

Treasures of South America

Classic Tour | 21 Days | Physical Level 2

Lima – Cusco – Sacred Valley – Machu Picchu – Lake Titicaca –Buenos Aires – Iguazu – Rio de Janeiro

This tour of South America showcases some of the greatest highlights of this fantastic continent. Embark on the journey of a lifetime, visiting Machu Picchu, the Sacred Valley and much more. A classic Latin America itinerary with a tango-worthy twist, travel between the vivacious cities of Buenos Aires and Rio de Janeiro and spend two days at the spectacular Iguazu Falls.

- Marvel at Machu Picchu
- Cruise across Lake Titicaca
- Witness a master tango show
- Ascend Sugarloaf Mountain

TOUR MAP



TREASURES OF SOUTH AMERICA TOUR INCLUSIONS:

- Return international economy flights, taxes and current fuel surcharges (unless a land only option is selected)
- All accommodation
- All meals
- All sightseeing and entrance fees
- All transportation and transfers
- English speaking National Escorts (if your group is 10 or more passengers) or Local Guides
- Specialist advice from our experienced travel consultants
- Safe and secure with IATA

The only things you may have to pay for are personal expenditure e.g. drinks, optional excursions or shows, insurance of any kind, customary tipping, early check in or late check out and other items not specified on the itinerary.

CLASSIC TOURS:

These tours are designed for those who wish to see the iconic sites and magnificent treasures of South America on an excellent value group tour whilst travelling with like-minded people. The tours are on a fully-inclusive basis so you'll travel with the assurance that all your arrangements are taken care of. You will be accompanied by our dedicated and professional National Escorts, whose unparalleled knowledge will turn your holiday into an unforgettable experience.

PHYSICAL LEVEL 2:

All our tours feature a physical rating to help you select the right holiday for you. To travel on any of our tours requires unaided mobility and the ability to stroll around the sights. Treasures of South America is rated as a physical level 2 tour. A reasonable level of fitness is required but it's more about spending time on your feet rather than covering large distances. You'll be getting on and off coaches and boats, walking around the sights and climbing some steps.

- There will be sightseeing on foot for both short and extended periods of time. Cusco sits at 3,400 metres above sea level – activity at these altitudes will be at an easy pace.
- Sightseeing will involve climbing quite a number of steps, often without handrails.

Of course, our National Escorts and Local Guides will always endeavour to provide the highest level of service and assistance; however, they cannot be expected to cater for customers who are unfit to complete the itinerary. If you require any more information about the pace of our tours, please contact our Reservations team who will be happy to answer your questions.

JOINING YOUR TOUR:

The tour is 21 days in duration including international flights or 19 days in duration based on 'Land Only'.

Travellers booked on 'Land Only', the price includes your arrival/departure airport transfers if arriving/departing on the start and conclusion date of your tour. Please advise your international flight times to Reservations.

Join the tour on Day 1 in Lima and end the tour on Day 19 in Rio de Janeiro. Please refer to your final itinerary for more specific meeting instructions pertaining to your departure.

ITINERARY CHANGES:

It's our intention to adhere to the day-to-day itinerary as printed; however, the order of events or sightseeing may change as we look to improve our tours or as local conditions dictate. In these circumstances we'll make the best possible arrangements maintaining the integrity of your trip.

DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 1: Fly to Lima Meals: D



Fly to Lima, Peru's historical capital, arriving the same day. On arrival, you will be welcomed at the airport by your Wendy Wu Tours representative and transferred to your hotel. The transfer time is approximately 1 hour 30 minutes. Tonight, enjoy your first taste of Peruvian cuisine at a local restaurant.

Early check-in is not included. Additional nights' before and after your tour can be arranged. Please contact our Reservations team to book.

Destination Information

Lima – Overlooking the Pacific in Peru's central region, Lima is a huge city of 10 million people. It was founded by conquistador Francisco Pizarro in 1535 and became the capital of the Viceroyalty of Peru, remaining as the capital after the War of Independence which gave Peruvians their freedom. The historic centre of the city is beautiful and was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1988.

Day 2: Lima Meals: B, L, D



Originally named the City of the Kings, Lima is rich in heritage, which you'll see for yourself today. Start the morning with a stroll through the colourful fruit market, tasting tropical juices along the way before heading to the UNESCO World Heritage-listed historic centre to admire the colonial magnificence of its buildings – Government Palace, Cathedral of Lima, Archbishop's Palace of Lima. One block from the Plaza de Armas (Main Square) is the Convent of Santo Domingo founded in 1530 and completed in 1766 and is now considered to be of the most religious buildings in Peru.

