 15 PEN

Day 46 - Raqchi (28th December 2022)

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Today we will drive through the stunning landscapes of the Peruvian highlands to the small village of Raqchi. Here we will stay at a homestay as guests of the local villagers in their traditional family homes. The houses are very clean and have basic facilities. This evening the villagers will invite us to take part in a traditional Quechua religious ceremony, and we'll have some lively music from some of the village's musicians.

Daily Activities

Included Activities

Quechua Indian homestay and community crafts project

Included

Day 47 - Cuzco (29th December 2022)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

This morning we will visit the Inca ruins of the Temple of Wiracocha at Raqchi, and then see a pottery demonstration at a local artisan centre.

In the afternoon we will drive to the incredible historical city of Cuzco, the former Inca capital.

Daily Activities

Included Activities

Guided visit to the Raqchi ruins

Included

Day 48 - Cuzco (30th December 2022)

Border information: if you are joining in Cuzco, you will most likely enter Peru at Cuzco Alejandro Velasco Astete International Airport (IATA code: CUZ).

There will be an important group meeting at 10:00am at the joining hotel - please look out at the hotel reception for a note from your leader with more details about this important meeting. There will be a further meeting this evening for our Wild Andes and Classic Inca Trails, where we will have a full detailed briefing from our local trekking guides about the next few days!

The rest of today will be free to explore the wonderful city of Cuzco, discover its many historical gems, or to take part in number of optional activities near the city.

Please note that many of the options listed below will only be possible for those with extra time in Cuzco before the start of your trip with us - please contact the Sales team if you would like to book pre-tour accommodation with us to have extra time exploring Cuzco.

A note on altitude: If you are joining in Cuzco, we strongly recommend arriving at least 24 hours before the trip begins to allow additional time to acclimatise.

Day 49 - Inca Trail (31st December 2022)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

These four days will be spent either trekking in the Andes, on our pioneering Wild Andes Trek, on the Classic Inca Trek or for those not wishing to hike, free time to explore and a guided tour of the Sacred Valley on our Train package.

Option 1 - Wild Andes Trek

Leaving Cuzco early in the morning, we visit the ruined temples of Sacsayhuaman for a fascinating tour of the site. We then head on to Chinchero, a small Quechua-speaking village in the Sacred Valley. Here we will see a traditional weaving demonstration that has been unchanged for a thousand years, and explore their beautiful archaeological ruins. We will drive to a stunning viewpoint for a picnic lunch, and then visit the Quillarumiyoc temple (the Temple of the Moon).

We will start our trek from here in the afternoon, heading by foot to Zurite where we have a picturesque stay in a colonial house. Tonight we will enjoy a traditional dinner and get a taste of the local village lifestyle.

Approximate walking distance: 8km, Estimated time: 4hrs, Meals provided: Lunch and Dinner

Option 2 - Classic Inca Trek

This morning we go for a guided tour of the Sacred Valley, followed by a visit to the market town of Pisac, where we will have an included lunch. We then head to Ollantaytambo, where we have free time to explore the impressive archeological site. Tonight we stay in a comfortable hotel.

Please note that we have the evening to ourselves in Ollantaytambo, our Guide will meet us in the morning. No Meals are included in Ollantaytambo.

There is no trekking today. Meals provided: Lunch,

Option 3 - Train Package

You will leave Cuzco with your fellow passengers who will be trekking the Wild Andes Trek. You will visit the fortress of Sacsayhuaman, followed by a beautiful scenic drive over mountains and through valleys, via the ancient city of Pisac and on to the Sacred Valley of the Incas. After lunch you will head back to Cuzco where you will stay at our nice, centrally located hotel for a further 3 nights.

Meals included: Lunch

Daily Activities

Included Activities

Trekking Options:

Option 1 - Trek the Classic Inca Trail up the Royal Inca Road.

Option 2 - Hike unspoilt Inca Trails in remote stunning Andes scenery away from tourist treks on our exclusive Wild Andes trail.

Option 3 - Take a Sacred Valley Tour, visit Ollantaytambo and take the train to Machu Picchu without trekking.

PLEASE NOTE: YOU MUST ADVISE AT TIME OF BOOKING IF YOU WISH TO BOOK THE CLASSIC INCA TRAIL OR THE NON TREKKING OPTION, OTHERWISE YOU WILL AUTOMATICALLY BE PUT ON OUR WILD ANDES TREK.

Included

Visit the incredible remains of the Inca temple of Sacsayhuaman and the Sacred Valley on a guided tour

Included

Day 50 - Inca Trail (1st January 2023)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Option 1 - Wild Andes Trek

Zurite to Amaruwatana

After a hearty breakfast we leave Zurite and head towards Amaruwatana camp. The walk will take us through Qenteqentiyoc (the Hummingbird Temple), where we will visit and admire this Inca archaeological site. We will then follow the ancient path all the way to the top of our first pass at 4,400m, where we will have a dramatic view of both the Vilcabamba and Vilcanota mountain ranges. From here we start walking down on the way to our first camp in the Sambor Valley where we will spend the night camping.

Approximate walking time: 8hrs, Distance: 13kms, Meals provided: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Option 2 - Classic Inca Trek

Ollantaytambo to Wayllabamba

After breakfast, we catch a bus to Piscaycuscho and the start of the Classic Inca Trek - the railroad KM82 marker (at 2,700m altitude). Here we are joined by our crew of local porters and cooks. We will cross the bridge over the River Urubamba and following a trail along the left-hand shore of the river, enjoying stunning views of the snow-capped Mount Veronica (5,830m) and the Incan archaeological remains at Llactapata. Continuing through lush farmland and woodland, we gradually climb for approximately 5 hours to our first campsite at Wayllabamba (3,000m).

Approximate trekking time: 5-6hrs, Distance: 12kms, Meals provided: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner, Snacks

Option 3 - Train Package

Today is a free day to enjoy Cuzco, with its museums, churches, incredible colonial architecture, beautiful restaurants and a vast array of shops, selling textiles and handicrafts.

Day 51 - Inca Trail (2nd January 2023)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Option 1 - Wild Andes Trek

Amaruwatana to Ancascocha

We have an early start this morning, trekking for approximately 2 hours to reach the top of our second pass at 4,700m. From here we have fantastic views of the rock formations below us, and if we're lucky we may spot Andean ibises, caracaras, eagles or foxes up here!

After descending for approximately 2 hours, we arrive at a stunning highland valley with a glacial river named Kenqo Mayu (meaning "Zig-zag River") flowing down it - which makes an idyllic stop for lunch!

After lunch we will continue trekking downhill following the ancient trail, which leads us to our campsite in the Ancascocha area.

Approximate trekking time: 6-7hrs, Distance: 10kms, Meals provided: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Option 2 - Classic Trek

Wayllabamba to Pacaymayo

This is the most challenging day of the trek as we ascend a long steep path (approximately 4 hours) through Andean cloud forest and highland puna to reach the highest point of our trek, Warmiwañusca (meaning "Dead Woman's Pass") at a height of 4,200m. During our ascent, we can appreciate the wide variety of plant, flower and bird species supported by this unique eco-climate. On reaching the pass, our challenge is rewarded by an astonishing panoramic view of the Vilcanota and Vilcabamba mountain ranges. From here we descend for 2 hours into the Pacaymayo Valley (3,650m altitude) and to our second campsite.

Approximate trekking time: 6-7hrs, Distance: 11kms, Meals provided: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner, Snacks

Option 3 - Train Package

Today is a free day for you to enjoy Cuzco, with its museums, churches, incredible colonial architecture, beautiful restaurants and a vast array of shops selling textiles and handicrafts.

Day 52 - Inca Trail (3rd January 2023)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Option 1 - Wild Andes Trek

Ancascocha to Ollantaytambo

Today we will descend the narrow Silque Canyon, allowing us to observe its tall granite walls which are populated by a large variety of orchids and bromeliads, filling the environment with magnificent colours when they bloom. After crossing many little bridges we will reach the Camicancha area, where we stop at a magnificent volcanic viewpoint looking towards the snow-capped Mt. Veronica.

From here it is only a short trek to Chilca, where our trail ends. We'll be picked up by our vehicle and head to Ollantaytambo, taking a well-earned shower and rest at our hotel.

In the afternoon we will have an included guided tour around the incredible archaeological site of Ollantaytambo and its world-famous Temple of the Sun. Please note that we have the evening to ourselves in Ollantaytambo, our Guide will meet us in the morning. No Meals are included in Ollantaytambo.

Approximate trekking time: 5hrs, Distance: 12kms, Meals provided: Breakfast, Lunch

Option 2 - Classic Inca Trek

Pacaymayo to Wiñay Wayna

Today we follow ancient stone paths and steps to ascend the well-preserved Inca remains of Runkurakay, Sayacmarca, and Phuyupatamarca (the "Town above the Clouds") where we can appreciate the Incas' complex architectural style and reverence of natural geography and beauty. Heading down the Andean slope, we reach our final night's camp by the Wiñay Wayna (meaning "Forever Young") ruins, with panoramic views of the valley below.

Approximate walking time: 8hrs, Distance: 16kms, Meals provided: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner, Snacks

Option 3 - Train Package

After being picked up from your hotel in the morning you will be driven to the fortress city of Ollantaytambo and our hotel for the night, the Tunupa Lodge. Here you will rejoin the Wild Andes Trekkers and your tour leader who will be arriving from their trek this afternoon.

Daily Activities

Included Activities

Take a guided tour of the fantastic Inca temples at Ollantaytambo

Included

Day 53 - Cuzco (4th January 2023)

Meals: Breakfast

Option 1 - Wild Andes Trek

Ollantaytambo - Machu Picchu - Cuzco

Today we will have an early start to catch the train to the small town of Aguas Calientes. From there, we will take a bus up the winding mountainside to the legendary ruined city of Machu Picchu - one of the world's most iconic sights! We have a guided tour with our expert local guide and there will be plenty of free time to explore this magical place.

In the afternoon we will head back to Ollantaytambo and then on to Cuzco, where we return to our joining hotel at the end of a long but phenomenal day!

Meals provided: Breakfast

Option 2 - Classic Trek

Wiñay Wayna to Machupicchu

Leaving Wiñay Wayna, we descend gradually further through the highland jungle to our destination - Intupunku (the "Sun Gate") leading into Machu Picchu. Arriving at daybreak, we catch our first breathtaking view of this historical wonder. As with the Wild Andes Trek, our local guide will show us the most important constructions as well as explain the history and the mythology of this magnificent place. There is also some free time to explore the ruins further at your own pace or just chill out and watch the hummingbirds or vizcachua. In the afternoon we head back down to Aguas Calientes and take the train back to Ollantaytambo and return to Cuzco for a well-deserved rest.

