# Souther Strain Small Group Tours of Souther And Control of Mexico & CUBA 2016-2017



# CONTENTS

About Contours Travel	1
Community Projects	2
About South America	4
Treasures of South America Tour	6
Beyond the Treasures of South America	10
Treasures & the Galapagos Tour	12
Treasures & the Lakes of Patagonia Tour	14
Treasures & Southern Patagonia Tour	16
About Mexico & Cuba	18
Treasures of Mexico Tour	20
Cuba Extension	22
Tailor Made Tours	24
Terms & Conditions	25

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Photo by Tim Pierik, Contours Collections Tour Director

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# Bienvenidos

Contours Travel has been sharing the excitement and allure of Latin America with Australians for over 40 years. We're a Melbourne-based, family owned company who have operated under owner and director, Ted Dziadkiewicz, since 1975.

We're passionate about Latin America and proud to have maintained a keen focus on this part of the world for over 40 years. Some might call us a little bit obsessive- and we are! But Latin America is a vast, diverse and unrivalled destination that is worthy of such devotion. We are sure you will feel the same way after experiencing this fabulous continent for the first time.

We developed the Contours Collection Small Group Tours with the aim of creating authentic touring experiences for those who prefer the comfort and ease of escorted tours. Personalised service, genuinely small groups and leisurely-paced itineraries are what set us apart from many other operators. From the southern tip of Tierra del Fuego to Mexico's Copper Canyon and everything in between, we have extensive experience in designing unique and seamless itineraries that offer travellers the very best of this extraordinary continent.



Managing Director, Ted Dziadkiewicz, in the Peruvian Amazon

# Authentic Experiences with Contours Travel

# **Genuinely Small Groups**

Our group departures have a maximum of 16 guests, which allows you to spend more time enjoying your adventure and receiving personalised service. Because we operate small groups, we travel in a less intrusive and more sensitive way that allows you to connect with people and places on an intimate level. A smaller group also means more opportunities to bond with your fellow travellers and create lasting friendships.

# **Discovery Walk**

Whilst you will see all of the main attractions, you will also be shown many hidden gems off the beaten track. Your Contours Travel Tour Director will be available to take you to their favourite spots on exclusive Discovery Walks throughout your tour.

#### **Stays of Distinction**

Each hotel has been selected by our experienced staff for its ideal location and authentic character. Our selected hotels are all four or five star and offer memorable stays and excellent service.

#### **No Rushing**

Our itineraries have been designed to ensure plenty of time to see the highlights, soak up the local culture and explore independently.

#### **Fulfilling Experiences**

At Contours Travel we support a range of community-based initiatives including our exclusive partnership with the wonderful Agua Pura project. Not only will your visit give you an opportunity to meet locals, it also includes a donation to their ongoing projects. Look out for the "flower" marking the days in the itinerary where you will be involved with these Community Projects.

Ollantaytambo



Contours Travel supports a number of initiatives throughout Latin America. Whether it is through direct loans, importing artisanal products or through supporting local development organisations, we are increasing opportunities for the people of this wonderful continent. Our exclusive partnership with Agua Pura is a fantastic way to get involved, however there are many other ways you can contribute.

If you would like to lend a hand to the villages in the Sacred Valley, Peru we encourage you to prepare a small Hygiene Kit to give away. This will be very helpful and it is very easy to carry with you in your luggage to provide supplies to the communities you visit. Let us know if you would like to collaborate and we will advise who you should hand it to once you get there.

Some of the things these communities need include: aspirin, band aids, gauze, antibacterial ointments, pain killers, soap, antidiarrhoea medication, latex gloves, toothpaste, toothbrushes, feminine hygiene products, shampoo, tissues and more.

School supplies for the children including paper, pens, crayons, coloured pencils, notebooks, erasers, rulers, pencil sharpener, children's sandals/flip-flops, underwear for kids, T-shirts and clothing for cold weather, deflated soccer balls and more.



A Peruvian charity supporting various communities in the high Andes around the Sacred Valley of Peru. Their mission is to provide assistance in nutrition, health, education and conservation promoting long-term solutions.



Their first focus is to transform schools into a safe, happy learning environment for the children in each community.

Peru's Challenge welcomes you to spend time working and learning alongside local communities in the Cuzco area.



A not-for-profit branch of our Peruvian partner Condor Travel. Their pilot project is creating opportunities for local people: men have been trained as porters for the Inca Trail, literacy and textile classes have been offered to women, children are given education and health care. You are invited to help in a range of activities.

The donation of the water filters to the Pumamarca community was so very special & we were very humbled to have done such a small thing that meant so much to them.

A private weaving demonstration by members of a local

co-operative in Chinchero in the intimacy of their own home.

- Mark & Jenny

"We just had the best morning with Peru's Challenge. It was absolutely amazing to see everything they are doing for the communities & to see how much difference the water filters that Contours Travel are sending over are making. I was very lucky to have experienced it & the group absolutely loved it. Everyone agrees this has been the best day so far!"

- Emma



Agua Pura Project delivering and installing water filters in schools at the Sacred Valley.





Exclusive to The Contours Collection is a unique one-of-a-kind Agua Pura Community Project Day. This inspiring experience allows you to present and assemble the 'Sawyer One' Water Filter in a remote community in the Andes, bringing improved health and well-being to families in need. Get to know the people in the village and share in their every-day activities.

The Sawyer PointONE<sup>™</sup> water filter is a portable purification device that mechanically removes bacteria including E. Coli, Cholera and Typhoid. This low-maintenance device is capable of filtering over 1000 litres per day!



Agua Pura is the result of Contours Travel teaming up with the Rotary Club of North Melbourne and the Rotary Club of Cuzco to provide safe drinking water to communities in very remote areas, in and around the Sacred Valley and Cuzco.

'We believe clean water should not be a luxury for the few, but a right for all people'.

Visiting Pumamarca was a very important & inspiring part of the trip... The group was very pleased to present the school with the water filters which will have such a positive impact on the health of the community & not just to simply visit it. We would definitely recommend this experience to fellow travellers.

-Jenny & Richard



It was truly an uplifting & positive experience to see the school working so well & the children so happy... We later participated in water filters preparation with the filters we had brought over from Australia. The Agua Pura experience gave us a glimpse of the people's & children's daily life.

Most definitely... it was the highlight of our trip.

-Tom & Dianne



"Thank you for supporting us", Misminay community members express their thanks

Misminay student with a newly installed Sawyer PointONE filter.



# Our World South America...

# Peru

South America's most visited country and one of our favourites! From the haute cuisine of Lima to the ancient cobbled streets of Cuzco, this is a country both steeped in tradition and revelling in modernity. The Sacred Valley of the Incas is one of the most picturesque places on earth - think terraced farmland, snow-capped peaks and brightly dressed Quechua men and women living as they have done since the times of the Inca.

# Amazon

One of the most iconic destinations in South America and one we believe deserves a longer stay. Watch monkeys swing through the magnificent branches of "the lungs of the world", marvel at lily-pads the size of your kitchen table, swim with pink river dolphins, fish for fearsome piranhas, capture dazzling sunsets and fall asleep at night hypnotised by the symphonic hum of the rainforest.

# Bolivia

Don't miss South America's most indigenous and traditional nation. Sun Island is the mythological birth place of the Inca Empire and a must for those wanting a deeper understanding of the Inca's myths and legends. Visitors are surprised by the arresting beauty of La Paz; the sight of the city spilling down the valley as you ascend the world's highest cable car is something you will never forget.

# Chile

Fabulous wine, world class cuisine and that magnificent Andes backdrop combine to make cosmopolitan Santiago a perennial favourite. Down south is where Chile really shines - from the Andean Lakes to Torres del Paine, Chilean Patagonia is a place of unrivalled wilderness and landscapes.

# Brazil

Few cities can rival the natural setting of Rio de Janeiro, fringed by Atlantic rainforest and edged with golden beaches. The city holds some of the iconic images of South America - from the famous statue of Christ the Redeemer to the flamboyant colours of Carnival. Heading south, we find one of Mother Nature's most awe-inspiring spectacles - Iguazu Falls.

# Argentina

Buenos Aires is a seductive blend of Latin American passion and European refinement. Join the locals for a late night steak and a glass of malbec before heading out to a tango show. During the day, stroll the city's myriad neighbourhoods, each with its own distinctive flavour and heritage. Perhaps Argentina's most evocative region, Patagonia offers some of the most stunning and remote landscapes on earth. Experience the tranquil beauty of Bariloche's mountains and lakes; and marvel at the dramatic peaks and glaciers of El Calafate and El Chalten.