After lunch, set off on foot and explore the bohemian district of Barranco. Stop by the famous 'Puente de los Suspiros' (Bridge of Sighs) built in 1876 and visit the renowned MATE museum home to the collection of Peruvian photographer Mario Testino. Conclude the day with a Pisco Sour tasting session (Peru's most famous drink) prepared by the expert Ricardo Carpio. You will taste three types of Pisco: Pure Pisco, blend Pisco and Green Must Pisco. Enjoy this Pisco tasting and discover the different kinds of Piscos that made this drink so famous.

Destination Information

Plaza de Armas – The birthplace of Peru's capital Lima and continues to be the city's main hub. Surrounded by many of Lima's historic landmarks including the 17th Century Government Palace (official residence of Peru's President), the Municipal Palace, Cathedral of Lima which was built in 1649 and in the centre of the Plaza is the a beautiful 1650 bronze fountain set on the site of what was once the city's gallows.

Barranco – Home to some of the finest artists in Peru and Latin America, Barranco is one of Lima's oldest neighbourhoods with colonial mansions, museums and restaurants. Barranco is also filled with charismatic street art, making it a must-see destination.

Day 3: Lima – Sacred Valley Meals: B, L, D



Fly to Cusco and transfer to the Urubamba Valley. Also known as the Sacred Valley, it is home to Incan citadels and beautiful landscapes.

Spend the afternoon in Manos de la Cominidad, learning about the traditional crafts of weaving, pottery and jewelry making from local artisans. You will have the opportunity to join a hands-on workshop that will allow you to gain an understanding to the significance of preserving these ancient techniques, giving you a glimpse of the authentic cultural heritage and traditions of the community.

Afterwards, make your way to the Pisac archaeological site, and uncover the ruins that surround you. You will spend 1 hour and 30 minutes here on a guided tour before transferring to your hotel in the Sacred Valley.

This day is at altitude.

Destination Information

Sacred Valley – Lying between Cusco and Machu Picchu, the Sacred Valley of the Incas is an impressive landscape made up of fertile agricultural land with huge Andean mountains at every turn. At the Sacred Valley, you will also find ancient Inca towns, terraces and citadels.

Day 4: Sacred Valley – Ollantaytambo Meals: B, L, D



Today, journey approximately 1 hour and 30 minutes to the magnificent Moray, the Inca agricultural laboratory that boasts impressive circular terraces. These terraces are believed to have been used as a testing ground for various crops in order to determine the most optimal growing conditions, suggesting the advances farming techniques of the Incas.

Continue to Maras, located 2 miles from Moray. Here, you will witness the marvelous salt evaporation ponds, used by the Incas to catch salty water as it emerges from the mountains, until the water evaporates leaving only the salt behind. The evaporation ponds are most famous for producing the pink table salt we all recognise today.

Journey 30 minutes to Ollantaytambo where we'll visit the preserved Incan houses and explore the old fortress, offering a glimpse into ancient Andean civilization.

Today's activities will be undertaken at high altitudes.

Destination Information

Moray – Composed of three groups of circular terraces that descend 150 metres, the purpose of Moray's construction has ignited much debate with the Incas having no written language. However, today, Moray is largely believed to have been used as an experimental farm over 500 years ago for various crops.

Maras – The Maras Salt Mines or Salineras de Maras as referred to locally, boasts over 3,000 salt ponds, all locally owned by 600 local families and are all connected through an impressive underground network of canals that fill these pools with salt water. Under the intense sun, the process of evaporation begins, leaving only the salt behind.

Ollantaytambo – Ollantaytambo was once the royal estate of the Emperor Pachacuti and is the starting point for the famous Inca Trail. The Incan ruins here are huge, whilst the town itself is a prime example of an Incan city – it is still laid out as it was when it was built by Pachacuti in the 13th century.

Day 5: Aguas Calientes – Machu Picchu – Cusco Meals: B, L, D



This morning visit magnificent Machu Picchu. Long abandoned by the Inca, it came to international attention when it was stumbled upon by Hiram Bingham in 1911. It is now considered one of the new 7 Wonders of the World. A guided tour will provide you with some insight into the Inca Empire. This includes up to 4 hours of sightseeing with walking on uneven terrain. This afternoon, return to Aguas Calientes and take a 3 and a half hour train to Poroy. Then, transfer 2 hours by road to Cusco. This day is at altitude.