Approximate walking time: 2hrs, Distance: 4kms, Meals provided: Breakfast, Snacks

Option 3 - Train Package

After an early breakfast and walk to the train station, your stunning 2 hour train ride to Aguas Calientes begins. The journey takes you through several different micro-climates, past Inca terraces, lookout posts, ancient river bank reinforcements and small towns. You will get a glimpse of different temples and the beautiful Mount Veronica (5,750m). Passing through 8 tunnels, the train journey finally comes to an end in the busy pueblo, Aguas Calientes. From here you take a local bus that winds up the mountainside for about 30 minutes until you arrive at the entrance to Machu Picchu (2,400m), the awe inspiring 'Lost City of the Incas'. The guide will take you around the immense, mystical ruins for about 2 hours to 2 hours 30 minutes, explaining the rich history of the ancient site. Afterwards, you will have time to explore on your own before returning down the mountain to Aguas Calientes.

In the afternoon you will catch a train from Aguas Calientes to Ollantaytambo and a private transfer will take you back to your hotel in Cuzco.

Meals provided: Breakfast

Daily Activities

Included Activities

Guided visit to the fabled Incan citadel of Machu Picchu

Included

Day 54 - Cuzco (5th January 2023)

Meals: Breakfast

Today is a free day to relax after the treks, further explore the historical city of Cuzco, and take part in some optional activities around the city.

Daily Activities

Optional Activities

Take a Spanish class in the beautiful city of Cuzco (suitable for all levels)

1hr private Class: 20 USD

Visit the Cuzco Chocolate museum and take part in a workshop

Workshop: 70 PEN

Take part in a Peruvian cooking class in Cuzco learning how to make a variety of local dishes

Class: 79 USD

Explore Cuzco on a free walking tour

Tour: Free

Day 55 - Puno (6th January 2023)

Meals: Breakfast

Today we will leave Cuzco and head through the highlands of Peru to the town of Puno, on the shores of Lake Titicaca.

Day 56 - Isla del Sol (7th January 2023)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Border information: Exit Peru at Yunguyo, enter Bolivia at Kasani.

This morning we will cross into Bolivia and head to the lakeside town of Copacabana, before boarding a boat to the stunning island of Isla del Sol.

Daily Activities

Included Activities

Stay overnight on Lake Titicaca's Isla del Sol and take a guided walk across the island

Included

Day 57 - Copacabana (8th January 2023)

Meals: Breakfast

Today we will take an included day trip across Isla del Sol in Lake Titicaca, one of the holiest sites in ancient Inca mythology and supposedly the birthplace of the Sun God Inti. We will take a 14km walk across the length of the island, taking in the incredible and serene scenery and soaking up the calm atmosphere of the island (this walk can be skipped by anybody who does not want to do it).

We will return to Copacabana for the evening.

Day 58 - La Paz (9th January 2023)

Meals: Breakfast

Today we will drive to the famous city of La Paz, Bolivia's seat of government and the highest administrative capital in the world!

Day 59 - La Paz (10th January 2023)

Border information: if you are joining in La Paz, you will most likely enter Bolivia at La Paz El Alto International Airport (IATA code: LPB).

Welcome to La Paz, Bolivia's seat of government and the highest administrative capital in the world! There will be an important group meeting at 6:00pm at the joining hotel - please look out at the hotel reception for a note from your leader with more details about this important meeting.

Please note that many of the options listed below will only be possible for those with extra time in La Paz before the start of your trip with us - please contact the Sales team if you would like to book pre-tour accommodation with us to have extra time exploring La Paz.

A note on altitude: If you are joining in La Paz, we strongly recommend arriving at least 24 hours before the trip begins to allow additional time to acclimatise.

Day 60 - La Paz (11th January 2023)

Meals: Breakfast

Today we have a free day to enjoy La Paz.

Daily Activities

Optional Activities

Take a trip out to the mountain resort of Chacaltaya and the other-worldly landscape of the Moon Valley near La Paz

Full day tour: 130 BOB

Downhill "gravity assisted" mountain biking from La Paz to Coroico

Full day tour (not incl 50 BOB road fee): 125 USD

Guided tour to explore Tiahuanacu Inca Ruins

Full day tour: 220 BOB

Take a guided tour of the main sights and viewpoints around La Paz

City tour: 150 BOB

Enjoy some zip lining in Coroico

Price: 220 BOB

Day 61 - Potosi (12th January 2023)

Meals: Breakfast

Today we will leave La Paz behind and head to the colonial mining town of Potosí, the highest town in the world, and once famous for the area's abundance of silver!

Day 62 - Uyuni (13th January 2023)

Meals: Breakfast

After some free time in Potosi, we will continue our journey to Uyuni, the gateway to the Salar de Uyuni salt flats.

In Uyuni we will stay in a friendly hotel, famous for serving the highest pizzas in the world!

Daily Activities

Optional Activities

Visit the the Casa de la Moneda museum in Potosí to learn all about its colonial past and the silver that once flowed from the area

Tour incl camera fee: 60 BOB

Head down into the tunnels of the Potosi silver mine

Tour: 120 BOB

Day 63 - Uyuni (14th January 2023)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Today we will venture out onto the salt flats of the Salar de Uyuni, spending a full day exploring this phenomenal location by jeep and on foot. En route we will explore the nearby train graveyard and the cactus-filled 'Fish Island', and take all the time we need to get plenty of perspective-bending photographs!

Daily Activities

Included Activities

Take jeeps out onto the dazzling Uyuni Salt Flats

Included

Day 64 - Altiplano (15th January 2023)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today we will head off across the wilds of the Altiplano, a surreal and desolate desert landscape that stretches all the way into Chile. We will make plenty of stop for photographs on the way and at the end of the day we aim to cross the border into Chile, making camp soon afterwards.

Daily Activities

Included Activities

Take the epic journey across the Altiplano - an incredible high-altitude adventure through a surreal desert landscape taking in bizarre rock formations and stunning lakes

Included

Day 65 - San Pedro de Atacama (16th January 2023)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Border information: Exit Bolivia and enter Chile at Ollague

After breakfast we will break camp, and drive through the stunning Reserva Nacional Alto Loa on the Chilean part of the Altiplano, stopping off en route for photographs. Afterwards descending down to San Pedro de Atacama.

Please note: The weather in this region can be unpredictable and has been known to close the road to the border. On these occasions we will take an alternate route across the Altiplano, crossing into either Chile or Argentina at a different border point. Your Tour Leaders will keep you informed of any changes that may be necessary.

Day 66 - San Pedro de Atacama (17th January 2023)

Meals: Breakfast

Today we will have a free day to explore the incredible highlights of the Atacama desert surrounding San Pedro. In the evening we will take an included trip out to the extraordinary Moon Valley, where we will hopefully see an incredible sunset. At night we will also have the chance to go stargazing, in one of the world's premier regions for astronomy (please note that this is only possible when there is not a full moon).

Daily Activities

Included Activities

Explore the dramatic landscape of the Moon Valley

Included

Optional Activities

Discover some of the interesting ancient ruins near San Pedro and the artifacts found in the area on an archaeological tour

Tour: 25,000 CLP

Hire a bike to explore the incredible deserts surrounding San Pedro de Atacama at your own pace

Half day: 5,000 CLP

Discover the incredible deserts of San Pedro on horseback

Riding: 13,500 CLP

Take a tour of the stunning Lagunas Altiplánicas backdropped by the incredible deserts and volcanic scenery of the region

Entrance: 35,000 CLP

Observe the night skies at a Chilean observatory

Tour: 25,000 CLP

Day 67 - Purmamarca (18th January 2023)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Border information: Exit Chile at Paso Jama, enter Argentina at Paso Jama.

Today we will have a long drive day to cross the mighty Andes, cross the border into Argentina, and reach the beautiful village of Purmamarca next to the aptly-named 'Hill of Seven Colours'

Day 68 - Salta (19th January 2023)

Meals: Breakfast

Today we will drive to the beautiful colonial city of Salta, where we will have time to freely explore on arrival.

Day 69 - Salta (20th January 2023)

Meals: Breakfast

Today we will have a free day to explore the town of Salta, visit its many museums, or explore the beautiful surrounding hills on foot or by mountain bike. We will also have the chance to take the cable car to the viewpoint on San Bernardo Hill overlooking the town, taking in some of the incredible mountain scenery nearby.

Daily Activities

Optional Activities

Explore the beautiful mountains and forests near Salta on a mountain biking trip

The Bull circuit: 1,300 ARS

Rainforest Circuit: 900 ARS

Downhill Cuesta del Obispo: 2,000 ARS
Bike Rental (full day): 600 ARS

Take the cable car up to the top of San Bernardo Hill and take in the breathtaking views out over the city of Salta below
Return cable car: 200 ARS

Go trekking in and around Salta
Rainforest Trek: 1,100 ARS
Urban Trek: 700 ARS

Day 70 - En route (21st January 2023)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today we will have a short morning drive to a campsite in Cabra Corral, a small village south of Salta where we have the opportunity to go rafting or zip-lining!

Tonight we will continue our drive a short distance to wild camp in the stunning mountains nearby, or camp at the rafting base in Cabra Corral if preferred.

Daily Activities

Optional Activities

Fly through the stunning valleys above the Juramento river on an exciting 4-cable zip-lining course
Zip line: 750 ARS

Get the adrenaline pumping with some white water rafting in Salta
Rafting: 950 ARS
Rafting & BBQ: 1,150 ARS

Day 71 - Cafayate (22nd January 2023)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today we will drive through the spectacular rock formations of the Quebrada de las Conchas, and reach the serene town of Cafayate.

This small unassuming town is the centre of one of Argentina's principal wine producing regions, famous for the quality of its Torrentes and Tannat wines! Over the next two days we will have the opportunity to go to a few of the vineyards nearby to see how the wine is made, and of course to try them!

Daily Activities

Included Activities

Visit the impressive rock formations of 'El Amphiteatro' and 'La Garganta del Diablo' en route through the primeval landscape of the Quebrada de las Conchas

Included

Day 72 - Cafayate (23rd January 2023)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Free day to explore Cafayate. This small unassuming town is the centre of one of Argentina's principal wine producing regions, famous for the quality of its Torrontes and Tannat wines! We will have the opportunity to go to a few of the vineyards nearby to see how the wine is made, and of course to try them!

Daily Activities

Optional Activities

Discover the bodegas and stock up on wine in Cafayate

Wine tasting: 150 ARS

Day 73 - Recreo (24th January 2023)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today we will drive south over some more spectacular mountains and arrive in the lush flat pampas that Argentina is famous for. We will visit the ancient ruins of the indigenous city of Quilmes en route.