# Treasures of South America

# **27 DAYS**

# PERU • BOLIVIA • CHILE • BRAZIL • ARGENTINA



# Day 01 Fri Australia/ Lima

On arrival you will be transferred to your hotel where you will meet your fellow travellers and Tour Director (T.D.) for a welcome briefing.

# Day 02 Sat Lima

Half day city tour of Lima and Larco Museum. Visit Lima's colonial downtown, then continue to the modern districts of San Isidro and Miraflores. Finish with a guided visit of the Larco Museum with an exquisite world famous collection of ancient ceramics, gold and silver treasures. Remainder of the afternoon at leisure or join your T. D. on a *Discovery Walk*. This evening we will have a special welcome dinner facing pre-Inca ruins. *BD* 

#### Day 03 Sun Lima/ Amazon 🏾 🌿

Fly to lquitos for an unforgettable Amazon experience. A three hour boat ride takes us to our remote jungle lodge. Spot birds such as parrots, kingfishers and cormorants. You can also see sloths and up to 4 different species of monkeys. Night boat ride to see caimans, nocturnal birds and mammals. *BLD* 

# Day 04 Mon Amazon 📩

During today's canoe trips you can see many different species of monkeys and birds including the famous hoatzin. Take a night walk in search of huge frogs - anaconda's favourite food. *BLD* 

# Day 05 Tue Amazon 🛛 🌋

Navigate along an Amazon tributary where we observe and swim with pink river dolphins - a magical experience. On the way back to the lodge, you will see the biggest aquatic plant in the world, the famous Victoria Regia. *BLD*  Day 06 Wed **Amazon**/ **Sacred Valley** Fly to Cuzco, the ancient capital of the Inca. We start our adventure with a scenic drive through the Andes to your hotel in the heart of the Sacred Valley. Remainder of the day at leisure to help you acclimatise to the high altitude. *BL* 

# Day 07 Thu Sacred Valley

Morning tour of Ollantaytambo ruins and town. Then visit the ceramics workshop of famous Andean artist, Pablo Seminario. Free afternoon or join your T.D. on a Discovery Walk. B

# Day 08 Fri Sacred Valley 🏂 🥣

Our full day tour begins with a visit to the town of Chinchero for a private weaving demonstration to learn the traditional techniques of this ancient art. Next we will visit the amazing rings of Moray, thought to be an ancient agricultural greenhouse.

*EXCLUSIVE*: Participate in a hands-on day visiting a local community in the remote Andes for a truly memorable experience. Bring your 'Sawyer One' Water Filter today and donate it to the village. Get to know the people and share in their every-day activities. *BL* 

#### Day 09 Sat Sacred Valley/ Machu Picchu

Board the Vistadome train to Machu Picchu, the most renowned example of Inca architecture. Today's visit to magical Machu Picchu will undoubtedly be a highlight of your trip! Enjoy a guided tour of the ruins and buffet lunch at Sanctuary Lodge. Afternoon is free for you to continue exploring the ruins on your own. Take the mini-bus back to Aguas Calientes where you will stay overnight. **Option:** Add the

# Reservations 1300 135 391

Express Inca Trail, a spectacular 6-hour moderate walk to Machu Picchu, arriving through the Sun Gate. Pre booking is essential as there are very limited permits per day. Enquire for full details. *BLD* 

# Day 10 Sun Cuzco

A second entrance to Machu Picchu is included so you can continue exploring at your own pace or consider a hike to Huayna Picchu. During our return train journey to Cuzco you will have the opportunity to gaze at the amazing scenery of the valley through the panoramic glass windows. *B* 

# Day 11 Mon Cuzco

*EXCLUSIVE:* Our city tour begins on foot as we wander the ancient streets of Cuzco. Visit the Plaza de Armas, Koricancha Temple and the narrow winding streets of San Blas. Continue by car to visit the ruins of Q'enqo, Puca Pucara and Sacsayhuaman. Remainder of the day at leisure to continue exploring this amazing city. *B* 

#### Day 12 Tue Cuzco

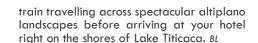
Enjoy a full free day to visit some of the sights included on your Cuzco Tourist Ticket. Or, join your T.D. on a *Discovery Walk* and see the city through the eyes of someone who knows it intimately. *B* 

# Day 13 Wed Cuzco/ Puno

EXCLUSIVE: A unique combination of first class bus and Belmond Andean Explorer train allows you to enjoy the best of both worlds. Departing Cuzco by bus you will visit Andahuaylillas, the Sistine Chapel of the Americas; the Inca Temple of Rachi; and Viracocha Palace. Midway we board the Iuxurious Belmond Andean Explorer Our T.D. was a most professional, patient & caring tour leader. His knowledge of everywhere we went was excellent & he conveyed his passionate love of South America to us. He is a TREASURE of South America!

- June & Denis

Iguazu Falls



### Day 14 Thu Puno

This morning we visit the remarkable Uros floating islands home to the Uros Indians who still live as their ancestors did hundreds of years ago. Balance of the day free. B

# Day 15 Fri Puno/ Sun Island/ La Paz

Depart by bus skirting Lake Titicaca to Copacabana. From here we sail to Sun Island, the legendary birth place of the Inca Empire. Visit the Inca Garden, the Inti Wata Cultural Complex and the agricultural Inca terraces. Continue overland to La Paz. BL

#### Day 16 Sat La Paz

Half day tour of La Paz including the Witches' Market where you will learn about local traditions. Balance of the day at leisure. *B* 

# Day 17 Sun La Paz/ Santiago

Free morning. This afternoon we take the world's highest cable car for stunning city views. Fly to Santiago and transfer to hotel. *B* 

# Day 18 Mon Santiago

Half day city tour including Plaza de Armas and Santa Lucia Hill followed by a wine tasting in a local winery. Free afternoon. *B* 

# Day 19 Tue Santiago/ Rio de Janeiro

Fly to Rio arriving in time for a stroll or a sundowner on Copacabana Beach. B

# Day 20 Wed Rio de Janeiro

Experience more of Rio on our unhurried two-day tour. Visit Christ the Redeemer statue via the Cosme Velho train through Tijuca Forest. Marvel at the breathtaking 360° view over the city below. Lunch at a traditional BBQ. Free afternoon to explore Rio on your own or join your T.D. on a Discovery Walk. BL

#### Day 21 Thu Rio de Janeiro

Morning free. This afternoon's highlight will be the cable-car ride to the top of Sugar Loaf Mountain for a different 360° view of Rio including Guanabara Bay and its famous beaches. *B* 

Day 22 Fri **Rio de Janeiro/ Iguazu Falls** Fly to spectacular Iguazu waterfalls, and tour the Brazilian side for jaw-dropping panoramic views. Transfer to your hotel, set in the Argentine National Park with mesmerising views of the falls. Afternoon is at leisure. *B* 

#### Day 23 Sat Iguazu Falls

Explore the Argentine National Park walking along the upper, lower and Devils Throat trails. Experience the staggering power of the falls by riding the Iguazu River rapids, with the roaring waterfalls towering overhead - prepare to get wet! *B* 

Day 24 Sun **Iguazu Falls**/ **Buenos Aires** Fly to Buenos Aires and transfer to your hotel in Recoleta. Rest of the day free to explore. *B* 

#### Day 25 Mon Buenos Aires

Today explore the city's northern districts. Visit 'Palermo Chico' famous for its mansions and parks, 'Palermo Soho' for fashion, design and restaurants. Continue to Recoleta, well-known for its mansions and home to the renowned Cemetery. Sip a coffee in the traditional La Biela Cafe. Free afternoon

# EXCLUSIVE TO

- ✓ Small groups, with a maximum of 16 guests
- ✓ Discovery Walks with your T.D. to explore sights off the beaten track
- ✓ Enjoy an authentic Amazon experience; we take you deeper into the rainforest for better wildlife opportunities
- ✓ We include 11 days in the Peruvian & Bolivian Andes which will help you acclimatise to the altitude
- ✓ Help deliver fresh drinking water to Peruvian highland villages through an exclusive Contours Collection initiative
- ✓ Only with Contours Collections: A unique combination of private touring & the Belmond Andean Explorer train allows you to enjoy the best of both worlds!
- Visit the incredible Andahuaylillas chapel, Raqchi Temple & Viracocha Palace before boarding the luxurious Belmond Andean Explorer Train to travel to Puno
- ✓ Visit the birth place of the Inca Empire, Sun Island, and participate in a Kallawaya Ancient Ceremony
- ✓ Take the world's highest cable car in La Paz
- ✓ See more of Rio & Buenos Aires. We split your touring over two unhurried days to allow more in-depth exploration of both cities
- Visit El Zanjon, a fascinating underground archaeological site in Buenos Aires