Please see IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT MACHU PICCHU in this document.

Destination Information

Machu Picchu – One of the world's great archaeological discoveries, Machu Picchu sits on a mountain ridge 2430 metres above the Sacred Valley. Built around 1450, it was abandoned about 100 years later, and left 'undiscovered' (the local people knew of it) until 1911 when it was brought to international attention. A classic example of Incan style, there are three main structures – the Temple of the Sun, the Inti Watana and the Room of Three Windows.

Day 6: Cusco Meals: B, L, D



Home to an incredible Incan legacy, Cusco has some of the richest heritage in Latin America and is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The tour will start at Koricancha, the temple of the sun and the Santo Domingo Church, where you will discover the sacred site once adorned with gold and life-size golden statues.

Next, visit the Cusco Cathedral, home to stunning Cusco School paintings and intricate gold and silver reliefs. Participate in a traditional Quechua ritual with a Shaman, offering thanks to Pachamama (Mother Earth). This evening enjoy a vibrant folklore show featuring traditional music and dancing.

Destination Information

Cusco – Home to an incredible Incan legacy, Cusco has some of the richest heritage in Latin America and is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Cathedrals and Inca temples overlook the narrow streets where alpaca knitwear can be bought for a fair Price. For anyone interested in the Incan civilization, Cusco is the must see destination.

Koricancha – Once one of Cusco's, and the whole Incan Empire's most important empires most important temples, Qoricancha's walls were once covered in sheets of solid gold. Although the temple was demolished to make way for a colonial church, the Incan foundations remain and incorporates original Incan stonework.

Sacsayhuaman – Just north of Cusco, on top of a steep hill, lies Sacsayhuaman, believed to have been a ceremonial fortress that holds religious significance and dates back to as early as 1100. It is estimated that Sacsayhuaman retains only 40 percent of its original structure. The site also features a number of sacred buildings, towers, shrines and warehouses.

Day 7: Cusco – Puno (Lake Titicaca) Meals: B, L, D



Today, take a train from Cusco to Puno. Journey through amazing Andean landscapes to Puno on the shores of Lake Titicaca, passing through the spectacular Peruvian highlands. The train has 4 dining cars, a bar car and an observation car. Along the way you will enjoy a gourmet lunch prepared with exquisite Andean ingredients. Your meal will be accompanied with music and dance shows on board. Arrive at your hotel this evening.

Destination Information

Puno – A beautiful and charming town located on the banks of Lake Titicaca. The town is home to traditional Andean architecture which spreads down from the sides of the hill to the banks of the lake.

Lake Titicaca – The largest lake in Latin America; it is surrounded by a slow pace of life where crops are still harvested by hand and vast plateaus stretch for miles.

Day 8: Lake Titicaca Meals: B, L, D



This morning, you will be picked up from the port of Puno and taken to the island of Taquile by boat. Protected as a UNESCO World Heritage Site and once a stronghold of the Inca, you will find wonderful textiles made by the island's men here. After exploring the beautiful island, you will make your way towards the Chucuito Peninsula by boat, the Aymara region of Lake Titicaca, where you will visit the rural community of Luquina. Here, you will enjoy a wonderful lunch at a local fisherman's house.

In the afternoon, you will travel back towards Puno, where you will discover the Floating Islands of Uros, where your guide will explain the history of the area. You will also have the opportunity to speak with some of the residents, which will help you to understand their way of life and gain a cultural insight into this fascinating place. You will then head back to Puno, where your hotel will be. Today's sightseeing is a full day. This day is at altitude (3,820m).

Destination Information

Uros - The Uros are an ancient culture that inhabits a series of artificial islands built with reeds growing from the lake itself. These are constructed by weaving reed in the areas where it grows thicker and thus forming a natural layer.

Taquile - Home to textiles that many consider to be among the best in the country, Taquile is a stunning island where the traditional way of living is still very much alive. The island has a long-standing history of weaving, where legend states, the Incas themselves learned how to weave from the artisans of this island. In Taquile, the mean are the weavers whilst the women spin the yarn.

Day 9: Puno – Lima Meals: B, L, D

En route to Juliaca Airport, visit the archaeological site of Sillustani which is located on a protected island reserve. Spend time around the site and enjoy a typical Andean lunch before your return flight to Lima.