Daily Activities

Included Activities

Visit the Quilmes ruins

Included

Day 74 - Estancia (25th January 2023)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today we drive to a unique Anglo-Argentine Estancia, where we will stay for 3 nights.

During our time at the Estancia, we will head out horseback riding, taste the excellent wines produced by their vineyards, be entertained by a local musician, learn some of the skills of the gauchos, and enjoy a traditional asado (Argentine BBQ). This is a magical experience in a beautiful and atmospheric location, and many people's highlight of the trip!

Please note that some of these activities are subject to weather conditions. Please also note that there is a strict weight limit of 15 stone (210lbs) or 95kg to partake in the horse riding - if you should weigh more than this, then unfortunately you will not be able to participate in the horseback riding.

Daily Activities

Included Activities

Spend 3 unique days at an Anglo-Argentinian estancia to experience the Gaucho way of life

Included

Day 75 - Estancia (26th January 2023)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Full day at the Estancia.

Day 76 - Estancia (27th January 2023)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Full day at the Estancia.

Day 77 - Buenos Aires (28th January 2023)

Meals: Breakfast

Today we will have a full day drive to the wonderful city of Buenos Aires, the capital of Argentina.

Day 78 - Buenos Aires (29th January 2023)

Meals: Breakfast

Today is a free day to explore the incredible city of Buenos Aires, soak up the atmosphere of its streets, and discover its amazing culture, art, and music.

Daily Activities

Optional Activities

Learn all about the cuisine of Argentina on a food tour of Buenos Aires visiting several incredible local top-class eateries that you won't find in the guidebooks!

Tour: 85 USD

Enjoy a free city tour of Buenos Aires

Tour: Free

Visit the strangely beautiful cemetery of Recoleta the final resting place of many ex-presidents and Argentine icons most famously including the tomb of Eva Peron

Entrance: Free

See a different side to Buenos Aires on a tour of its incredible street art with some of the local artists

Tour: 20 USD

Try your hand at the art of tango dancing with a private lesson in Buenos Aires

Lesson: 25 USD

Head out to a tango show in Buenos Aires' oldest cafe the Gran Cafe Tortoni - seeing a slice of iconic Argentine culture in an ideal and intimate setting

Show: 650 ARS

Try some of Argentina's most delicious wines on a top-level wine tasting afternoon in Buenos Aires

Price: 52 USD

Day 79 - Buenos Aires (30th January 2023)

Border information: if you are joining in Buenos Aires, you will most likely enter Argentina at Buenos Aires Ministro Pistarini International Airport, also known as Ezeiza Airport (IATA code: BUE/EZE).

Welcome to Buenos Aires, the wonderful capital of Argentina! There will be an important group meeting at 6:00pm at the joining hotel - please look out at the hotel reception for a note from your leader with more details about this important meeting.

Please note that many of the options listed below will only be possible for those with extra time in Buenos Aires before the start of your trip with us - please contact the Sales team if you would like to book pre-tour accommodation with us to have extra time exploring Buenos Aires.

In Buenos Aires we will stay in a centrally-located hotel.

Day 80 - Buenos Aires (31st January 2023)

Meals: Breakfast

Today will be a free day to explore the incredible city of Buenos Aires, soak up the atmosphere of its streets, and discover its amazing culture, art, and music.

Daily Activities

Optional Activities

Learn all about the cuisine of Argentina on a food tour of Buenos Aires visiting several incredible local top-class eateries that you won't find in the guidebooks!

Tour: 85 USD

Watch a football game at La Bombonera

Entrance: 300 ARS

Enjoy a free city tour of Buenos Aires

Tour: Free

Explore the beautiful area of Palermo Viejo see the incredible modern sculpture of Floralis Generica and head out to the area's bars and restaurants at night

Entrance: Free

Visit the strangely beautiful cemetery of Recoleta the final resting place of many ex-presidents and Argentine icons most famously including the tomb of Eva Peron

Entrance: Free

Head out to a tango show in Buenos Aires' oldest cafe the Gran Cafe Tortoni - seeing a slice of iconic Argentine culture in an ideal and intimate setting

Show: 650 ARS

Day 81 - Yapeyu (1st February 2023)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today we have a full day drive north through the provinces of Entre Rios and Corrientes, aiming to reach the beautiful village of Yapeyú on the banks of the River Uruguay. Yapeyú is very famous amongst Argentines for being the birthplace of their national hero General Jose de San Martin, one of the liberators of South America from Spanish colonial rule.

Daily Activities

Optional Activities

Visit the remains of the house of José de San Martín, one of the main liberators of South America (if time allows)

Entrance: Free

Day 82 - Foz do Iguacu (2nd February 2023)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Border information: Exit Argentina at Tancredo Neves, enter Brazil at Tancredo Neves.

Today we cross the border into Brazil and drive to the city of Foz do Iguacu.

Day 83 - Foz do Iguacu (3rd February 2023)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today we will visit the Brazilian side of the phenomenal Iguazu Falls, to get some incredible panoramic vistas of the mighty waterfalls. There is also plenty of time to visit the bird park, take a helicopter ride over the falls, see the incredible Itaipu Dam, or quickly stop into Paraguay to pick up some bargains in the nearby Ciudad del Este.

Daily Activities

Included Activities

Discover the unbelievable Iguazu Falls from the Brazilian side

Included

Day 84 - Foz do Iguacu (4th February 2023)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today we will take a day trip back into Argentina to see the incredible Iguazu Falls from the other side. This is well worth doing as the views are even more spectacular, and you'll be able to look right down into the mighty Garganta del Diablo (the largest waterfall here) from a gantry walkway viewing point). We will have a full day at the Argentine side of the falls, allowing us lots of time to freely explore the site, hike some nature trails, or perhaps take an exhilarating (and very wet) boat ride!

We will return to our base in Foz do Iguacu tonight.

Daily Activities

Included Activities

Spend the day exploring the amazing Iguazu Falls from the Argentinian side

Included

Optional Activities

Get a soaking on a boat trip to the Falls

Boat: 1,500 ARS

Day 85 - Bonito (5th February 2023)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today we have a full drive day north to the Brazilian eco-tourism capital of Bonito.

Day 86 - Bonito (6th February 2023)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

We have two full days in Bonito to take part in the plethora of incredible optional activities here. You could go out on a world-class snorkelling trip, explore the nearby caves, or go abseiling down some of the largest waterfalls in the area, amongst many other possibilities!

Daily Activities

Optional Activities

Take an incredible snorkelling trip through the crystal clear waters of the Rio da Prata getting a phenomenal view of the fish and aquatic plants underwater

Snorkelling trip and transport: 290 BRL

Day 87 - Bonito (7th February 2023)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Second free day for optional activities in Bonito.

Day 88 - Pantanal (8th February 2023)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today we have a short drive to Brazil's amazing Southern Pantanal region, where we have a visit a local eco-tourism ranch (or 'fazenda').

We will spend 2 nights here and have a fantastic package of included activities such as exploring the beautiful surrounding countryside on horseback, trips down the wildlife-abundant rivers in boats and canoes, and safaris on the ranch's trucks and on foot where we hope to spot capybaras, caimans, and (if we are very lucky) jaguars and ocelots. Our stay here is an incredible highlight!

In the Southern Pantanal we will stay in dorm accommodation in a well equipped lodge with all the meals and activities included.

Daily Activities

Included Activities

Spend 2 nights in the Pantanal, the world's largest tropical wetland area, exploring the flora and fauna with local guides

Included

Day 89 - Pantanal (9th February 2023)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Full day in the Pantanal.

Day 90 - Campo Grande (10th February 2023)

After our morning activities and one final lunch in our beautiful ranch, it is time to leave the Pantanal. We will start driving east towards Sao Paulo state, and wild camp or stay in a local pousada at the end of the day.

Day 91 - Brotas (11th February 2023)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today we will drive to the remote town of Brotas in southeastern Brazil.

Day 92 - Brotas (12th February 2023)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today is free to take part in optional adventure activities such as white water rafting or canyoning, or to simply relax by the pool!

Daily Activities

Optional Activities

Go on a half-day canyoning trip through the gorges of the Jacare River near Brotas

Activity: 270 BRL

Head out white-water rafting on the fast moving waters of the Jacare River (approximately Grade 3-4)

Activity: 150 BRL

Day 93 - Paraty (13th February 2023)

Meals: Breakfast

Today we have a full day drive to the colonial town of Paraty on the Emerald Coast of the Atlantic!

Day 94 - Paraty (14th February 2023)

Today we will have an included boat trip around the incredible islands and beaches off the coast.

Daily Activities

Included Activities

Boat trip out to islands and beaches

Included

Optional Activities

Learn all about the fascinating history of Brazil and the Gold Trail on an excellent walking tour of the old colonial town of Paraty

Walking Tour: 35 USD

Enjoy some of the best and most scenic treks in the country on the coastal trails hills and 'tropical fjords' near Paraty

Walking Tour: 50 USD

Explore the ocean islands beaches and mangroves of Atlantic coast in a more serene and tranquil fashion on a sea kayaking expedition around the bay of Paraty

Kayaking: 80 BRL

Day 95 - Paraty (15th February 2023)

Today we will have free time to explore the town, take a historical tour, walk along the stunning scenery of the coastline, head out snorkelling or diving, or simply relax on the idyllic beaches.

Day 96 - Rio de Janeiro (16th February 2023)

This morning we will drive to the incredible Rio de Janeiro, one of the most beautifully situated cities in the world!

In Rio de Janeiro we will stay in a great hotel in the Flamengo district, close to the beach and the metro station.

Daily Activities

Optional Activities

Relax and explore the world famous beaches of Rio de Janeiro including Ipanema Arpoador and of course Copacabana

Entrance: Free

Visit the world famous statue Christ the Redeemer

Train and entrance: 83 BRL

Day 97 - Rio de Janeiro (17th February 2023)

Welcome to Rio Carnival, the biggest party on the planet!

There will be an important meeting at 17:00 or 18:00, where you'll have a full briefing on how to make the most of your time in Rio and receive your tickets, maps, T-Shirt and souvenir booklet - please check the notice board in the reception area for other important information throughout the week.

After the meeting we have a table booked at a nearby buffet restaurant, so you can get to know some of your fellow travellers.

Our dedicated Carnival team will be on hand throughout the week for a few hours each day to provide any assistance you may need.

There's a whole host of additional optional activities that you may like to take part in, such as 'Join the Parade', prior early booking is essential!

If you are arriving early you may like to join a Market Tour or Jungle Tour.

In Rio de Janeiro we will stay in a great hotel in the Flamengo district, accommodation is in twin or double rooms. Our hotel is close to the beach and the metro station. Our hotel check-in is from 2pm, and staff will be on hand to give you assistance.

Border information: if you are joining in Rio de Janeiro, you will most likely enter Brazil at Rio de Janeiro Galeão International Airport.