# www.thecontourscollection.com

# Treasures of South America



or join your T.D. on a *Discovery Walk*. This evening enjoy a private tango lesson followed by dinner and a tango show. *BD* 

# Day 26 Tue Buenos Aires

This morning we visit historical Plaza de Mayo and stop at the classic Café Tortoni. Continue to colourful La Boca and the portside district of Puerto Madero. Finish in the old neighbourhood of San Telmo and a hidden archaeological underground gem. Enjoy a farewell dinner to say goodbye to your T.D. and your fellow travellers. *BD* 

Day 27 Wed **Buenos Aires**/ **Australia** Morning transfer to the airport for your flight home or ask us about extending your stay in South America! *B* 

B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner

# CONTOURS TRAVEL community projects

- ✓ Visit a sustainable Eco-Lodge, offering authentic jungle experiences in the Peruvian Amazon
- ✓ Enjoy an intimate weaving demonstration in a private family home, contributing directly to the Minka Chinchero cooperative
- ✓ Visit a remote village in the Sacred Valley for an authentic cultural experience. Donate your Sawyer PointONE Water Filter Kit. More about the filters on page 3

# SPECIAL STAYS

- ✓ The Contours Collection has carefully selected your First Class hotels based on ideal locations, comfort & experience
- ✓ We take you deeper into the jungle for an unforgettable 3 night Amazon experience
- ✓ Stay at a charming 18th Century former monastery located in the heart of the Sacred Valley surrounded by lnca terraces
- ✓ Stay just a short stroll from the stunning Plaza de Armas in Cuzco in a boutique colonial hotel
- ✓ Relax & enjoy the view from your beautiful hotel overlooking Lake Titicaca
- ✓ Enjoy Copacabana beach only steps away from your hotel
- ✓ Enjoy the ultimate location of your hotel situated inside the National Park and wake up to the roaring sound of the mesmerising Iguazu Falls
- ✓ Stay in the heart of the European style district of Recoleta in Buenos Aires, home to many of the city's best restaurants and the famous Recoleta Cemetery

# INCLUSIONS

- ✓ International & domestic economy class airfares with taxes
- ✓ Contours Travel, English-speaking, locally based Tour Director
- Unique hand-crafted travel wallets & luggage tags made in Bolivia exclusively for Contours Collections
- ✓ Guaranteed small groups of 16 guests maximum
- ✓ 26 nights accommodation in First Class hotels & rustic Amazon Lodge
- ✓ 42 meals: 26 (B) Breakfasts, 9 (L) Lunches, 7 (D) Dinners
- ✓ Expert English-speaking local guides & ground transportation in private air conditioned vehicles
- ✓ Exclusive Discovery Walks led by your Tour Director
- Tips for local guides & bus drivers
- ✓ All entrance fees to local sights & national parks
- ✓ 24 hour Medical assistance card (only in Peru)

I received your splendid travel wallet! You have done Contours Travel proud! The details & presentation is absolutely professional!

- Belinda



# HIGHLIGHTS

- ✓ City Tour of Lima with a guided tour of Larco Museum
- ✓ Swim with Pink River dolphins, fish for piranha and spot three-toed sloths on your three night Amazon immersion
- ✓ Spend three nights in the Sacred Valley with more time to acclimatise & explore this beautiful region
- ✓ Walking tour of Ollantaytambo town & its famous fortress. Visit Andean artist Pablo Seminario's Workshop
- ✓ Enjoy a private weaving demonstration in Chinchero and spend time with an Andean community
- ✓ Guided tour of Machu Picchu. Second day entrance included to explore Machu Picchu at your own pace
- ✓ Ample free time in Cuzco so you can explore historic sites & the city at your own pace
- ✓ A unique combination of bus & Belmond Andean Explorer train allows you to enjoy the best of both worlds, travelling from Cuzco to Puno
- ✓ Visit floating reed islands on Lake Titicaca to learn about the unique Uros culture

- Visit Sun Island to understand its importance in Inca mythology
- Ride the world's highest cable car in La Paz
- ✓ Explore cosmopolitan Santiago and sample world class Chilean wine
- ✓ Tour of Christ the Redeemer with a train ride through Tijuca Forest
- ✓ Sunset tour of Sugarloaf Mountain
- ✓ Tour of the Brazilian side of Iguazu Falls for the best panoramic views
- ✓ Full day to explore the Argentinean side of Iguazu falls
- ✓ Great Adventure speed boat along the Devil's Throat canyon
- ✓ Explore Buenos Aires over two in-depth tours of the northern & southern districts
- Surprising tour of the underground tunnels of El Zanjon
- Private tango lesson followed by dinner & spectacular tango show
- ✓ Farewell dinner in Buenos Aires

# **DATES & PRICES**

2016		2017	
Start	Finish	Start	Finish
Sep 9	Oct 5	Mar 3	Mar 29
Oct 14	Nov 9	Apr 7	May 3
		Sep 1	Sep 27
		Oct 6	Nov 1
		Nov 3	Nov 29
Departin	g Sydney	AUD	\$16,895
Departing	g Lima	a AUD \$15,069	
Single Supplement		AUD \$3,218	

All prices shown are per person based on twin
share and include airfares & taxes. Price based
on Economy Class flight with LATAM Airlines
(V class), subject to availability. Taxes & fuel
surcharges are subject to change without notice.
Price departing Lima is based on arrival in South
America with LATAM Airlines. If arriving with
another carrier this price will be re-quoted. If
departing from Melbourne or Brisbane please
add \$100; if departing from Adelaide, Cairns
or Hobart please add \$300; If departing from
Perth or Darwin please add \$500.

AUD \$4,530

**Business Upgrade** 

Day/ Date Variations: Due to airline flight schedules day of arrival and day of departure may vary depending on your city of departure.

# Beyond Treasures of South America...

There will always be more to see and do on a continent the size of South America. Our extensions to the Galapagos Islands, Andean Lakes and Southern Patagonia are just a few of the most popular options for those who have more time to spend exploring this wonderful and diverse land. Passengers who travel beyond the Treasures of South America will be cared for by our excellent team of locally based guides to ensure a seamless journey from start to finish. If you are interested in combining the Treasures of South America with any other region in Latin America please contact our expert consultants and we will help design your trip of a lifetime.

# Ecuador

A tiny country that has it all, Ecuador offers incredible wildlife, staggering volcanoes, colourful markets and South America's best preserved historic capital - Quito. The Galapagos Islands are one of the world's most unique and incredible destinations for wildlife lovers. A cruise on board the luxury Galapagos Legend allows you to experience an incredible diversity of species with expert naturalist guides on hand to ensure you get the most out of this enchanting archipelago.

For those with a little more time, why not consider an overland journey through the Avenue of the Volcanoes. Highlights include Cotopaxi National Park, historic haciendas and the colonial city of Cuenca. Ask our expert consultants about the exciting Tren Crucero, a very special train journey through the Ecuadorian highlands.

# Patagonia

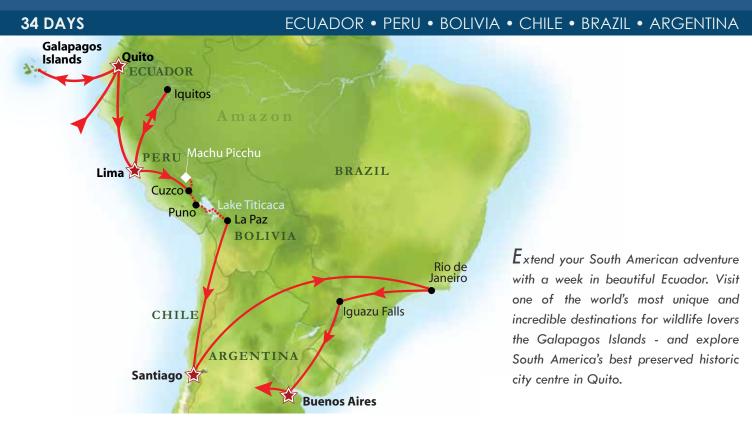
One of the most evocative places on earth, Patagonia is a region spanning Chile and Argentina and encompasses some of the most dramatic peaks, pristine wilderness and impressive glaciers in the world. This immense region also contains some of the most iconic wildlife of the Americas. The Andean condor, guanaco, rhea, viscacha, puma and Chilean flamingo are all found at the southern end of the continent.