Destination Information

Sillustani Ruins – Located on the shores of Lake Umayo and built by the Colla people in the 12th century, the Sillustani Ruins are an above ground Pre-Incan burial site that perfectly displays ancient Peruvian archeology still in existence.

Day 10: Lima – Buenos Aires Meals: B, L, D

Fly to Argentina's flamboyant capital city: Buenos Aires. Enjoy the afternoon at leisure and your evening meal at a local restaurant.

A Buenos Aires municipal tourist tax is payable locally at your hotel. The charge is up to USD $2 per person, per night, depending on the hotel category. This amount is subject to change by the local authorities.



Destination Information

Buenos Aires – The Paris of Latin America, Buenos Aires is a romantic and lively city. The culture of the city is extremely diverse and the asado (barbecue) restaurants are second to none. Most importantly of all, Buenos Aires is the home of Tango and performers can be seen dancing in restaurants, bars or even on the streets.

Day 11: Buenos Aires Meals: B, L, D



Today, enjoy the irresistible combination of Latin flair and European elegance in a Buenos Aires city tour.

Visit the vibrant districts of La Boca, San Telmo, Puerto Madero, Palermo and Recoleta.

Today, you will also experience a quintessential part of Argentinian culture, the Tango. Take a Tango class before enjoying dinner with a dance show in the evening.

Destination Information

La Boca – A buzzing barrio of Buenos Aires packed with colourful shacks built from Zinc, La Boca is a popular area to see street artists and tango dancers. La Boca is also home to the world-famous Boca Juniors Football Club, who play at the intimidating La Bombonera stadium.

San Telmo – One of the oldest neighbourhoods of Buenos Aires filled with cobbled streets, cafes, restaurants, antique stores and art galleries**.**

Recoleta – An affluent area of Buenos Aires and home to lavish former palaces, Paris-style townhouses and the famous Recoleta Cemetery.

Puerto Madero – Deemed as one of the most exclusive neighbourhoods in the city, Puerto Madero is home to upscale steakhouses, hotels and an ecological Reserve that you can explore by foot or on bike.

Day 12: Buenos Aires – Colonia (Uruguay) Meals: B, L, D



Enjoy a day trip to Uruguay, taking a ferry across Rio de La Plata to Colonia del Sacramento. A picture-perfect colonial town, Colonia was founded by the Portuguese in 1680 and is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The beautiful Barrio Historico, which occupies a small peninsula, is a maze of old cobbled streets that are a delight to wander. Admire the main square, see the ruins of San Francisco Church and visit the lighthouse amongst much more.

Destination Information

Colonia – Deemed as one of the oldest towns in Uruguay and home to approximately 27,000 people. The historic quarter of Colonia del Sacramento, founded in 1680, evokes old Lisbon with its Portuguese-influenced architecture and winding streets. The area, located in south-western Uruguay on the Rio de la Plata, was named a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1995.

Day 13: Buenos Aires – The Pampas Meals: B, L, D

Today, venture into the vast, fertile pampas surrounding Buenos Aires and spend the day at a traditional estancia (ranch). Discover the enduring traditions of the gauchos, Argentina's legendary horsemen, and gain an insight into their unique way of life and rural heritage.
Enjoy a traditional Argentine asado lunch, accompanied by a lively folklore show celebrating the music, dance and traditions of the pampas, before returning to Buenos Aires.



Destination Information

The Pampas – The Pampas remain as the lush and fertile flatlands that surround the city of Buenos Aires. The open grassland has played an important part in Argentina's economy and is also home to up-and-coming vineyards in all of Argentina. Much of Argentine folklore also centres around the gaucho figure who continue to work on the estancias today.

Day 14: Buenos Aires - Iguazu Meals: B, L, D

Say farewell to Buenos Aires and transfer 30 minutes to the airport to board your plane over to Puerto Iguazu, the town closest to the incredible wonder that is Iguazu Falls. Your flight is just under 2 hours. Upon arrival you have the rest of the day before dinner this evening in a local restaurant.

Please note: Your sightseeing in Iguazu/Iguacu is subject to change due to potential changes in flight schedules.



Destination Information

Puerto Iguazu – Located along the borders of Brazil, Paraguay and Argentina, Puerto Iguazu is where the cultures of the 3 nations come together. The Iguazu National Park homes 275 waterfalls as well as the famous 270 feet tall Iguazu Falls, all surrounded by a plethora of wildlife and unparalleled views.

Day 15: Iguazu Falls Meals: B, L, D



Today, transfer 25 minutes to the falls. You will wander along the Argentinian side of Iguazu, which offers a fantastic overview of the falls in its entirety, and showcases its power and magnificence.