Day 98 - Rio de Janeiro (18th February 2023)

Meals: Breakfast

Today we will visit the most iconic sights of Rio; the immense statue of Christ the Redeemer standing at 710m on Corcovado mountain and the Pão de Açúcar (Sugarloaf Mountain). We will have some time to explore these sights in our own time, you may even choose to take a helicopter ride!. We will also aim to see some other important landmarks such as the Maracanã stadium, Escadaria Selarón and the Lapa Arches. We will travel by minibus. (NB today's tour is unguided but you will be accompanied by our crew).

This evening we will head out to Lapa for a night out in a samba club; Rio Scenarium, one of the City's greatest nightspots - it's an antiques warehouse, music venue, bar and restaurant all housed in a fantastic colonial mansion. There will be live samba music and DJ's on each floor. We will be hosting a beginners Samba Dance class in the late afternoon, why not sign up and learn some of the basic steps before hitting the town!

Daily Activities

Included Activities

Visit the world famous Christ the Redeemer statue & Sugar Loaf mountain on a City Tour

Included

Spend the night in Rio Scenarium, one of the best nightclubs in the city

Included

Optional Activities

Perfect your Samba moves in a beginners Dance Class

Class: 29 USD

Day 99 - Rio de Janeiro (19th February 2023)

Meals: Breakfast

This morning why not glitter up and join us at one of the local 'blocos' or street parties, there will be live music, dancing and plenty of opportunities to get to know Rio and it's people! Blocos are great fun, crowded, hot and lively! The local 'cariocas' will be all dressed up, so make sure you come dressed to impress!

In the evening it's time for the main event of the week - the parade in the Sambadrome. The top samba schools parade their fantastic floats and costumes and the party goes on well into the early hours of Monday morning. You'll be situated in Sector 11, close to the action.

Daily Activities

Included Activities

Experience the close up view of the fantastic Samba parade from Sector 11 of the Sambadrome

Included

Day 100 - Rio de Janeiro (20th February 2023)

Meals: Breakfast

This morning is free for you to recover from last night in the Sambadrome! It's a great chance to hit the beach, explore the city or simply have a lie in!

In the afternoon you may wish to join us for a walking tour of Copacabana and Ipanema beaches.

Tonight we have the chance to re-visit the Sambadrome, this time in Sector 5 in the centre of the parade runway, to see the last 7 of the elite Samba schools parading. You even have the option to don a costume and take part in the parade itself, dancing your way down the Sambadrome runway - a once in a lifetime experience!

It is important to pre-book these activities early.

Daily Activities

Optional Activities

Second visit to the Sambadrome in the amazing Sector 5

Ticket: 467 USD

Today's Walking Tour will take you through two of the most famous neighbourhoods; Copacabana and Ipanema and finishing up with a picnic by the Rodrigo de Freitas Lagoon.

Tour: 25 USD

Relax and explore the world famous beaches of Rio de Janeiro including Ipanema Arpoador and of course Copacabana

Entrance: Free

Day 101 - Rio de Janeiro (21st February 2023)

Meals: Breakfast

Today you have free time to enjoy the activities, sights and sounds of Rio! Join a bloco, hit the beach or ride the tram to Santa Teresa. Rio has so much to offer other than it's carnival festivities. We will be organising some fun water based activities such as kayaking and paddle boarding (prior booking is essential).

Tonight you have a free night to hit the town; head downtown and enjoy a Caipirinha under the iconic Lapa arches or join a bloco.

Daily Activities

Optional Activities

Explore the magnificent Botanical Gardens of Rio de Janeiro with over 54 hectares and 6500 species of plants and flowers

Entrance: 8 USD

Day 102 - Rio de Janeiro (22nd February 2023)

Welcome to Rio de Janeiro! Today there will be a group meeting day at 18:00hrs, please meet in the hotel reception.

The rest of the day is yours to enjoy Rio. If you would like to book additional nights of accommodation to really explore the city, please contact your Sales agent.

Border information: If you are arriving in Rio, enter Brazil at Rio Galeão International Airport International (IATA code: GIG) Airport.

Daily Activities

Optional Activities

Visit the world famous statue Christ the Redeemer

Train and entrance: 83 BRL

Explore Brazilian flavours in a half day cooking class

Half day class: 75 USD

Take a hike into the Tijuca Rainforest, one of the largest Urban Rainforests in the world.

Hike: 65 USD

Take a cable car up Pão de Açúcar (Sugarloaf Mountain)

Cable car (return ticket): 85 BRL

Take a brilliant free walking tour with an expert local guide around Lapa and Central Rio de Janeiro (or Copacabana and Ipanema on certain days)

Walking Tour: Free

Day 103 - Ouro Preto (23rd February 2023)

Meals: Breakfast

Today we will drive to the beautiful old colonial mining town of Ouro Preto.

Along the way we will stop at Petropolis, the cool hill-side hideaway for local Cariocas escaping the heat of Rio. We will have 2 hours to explore the Museu Imperial, the former Imperial Palace, wander the town or visit the Palacio de Cristal, the site where the last slaves of Petropolis were released.

Day 104 - Ouro Preto (24th February 2023)

Today we will enjoy a half day guided tour of Ouro Preto, well known for its colonial architecture and the first Brazilian town to be considered a UNESCO world heritage site. In the afternoon enjoy some free time to explore the town, visit the museum or some of the stunning baroque churches. There are some fantastic cafes and restaurants in Ouro Preto. Don't forget your camera today - Ouro Preto is one of the most picturesque towns on our itinerary!

Daily Activities

Included Activities

Explore unique colonial Ouro Preto and its architectural heritage on a city tour

Included

Optional Activities

Head underground into the gold mines of Ouro Preto

Entrance: 68 BRL

Guide: 30 BRL

Day 105 - Tres Marias (25th February 2023)

Meals: Lunch, Dinner

We have a full day drive through the Brazilian countryside. We will find a nice spot and camp for the night near Tres Marias.

Day 106 - Brasilia (26th February 2023)

Meals: Breakfast

Today we arrive in the futuristic capital of Brasilia. In the morning we will enjoy a guided tour of this fascinating city, which was designed and built to be the Brazilian Government's headquarters in 1960. The city is designed to resemble a plane, and is a UNESCO heritage site, housing some incredible, futuristic style Cathedrals and Monuments.

Day 107 - Alto Paraiso (27th February 2023)

Meals: Lunch, Dinner

After our morning tour of the city, we will drive to the chilled out town of Alto Paraiso, which will be our base for exploring the Chapada dos Veadeiros. Alto Paraiso is crossed by Parallel 14 (in the same way as Machu Picchu) and is at the centre of some fantastic stories of space ships and aliens!

Daily Activities

Included Activities

See the unique city plan and architecture of Brasilia on a guided tour

Included

Day 108 - Alto Paraiso (28th February 2023)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today we can explore the National Park. The Chapada dos Veadeiros is one of Brazil's hidden gems, one of the oldest and most beautiful tropical ecosystems in South America and home to incredible waterfalls, rock formations, caves and grottoes.

This morning we will have an included visit to the Vale da Lua or the Valley of the Moon, so called due to the rock formations giving it an appearance similar to the moon.

This area is perfect for hiking, horse and bike riding and of course swimming in natural pools and soaking up the parks atmosphere. It is said that due to the high amount of quartz in the ground, that this Chapada is glows from space!

Daily Activities

Included Activities

Explore the beautiful rock formations of Vale da Lua

Included

Optional Activities

Try some of the adventure activities on offer around Alto Paraiso

Canyoning: 150 USD

Zip lining: 80 USD

Day 109 - Central Brazil (1st March 2023)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Over the next two days we will travel overland across the central Brazilian countryside.

Day 110 - Lencois (2nd March 2023)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Overlanding through Central Brazil to Lencois.

Day 111 - Lencois (3rd March 2023)

We will spend 2 full days in Lencois, the gateway to Chapada da Diamantina National Park. A former diamond-mining town in Bahia. Lencois's friendly inhabitants, great restaurants, cobbled streets and brightly coloured buildings make it a great town to explore.

Daily Activities

Included Activities

Head into the beautiful Chapada Diamantina National Park

Included

Day 112 - Lencois (4th March 2023)

Go hiking, kayaking, riding, explore the town, or simply kick back and relax!

Daily Activities

Optional Activities

Full day hike through the Ribeirão Valley to the stunning Sossego waterfall

Trek: 90 BRL

Explore the stunning caves of the chapada and climb Morro do Pai Inácio for spectacular views of the region

Trek: 180 BRL

Day 113 - Itacare (5th March 2023)

Meals: Lunch, Dinner

We head to the coast today, to the beautiful beach town of Itacare, with its stunning Atlantic rainforest, laid back eco-friendly cafes and bars, and the opportunity to surf, relax and explore.

Day 114 - Itacare (6th March 2023)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Time to relax and enjoy some beach time!

Daily Activities

Optional Activities

Take part in a range of adventure activities from horse riding, rafting, canyoning, mountain biking, kayaking and even off road adventures

Price: 50 USD

Head to the southern beaches for some surfing or chill out on the beach and relax

Price: Free

Day 115 - Itacare (7th March 2023)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today we have a free day to explore the area, enjoy the beach, take part in some of the many adventure activities available here, or visit the stunning Peninsula de Marau, stopping off at Praia Taipus de Fora and Lagoa Azul.

Daily Activities

Optional Activities

Take a day trip to explore the Peninsula de Marau with its gorgeous beaches, Camambu Bay's Nature Reserve and relaxed villages

Price: 75 USD

Day 116 - Salvador (8th March 2023)

Meals: Breakfast

Today we drive to the beautiful town of Salvador da Bahia. Salvador is a vibrant and exciting place to visit, with its bright colonial architecture, tasty street food scene, great music and impressive Capoeira, there's plenty to keep us busy for 2 days.

Day 117 - Salvador (9th March 2023)

Meals: Breakfast

Free time to explore the energetic and vibrant city of Salvador, known around the world for its Carnival festivities. Salvador is home to over 300 churches, the historic centre is recognised by UNESCO and full of interesting architecture, brightly coloured buildings and cobblestone streets. It's an excellent place to witness the African culture in music and dance and enjoy some delicious street food.

Daily Activities

Optional Activities

Watch a candomblé ceremony

Entrance: 70 USD

Visit a Capoeira school to watch the Brazilian martial art combining elements of dance acrobatics and music

Approx price: 25 BRL

Take a guided tour of the city

Walking Tour: 40 BRL

Day 118 - Salvador (10th March 2023)

Welcome to Salvador! Today there is an important group meeting at 18:00hrs, please meet at the Hotel reception. The rest of the day is yours to enjoy Salvador.

