

# JOURNEY ACROSS SOUTH AMERICA

Sunday 11 October - Sunday 1 November 2020

21 nights

## TOUR OVERVIEW

Get a different perspective on the mighty continent of South America. This tour is full of superlatives — largest, highest, most spectacular — but as well as seeing the big-ticket items you will leave with rich memories of small villages, a vibrant mix of indigenous and Spanish cultures and a warm welcome.

You will visit five countries but spend most of your time in three, and the first is Argentina. The most European of Latin American countries, this is the home of cowboys, tango, the wide boulevards of Buenos Aires and the tangled history of Eva Perón. You will take in the highlights of the capital, and explore village life in the nearby delta of the River Plate.

Then to the north of the country, where you will hop back and forth across the border with Brazil to explore the immense series of cataracts and waterfalls that make up the Iguazú Falls. One of the planet's most inspiring sights, you will not forget this force of nature and its surrounding national park packed with tropical rainforest and unique fauna.

The Andes beckon. This long mountain chain bisects South America, creating dramatic landscapes and moulding the indigenous cultures that have lived in its shadows for thousands of years. Travelling by coach and train, you will climb into the Andes and explore colonial cities, indigenous villages and dramatic landforms. And that's even before leaving Argentina for the next country, Bolivia, which is host to the dramatic Altiplano, a vast salt lake and the high-altitude 'upside down' capital of La Paz. A spectacular train journey and night in a salt hotel will round out your experience of this unusual country.

More superlatives await in Peru, including a voyage on the world's highest navigable lake and visiting the unforgettable Incan fortress of Machu Picchu. More unforgettable train journeys will carry you across Peru's Altiplano and into Machu Picchu. Exploring the colonial heritage of Cusco, and the Incan history of its surrounds, completes the tour.

On your way back to New Zealand via Chile, there is the option of spending several days exploring another South American country.



## TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- Breath-taking rail journeys through the majestic scenery of Argentina, Bolivia and Peru
- Iconic cities of Buenos Aires, Cusco and La Paz
- Uyuni salt flats, one of the most spectacular natural landforms on the continent
- Enjoy Lake Titicaca from the Bolivian side, which is more authentic and less visited than the Peruvian shore
- Explore the heart of the Incan empire in the Sacred Valley and at the famous citadel of Machu Picchu
- Get up close to the thundering cataracts of the Iguazú Falls, from both the Argentinian and Brazilian sides
- An optional tour extension in Chile includes the capital Santiago, the wine-making region of the Aconcagua Valley, and the authentic port city of Valparaíso.

Left: El Caminito, Buenos Aires

## TOUR INCLUSIONS

- The services of an experienced New Zealand-based Calder & Lawson Tours tour manager
- Economy class airfares
- 19 nights accommodation in Argentina, Bolivia and Peru
- Breakfast daily
- Other meals as specified in the itinerary
- All group transfers as specified in the itinerary
- Admissions as detailed in the itinerary
- Sightseeing tours with local guides as detailed in the itinerary
- All tips for local guides and other service providers
- Pre-tour material

## TOUR EXCLUSIONS

- Airline taxes
- Travel insurance
- Any visa fees (*New Zealand passport holders do not need a visa for any of the countries visited on this tour*)
- Personal expenses
- Meals not specified in the itinerary
- Beverages during included meals, unless specified
- Hotel or airport portorage

## TOUR PRICE *Ex Auckland*

Share twin per person NZD\$14,499

Single supplement (limited availability) NZD\$ 2,150

Please contact Calder & Lawson Tours if you are interested in a single occupancy place.

**GROUP SIZE** Minimum 10, maximum 18

**VARIATIONS IN TRAVEL** We can make arrangements for any travel you would like to do before or after this tour, or book business class seats for the flights. Please contact us.

## IS THIS TOUR FOR ME?

This tour is for people who want to experience remote and fascinating parts of South America, as well as big ticket items such as Machu Picchu, Iguazú Falls and Buenos Aires. It involves walking on uneven surfaces, climbing steps and clambering around archaeological sites, so you will need to be reasonably fit and confident with walking for several hours at a time. Beyond that the programme is not physically very demanding. The biggest challenge, though, will be the effects of altitude. The highest part of the tour where you'll be active is around 3,800 metres above sea level, and one of the train journeys reaches 4,300 metres. The effects of altitude will be noticeable, and you should discuss preparations for this with a specialist travel doctor before committing to the journey. The itinerary is designed for slow acclimatisation to the higher altitudes.



Left: Salt pans, Salar de Uyuni.

# DAILY ITINERARY

**Sunday 11 October 2020**  
**Auckland – Santiago (Chile) –**  
**Buenos Aires (Argentina)**

Meals: In flight/D  
Flight: 11 hours and 2 hours  
Overnight: Buenos Aires

Evening departure from Auckland on an overnight flight to Santiago in Chile. Thanks to the international date line, arrive in the afternoon of the same day. Take an onward connection to the Argentine capital Buenos Aires, and transfer to your hotel.