Don't miss the viewpoint of one of the falls' most impressive sights, the Garganta del Diablo. Take the Ecological Jungle Train, a 15-minute journey, which takes you to the most impressive observation point – the Devil's Throat. Sightseeing today will be a full day with around 6 hours on foot. This afternoon, take a unique opportunity to learn about the indigenous culture of the Mbororé Aldea people, who open the doors to their community and share fascinating stories of their ancestors, rituals, myths and legends. Finish the day with an interactive craft experience.

Please note: Your sightseeing in Iguazu/Iguacu is subject to change due to potential changes in flight schedules.

Destination Information

Iguazu Falls - The incredible Iguazu Falls features hundreds of rushing cascades, set in a lush rainforest scene. The region has been declared a world heritage site and received the status of one of the New Seven Wonders of Nature in 2011**.**

Day 16: Iguaçu – Rio de Janeiro Meals: B, L, D



This morning you'll cross the border to visit the Brazilian side of the falls. Wander the paths and catwalks to numerous smaller cascades that dance their way along gullies and through lush greenery.

Bid farewell to the falls before hopping on a plane to Rio de Janeiro. Upon arrival you will be transferred to your hotel. The rest of the evening is at your leisure.

Please note: Your sightseeing in Iguazu/Iguacu is subject to change due to potential changes in flight schedules.

Destination Information

Rio de Janeiro – Founded in 1565, the city became the capital of the Portuguese Empire from 1815 – 1822 after the royal family fled their homeland following the conquests of Napoleon. Nowadays, this city is famous for its beaches, lush scenery and samba-fuelled nightlife. Rio is also home to Christ the Redeemer and the impressive Sugar Loaf Mountain, both of which you will experience on this tour.

Day 17: Rio de Janeiro Meals: B, L, D



This morning, climb aboard a jeep and set off to discover some of Rio de Janeiro's most iconic sights. Journey through Tijuca Forest and enjoy the lush greenery whilst en route to Paineiras Station. Upon arrival, transfer into a van for the final ascent to Mt. Corcovado. Enjoy the sweeping panoramic views of the city from atop the peak where Christ the Redeemer proudly sits.

Following on from this, explore the charming 19th-century hillside neighbourhood of Santa Teresa - renowned for its colourful streets, artistic spirit and bohemian atmosphere. Soak up the unique character of this historic district whilst enjoying lunch at a traditional restaurant.

Christ the Redeemer Construction

Please be aware that from August 2026 to July 2027, the Christ the Redeemer and Corcovado Plateaux visitor area will be undergoing essential renovation works to preserve this iconic monument. Visitors should expect some construction activity on site, including scaffolding around parts of the monument, and certain views and photo opportunities may be partially affected.
During this period, the escalators will be out of service and visitors will need to use the stairways (approx. 220 steps), although a dedicated lift is available for those with mobility issues.

Destination Information

Corcovado – Originally known as 'Pinaculo da Tentacao', or Pinnacle of Temptation, Corcovado mountain is a 710m granite peak overlooking Rio, and is easily one of Brazil's most iconic landmarks. It is surrounded by the Tijuca Forest and is home to Christ the Redeemer.

Tijuca Forest – Arguably the world's largest urban forest, Tijuca Forest is blessed with many hiking trails, lush tropical plantlife, a wealth of wildlife and birdlife, as well as multiple scenic spots including caves, waterfalls and mountain peaks. In the 18th century much of the forest was cut down to make way for coffee plantations, but in the 19th century a conservation effort was launched and the forest is now responsible for much of the fresh water that runs into the city of Rio de Janeiro today. Tijuca was designated a national park in 1961.

Santa Teresa - An area of Rio with a wonderfully bohemian atmosphere, known for as the arts centre of the city with lots of craftsmanship galleries.

Day 18: Rio de Janeiro Meals: B, L, D



After breakfast, tour the city through downtown Rio, passing by the Sambadrome and the Metropolitan Cathedral. Get to know the traditional Cinelandia square with its historical buildings; the Municipal Theatre, the National Library, and the National Museum of Fine Arts.

Then, via Aterro do Flamengo, transfer about 20 minutes to the neighbourhood of Urca where you will ascend to the heights of Sugarloaf Mountain by cable cars. The first cable car will take you 215 metres high. From there, board the second one which will lead you to breath taking views at the top of the Sugar Loaf Mountain, 395 metres high.
Take in the incredible sights of the Guanabara Bay and its islands, Rio-Nitero Bridge and Corcovado. Later in the evening, transfer back to Copacabana to visit a samba club, where you can dance the night away.