Border information: If you are starting in Salvador, enter Brazil at Deputado Luís Eduardo Magalhães International Airport ([IATA code: SSA](#))

Daily Activities

Optional Activities

Watch a candomblé ceremony

Entrance: 70 USD

Enjoy a dance performance showcasing the culture and history of Bahia

Show: 65 BRL

Visit a Capoeira school to watch the Brazilian martial art combining elements of dance acrobatics and music

Approx price: 25 BRL

Visit the Forte Santo Antonio da Barra, Brazil's oldest lighthouse, for panoramic views of the city

Price: Free

Day 119 - Aracaju (11th March 2023)

Meals: Breakfast

Today we head north up the coast of Bahia, into the state of Sergipe. Along the way we will make a stop at the Projeto Tamar - a research station involved in the protection of Brazil's five species of turtle, which spans 1000km and 9 of Brazil's states. The best time to visit is September to March when the spawning occurs.

Afterwards we will continue our journey north to Aracaju, where we can chill out in one of the town's seafront eateries, listen to some traditional forro music and enjoy the fresh crabs that the town is known for.

Daily Activities

Included Activities

Visit the Tamar Turtle Conservation Project

Included

Day 120 - Olinda (12th March 2023)

Meals: Breakfast

We have a full day drive to the stunning colonial gem of Olinda, considered one of Brazil's most important historic sites.

Day 121 - Olinda (13th March 2023)

Meals: Breakfast

Explore the beautiful town of Olinda, once known as 'small Lisbon' and the richest town in Brazil. Enjoy wandering the cobblestone streets, check out some of the exquisite churches and definitely make time for lunch at Alto da Se to enjoy the views!

Daily Activities

Optional Activities

See the sights and visit the imposing 16th-century Igreja da Se, located at Alto da Se (Cathedral Heights)

Entrance: Free

Go on a free walking tour of Olinda

Tips only: Free

Day 122 - Praia da Pipa (14th March 2023)

Continue the journey to the cool seaside town of Praia da Pipa.

Day 123 - Canoa Quebrada (15th March 2023)

Meals: Breakfast

Today we have a drive day to the pink sands of the Canoa Quebrada beaches.

Day 124 - Canoa Quebrada (16th March 2023)

Meals: Breakfast

Huge pinkish sand dunes dominate the area of Canoa Quebrada, it's a fantastic spot to kick back and relax after a week of overlanding, or for the more energetic; try your hand at kite surfing, take an evening horseback ride along the beach, head out on a beach buggy. There's a laid back small town to explore too.

Daily Activities

Optional Activities

Take a beach buggy trip to Ponta Grossa

Activity per 4 pax: 240 BRL

Try your hand at kitesurfing

Activity: 300 BRL

Day 125 - Jericoacoara (17th March 2023)

Meals: Breakfast

An all day drive brings us to the laid back beach town of Jericoacoara, or 'Jeri' as it's affectionately known. Access to Jericoacoara is only by 4x4 through unpaved tracks through the dunes, making it a wonderfully hard to reach place.

Day 126 - Jericoacoara (18th March 2023)

Meals: Breakfast

Jericoacoara is a magical place to spend some time; wander the sandy lanes, enjoy the sunset with a caipirinha on the dunes whilst the locals practise their Capoeira, head out on a quad bike adventure to remote lagoons where you can take a dip, laze in a hammock and enjoy a seafood lunch. Jeri is also one of the prime spots for surfing, windsurfing and kite surfing!

Daily Activities

Optional Activities

Enjoy a dunebuggy tour around the sand dunes

Trip: 350 BRL

Take quad bikes to the stunning Lagoa Azul and Lagoa Paraiso

Trip: 350 BRL

Learn to kitesurf in Jericoacoara

Price: 160 USD

Try a capoeira class

90 min lesson: 35 BRL

Day 127 - Barreirinhas (19th March 2023)

Meals: Breakfast

Today we drive to the town of Barreirinhas, the gateway to the Lencois Maranhenses National Park.

Day 128 - Barreirinhas (20th March 2023)

Meals: Breakfast

Today we adventure into the Lencois Maranhenses National Park begins.

Seen from the sky, the meeting point of the Rio Parnaiba and the Atlantic Ocean looks like a giant puzzle, made up of 85 tiny islands.

Daily Activities

Included Activities

Guided visit to the stunning Lençóis Maranhenses National Park

Included

Optional Activities

Quadbiking around the remote Caburé

Half hour: 60 BRL

Day 129 - Barreirinhas (21st March 2023)

Meals: Breakfast

Today we will head out to the protected area of Pequeneos Lencois, along the way, we will visit a small fishing village, take a short walk & enjoy views of the dunes and the Preguicas River.

Day 130 - Sao Luis (22nd March 2023)

Meals: Breakfast

This morning we will continue our journey to the beautiful UNESCO town of Sao Luis.

Day 131 - Sao Luis (23rd March 2023)

Meals: Breakfast

Today we can enjoy the UNESCO world heritage site of Sao Luis, the only city of Brazil to be founded by the French. The city is full of interesting museums and the historic centre houses beautiful, pastel coloured colonial mansions. You can take a boat trip to the more laid back town of Alcantara, you may spot the Scarlet Guara birds on your way.

Daily Activities

Optional Activities

Set within an impressive mansion are exhibits of Sao Luis festivals - Carnaval Bumba Meu Boi and Divino Espirito Santo

Price: Free

Learn about Maranhão's indigenous cultures at the Centro Perquisa de Historia Natural

Price: Free

Take a guided tour of the city

Guide (cost per group): 300 BRL

Visit the 18th-century state governor's palace, Palacio dos Leoes

Price: Free

Day 132 - Belem (24th March 2023)

Meals: Breakfast

Our final drive day brings us to Belem where the mighty Amazon River meets the Atlantic.

Day 133 - Belem (25th March 2023)

Meals: Breakfast

Today is yours to enjoy the port town of Belem, one of the first Portuguese settlements. Explore the historic centre which houses various museums and cathedrals and be sure to visit the Ver-o-Paso Market, considered the largest in South America, with its stalls scattered with Amazonian fish, baskets of Acai, herbs and crafts.

Daily Activities

Optional Activities

Visit Cidade Velha, home to most of Belem's museums with four plazas and a riverside location

Entrance: Free

Visit the iconic waterfront colonial Ver-o-Peso market

Entrance: Free

Day 134 - Amazon River (26th March 2023)

The next four days of our itinerary will be flexible to suit the sailing times of our ferry and the road conditions.

Day 135 - Macapa (27th March 2023)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

We hope to board the Amazon passenger boat today or tomorrow at 10am, sailing to the port of Macapa - this crossing usually takes around 24hours and is a real local experience. Be sure to bring some snacks, playing cards and a good book for the journey. Meals will be provided on the ferry but these are quite basic. Snacks and drinks are sold on board.

The truck will depart on a separate ferry the night before, as it takes around 36 hours to reach Macapa.

Whilst on board we sleep in hammocks on deck. It is possible to upgrade in advance to a cabin, please contact your Sales agent for further information.

Day 136 - Oyapoque (28th March 2023)

Meals: Breakfast

Overlanding day towards French Guiana

Day 137 - Cayenne (29th March 2023)

Meals: Breakfast

We will likely spend a night in Macapa on arrival, followed by 2 days overlanding to the city of Cayenne in French Guiana. Our itinerary will depend on road conditions and the arrival times of the passenger and truck ferries.

Day 138 - Cayenne (30th March 2023)

Welcome to French Guiana!, today there is an important meeting at 18:00, please meet in the hotel reception. The rest of the day is yours to enjoy Cayenne.

Border Information - If joining the trip at Cayenne, you will fly into Cayenne Félix Eboué International Airport (IATA code: CAY)

Day 139 - Cayenne (31st March 2023)

Meals: Breakfast

Today we will enjoy a half day walking tour around Cayenne. The rest of the day is yours to enjoy, perhaps even take a Kayaking trip to the Ilets du pont. Depending on departure days we may choose to visit the Space station at Kourou this morning.

Daily Activities

Included Activities

Take a 3hr walking tour of Cayenne; climb up Cépénou hill to enjoy a panoramic view of the city; the visit will take you through numerous key spots of historical cultural or natural interest.

Included

Optional Activities

Take a 2-hour kayaking trip to the Iles Dupont; sea islets positioned less than a half-mile off the beach of Cayenne's Grand Hotel de Montabo. This site is perfect for the observation of sea turtles and dolphins.

Kayaking: 29 EUR

Take a motorboat shuttle to the Ilet La Mère to explore the islet

Boat trip: 35 EUR

Day 140 - Kourou (1st April 2023)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today we will head out to the town of Kourou; the site of the European Space station and the starting point for boat trips around the former penal colony on Devil's Island, one of the infamous Iles du Salut, off the coast of French Guiana. The ordeal of Frenchman Henri Charriere, who spent 12 years here, would later inspire the book Papillon.

Daily Activities

Included Activities

Visit the international Spaceport in Kourou

Included

Optional Activities

Take a boat trip to the Iles du Salut the Devils islands; explore the old church school and hospital of Ilhe Royale photograph the native wildlife and even take a dip in the convicts swimming pool!

Boat trip: 51 EUR

Day 141 - Plage Les Hattes (2nd April 2023)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today we will visit the European Space Centre near Kourou, en route to the town of Saint Laurent du Maroni.

During Turtle viewing season (March to August) we will spend tonight at Plage les Hattes, in the hope of spotting a Olive Ridley or Leatherback Turtle.

We will stay in a local guesthouse or sleep in hammocks if we visit Plage Les Hattes

Day 142 - St Laurent du Maroni (3rd April 2023)

Meals: Breakfast

Today we have a free day to explore the border town of Saint Laurent du Maroni, located on the Maroni river, with its interesting and dark history as an arrival point for prisoners during the 19th Century.

Daily Activities

Optional Activities

This river tour will take you to the "Ile Portal" river island the Amerindian village of Biguiston and its polishing stones and finally to the Wacapou creek.

Tour: 55 EUR

Visit to a Hmong Village

Tour: 46 EUR

Day 143 - Paramaribo (4th April 2023)

We continue our journey west to the lively capital Paramaribo.

This evening we may choose to take an evening sunset boat trip in the hope of seeing some Dolphins playing in the Suriname River.

Day 144 - Paramaribo (5th April 2023)

Today we have a full day to explore Paramaribo's historic inner city and the Commewijne area. You can easily explore the historic centre on foot, visiting Fort Zeelandia and the Suriname museum, and enjoying the fantastic architecture of Saint Peter and Paul Cathedral, one of the largest wooden buildings in the western hemisphere, or hire a bike and take a boat across the river to cycle the peaceful Commewijne Plantation Loop, visit the star shaped fort at Neiu Amsterdam. There are plenty of bars and restaurants to choose from.