**Monday 12 October**  
**Buenos Aires**

Meals: B/D  
Overnight: Buenos Aires

After a morning at leisure, discover the most prestigious neighbourhoods and landmarks in Buenos Aires during a half-day city tour. Admire the Obelisk, the symbol of Buenos Aires, and the many open squares from the Spanish colonial period. Enjoy a drive on the widest street in the world. A visit to the famous cemetery of La Recoleta will include the grave of Evita Peron. In the evening, a welcome dinner and tango show.

**Tuesday 13 October**  
**El Tigre, Rio de la Plata**

Meals: B/L  
Overnight: Buenos Aires

Board a boat at a downtown wharf and head out of town to one of the largest deltas in the world, that of the Rio de la Plata (or River Plate, after which the WW2 naval battle was named). After exploring Puerto de Frutos and having lunch at a local restaurant accessible only by boat, return to the city by train and coach.

**Wednesday 14 October**  
**Buenos Aires – Iguazú**

Meals: B  
Flight: 2 hours  
Overnight: Iguazú

In your last morning in Buenos Aires you will have time to explore the traditional area of La Boca, with its centrepiece street museum of El Caminito. In the afternoon transfer to a local airport for the flight to Iguazu Falls, from where you be taken to a hotel near the Argentine side of the falls.

**Thursday 15 October**  
**Iguazú Falls, Argentinian side**

Meals: B/L  
Overnight: Iguazú

Transfer to the entrance of the Argentine Iguazú National Park, from where a gentle walk will take you to the most scenic spots for viewing the hundreds of cascades that form the famous Iguazú Falls. Lunch is in the national park, and in the afternoon you will explore the plants and birds of the tropical forest as well as see the falls from another perspective. Rides on a small jungle train and coach return you to the hotel.

**Friday 16 October**  
**Iguazú Falls, Brazilian side**

Meals: B/L  
Overnight: Iguazú

Cross into Brazil for another perspective of the impressive Iguazú Falls, with close-up views of the Devil's Throat. A visit to a bird sanctuary rounds out the day.

**Saturday 17 October**  
**Iguazú – Salta (Argentina)**

Meals: B/L  
Flight: 2 hours  
Overnight: Salta

Transfer to the airport for a short flight to Salta, a delightful colonial city in the foothills of the Andes (1,100 metres above sea level). In the afternoon explore this picturesque city, with the highlight (literally) being the panoramic views from San Bernado hill. From here a cable car returns you to the city.

**Sunday 18 October**  
**Salta – Humahuaca Gorge –**  
**Purmamarca**

Meals: B/D  
Coach: 2 hours  
Overnight: Purmamarca

North of Salta lies the Quebrada de Humahuaca, a UNESCO-listed valley with steep rock faces that change colour depending on the time of day and viewing angle. Ancient traders travelled through the canyon 10,000 years ago. There is an easy hike through an area of coloured rocks, and in the afternoon you have time to discover the picturesque village of Purmamarca (2,300 metres) on your own. Overnight in this picture-perfect adobe town that is home a significant indigenous population.

**Monday 19 October**  
**Purmamarca – Uyuni (Bolivia)**

Meals: B/L/D  
Coach: 3 hours  
Train: 10 hours  
Overnight: Uyuni

Travel north through authentic indigenous villages, before reaching Villazon. This frontier town, set at an altitude of 3,450 metres, is a busy little place with cross-border traffic. After lunch board the Wara Wara Express, which will take you across Bolivia's spectacular southern Altiplano. From the train you'll observe landscapes that you find nowhere else in the world, travelling as it does through valleys with strange, colourful rock formations. The train has a late arrival into Uyuni (3,700 metres), where you will be transferred to your hotel.

**Tuesday 20 October**  
**Uyuni**

Meals: B/L/D  
Overnight: Colchani

Explore Salar de Uyuni, world's largest salt lake. In the village of Colchani, see an artisanal salt processing plant using traditional salt extraction methods. Later travel across the lake itself, with its perfectly flat white expanse set against unbroken chains of snow-capped mountains on the horizon. Lunch will be in the middle of the salt flat, and there will be time to explore an 'island' with sensational views from its peak. Overnight at a salt hotel a short distance from Uyuni.

**Wednesday 21 October**  
**Salt pan – Uyuni – La Paz**

Meals: B/L/D  
Flight: 1 hour  
Overnight: La Paz

Continue exploring this high-altitude briny landscape, and see salt excavation and the use of salt bricks in construction. Enjoy a picnic lunch in a village plaza before returning to Uyuni. In its 19th century heyday Uyuni was Bolivia's main gateway to the outside world and a symbol of modernity and industrial progress. Today, in contrast, the 'train cemetery' is a graveyard of rusting steam locomotives and wagons that used to carry ore from long-abandoned mines. It's a sombre monument of the past glory of steam and steel. After dinner in Uyuni fly to the capital La Paz (3,600 metres).

**Thursday 22 October**  
**La Paz**

Meals: B/L  
Overnight: La Paz

Few cities in the world have as spectacular a setting as La Paz. Nestled in a hollow gouged into the Altiplano, the bustling, busy downtown area is dwarfed by magnificent icy peaks. On the sides of this depression the red-brick homes of the city's poorest residents cling to the steep slopes. Explore this frenetic and colourful city on a half-day tour that takes in witchcraft, colonial grandeur and crazy traffic. After lunch in the centre of the city, the afternoon is free for you to take in more of the colour and pace of this high-altitude capital.