Destination Information

Sugar Loaf Mountain – Known as 'Pao de Acucar' in Portuguese, Sugarloaf Mountain sits at the entrance of Guanabara Bay and is named for its unusual shape as it resembles a traditional form of sugar widely used two centuries ago. Your cable car journey will take you to the summit of the mountain, where you will take in the magnificent views from a height of 395 metres. This is an awe-inspiring site, and one that is popular not just with locals and tourists but rock climbers alike, as the mountain is one of the largest and most popular urban rock-climbing destinations in the world, featuring over 270 different routes to the top.

Days 19-21: Depart Rio de Janeiro Meals: B



Following on from breakfast and check-out, you will be transferred to the airport (according to your flight time) for your onward overnight flight home, arriving two days later.

Late check-out is not included. Additional nights before and after your tour can be arranged. Please contact our Reservations team to book.

TRAVEL INFORMATION

VISAS:

Peru:
New Zealand passport holders are currently permitted entry to Peru without a visa for stays of up to 90 days.

Argentina:
New Zealand passport holders are currently permitted entry to Argentina without a visa for stays of up to 90 days.

Uruguay:
New Zealand passport holders are currently permitted entry to Uruguay without a visa for stays of up to 90 days.

Brazil:
New Zealand passport holders are currently permitted entry to Brazil without a visa for stays of up to 90 days.

Please be advised that your passport must have at least six months validity left on it when you arrive back in New Zealand.

Please note the visa procedures and requirements may change at any time. These changes are often made by the relevant embassy or consulate; Wendy Wu Tours acts as a third party and has no influence on the process of a visa.

INSURANCE:

We strongly recommend that you take out a policy as soon as you pay your deposit. Wendy Wu Tours cannot in any way be made liable for any additional cost incurred by the customer on any tour due to the customer not having adequate travel insurance.

We also encourage all customers to take a copy of their travel insurance documents (especially relevant international contact numbers) with them while on tour. We advise that you check the inclusions and procedures for lodging claims prior to your departure. These documents should be stored separately from the original.

ALTITIUDE:

On this tour you will be spending several nights at altitude – in Cusco at 3,400 metres, in Puno at 3,830 metres. You will also stop briefly at La Raya Pass between Cusco and Puno, which is 4,335 metres. At these sorts of altitudes, Altitude Sickness is a risk. Symptoms may include dizziness, fatigue, nausea and shortness of breath. It is recommended that travellers utilise their first day in high-altitude destinations to acclimatise.

To help you acclimatise we have designed our tours to be at a slower pace with more convenience stops and more free time during the first few days. Staying hydrated, eating light meals and following a very light schedule will all help. We recommend that any symptoms that are unusual should be brought to the attention of your guide. Your guide will be extremely well-trained in dealing with its effects – taking it easy and taking some time to acclimatise are the best ways to prevent and combat it. Serious cases, meaning that you must descend immediately, are rare.

There are no specific factors, such as age or fitness, that can cause you to suffer from. Altitude Sickness can affect anyone at any time and symptoms may vary. In some instances, a short spell on oxygen can help enormously. All the hotels that we have selected to use on our programmes provide oxygen free of charge, please ask to use this. There is medication that can help treat and prevent symptoms. Consult a doctor before taking any of these medications, before engaging in strenuous activity at high altitude and regarding any necessary vaccinations in plenty of time before travelling.

EATING IN SOUTH AMERICA:

Peruvian food incorporates dishes introduced by the indigenous population and from a wide variety of immigrant populations from Europe, Asia and Africa. The four traditional staples of the diet are corn, potatoes, legumes and grains such as quinoa. The diversity of climates and altitudes in Peru have a strong influence on what is eaten – close to the sea, ceviche containing fish is popular, whilst in the Andes, meat from indigenous animals such as alpacas and guinea pigs are eaten. A typical dish from this region is pachamanca, a variety of meats, herbs and vegetables slow cooked underground with heated stones. Savour the food in Lima, it is Latin America's gastronomic capital! Peru also has plenty of international cuisine options.