Daily Activities

Included Activities

Paramaribo City Tour

Included

Optional Activities

Take a sunset boat trip in search of dolphins tour includes snacks and drinks.

Boat trip: 28 EUR

Hire a bike from one of the nearby hostels, cross the river in a local ferry and explore the Commewijne plantation area.

Day Tour: 60 EUR

Day 145 - Upper Suriname Area (6th April 2023)

Meals: Lunch, Dinner

This morning we leave the truck behind and set off for an unforgettable adventure into the interior of Suriname. We will travel by minibus for approximately 190km to the port at Atjoni, we then hop on a boat for approx 1hr trip along the Suriname River, deep into the rainforest where we will stay for two nights on our own private island!

Be sure to pack light for this excursion, as we can only take a small bag each with us.

We will stay in comfortable cabins and enjoy our own pool. All meals are provided during our visit, though you will need a small amount of money for drinks and tips for our local guide.

Daily Activities

Included Activities

Spend 2 nights / 3 days on an all inclusive island retreat in the Suriname River surrounded by dense rainforest birdlife and opportunities to visit local communities.

Included

Day 146 - Upper Suriname Area (7th April 2023)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

During our stay we can visit local villages, walk around the island in the hope of meeting some of its furry inhabitants and learn about the medicinal plants, try to spot Caiman on a night time canoe trip, take a dip in the river at the Ferulassi rapids - a natural Jacuzzi, and relax on the island by our pool, spot the kingfishers on the banks of the river and enjoy the tranquillity of the Amazon Rainforest.

All meals are provided.

Day 147 - Paramaribo (8th April 2023)

Meals: Breakfast

This morning is free for you to enjoy how you wish, walk, swim or relax and after lunch we will transfer back to Paramaribo.

Daily Activities

Optional Activities

Visit the partly renovated plantation Peperpot and take a walk in the nature park

Tour: 60 EUR

Visit to a Maroon Village

Tour: 85 EUR

Go on an off-roading 4x4 Adventure

City Tour: 134 EUR

Day 148 - Bigi Pan (9th April 2023)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Paramaribo and its surroundings definitely deserve at least one more day for exploration. Today is yours to spend as you wish; take a boat trip to Jordensavanne, take part in a Moengo Cultural experience, go walking in the Peperpot Nature reserve or Brownsberg Nature Park, learn the art of Surinamese cookery, or take part in one of the many day tours available.

Daily Activities

Included Activities

Spend a night on the Bigi Pans, taking boat trips to explore the pans and see the extensive wildlife

Included

Day 149 - Nieuw Nickerie (10th April 2023)

Meals: Breakfast

Today we will leave the bright lights of Parbo behind and head to the Bigi Pan, designated an 'Important Bird Area' for its spectacular bird life, particularly the country's largest colony of Scarlet Ibis.

Day 150 - Georgetown (11th April 2023)

Today we head across the border by Ferryboat to the Guyana Capital, Georgetown.

Border information: Exit Paramaribo, Enter Guyana

In Georgetown we stay in a central located, basic but cosy, locally run hostel, with shared bathrooms in a combination of twin and dorm rooms.

Day 151 - Georgetown (12th April 2023)

Take a morning tour of the city, explore the old canals and great sea wall, visit incredible wooden cathedrals, the huge market and try to spot the manatees swimming in the National park's lake. Georgetown is a busy place, and feels happily free from mass tourism. Be sure to take your camera!

Daily Activities

Included Activities

Take a guided tour of Georgetown

Included

Day 152 - Georgetown (13th April 2023)

Today we have a second free day in the city.

Perhaps one of the greatest highlights of Guyana is the spectacularly remote and impressive Kaieteur Falls, one of the tallest single drop waterfalls in the world, and reachable only by light aircraft. Take a half day flight to the falls and then enjoy a walking tour to the Falls and search for the tiny golden rocket frogs, hiding in the tank bromeliads leaves, as well as an impressive variety of butterflies, you may also be lucky enough to spot the bright orange Guayanan Cock of the Rocks.

Daily Activities

Optional Activities

Fly to both Kaieteur and Orinduk Falls on this day tour

Price: 290 USD

Take a flight to the amazing Kaieteur Falls

Price: 190 USD

Day 153 - Iwokrama Forest (14th April 2023)

Meals: Lunch, Dinner

Today the adventure really begins, as we travel south into the Guyanan Interior. We enjoy the comforts of a tarmac road for around 120km, as far as the town of Linden, and then the dirt road begins! it's the only road that connects Georgetown to Brazil, at some times of the year it becomes impassable due to the rains, but most of the time you'll find trucks and minibuses happily bumping along the road transporting people to and from Lethem. Many people choose to fly to the jungle resorts, but as overlanders we will get to enjoy the pristine rainforest - keep your eyes peeled in case of the illusive jaguar road crossing!

Please note we will likely set off very early today in order to make the most of the cooler parts of the day.

Day 154 - Iwokrama Forest (15th April 2023)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

This morning we will cross the River on a small barge and head deep in the Guyanan rainforest, which gives us some unique wildlife spotting opportunities in one of the most pristine and untouched eco-systems in the world. We have a variety of options for us including walking, bird watching, canoeing trips, nocturnal wildlife spotting and even a spot of swimming (if the water is low enough).

Today we will have an opportunity to visit the Iwokrama Forest Canopy Walkway, set 30metres above the forest floor and providing a unique opportunity to experience the jungle's mid-level canopy through a series of suspension bridges and decks. Visits during dusk or dawn are best for bird spotting of Macaws and Tucans, you may even be lucky enough to see Red Howler Monkeys.

Daily Activities

Included Activities

We will stay in the heart of the Iwokrama Forest at a jungle lodge where we have time to explore the rainforest and observe the wildlife and birdlife.

Included

Optional Activities

Take a short walk into the rainforest to search for the brightest bird of the jungle - the Guianan Cock of the Rocks

Price: 35 USD

Day 155 - Rupununi (16th April 2023)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today we leave the dense rainforest behind and head towards a village settlement in an area of Savannah, where we will take a walk in the village and a short river trip in Canoes on the Burro Burro River. Afterwards we will head to our camp, which is a little further south further into the Savannah region.

Daily Activities

Included Activities

Take a guided walk and canoe trip on the Burro Burro River

Included

Day 156 - Rupununi (17th April 2023)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today we have a free day for activities such as horse riding, hiking and further opportunities for spotting wildlife.

Daily Activities

Included Activities

Head out for a guided hike on the Panorama Nature Trail

Included

Day 157 - Boa Vista (18th April 2023)

Meals: Breakfast

This is our final day in Guyana, we will head south past the town of Lethem and onto the city of Boa Vista in Brazil

(Please note that it is possible to fly from Lethem to Georgetown for approximately 150USD, for outbound international flights).

Day 158 - Boa Vista (19th April 2023)

Meals: Breakfast

Today is the final day for passengers finishing their trip in Boa Vista. Please note there is no accommodation included on the trip tonight - please contact your sales agent if you are interested in booking an extra night of accommodation in order to fully explore the area.

Border Information: if you are finishing in Boa Vista, you will most likely exit Brazil at Boa Vista-Atlas Brasil Cantanhede International Airport (AITO code: BVB)

Accommodation:

ITINERARY DISCLAIMER

The routes, activities and places visited described in these notes are intentions and are meant as a rough guide only. By their very nature, overland itineraries need to be flexible and the regions that we are travelling through are often unpredictable. We intend to follow the planned route but exact night stops and inclusions cannot be guaranteed and it sometimes happens that we decide to make a change to our planned itinerary. This may be for a variety of reasons; climatic, road or bureaucratic conditions may demand it. Changes to the itinerary may occur with little notice so please be prepared for modifications to your trip.

Drive Times

Drive times are listed in the day-to-day itinerary. These are the approximate number of hours that the vehicle will be in motion, and does not include any time taken for coffee or lunch stops, border crossings, photo stops, activities en route, comfort breaks, shopping stops, toilet stops, etc. The times given are approximate estimates only and whilst given with the best of intentions, the drive times are heavily dependent on traffic, road conditions, weather, police roadblocks, and many other factors.

Accommodation and Meals Included

The type of accommodation and included meals are listed for each day of the itinerary. These listings show our intention and on most departures the listings will be accurate. However due to the flexible nature of overland itineraries, climatic, bureaucratic or road conditions may demand changes to our listed intentions or groups may simply decide to amend the plans from time to time.

Optional Activities

A selection of optional activities is listed in the day-to-day itinerary. This list is designed to be a helpful guide as to what is commonly available in each location, and is neither an exhaustive list, a guarantee that the activity is available, or an endorsement or recommendation. Certain activities may not be available on your particular visit and it may not be possible to do all the activities listed in the time available at each destination. It is recommended to give yourself extra time in your joining or ending city if you would like to participate in some optional activities there. Prices listed are for entrance only and do not include transport costs to and from the sites or local guides unless indicated. The prices are displayed according to our latest information and in the best faith, but prices do fluctuate due to exchange rates, season, numbers of participants, and simple increases from the operator, and therefore any prices listed are a guide only and cannot be guaranteed. If you partake in any optional activities,

you do so at your own risk and it must be clearly understood that your participation is your own decision and does not form part of your contract with Dragoman. You may be required to sign/complete a waiver form or optional activity form for some optional activities. For more information around activity safety and insurance, please see the Essential Information document.

EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

In the event of a real emergency once you have left your home country, please contact us on our out of office hours number. If you cannot get through on the phone, please leave a message with your name, reference number, contact details and a message with the help that you need and we will get back to you. Please bear in mind that real progress or action may not be possible until normal office hours, depending on the issue.

If your flight is delayed, please inform us as soon as you can and then make your way to the joining hotel as instructed in the Joining Point section of these notes.

Out of hours Number: +44 (0) 7985 106564

A FEW RULES

We expect all group members to act respectfully towards our staff and other group members. Bullying will not be tolerated.

Engaging in commercial or exploitative sexual activities, committing acts of violence or threatening violence towards local people, other group members or any member of our staff is not allowed. Any customer engaging in such activities will be required to leave the trip immediately with no refund of the trip price.

You must at all times comply with the laws, customs, foreign exchange and drug regulations of all countries visited and conduct yourself in accordance with our responsible travel policy. Any customer found contravening such laws or regulations will be required to leave the trip immediately with no refund of the trip price.

Although we are aware that in some parts of the world taking, carrying or selling drugs, or carrying weapons may be legal, it is not acceptable for Dragoman customers and our tour leaders have the right to ask you to leave the trip immediately with no refund of the trip price if you are found to be engaging in such activities.