Our extension options include the northern Patagonian region of the Andean Lakes, a serene landscape of snow-capped mountains, azure lakes and Swiss-style chalet architecture. The Andean Lakes Crossing takes you across a series of lakes, edged by volcanoes and ancient forests. The pretty villages of Bariloche and Puerto Varas are both excellent bases for more extensive sightseeing in the region.

Further south you have the magnificent Torres del Paine National Park. This is truly a trekker's paradise, but with the constantly changing light and the dramatic Torres soaring above, it is equally rewarding for photographers and nature lovers.



# Treasures & the Galapagos



Day 01 Fri **Australia**/ **Quito** Met on arrival and transfer to hotel.

#### Day 02 Sat Quito

Free morning. Afternoon walking tour of the UNESCO Heritage listed colonial centre. *B* 

#### Day 03 Sun Quito

Full day tour Otavalo Valley and markets with lunch at a local hacienda. BL

Day 04 Mon **Quito/ Galapagos Islands** Fly to the Galapagos Islands. Today you will embark on your four day cruise on board the M/V Galapagos Legend, which provides expert naturalist guides, exclusive

# Day 05 Tue Galapagos Islands

service and personalised attention. BLD

Explore the Galapagos Islands on twice daily shore excursions. The geography of these islands of volcanic origin is as fascinating as its inhabitants. An oasis for many endemic animals and plants. *BLD* 

#### Day 06 Wed Galapagos Islands

Continue your adventure throughout the archipelago, famous for its spectacular landscape and breath-taking variety of wildlife. Encounter animals such as Bluefooted Boobies, Marine Iguanas, Sally Lightfoot Crabs, Galapagos Penguins, Flamingos, Sea Lions, Flightless Cormorants and Giant Tortoises during your landings with naturalist expert guides. *BLD* 

## Day 07 Thu Galapagos/ Quito

Today you will fly back to the mainland. On arrival, transfer to your hotel. *B* 

### Day 08 Fri Quito/ Lima

Fly to Lima. Meet your fellow travellers and Tour Director (T.D.). *B* 

Day 09 Sat **Lima** Half day city tour of Lima and Larco Museum. Special welcome dinner. *BD* 

Day 10 Sun Lima/Amazon Fly to lquitos and transfer to our remote jungle lodge. *BLD* 

Day 11 Mon **Amazon** J Full day exploring the rainforest, searching for monkeys, birds and sloths. *BLD* 

Day 12 Tue **Amazon** Today's highlight - a swim with pink river dolphins - a magical experience. *BLD* 

Day 13 Wed **Amazon**/ **Sacred Valley** Fly to Cuzco, and take a scenic drive to your hotel in the heart of the Sacred Valley. *BL* 

Day 14 Thu **Sacred Valley** Half day tour of Ollantaytambo and visit the workshop of famous Andean artist, Pablo Seminario. *B* 

# Day 15 Fri **Sacred Valley** 📩 🥧 Private weaving demonstration in Chinchero

and visit to Moray archaeological site. EXCLUSIVE: Get to know a local community in the remote Andean mountains for a truly memorable experience. BL

Day 16 Sat **Sacred Valley/ Machu Picchu** Board the Vistadome train to Machu Picchu, the most renowned example of Inca architecture. Today's visit to magical Machu Picchu will undoubtedly be a highlight of your trip! Enjoy a guided tour of the ruins and buffet lunch at Sanctuary Lodge. Afternoon is free for you to continue exploring the ruins on your own. Take the mini-bus back to Aguas Calientes where you will stay overnight. *BLD* 

# Day 17 Sun Cuzco

A second entrance to Machu Picchu is included so you can continue exploring at your own pace or consider a hike to the Huayna Picchu. During our return train journey to Cuzco you will have the opportunity to gaze at the amazing scenery of the valley through the panoramic glass windows. *B* 

#### Day 18 Mon Cuzco

EXCLUSIVE: Half day walking tour of the ancient Inca capital and nearby ruins. B

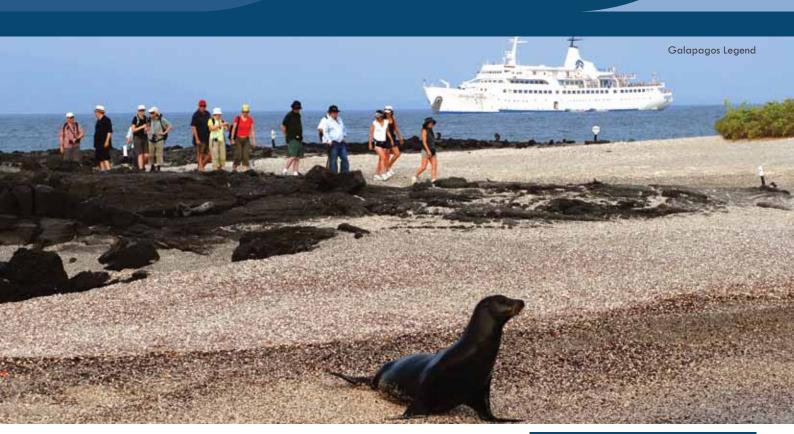
## Day 19 Tue Cuzco

Day at leisure to explore or join your T.D. on a Discovery Walk. B

# Day 20 Wed Cuzco/ Puno

*EXCLUSIVE*: A unique combination of bus and Belmond Andean Explorer train allows you to enjoy the best of both worlds. Departing Cuzco by bus you will visit Andahuaylillas, the Sistine Chapel of the Americas; the Inca Temple of Rachi; and Viracocha Palace. Midway we board the Iuxurious Belmond Andean Explorer Train travelling across spectacular altiplano landscapes before arriving at your hotel right on the edge of Lake Titicaca. *BL* 

# - Robyn



# Day 21 Thu Puno

Visit the remarkable Uros floating islands of Lake Titicaca. *B* 

# Day 22 Fri Puno/ Sun Island/ La Paz

Depart by bus skirting Lake Titicaca to Copacabana. Sail to Sun Island and across Lake Titicaca. Continue overland to La Paz. *BL* 

# Day 23 Sat La Paz

Half day tour of La Paz including the Witches' Market where you will learn about local traditions. Balance of the day at leisure. *B* 

# Day 24 Sun La Paz/ Santiago

Free morning. This afternoon we take the world's highest cable car for stunning city views. Fly to Santiago and transfer to hotel. *B* 

## Day 25 Mon Santiago

Half day city tour including Plaza de Armas and Santa Lucia Hill followed by a wine tasting in a traditional winery. Free afternoon. *B* 

#### Day 26 Tue Santiago/ Rio de Janeiro

Fly to Rio and transfer to your hotel on Copacabana Beach. B

# Day 27 Wed Rio de Janeiro

Half day tour of Christ the Redeemer with a traditional churrascaria lunch. BL

# Day 28 Thu Rio de Janeiro

Morning free. This afternoon's highlight will be the cable-car ride to the top of Sugar Loaf Mountain for a different 360° view of Rio including Guanabara Bay and its famous beaches. *B*  Day 29 Fri **Rio de Janeiro/ Iguazu Falls** Fly to spectacular Iguazu waterfalls, and tour the Brazilian side for jaw-dropping panoramic views. Transfer to your hotel, set in the Argentine National Park with mesmerising views of the falls. Afternoon is at leisure. *B* 

# Day 30 Sat Iguazu Falls

Full day to explore the Argentine Falls including a boat ride up the Devil's Throat Canyon. B

Day 31 Sun **Iguazu Falls**/ **Buenos Aires** Fly to Buenos Aires. Afternoon at leisure. *B* 

#### Day 32 Mon Buenos Aires

Half day tour of the northern districts. Enjoy a private tango class followed by dinner and a tango show. *BD* 

# Day 33 Tue Buenos Aires

Visit the southern districts and a unique archaeological site. Enjoy a farewell dinner tonight. *BD* 

#### Day 34 Wed **Buenos Aires** / **Australia** Transfer to the airport for your flight home

or ask us about extending your stay in South America! B

B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner

# DATES & PRICES

There are dozens of ways you can experience the fabulous Galapagos Islands. Choose from 3- 14 night itineraries on tourist, first class or deluxe vessels, or ask us about island hopping programs.