Argentinian food incorporates many European influences predominantly from Italy and Spain. The Argentinian barbecue (asado) with steak and ribs is widely recognised as the country's national dish; however, in Patagonia lamb, goat and seafood are popular. Empanadas, stuffed pastry parcels, are a traditional snack and Dulce de leche (similar to caramel) features heavily in desserts throughout the country. Lunch is usually seen as the main meal of the day in Argentina with dinner being a lighter dish.

Brazilian food is strongly influenced by European and African cuisines, whilst there is not a single national cuisine there is an assortment of regional traditional dishes. In Rio and Sao Paulo the Brazilian Feijoada is the traditional dish, being a stew made from meat and black beans. In Northern Brazil Cassava (a root vegetable) features heavily in meals. Popular dishes throughout the country include rice and beans, served with meat and salad, fresh tropical fruit is a common dessert. Typical snacks include Pao de Queijo (cheese bread), Coxinha which is a chicken croquette, and Kibe which is a bulgar wheat and beef croquette.

Whilst we strongly recommend trying as many local dishes as possible, Argentina and Brazil also have a wide range of international foods available.

Drinking bottled water and eating well-cooked food is strongly recommended. It's much safer to stick to bottled, treated or boiled water. Ice, along with salads or fruits washed in tap water should likewise be avoided.

Those with dietary requirements will be well catered for - just make sure to inform your booking agent of any specific requirements well in advance of your trip.

All the restaurants we visit will be researched and inspected regularly to ensure that they follow the strictest health, cleanliness, and safety guidelines. All waiting staff will wear face masks and gloves and self-service buffets will be avoided in favour of à la carte dining, waiter-served meals, or waiter-assisted buffets. Hand sanitiser will be provided to the group before and after every food and beverage service.

ACCOMMODATION:

Your accommodation is selected for convenience of location, comfort or character, and can range from business hotels to rainforest lodges. Hotels are generally rated as local three to four-star standard, but please note that there is no international classification system for hotels and differences in facilities and quality may exist between New Zealand and South America. All group tour hotels have private bathroom facilities and air conditioning where needed. If you experience any difficulty, please speak to your National Escort. Rest assured that all hotels used by Wendy Wu Tours are regularly inspected by our staff and our partners to ensure that standards meet your needs.

PORTERAGE:

Please be aware that porterage is not included on our tours in Latin America. You will therefore need to be able to handle your own luggage within the hotel and when using transportation like trains and coaches.

TRANSPORT:

Coaches: Coaches with air conditioning are used on our group tours for city short excursions to the countryside and longer transfers between destinations. Roads in Argentina and Brazil have generally been improved over recent years, but please be aware traffic and/or weather conditions may extend driving times. There may be sections of road where the surface may be comparatively bumpy, but our drivers will do their utmost best to lessen the impact.

Planes: Internal flights are based on economy class, with reputable airlines. Within Latin America flights are often changed multiple times before departure, both timings and flight numbers. The utmost care will be taken to ensure that your final documents will have the latest information; however, your local guide will confirm this in the destination. Boarding passes can be collected directly at the airport. The flights booked as part of your itinerary will always reflect the best timings to suit the touring itinerary, with direct flights wherever possible; however, due to limited schedules some flights may require a fairly early departure or late arrival.

SOUVENIRS:

We want to be able to give you an opportunity to buy souvenirs, so we include some stops at museums or exhibitions which demonstrate a craft or product unique to that region with pieces available to buy. We understand that souvenir hunting is not for everyone, so we aim to take you to places, which hold local interest. We trust you will enjoy these opportunities to learn about local arts and crafts and understand their historical and cultural importance.

GROUP SIZE:

Most of our groups consist of 10 travellers or more and will be accompanied by National Escorts. There will usually be no more than 18 travellers in each group.

All our departures are guaranteed to operate with a minimum of 8 travellers booked (unless cancelled due to factors beyond our control). However, at our discretion we may operate departures with a smaller group size as we try to operate advertised departures wherever it is viable to do so.

TIPPING POLICY:

Local tipping is customary in Latin America. However, this can often lead to awkwardness in knowing when it is appropriate to tip and how much, as well as ensuring you have a suitable amount of change available at the time. For your convenience, with years of experiences in providing the best customer service, Wendy Wu Tours operates a kitty system on our Group Tours so your National Escort will look after this aspect of your trip for you. It also ensures that the amounts paid are reasonable for you but still fair for the local people. The amount is stated on each Group Tour page will be advised again on your final documentation. Tipping is in US Dollars and will be collected by your National Escort on arrival and distributed throughout the tour on your behalf. Any additional tipping on any of our tours is welcomed at your discretion. Further guidance for tipping contributions will be outlined in your final documentation.