ISSUES ON THE TRIP

While we always endeavour to provide the best possible holiday experience, due to the nature of travel and the areas we visit sometimes things can and do go wrong. Should any issue occur while you are on your trip, it is imperative that you discuss this with your group leader or our local partner straight away so that they can do their best to rectify the problem and save any potential negative impact on the rest of your trip.

We recognise that there may be times when your group leader may not be able to resolve a situation to your satisfaction. If this is the case please contact our customer relations department on customer-relations@dragoman.co.uk.

You may also choose to provide details in your feedback questionnaire which we ask you to complete at the end of your trip, but we do ask you to be aware that it is very difficult for us to provide any practical help after the trip is complete.

IMPORTANT NOTES

OVERLANDING LIFESTYLE

Dragoman was founded in 1981, and has had many years of experience of leading overland trips across 4 continents. Overlanding is all about sharing a great travelling experience with like-minded people. On your trip you'll travel in one of Dragoman's purpose-built iconic expedition vehicles on an off-the-beaten-track adventure along rugged roads, experiencing the sights, sounds and smells of the world up-close. Your journey will be overland, sometimes across vast distances, so some long days spent driving are inevitable - but these will be interspersed with breaks of a day or two at a destination or activity.

On an overland journey, you are more than just a passenger and everyone gets involved setting up camp - we supply the tent but it's up to you to pitch it! As part of your trip, you will be assigned a truck job which could be collecting firewood or water, luggage loading, organising food, stores, etc. Like all great adventures, the more you put in the more you'll get out! For more details of how an overlanding trip works, please see the Essential Information document.

SAFETY STANDARDS

We run adventure journeys in off the beaten track areas, which often have poor infrastructure. You should expect that some of these areas do not adhere to 'Western' safety standards. For more information, please see the Essential Information document

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE IN REMOTE AREAS

We will be travelling to areas in remote locations where medical assistance will not be available, and communications may be sparse. We do not carry satellite phones on our regular trips. Therefore, if you have a medical condition such as a heart condition that would put you at risk, we would suggest that this is not the trip for you. Also, please be aware that should an emergency occur, there is likely to be a considerable delay in accessing medical care, and by joining our trip you accept this risk.

VISAS, HEALTH, INSURANCE & MONEY

Before you travel there are vital things to consider such as:

- Any visas needed for your trip
- Any vaccinations needed (please consult your GP or travel clinic)
- Organising your local payment (the kitty)
- Buying travel insurance (insurance is compulsory to be allowed to join our trips)

For more information on these topics, please see the Essential Information Document.

ALTITUDE WARNING

Warning - this trip goes above 2800m.

Please note that this trip spends time above 2800 metres/9200 feet where it is possible for travellers to experience some adverse effects on your health due to the altitude, potentially including Acute Mountain Sickness (AMS), High Altitude Cerebral Edema (HACE) and High Altitude Pulmonary Edema (HAPE). Because of this it is very important that you make yourself aware of the cause and effects of travelling at altitude and monitor your health during this trip.

For further information please [download our AMS information sheet](#) or refer to the following website: www.high-altitude-medicine.com. If you are starting your trip in a destination above 2800m/9200ft we strongly advise reading this information prior to arrival. Your leader will also hand you a copy of the AMS information sheet during your trip as well as holding a short meeting prior to travelling to altitudes above 2800m/9200ft for the first time.

Some travel insurance companies will stipulate a maximum altitude limit. Please ensure that you are covered and if necessary pay the additional premium of extended cover.

HIGH ALTIPLANO NOTE

Because of its nature, this itinerary may vary - occasionally the road conditions are too adverse during the rainy season (January-February) to make the crossing from Uyuni to Argentina, and we may have to change the route.

During the winter months in Argentina and Bolivia, we will spend a higher proportion of nights in hotels and less time camping. Kitty may be higher than expected and you should allow extra funds for this and personal funds for more meals out. There may well be snow and you should be aware that it can get very cold at night. Please ensure that you bring a decent sleeping bag and adequate clothes, including thermals.

We will also be travelling to very high altitudes (over 5,000m if you take the crossing from Uyuni to Argentina or vice versa), so please be aware of the effects of altitude sickness.

THE WILD ANDES TREK, CLASSIC INCA TREK AND TRAIN PACKAGE - MORE INFORMATION

THE WILD ANDES TREK

Dragoman first developed and launched their pioneering **Community Trek**, the **Tarpuy Yachay project**, in 2006 - a fantastic, award-winning alternative to the Classic Inca Trek, the project also helped several educational and sustainable development initiatives in the Andean villages of Quishuarani and Cuncani.

After almost a decade of this successful venture, we decided that our support could be better used in a new area. In 2013, Dragoman developed an exclusive, brand new Community Trek to take our passengers really off the beaten track, to enjoy pure, unspoilt Andean trails, explore remote Inca ruins, whilst at the same time finding new ways to 'give back' to the people of the area. We have done this by funding the release of alpaca herds, offering training to local people in animal husbandry and weaving to provide a source of income. Another aspect of this project has been reforestation, which is crucial for preventing landslides to protect the local area.

In 2016, we decided to rename our Community Trek "the **Wild Andes Trek**", because we feel it better represents the trek we run. However, nothing has changed but the name - Dragoman's firm commitment to genuine, responsible tourism continues as it always has, so rest assured that whilst you take to the mountains your money is supporting local people. The Wild Andes Trek follows the same route that we have been following since 2013, which boasts some of Peru's most spectacular and remote mountain scenery.

THE CLASSIC TREK

Of course if you prefer, there is also the option to complete the Classic Inca Trek, so called, because the trek follows the old royal route to Machu Picchu. Over the course of four days you will trek over 40km through farmland, cloud forest and mountain scenery, the trek culminates on the final morning where you will rise early to trek to Intipunku, better known as the Sun Gate, where you will catch your first glimpse of Machu Picchu. Here we can take our time to watch the mist clear over the Citadel, and walk down to the site and have some time to enjoy it before we have our guided tour.

THE TRAIN PACKAGE

For those of you who would prefer to take Machu Picchu at a gentler pace, we offer our non-trekking, Train Package. As part of this package you will enjoy a guided tour of Sacsayhuaman and the Sacred Valley, followed by 2 days to relax or explore Cuzco at your own pace. Finally you will transfer to Ollantaytambo where you will spend the night in a lovely hotel and have time to explore the fascinating and impressive fortress here. Our your final morning you will take the train to Aguas Calientes, and then onwards to Machu Picchu for your tour and free time to explore.

GENERAL

Whichever option you choose, you are sure to have an unforgettable experience at one of the most impressive and iconic World Heritage Sites.

The kitty has been budgeted to include the cost of the Classic Inca Trek as this is the most expensive option. This means that you will receive a small kitty refund if you do the Wild Andes Trek, and a substantial kitty refund if you do the Train Package.

All three trekking groups will return to Cuzco by train and private transfer. Please note that during high season or in the case of late bookings, some trekkers may be booked onto a later train. You will always have a Guide to accompany you back to Cuzco but you should be prepared for a later arrival.

PLEASE NOTE: You must tell us at the time of booking if you want to book the Classic Inca Trek or the Train Package. If you do not tell us this you will automatically be booked onto the Wild Andes Trek.

In order to book the relevant permits and tickets, it is vital that you provide the following information at the time of booking:

- Full name (EXACTLY as it appears in the passport you are travelling on)
- Date of Birth
- Gender
- Passport Number
- Passport Expiry Date

Please be sure that all the details are correct and are for the same passport on which you will travel to Peru - any changes made after your application is submitted may not be granted and will involve fees being charged to you. Changes to name and nationality after your application is submitted are absolutely not allowed, so please ensure no changes of this sort will be needed.

There is an overlap for the Inca treks. This means a group starting a trip in Lima or La Paz will do the Inca trek at the same time as a group starting their trip in Cuzco. This means there could be several groups on the Inca trek at the same time.

INCLUSIONS

Wild Andes Trek	Classic Inca Trek	Train Package
Professional bi-lingual Guides	Professional bi-lingual Guides	Professional bi-lingual Guides
Guided tour of Sacsayhuaman, Ollantaytambo and Machu Picchu	Guided tour of Sacsayhuaman, Ollantaytambo and Machu Picchu	Guided tour of Sacsayhuaman, Ollantaytambo and Machu Picchu
All transport between Cuzco and Machu Picchu	All transport between Cuzco and Machu Picchu	All transport between Cuzco and Machu Picchu
Return Train from Ollantaytambo to Aguas Calientes	Return Train from Ollantaytambo to Aguas Calientes	Return Train from Ollantaytambo to Aguas Calientes
One night accommodation in Ollantaytambo	One night accommodation in Ollantaytambo	Three nights accommodation in Cuzco and one night accommodation in Ollantaytambo
Entrance to Machu Picchu	Entrance to Machu Picchu	Entrance to Machu Picchu
High quality double-occupancy tents, sleeping mat and camping equipment	High quality double-occupancy tents, sleeping mat and camping equipment	
Hot water in the morning for washing	Hot water in the morning for washing	
Drinking water throughout the trek	Drinking water throughout the trek	
Dining tent, kitchen tent, latrine tent	Dining tent, kitchen tent, latrine tent	
First Aid Kit and Oxygen	First Aid Kit and Oxygen	
Team of Camp staff, Porters and Cooks	Team of Camp staff, Porters and Cooks	
All camping meals (vegetarian and gluten free meals can be catered for)	All camping meals (vegetarian and gluten free meals can be catered for)	
Pack animals and emergency horse in case of injury		

BENEFITS OF THE WILD ANDES TREK

- Protecting the environment - reducing the number of people travelling on the Classic route to minimise the impact on these ancient paths.
- Responsible Tourism - providing funding for reforestation of the area, to reduce landslides.
- Sustainable - providing funding to introduce Alpacas and training in animal husbandry and weaving to create a sustainable source of income from the animals
- Trekking virtually deserted routes, with no other tourists - so you are free to enjoy the surroundings without feeling rushed or crowded
- Arriving to Machu Picchu well rested and refreshed after a comfortable night in a hotel in Ollantaytambo - ready to get the most out of the visit to this unforgettable site. (NB we do not trek into Machu Picchu, we arrive by train and bus from Ollantaytambo)
- Time to explore the citadel of Machu Picchu, many group members chose to trek up to the Sun Gate to see the famous view, after their tour.
- Trekking a unique route in the Andes

BENEFITS OF THE CLASSIC INCA TREK

- The original Royal route is still the most popular trek because of its history (trekking is limited to 500 people per day departing on the trek, which still can feel crowded at times)
- The Classic Trek is not quite as challenging as the Wild Andes Trek as the passes are not quite as high. That said, it is still a pretty tough and you will need to be reasonably fit.
- There are fantastic views of varied terrain from cloud forest to mountains.
- The Classic Trek culminates with a morning trek to the Sun Gate, where you will experience your first glimpse of Machu Picchu (this is the only trek to do this).