2016		2017	
Start	Finish	Start	Finish
Sep 2	Oct 5	Feb 24	Mar 29
Oct 7	Nov 9	Mar 31	May 3
		Aug 25	Sep 27
		Sep 29	Nov 1
		Oct 27	Nov 29
_			
Departing Sydney		AUD	<b>)</b> \$24,545
Departing Quito AUD		\$22,745	

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Single Supplement	AUD \$5,830
Business Class Upgrade	AUD \$4,530

All prices shown are per person based on twin share and include airfares & taxes. Price based on Economy Class flight with LATAM Airlines (V class), subject to availability. Taxes & fuel surcharges are subject to change without notice. Price departing Lima is based on arrival in South America with LATAM Airlines. If arriving with another carrier this price will be re-quoted. If departing from Melbourne or Brisbane please add \$100; if departing from Adelaide, Cairns or Hobart please add \$300; If departing from Perth or Darwin please add \$500.

Day/ Date Variations: Due to airline flight schedules day of arrival and day of departure may vary depending on your city of departure.

# Treasures & the Lakes of Patagonia

# PERU • BOLIVIA • CHILE • BRAZIL • ARGENTINA



# Day 01 Fri Australia/ Lima

Met on arrival. Transfer to your hotel to meet your fellow travellers and Tour Director (T.D.).

# Day 02 Sat Lima

**32 DAYS** 

Half day city tour of Lima and Larco Museum. Special welcome dinner this evening. BD

# Day 03 Sun Lima/ Amazon Lodge

Fly to lquitos for an unforgettable Amazon experience. A three hour boat ride takes us to our remote jungle lodge. Spot birds such as parrots, kingfishers and cormorants. You can also see sloths and up to 4 different species of monkeys. Night boat ride to see caimans, nocturnal birds and mammals. *BLD* 

## Day 04 Mon Amazon Lodge

During today's canoe trips you can see many different species of monkeys and birds including the famous hoatzin. Take a night walk in search of huge frogs - anaconda's favourite food. *BLD* 

# Day 05 Tue Amazon Lodge

Navigate to the Amazon River where we observe and swim with pink river dolphins a magical experience. On the way back to the lodge, you will see the biggest aquatic plant in the world - the famous Victoria Regia. *BLD* 

Day 06 Wed **Amazon**/ **Sacred Valley** Fly to Cuzco, and drive to your hotel in the heart of the Sacred Valley. *B*  Day 07 Thu **Sacred Valley**  $\sum$  *(i)* Half day tour of Ollantaytambo and visit the ceramics workshop of Pablo Seminario. *B* 

# Day 08 Fri Sacred Valley

Private weaving demonstration in Chinchero and visit Moray archaeological site. *EXCLUSIVE*: Get to know a local community in the remote Andean mountains for a truly memorable experience. *BL* 

Day 09 Sat **Sacred Valley**/ **Machu Picchu** Vistadome train to the magical city of Machu Picchu! Guided tour of the ruins and free afternoon. *BLD* 

# Day 10 Sun Cuzco

A second entrance to Machu Picchu is included so you can continue exploring at your own pace or consider a hike to the Huayna Picchu. During our return train journey to Cuzco you will have the opportunity to gaze at the amazing scenery of the valley through the panoramic windows. *B* 

# Day 11 Mon Cuzco

Half day walking tour of the ancient Inca capital and nearby ruins. B

## Day 12 Tue Cuzco

Day at leisure to explore or join your T.D. on a Discovery Walk. B

# Day 13 Wed Cuzco/ Puno

A unique combination of bus and Belmond Andean Explorer train allows you to enjoy many sites en route. *BL* 

# Day 14 Thu **Puno**

Continue

volcanoes

beyond

of South America Tour with a trip to the enchanting Lakes District of

Patagonia. This journey across the Andes

between Argentina & Chile presents an unforgettable panorama of beautiful

lakes, lush forests and snow-capped

your

Treasures

Visit the remarkable Uros floating islands of Lake Titicaca. B

# Day 15 Fri Puno/ Sun Island/ La Paz

Sail from Copacabana to Sun Island and across Lake Titicaca. Continue overland to La Paz. *BL* 

## Day 16 Sat La Paz

Half day tour of La Paz including the Witches' Market where you will learn about local traditions. Balance of the day at leisure. *B* 

#### Day 17 Sun La Paz/ Santiago

Free morning. This afternoon we take the world's highest cable car for stunning city views. Fly to Santiago and transfer to hotel. *B* 

# Day 18 Mon Santiago

Half day city tour including Plaza de Armas and Santa Lucia Hill followed by a wine tasting in a local winery. Free afternoon. *B* 

# Day 19 Tue Santiago/ Rio de Janeiro

Fly to Rio and transfer to your hotel on Copacabana Beach. B

# Day 20 Wed Rio de Janeiro

Visit Christ the Redeemer statue on Corcovado Mountain. Traditional BBQ lunch. Free afternoon to explore Rio on your own or join your T.D. on a *Discovery Walk*. B

# Day 21 Thu Rio de Janeiro

Morning at leisure. Afternoon cable-car ride to the top of Sugarloaf Mountain. B

The Tour Director has been an exceptional leader. He gave us so much extra with his Discovery Walks- sharing his knowledge. This has made our trip a wonderful experience.

- David & Susan



Day 22 Fri **Rio de Janeiro/ Iguazu Falls** Fly to Iguazu Falls, and tour the Brazilian side for jaw-dropping panoramic views. *B* 

# Day 23 Sat Iguazu Falls

Full day to explore the Argentine Falls including a boat ride along the Devil's Throat Canyon. *B* 

Day 24 Sun **Iguazu Falls**/ **Buenos Aires** Fly to Buenos Aires. Afternoon at leisure. *B* 

#### Day 25 Mon Buenos Aires

Today explore the city's northern districts. Visit 'Palermo Chico' famous for its mansions and parks, 'Palermo Soho' for fashion, design and restaurants. Continue to Recoleta, well-known for its mansions and home to the renowned Cemetery. Sip a coffee in the traditional La Biela Cafe. This evening enjoy a private tango lesson followed by dinner and a tango show. *BD* 

# Day 26 Tue Buenos Aires

Visit the southern districts and a unique archaeological site. Enjoy a farewell dinner with the group tonight. *BD* 

# Day 27 Wed Buenos Aires/ Bariloche

Say goodbye to your fellow travellers and transfer to the airport for your flight to Bariloche. On arrival, transfer to your hotel. Afternoon tour of the city and surrounding areas. Drive along Nahuel Huapi Lake and onto Playa Bonita. Continue to Mount Campanario and ride the chair lift for breathtaking views of the region. *B* 

#### Day 28 Thu Bariloche

Day at leisure to relax and enjoy the beautiful Llao Llao Hotel. Consider an optional tour to Victoria Island and Arrayanes Forest. *B* 

# Day 29 Fri Bariloche/ Puerto Varas

Begin the spectacular lakes crossing that will take you through the untouched wilderness of the Andes. Depart Puerto Pañuelo and sail through Blest Sound and Lago Frias. Continue by bus across the border into Chile. Arrive in Peulla and continue again by boat to the emerald waters of Petrohue Falls. Continue by bus to your hotel on the shores of Lake LLanquihue in Puerto Varas. B

#### Day 30 Sat Puerto Varas

Full day tour of the Chilean Andean Lakes region, including Llanquihue Lake, Frutillar and Puerto Octay to enjoy mesmerising views before returning to your hotel. *BL* 

#### Day 31 Sun Puerto Varas

Day at leisure. Options include tours to Chiloe Island or Osorno Volcano. *B* 

Day 32 Mon **Pto Varas/Santiago/Australia** Transfer to the airport in Puerto Montt and fly to Santiago with onwards connections to Sydney. *B* 

B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner

# **DATES & PRICES**

2016		2017	
Start	Finish	Start	Finish
Sep 9	Oct 10	Mar 3	Apr 3
Oct 14	Nov 14	Apr 7	May 8
		Sep 1	Oct 2
		Oct 6	Nov 6
		Nov 3	Dec 4
Departing Sydney AUD \$19,180			
Departing Lima AUD \$17,380			
Single Supplement AUD \$4,067			
Business Class Upgrade AUD \$4,530			

All prices shown are per person based on twin share and include airfares & taxes. Price based on Economy Class flight with LATAM Airlines (V class), subject to availability. Taxes & fuel surcharges are subject to change without notice. Price departing Lima is based on arrival in South America with LATAM Airlines. If arriving with another carrier this price will be re-quoted. If departing from Melbourne or Brisbane please add \$100; if departing from Adelaide, Cairns or Hobart please add \$300; If departing from Perth or Darwin please add \$500.