**Friday 23 October**  
**La Paz, Moon Valley**

Meals: B  
Coach: 1 hour each way  
Overnight: La Paz

La Paz has a clever solution to its traffic problems — an aerial metro system that is a network of cable cars. Spend the morning exploring the city while you take in the spectacular views from your sky train. In the afternoon visit the nearby Moon Valley with its unusual landscape of sandstone sculpted by wind and rain. Afterwards there is free time back in La Paz.

**Saturday 24 October**  
**La Paz – Copacabana**

Meals: B/L  
Coach: 4 hours  
Overnight: Copacabana

A coach trip brings you from La Paz to Copacabana, a small town on the Bolivian side of Lake Titicaca. Here a short boat cruise takes you on the world's highest navigable lake to Sun Island, where after a traditional lunch and exploring the ruins of an Incan temple you return to Copacabana (3,840 metres).

**Sunday 25 October**  
**Copacabana – Puno (Peru)**

Meals: B/L  
Coach: 3 hours  
Overnight: Puno

Find out why this town bears the name of a cheesy song from the 1970s. Your guide will take you on a short walk to the sanctuary of the Virgin of Copacabana, the patron saint of Bolivia, which is a religious site visited by pilgrims from all over South America. The famous beach in Rio de Janeiro took this name because a replica of the saint stood in a chapel there. After lunch your coach will cross the border and bring you to Puno, on the Peruvian shores of Lake Titicaca (3,830 metres), where there is time to relax for the rest of the day.

**Monday 26 October**  
**Puno – Cusco**

Meals: B/L  
Train: 11 hours  
Overnight: Cusco

The Perurail Titicaca train will transport you across the Peruvian Andes to Cusco. The views are spectacular from your carriage or the open-air observation platform. The on-board service is exemplary, and the experience of dining in the 1920s-style Pullman coaches will be memorable. The train reaches its highest point at 4,321 metres above sea level. The downhill train ride to Cusco follows the Urubamba River and calls at remote villages, reaching Cusco in the evening.

**Tuesday 27 October**  
**Sacred Valley of the Incas**

Meals: B/L  
Coach: 4 hours  
Overnight: Cusco

This peaceful valley near Cusco is a mix of pleasant colonial towns, impressive scenery and lofty Incan citadels. You'll explore the picturesque town of Pisac and the Incan city of Ollantaytambo, the oldest continuously-inhabited settlement in the Americas.

**Wednesday 28 October**  
**Machu Picchu**

Meals: B/L

The views will be spectacular from the IncaRail First Class train, thanks to the panoramic windows and observation lounge with outdoor balcony. Lunch is on board. In the afternoon an expert local guide will introduce you to the

Return train/coach: 6 hours  
Overnight: Cusco

majestic Incan mountaintop citadel of Machu Picchu, which sits broodingly in the mountains still surrounded in mystery as to its original purpose. Later return by train to Ollantaytambo and then by private vehicle to Cusco.

**Thursday 29 October**  
**Cusco**

Meals: B/L  
Overnight: Cusco

A half-day guided tour will introduce you to this historic city, with its colonial grandeur superimposed on remains of an ancient Incan settlement. See Santo Domingo convent, the Incan fortress Sacsayhuaman and the Incan ruins of Qenko, Puca-Pucara and Tambomachay. After a farewell lunch there is time for further exploration, shopping or relaxing.

**Friday 30 October**  
**Cusco – Lima – Santiago (Chile)**

Meals: B/meals in flight  
Flights: 1 hour 30 minutes, 3 hours 30 minutes and overnight flight 13 hours

After a free morning fly to Santiago (Chile) via Lima. There check in for a very late departure to Auckland (actually just after midnight, early on Saturday morning).

**Saturday 31 October**  
**Santiago – Auckland**

Meals: in flight

Miss a day by crossing the international date line, arriving in Auckland early morning of **Sunday 1 November**.



Left: Iguazú Falls. Right: Machu Picchu.

### HOW TO SECURE YOUR PLACE ON THIS TOUR

A deposit of \$1,000 is required to secure your place on the tour. When minimum numbers are reached, the tour will become a 'confirmed departure'. At that point we will advise when the full tour payment will be due.

- [Click here](#) to complete the online registration form, pay the \$1,000 deposit and your place on this tour is secured.
- Or you can complete a paper registration form. You can download one from the website [www.calderandlawsonstours.co.nz](http://www.calderandlawsonstours.co.nz), or give us a call and we will email or post one to you.

### TERMS & CONDITIONS

Can be found on the website [www.calderandlawsonstours.co.nz](http://www.calderandlawsonstours.co.nz), on the back of the paper registration form or on the summary page when you complete an online registration.

### VARIATIONS

This itinerary is Version 1 dated 18/09/2019 and is subject to change. Exchange rate fluctuations may result in a change to the tour price.