TREKKING FITNESS

Trekking at altitude should not be undertaken lightly. Regardless of which trek you choose, you need to be in good health with good physical fitness to enjoy the experience. It is not about speed; trekking slowly is far better at altitude but you do need to have the stamina to keep going and altitude can have a negative impact on your general condition and physical performance. For your own safety you must accept that it is at the complete discretion of the professional trekking guides to decide if you are not fit enough to trek, whether it be before or during the trek. The Wild Andes Trek reaches 4,700 m in altitude when we cross one of the passes. The trail can be steep and rocky but has few steps. The Classic Inca Trek has lots of steps and the highest pass is Dead Woman's Pass at 4,200 m. If you are in any doubt about your suitability to trek please consult your local doctor. We recommend arriving in Cuzco at least 24 hours prior to your trip starting (if you are joining in Cuzco). It is also important that you inform your trekking guides and Tour Leaders of any pre-existing medical issues, as well as any medications you may be taking, especially medication for altitude sickness.

TREKKING - WHAT TO BRING

Tents, sleeping mats and all food and drinking water during the trek are provided, as well as duffle bags for your personal gear that you don't need to access during the trekking hours (such as sleeping bags and extra clothes). On the Wild Andes Trek your duffle bag will be carried by pack animals and on the Classic Trek your duffle bag will be carried by porters. Please note that there is therefore a strict weight limit of 6 kgs per bag. You will have to carry your own daypack with any items you need during the day.

You will need to be prepared for 4 seasons' weather in one day. Basically it will be cold after dark and in the mornings. During the night you will need to layer up with thermals and warm socks. In the morning when you've walked for a little while you will warm up and gradually strip off. Think layers! Wild Andes trekkers, you should also bring a set of clean clothes for the night you will spend in Ollantaytambo where you have hot showers and the evening meal out in a restaurant.

Some very useful things to bring:

- Daypack (less than 30 litres)
- Waterproof bag(s) to keep your stuff dry (bin liners or similar are fine)
- Warm sleeping bag (also available to rent from our local supplier)
- Sleeping bag liner (for extra insulation)
- Sleeping mat (only if you want extra insulation/padding as a mat will be provided)
- Walking stick (basic wooden sticks will be available to buy)
- Water bottle(s) with a total capacity of at least 2 litres
- Head torch or normal torch
- Small towel
- Camera (also charger, extra batteries and memory cards)
- Walking boots
- Light shoes or sandals (to allow your feet to relax and breathe during the evenings)

- Waterproofs
- Thermal underwear
- Warm socks
- Fleece or other warm sweater
- Woolly hat & gloves
- Sunglasses
- Sun hat
- Basic toiletries (lip salve, sun block, insect repellent, wet wipes, hand sanitizer, etc)
- Toilet paper + plastic bags to carry your used toilet paper with you (only needed during the trekking hours, at night a dug toilet with toilet paper will be provided)
- Basic medical kit (any personal medication, plasters, painkillers, etc)
- Pack of cards / book / game for evenings
- Money (for souvenirs, snacks, drinks, food, etc + tip for the guides and porters)
- PASSPORT + passport photocopy
- Cuzco Visitor's Ticket (this will be arranged for you by your tour leader)

We recommend a tip of US\$20 for your guide and perhaps US\$30 for all the rest of the staff.

RESPONSIBLE TREKKING

Frostbite, altitude sickness and even death can be the cost for the guides and trekking staff. Tourism Concern has a campaign aimed to put a stop to the abuse of trekking staff's human rights. Equally pack animals suffer abuse and mistreatment. Mountain trekking is exhilarating and challenging, but how could many of us do it without the assistance of trekking staff? Once they have started a trek, trekkers are often horrified by the reality of the working conditions for the staff.

The prices that tour operators charge for trekking does vary enormously, mainly due to the rates of pay and conditions that the trekking crew receive. It is easy to book a trip based purely on price, but in the case of trips involving Inca trails, this will probably be because the tour operator is using local suppliers without regard to the treatment of porters and guides.

In keeping with our Responsible Tourism Policies, Dragoman has a strict Suppliers' Policy, which also covers our trekking partners. We follow Tourism Concern's policies on trekking companies and the way that guides, porters or animals are looked after. We therefore use a local Cuzco-based trekking company called Andina Travel to run all our Inca trails trekking trips. They have an excellent trekking record and good, knowledgeable guides. They have been at the cutting edge of developing codes of responsible tourism practice and involving the local Quechuan communities in the development of their various treks. They supply us with evidence of their code of practice concerning their guides, staff and pack animals.

Please bear this in mind when deciding which travel company you will travel with. Remember many of the trekking organisations, as well as many overseas tour operators who use these suppliers, are happy to promote low cost trips, even if it is at the expense of the welfare of the guides and porters that they use.

COMMUNITIES SUPPORTED

The communities that we support are remote Andean farming communities with traditions dating back to the Incas. They are primarily Quechua speaking, with some Spanish, and little contact with the general population. Their daily lives consist of potato cultivation, weaving, and the herding of llamas, alpacas, and sheep. Considered by the Peruvian government to be living in extreme poverty, they often face malnutrition, severely cold weather, poor hygienic conditions, and little medical or health assistance. Villagers live in thatched-roof stone huts and cook with firewood. Because of the disproportionate supply and demand of native trees and bush, there is a great need for an effective reforestation project in the area. Since 2006, Dragoman has worked with Ecoam (who helps us with our reforestation project) and thanks to the support from Dragoman and our passengers, the area we used to visit around Quishuarani, Cuncani and part of the mountain range of Lares has been declared a Private Landscape Reserve.

The fairly recent introduction of tourism to the region has brought some needed assistance and economic development to the communities, but there is still much more to do. Our local trekking operator working within the guidelines of sustainable tourism has met with the communities and discussed the pros and cons of tourism in the area. Together they have established still unofficial guidelines for trekking and tourism through the Cordillera such as: established campsites to avoid contamination of community areas, use of community animals and personnel on treks, training of community members through workshops on camp maintenance, hygiene, client service to enhance their economic viability, maintenance of camp trails, camp sites, and environmental conservation. Many agencies respect these guidelines, but because making things official often brings on unwanted government intervention, they are an informal agreement between the communities, agencies, and tourists.

CARNIVAL NOTES

Optional activities - All optional activities need to be booked prior to arrival at Carnival and by 5th January 2019. This can be done by contacting Dragoman's sales team or your agent. More details can be found [here](#).

Accommodation - This is on a shared basis (twin or triple) with breakfast included daily but no other meals. All rooms are en-suite with air-conditioning, TV, fridge and safe. There is a single supplement available at an additional cost. Please enquire with your sales agent at the time of booking if you should wish to purchase the single supplement.

Money changing – Banks will be closed over most of Carnival but some money changers stay open although exchange rates are not always that good. Cash will give you the best exchange rates - usually USD, GBP and EUR are easily exchanged. Travellers Cheques are not generally accepted. American Express Office is open through Carnival for exchange. Cash machines are located nearby to the hotel but can run out of money, so plan in advance and be very aware of theft and fraud.

You may wish to consider bringing the following items with you to Rio Carnival:

- Binoculars to help see the detail of the parades at the Sambadrome
- A disposable raincoat (can also be bought in Rio)
- A compact camera
- A money belt

THE GUIANAS

GETTING AROUND

The road across the coastal strip from Cayenne to Georgetown is sealed. Border crossings will often involve a ferry crossing, so be prepared to wait a little while for the ferry to arrive and for customs to check everyone through. In the interior of Guyana there are very few sealed roads, and the main route to Brazil is on a very bumpy dirt track, which can become impassable during the rainy seasons. Travellers should be prepared for some bumpy journeys in this region!

CURRENCIES AND MONEY MATTERS

French Guiana - Euro

Suriname - Surinamese Dollar - (1 USD = 8SRD)

Guyana - Guyanese Dollar - (1 USD = 200GYD)

Generally French Guiana is the most expensive of the three countries, followed by Suriname and then Guyana.

ATMs are available in Cayenne, Paramaribo and Georgetown and some smaller towns. Credit cards are only accepted in certain hotels, shops and restaurants. You should have local currency with you, especially in the interior of Guyana and Suriname. Cambios offer the best exchange rates. USD and Euros are easy to exchange and widely accepted as payment in major cities.

CLIMATE

The climate in the Guianas is equatorial, meaning hot all year around, with an average temperature of 27.5°C. Humidity is generally high all year, but noticeably so during the rainy seasons. The coast is cooled by sea breezes, and feels much more comfortable, as are the areas of the rainforest near the rivers.

The wet season is November to January and May to July, our trips are designed to run during the dryer seasons, but please be aware that there is rain year round, therefore waterproofs are a must!

CLOTHING

Long sleeves and collars are great for keeping off the sun and the mosquitoes. Comfortable, light clothing is recommended, as are comfortable walking shoes or boots and sandals. A sun hat and sunglasses are essential.

LOCAL FOOD AND DRINKS

Food in Guianas has strong influences from around the world, leading to some unique creations. Influences from Europe, East India, China, Indonesia, Africa and Amerindian cuisine have fused together in this tiny corner of South America. Chicken, Fish and Meat are commonly on the menu, along with vegetables, rice and cassava. In French Guiana you should try the Bouillon d'aura - a blend of crab, smoked fish, chicken, vegetables and aurora fruit. In Guayana some great snacks include Foo-foo - plantains made into cakes and fried and Pepperport, an Amerindian meat stew with cassava and hot pepper sauce. In Paramaribo, try the Parbo beer and of course Guayana blends excellent local rums. Bottled water is recommended.

TIPPING

Local Guides do not expect, but greatly appreciate a tip. In the interior it is recommended that any tips are given in local currency. For meals, 10% at hotels and restaurants is generally expected.

LANGUAGES

Guyana is South America's only English speaking country. Dutch is the main language of Suriname and French in French Guiana. There are also a number of Amerindian communities who speak their own indigenous language.

SAFETY

In general you will find the people of the Guianas to be very friendly, helpful and welcoming, many are interested to meet travellers. Whilst in any city, we recommend that you check with the reception of your hotel if there are areas to avoid after dark, and that you only take with you the money that you need for the day and leave valuables, spare cash cards and passports in the truck or hotel safe. There are some mosquitoes, we recommend that you use repellent and the mosquito net provided in hotels.

COLOMBIA NOTES

ECUADOR NOTES

PERU NOTES

BOLIVIA NOTES

ARGENTINA NOTES

CHILE NOTES

BRAZIL NOTES

FRENCH GUIANA NOTES

SURINAME NOTES

GUYANA NOTES

Please ensure you have an up to date version of these notes. **These notes were printed on the 21st June 2021**