Day/ Date Variations: Due to airline flight schedules day of arrival and day of departure may vary depending on your city of departure.

# Treasures & Southern Patagonia

# 32 DAYS PERU • BOLIVIA • CHILE • BRAZIL • ARGENTINA Iquitos PERU Lima Machu Picchu Cuzco BRAZIL La Paz Puno BOLIVIA CHILE Why not extend your Treasures of Rio de Iguazu Falls Janeiro South America Tour with a trip to the RGENTINA southern reaches of the enigmatic Santiago Patagonia? This journey takes you to the Patagonian Glaciers where you **Buenos Aires** can trek the Perito Moreno Glacier & enjoy breath-taking views of the picture perfect Torres del Paine National Park. 🗜 El Calafate Paine N.R. Punta Arenas

# Day 01 Fri Australia/ Lima

Met on arrival. Transfer to your hotel to meet your fellow travellers and Tour Director (T.D.).

# Day 02 Sat Lima

Half day city tour of Lima and Larco Museum. Special welcome dinner this evening. BD

Day 03 Sun Lima/ Amazon Fly to lquitos and transfer to our remote jungle lodge. BLD

# Day 04 Mon Amazon

Full day exploring the rainforest, searching for monkeys, birds and sloths. BLD

# Day 05 Tue **Amazon**

Today's highlight is a swim with pink river dolphins - a magical experience. *BLD* 

# Day 06 Wed Amazon/ Sacred Valley

Fly to Cuzco, and drive to our hotel in the heart of the Sacred Valley. B

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Day 07 Thu **Sacred Valley** Half day tour of Ollantaytambo and visit the workshop of Pablo Seminario. *B* 

## Day 08 Fri Sacred Valley

Private weaving demonstration in Chinchero and visit Moray archaeological site. *EXCLUSIVE*: Get to know a local community in the remote Andean mountains for a truly memorable experience. *BL*  Day 09 Sat **Sacred Valley/ Machu Picchu** Vistadome train to the magical city of Machu Picchu! Guided tour of the ruins and free afternoon. *BLD* 

# Day 10 Sun Cuzco

A second entrance to Machu Picchu is included so you can continue exploring at your own pace or consider a hike to the Huayna Picchu. During our return train journey to Cuzco you will have the opportunity to gaze at the amazing scenery of the valley through the panoramic windows. *B* 

#### Day 11 Mon Cuzco

Half day walking tour of the ancient lnca capital and nearby lnca ruins. *B* 

# Day 12 Tue Cuzco

Day at leisure to explore or join your T.D. on a Discovery Walk. B

#### Day 13 Wed Cuzco/ Puno

A unique combination of bus and Belmond Andean Explorer train allows you to enjoy the best of both worlds. *BL* 

# Day 14 Thu Puno

This morning we visit the remarkable Uros floating islands home to the Uros Indians who still live as their ancestors did hundreds of years ago. Balance of the day free. *B* 

# Day 15 Fri Puno/ Sun Island/ La Paz

Sail from Copacabana to Sun Island and across Lake Titicaca. Continue overland to La Paz. *BL* 

# Day 16 Sat La Paz

Half day tour of La Paz including the Witches' Market where you will learn about local traditions. Balance of the day at leisure. B

# Day 17 Sun La Paz/ Santiago

Take the world's highest cable car to El Alto. Fly to Santiago and transfer to hotel. *B* 

# Day 18 Mon Santiago

Half day city tour and visit to a local winery. B

# Day 19 Tue Santiago/ Rio de Janeiro

Fly to Rio and transfer to your hotel on Copacabana Beach. B

### Day 20 Wed Rio de Janeiro

Visit Christ the Redeemer statue on Corcovado Mountain. Lunch at a traditional BBQ. Free afternoon to explore Rio on your own or join your T.D. on a Discovery Walk. BL

# Day 21 Thu Rio de Janeiro

Morning at leisure. Afternoon cable-car ride to the top of Sugarloaf Mountain. *B* 

# Day 22 Fri Rio de Janeiro/ Iguazu Falls

Fly to spectacular Iguazu waterfalls, and tour the Brazilian side for jaw-dropping panoramic views. Transfer to your hotel, set in the Argentine National Park with mesmerising views of the falls. Afternoon is at leisure. *B* 

# Day 23 Sat Iguazu Falls

Full day to explore the Argentine Falls including a boat ride along the Devil's Throat Canyon. *B* 

We had an AMAZING time in South America! Thank you so much for everything you did to help make our dream adventure a reality, we really appreciated your expertise & hard work. If we have inspired anyone else to travel to South America we will be sure to send them your way. - Kim & Justin



Day 24 Sun **Iguazu Falls**/ **Buenos Aires** Fly to Buenos Aires. Afternoon at leisure. *B* 

#### Day 25 Mon Buenos Aires

Half day tour of the northern districts of Palermo Chico, Palermo Soho and Recoleta. This evening enjoy a private tango class followed by dinner and a tango show. *BD* 

#### Day 26 Tue Buenos Aires

Visit the southern districts and a unique archaeological site. Enjoy a farewell dinner tonight. *BD* 

Day 27 Wed **Buenos Aires**/ **El Calafate** Say goodbye to your fellow travellers and transfer to the airport for your flight to El Calafate in Patagonia. On arrival, transfer to your hotel with the remainder of the day at leisure. *B* 

#### Day 28 Thu El Calafate

Depart this morning on a tour to Perito Moreno Glacier situated on the southern arm of Lago Argentino and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The Perito Moreno Glacier is an imposing ice river that frequently shatters, calves and plunges into the lake below in spectacular fashion. **Optional:** icetrek on the glacier or sail the lake to see it from a different perspective. *B*  Day 29 Fri **El Calafate/ Torres del Paine** Today you will be transferred across the Chilean border to your all-inclusive lodge in Torres del Paine National Park, a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. *BLD* 

#### Day 30 Sat Torres del Paine

Spend today discovering the isolated and breath-taking landscapes of Patagonia. Enjoy plenty of exploring opportunities like hiking, fly fishing, kayaking or horseback riding, to name a few. You can select excursions that suit your energy level and interests. *BLD* 

# Day 31 Sun Torres del Paine

Continue your exploration of the park, expert guides will help you choose between a range of excursions offered as part of your stay. *BLD* 

Day 32 Mon **Torres/Santiago/Australia** Transfer to Punta Arenas Airport for your flight to Santiago with onwards connections to Sydney. *B* 

B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner

# **DATES & PRICES**

2016		2017	
Start	Finish	Start	Finish
Sep 9	Oct 10	Mar 3	Apr 3
Oct 14	Nov 14	Apr 7	May 8
		Sep 1	Oct 2
		Oct 6	Nov 6
		Nov 3	Dec 4
Departing Sydney AUD \$20,675			
Departing Lima AUD \$18,875			
2015 Single Supplement AUD \$4,320			
Business Class Upgrade AUD \$4,530			

All prices shown are per person based on twin share and include airfares & taxes. Price based on Economy Class flight with LATAM Airlines (V class), subject to availability. Taxes & fuel surcharges are subject to change without notice. Price departing Lima is based on arrival in South America with LATAM Airlines. If arriving with another carrier this price will be re-quoted. If departing from Melbourne or Brisbane please add \$100; if departing from Adelaide, Cairns or Hobart please add \$300; If departing from Perth or Darwin please add \$500.

Day/ Date Variations: Due to airline flight schedules day of arrival and day of departure may vary depending on your city of departure.

# Our World <u>Mexico & Cuba...</u>

# Mexico

Mexico boasts more UNESCO World Heritage sights than any other country in the Americas; Olmecs, Zapotecs, Toltecs, Mayas and Aztecs have all left their imprint on the modern face of this fascinating country.

Mexico City is sure to surprise you with the grand scale of its central zocalo, enormous Chapultepec Park and world-class Anthropology Museum. The bohemian district of Coyoacan is a delight with its cobbled streets, terraced cafes and the Frida Kahlo Museum.

We visit Puebla, famous for its talavera pottery; and the dazzling gem of Oaxaca, with its vibrant music and arts scene, colourful regional markets, world-renowned cuisine and the stunning beauty of the surrounding valleys.

In Chiapas you'll find San Cristobal, which boasts a pleasant highland climate, bustling markets and is surrounded by some of the most traditional indigenous villages in Mexico. The magnificent jungle-swathed ruins of Palenque are another reason Chiapas frequently tops the list of Mexico's most popular states.