We generally find that most customers appreciate the convenience of our tipping policy, but we do recognise that it may not suit everyone. However, as this is a group tour, we ask that everyone follows the same protocol to be fair to other group members and to ensure smooth operation of your tour.

PACKING LIST AND CLIMATE:

On this tour, you will be travelling through various regions of South America with quite diverse climates especially in Cusco, where all four seasons can be experienced in one day. It is recommended to bring lots of layers including the following: T-Shirts made of breathable materials, hiking trousers (with the option to turn into shorts), a fleece jacket for colder parts and the evenings, a waterproof jacket as shell layer or a light rain jacket, a scarf and hat and warm socks. Whilst in Argentina and the Brazil coastal area of Rio, it is recommended to bring lots of layers including the items mentioned above. We recommend packing a light fleece jacket for those colder afternoons in Buenos Aires. A small backpack that fits into your main hand luggage to carry your daily essentials should also be taken.

Seasonal weather patterns can be quite unpredictable. Up to the minute information on worldwide weather can be found on www.weather.com.

LUGGAGE:

All travellers are limited to two items of luggage each, a suitcase with a maximum weight of 15kg and one piece of hand luggage with a maximum weight of five kilograms. It is essential that your luggage is lockable.

Please note that your tickets for your Aerolineas Argentinas flights indicate that your luggage allowance is to a maximum weight of 15kg as it is not possible to pre-book extra allowance, however your National Escort will arrange for the weight allowance to be increased to 20kg when you check in at the airport.

Please note that authorities will only allow bottles onto the aircraft if they have been checked in as main baggage. Bottles in hand luggage may be confiscated.

Please note luggage restrictions apply when travelling to Machu Picchu by Rail, please refer to the information listed under IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT MACHU PICCHU in this document.

EXCHANGING CASH:

The unit of currency in Peru is the Peruvian Nuevo Sol (PEN), in Argentina it is the Argentinian Peso (ARS) and in Brazil it is the Brazilian Real (BRL). US Dollars can be easily exchanged provided notes are new and undamaged. We suggest exchanging your money before travelling to remote areas and smaller towns, as exchange facilities can be limited. Try and keep some small notes and coins on you, as on street stalls and in small shops they may not have the change to break up a high denomination note. If you decide to use US dollars, make sure they are in a good state (not ripped etc) or they will not be accepted. ATMs are common across Latin America and we recommend using an ATM inside a bank where possible. Please note, currently there are restrictions on how much cash you can withdraw from ATMs in Argentina. Most major credit cards are widely accepted across the continent; please bear in mind the charges of your provider. Debit cards are also widely accepted but may have a limit to the amount of cash you can withdraw, so consult your bank about this before travelling.

PERSONAL EXPENSES AND OPTIONAL TOURINGS:

Personal Expense - You will need to take some extra money to cover drinks, laundry and souvenirs, plus any additional sightseeing that may be offered to you. Based on the advice of previous customers an approximate amount of $600NZD per person, per week should be sufficient; however, for those that can't resist a bargain or may wish to participate in all of the optional excursions, consider allocating a higher amount.

Optional tours may be offered in each city you visit during your tour at an additional cost. These are not included in the standard itinerary and will only be available if time permits. Each option will be arranged locally by your National Escort/Local Guide.

VACCINATIONS AND YOUR HEALTH:

Wendy Wu does not give specific health advice, but we do recommend you see your doctor at least six weeks prior to travel for advice and to allow time for any necessary vaccinations. Please remember to take your itinerary with you. Safe travel has a comprehensive website that you may also find useful www.safetravel.govt.nz

BEFORE YOU LEAVE:

We strongly recommend registering your travel plans with www.safetravel.govt.nz as in the event of an emergency, New Zealand Consular assistance will be more readily available.

Up until the day you travel, it is vital you keep up to date and familiarised with the entry requirements as these can change at short notice. You are personally responsible for completing any entry forms, conducting any covid tests (if necessary), etc and adhering to countries' specific entry requirements. You can also access the New Zealand Government's travel advisory service for up-to-date information about your destination on the same website.

AFTER YOUR BOOKING:

Once you have booked with Wendy Wu Tours, you will receive a confirmation invoice. If a visa is required, our Visa Department will be in touch with the paperwork and next steps. Your final documentation pack will be sent to you approximately 2-3 weeks prior to departure.

Updated: October 2026