The Yucatan Peninsula yields a wealth of natural and man-made wonders; Uxmal, Kabah and Chichen Itza ruins are reminders of the heights Mexico's ancient empires reached. The stunning Riviera Maya offers a relaxing and welcome respite from the hot interior, with spectacular white sandy beaches and turquoise Caribbean waters.

# Cuba

Havana, with its UNESCO World Heritage listed historic centre, is the Caribbean's largest and most vibrant city. The crumbling facades of once grand colonial mansions line the cobbled streets; vintage Chevys, Buicks and Cadillac's jostle for position along the Malecon. Sip Havana Club rum and listen to the sounds of salsa, mambo and samba or head to the Conde de Villanueva for a Cuban cigar as you absorb the sights and sounds of this fascinating fusion of African and Spanish cultures.

Of course, there is more to Cuba than the capital. Admire French influenced Neoclassical architecture of the 'Pearl of the South', Cienfuegos, as you stroll along the Malecon for a sundowner at Punta Gorda. Step back in time as you wander the cobbled streets of Trinidad, perhaps the best preserved of Cuba's colonial cities. Learn about the history of sugar production and the slave trade in the picturesque Sugar Mill Valley.

A must for history buffs is a visit to the mausoleum of revolutionary hero Che Guevara in Santa Clara for a taste of Cuba's political fervour. This is the ideal place to learn about the legacy of the Cuban Revolution and the legend of Ernesto 'Che' Guevara.

Heading west, you'll discover the quiet natural beauty of the Viñales Valley, rich in tobacco and coffee plantations, and with striking karst mountains creating an unforgettable landscape. Hike or bike through the Cuban countryside, stopping along the way to visit local farmers and perhaps sample the delicious local produce.



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# Treasures of Mexico

**20 DAYS** 

MEXICO



Day 01 Sat **Australia**/**U.S.A**/**Mexico City** On arrival you will be transferred to your hotel located a few steps from Mexico City's zocalo where you will meet your fellow travellers and Tour Director (T.D.) for a welcome briefing.

# Day 02 Sun Mexico City

Half day tour of the city including the zocalo, Cathedral, National Palace and murals of Diego Rivera. Take a guided tour of the world famous Anthropological Museum. Welcome dinner at a traditional cantina. *BD* 

# Day 03 Mon Mexico City

Full day tour of the famous Teotihuacan Pyramids, 'where men become gods'. You will have the opportunity to climb the amazing pyramids as well as visit the Palace of the Quetzal-Butterfly, the Feather Snake Temple and the Avenue of the Dead. *BL* 

# Day 04 Tue Mexico City

Half day sightseeing tour of the colourful barrio of Coyoacan and the wonderful Frida Kahlo Museum. Afternoon free or join your T.D. on a *Discovery Walk*. *B* 

# Day 05 Wed Mexico City/ Puebla

Overland transfer to Puebla via the ancient city of Cholula. Afternoon at leisure or join your T.D. on a *Discovery Walk. BL* 

# Day 06 Thu Puebla

We will explore Puebla – a UNESCO World Heritage Site – during this historical walking tour. Pass by churches and colonial mansions, many adorned with the beautiful hand-painted Talavera tiles for which the city is famous. This is also the place where Mexico's national dish – the 'mole poblano' originated. Visit El Parian – a crafts market in the artist's quarter. Afternoon at leisure to explore the city. *B* 

# Day 07 Fri Puebla/ Oaxaca

Depart this morning to Oaxaca, travelling over the Sierra Madre Mountain range. BL

# Day 08 Sat Oaxaca

Full day tour of Oaxaca city and Monte Alban ruins, one of the largest sites in the country with stunning views over the Central Valley. *BL* 

# Day 09 Sun **Oaxaca**

Discover the secrets of Oaxacan cuisine! This morning you will visit the market to learn about local produce before you are treated to a private cooking lesson. Enjoy the fruits of your labour with lunch at the end of the class. BL

# Day 10 Mon Oaxaca

Depart Oaxaca on a half day trip to the surrounding countryside. Our tour begins at Mitla, one of the architectural wonders of Mexico, before continuing to Santa Maria Tule, a small town of potters famous for the Tule Tree. Finish at Tlacolula for a chance to experience the colour and vibrancy of a Mexican market. *B* 

# Day 11 Tue Oaxaca/ San Cristobal

Depart to Oaxaca airport today for your domestic flight via Mexico City to Tuxtla. Transfer overland to the town of San Cristobal via the Sumidero Canyon. Take a boat ride along the river. Enjoy close up views of the canyon walls towering 800m overhead; keep your eyes peeled for the occasional crocodile! Overnight in one of Mexico's most beautiful colonial towns. *BL* 

# Day 12 Wed San Cristobal

We will explore on foot the colonial town centre of San Cristobal de las Casas. Visit the Cathedral on the pretty main square, with its lavish interior and gold-encrusted pulpit. We then walk a few blocks to the impressive 16th Century Dominican church -Templo de Santo Domingo, with its intricate pink facade and gilded Baroque interior. We will have time to browse the handicraft market in front of the church, where Tzotzil Indians from the surrounding hills come to trade. Afternoon free to relax and explore at your own pace. *BL* 

#### Day 13 Thu San Cristobal

Half day tour visiting the villages of San Juan Chamula and Zinacantan, home of the Tzotzil people, descendants of the ancient Maya. *B* 

# Day 14 Fri San Cristobal/ Palenque

Today travel overland to the town of Palenque stopping at Agua Azul waterfall on the way. Xumul-Ha River features a series of torrential cascades and fast flowing waters running down a limestone ridge to form small streams and pools. Arrive in Palenque, located on a natural balcony surrounded by extraordinary jungle plains. *BL* 

Mexico was a revelation to me. The people were wonderful, as was the country; so very interesting. - Sue



## Day 15 Sat **Palenque**/ **Campeche** After breakfast visit the ruins of Palenque. This ancient Maya city reached its peak from the sixth to the eighth century A.D. Continue overland to Campeche. *BL*

#### Day 16 Sun Campeche/ Merida

Depart for Merida this morning, with a visit to the ruins of Uxmal and Kabah en route. As a World Heritage site, Uxmal is one of the best restored and maintained ruins in the Yucatan, and certainly one of the most magnificent. After the tour you will continue overland to Merida. *BL* 

#### Day 17 Mon Merida

Enjoy your full day at leisure to explore the city on your own or join your T.D. on a Discovery Walk. B

Day 18 Tue **Merida/Chichen Itza/ Playa** This morning you will depart for a full day tour travelling across the Yucatan Peninsula to the spectacular ruins of Chichen Itza. After a tour of the ruins, continue overland to Playa del Carmen. *BL* 

# Day 19 Wed Playa del Carmen

Day at leisure to explore 5th Avenue, the lovely Caribbean beaches or to relax and enjoy the facilities of the hotel. *B* 

# Day 20 Thu **Depart Playa del Carmen** Transfer to Cancun airport for your flight back home or continue with our optional extension trip to Cuba (see page 22). *B*

# **MEXICO HIGHLIGHTS**

- ✓ Walking tour of Mexico City including the murals of Diego Rivera and Museum of Anthropology - rated one of the top 10 museums in the world
- Visit historical Coyoacan and the Frida Kahlo Museum, housed in her former residence
- ✓ Visit Teotihuacan pyramids walk along the Avenue of the Dead and climb the Pyramids of the Sun & Moon
- ✓ Walking tour of Puebla, home to the famous Talavera tiles
- ✓ 4 nights in UNESCO Cultural Patrimony city of Oaxaca to explore this gorgeous colonial town. Including Market Tours, a traditional Cooking Lesson and a visit to Santa Maria Tule
- ✓ Visit Monte Alban & Mitla ruins
- ✓ Stay in charming San Cristobal de las Casas and visit the Sumidero Canyon
- ✓ Explore the jungle swathed ruins of Palenque and the famous Chichen Itza ruins
- ✓ 2 nights to relax in Playa del Carmen

# INCLUSIONS

- ✓ International & domestic economy class airfares with taxes
- ✓ Contours Travel English-speaking locally based Tour Director
- ✓ Unique hand-crafted travel wallets & luggage tags made in Bolivia exclusively for Contours Collections
- ✓ Guaranteed small groups of 16 guests maximum
- ✓ 19 nights accommodation in First Class hotels
- ✓ 31 Meals: 19 (B) Breakfasts, 11 (L) Lunches , 1 (D) Dinners
- ✓ Expert English-speaking local guides & ground transportation in private air conditioned vehicles
- ✓ Exclusive Discovery Walks with your Tour Director
- ✓ Private touring as described
- ✓ All entrance fees to local sights and national parks
- ✓ Tips for local guides & coach drivers

# www.thecontourscollection.com

# Cuba Extension

# **12 DAYS**



Day 20 Thu **Playa del Carmen/ Havana** Fly to Havana and transfer to hotel. Welcome dinner at private paladar followed by live traditional Cuban music at Café Taberna Benny More. D

# Day 21 Fri Havana

Colonial walking tour of Old Havana. Step back in time and walk along the cobblestone streets of Old Havana, offering you a fascinating view of this wonderful city's historical and cultural heritage. Enjoy lunch at a classic restaurant before a vintage car ride through the modern part of the city. BL

#### Day 22 Sat Havana

This morning depart on a tour following the steps of Ernest Hemingway, you will visit the Hemingway Museum and Ambos Mundos Hotel. Continue to the fishing village of Cojimar for lunch. Visit Hemingway's favourite bars in Havana. Remainder of the day at leisure. *BL* 

# Day 23 Sun Havana/ Santa Clara/Trinidad

Transfer to Santa Clara, steeped in the history of the Cuban Revolution. The journey takes you to the memorial of Ernesto "Che" Guevara, Monument to Tren Blindado, Plaza Leoncio Vidal and Boulevard de la Ciudad before continuing to your hotel in Trinidad. Tonight you will have a colonial night tour and dinner at a private paladar. *BLD* 

# Day 24 Mon Trinidad

Wander through the historical centre of Trinidad, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Visit La Canchanchara bar to sample a Cuban cocktail made with rum, lemon and honey. There will be time to shop at the craft markets. Free afternoon. *B* 

## Day 25 Tue Trinidad/ Cienfuegos

Depart today to the city of Cienfuegos, an architectural jewel located in the central southern region of Cuba. Enjoy a panoramic tour of the "Pearl of the South" with lunch at a local restaurant. Afternoon at leisure. *BL* 

# Day 26 Wed Cienfuegos/ Viñales

Travel to Viñales with dinner at a private paladar. BD

## Day 27 Thu Viñales

Visit a tobacco plantation and cigar factory before continuing through the beautiful valley of Viñales. Explore Dos Hermanas Valley before sailing along an underground river. *BL* 

# Day 28 Fri Viñales/ Havana

Travel back to Havana via Las Terrazas. Learn about the area's sustainable development project. Visit the ruins of Cafetal Buena Vista, learn about the history of coffee in Cuba and its production process. Visit the community of Las Terrazas, including the workshops of local artists. After lunch continue to Havana. *BL* 

# Day 29 Sat Havana

Free day to explore Havana at your own pace. Consider a stroll along the Malecon, a visit to the ornate Colon Cemetery or simply find a café terrace, pull up a chair and relax with a strong Cuban coffee as you watch the world go by. This evening consider an optional visit to see the famous Tropicana live cabaret show or enjoy a mojito at the historic Hotel Nacional. B

# Day 30 Sun Havana/ Mexico City

Morning at leisure in Havana. Transfer to Havana Airport and board your flight to Mexico City. Tonight will be spent in a comfortable hotel at the airport. B

# Day 31 Mon Mexico City/ Australia

Depart Mexico City for your flight back to Australia via Los Angeles or Dallas Fort Worth. *B* 

B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner

Cuba was certainly an eye opener, the history, the politics and especially the people. Our guides were genuinely enthusiastic and open to a good discussion on any topic. We never tired of listening to them.

- Jan & Mike



# CUBA IS IN DEMAND

Due to the recent surge in visitors to Cuba and the difficulty in guaranteeing hotel rooms for groups, we have decided to run our Cuban itinerary as an optional extension. This allows us greater flexibility in confirming accommodation for our clients, and allows you more freedom in deciding just how much time you wish to spend in this unique destination. While our suggested itinerary has been designed to give you the very best this island has to offer, please feel free to contact us if you'd like to design your own Cuban adventure.

# INCLUSIONS

- ✓ Economy class airfares (Cancun/ Havana/ Mexico City) with taxes
- ✓ 11 nights accommodation in Casa Particulares (private Cuban home) & hotels
- ✓ 20 meals: 11 (B) Breakfasts, 6 (L) Lunches, 3 (D) Dinners
- ✓ Expert English-speaking local guides & ground transportation in private air conditioned vehicles
- ✓ Private touring as described
- ✓ All entrance fees to local sights & national parks

# **CUBA HIGHLIGHTS**

- ✓ Listen to the music made famous by the Buena Vista Social Club at a live show at the Benny More Café
- ✓ Walking tour of Old Havana visiting the Plaza de Armas, Plaza San Francisco, Plaza Vieja y Plaza de la Catedral
- ✓ Enjoy a panoramic tour of modern Havana in a classic vintage car
- ✓ Visit the Museum of the Revolution & Havana Club Rum Museum
- ✓ Trace the steps of Hemingway as we visit the Hemingway Museum & his favourite bars in Havana
- ✓ City tour of Santa Clara with the mausoleum of "Che" Guevara
- ✓ Explore the colonial centre of Trinidad & get a taste of Cuban nightlife on an evening tour
- ✓ Free time to wonder Trinidad's cobbled streets or swim at Playa Ancon
- ✓ Tour of the "Pearl of the South", Cienfuegos
- ✓ Full day touring the Viñales Valley including a tobacco plantation & cigar factory
- ✓ Visiting Cafetal Buena Vista to learn about the history of coffee in Cuba
- ✓ Enjoy Cuban hospitality while dining at a Paladar (restaurant at a private home)

# DATES & PRICES

MEXICO TOUR			
2016		2017	
Start	Finish	Start	Finish
Oct 1	Oct 20	Feb 18	Mar 9
		May 13	Jun 1
		Oct 14	Nov 2
Departing Sydney AUD \$9,550			
Departing Mexico City AUD \$7,650			
Single Supplement AUD \$1,650			
Business	Class Upg	rade AU	D \$7,945

#### **CUBA EXTENSION** 2016 2017 Finish Start Finish Start Oct 20 Oct 31 Mar 9 Mar 20 Jun 1 Jun 12 Nov 2 Nov 13 AUD \$4,875 **Departing Cancun Single Supplement** AUD \$370

All prices shown are per person based on twin share and include airfares, all taxes and tips. Price based on Economy Class (S class) flights departing Sydney, Melbourne & Brisbane and are subject to change due to availability, taxes and fuel surcharges without notice. If departing from Adelaide, Cairns or Hobart please add \$300; If departing from Perth or Darwin please add \$500.

Day/ Date Variations: Due to airline flight schedules day of arrival and day of departure may vary depending on your city of departure.

# Tailor Made Tours

We always felt safe and found the people very friendly, having your own guide gives you much more insight into the everyday lives of the people. Thank you for your help in organising our trip; I would recommend your company and independent travel to anyone.

- Cath & Richard



If our small group tours aren't quite what you are looking for, contact one of our expert consultants and we will help put together the perfect itinerary just for you.

From the southern tip of Tierra del Fuego to Mexico's Copper Canyon and everything in between, we have extensive experience in designing unique and seamless itineraries that offer travellers the very best of this extraordinary continent. Our passion is not only to share the iconic Latin American gems and hot spots with travellers, but even more so, to expose you to lesser-known destinations via alternative routes, where you will experience the true essence of the place.

Let us help you design your once-in-a-lifetime trip – created with your style of accommodation, your budget and your special interests in mind. If this style of holiday planning appeals to you, then give us a call to find out just what's possible! To get some more ideas we also invite you to visit our website. Where would you like to go today?







# CONTRACT

Contours Travel is a tour operator specialising in the Caribbean Islands and Latin America. We will consult, suggest, design and book your holiday for you. All Services provided by Contours Travel are sold on these terms and conditions ("Terms").

# **BROCHURE & WEBSITE VALIDITY**

Information in Contours Travel's and The Contours Collection current brochures ("Brochures") and on Contours Travel's websites ("Website") is valid from 01 April 2016 until otherwise changed or notified.

## HOW TO BOOK

For all bookings you must complete a booking application. Contours Travel reserves the right to accept or reject any booking application it receives. Within 7 days of submitting your booking application, you must pay the specified deposit and provide a copy of your passport. This is necessary to hold your reservation and secure your booking. A booking is accepted by Contours Travel once it receives the specified deposit and issues you or your travel agent with a confirmation of acceptance of your booking, If the specified deposit is not paid on time, your booking will automatically lapse and re-booking will be subject to availability. Special bookings. If special booking procedures and conditions apply, Contours Travel will notify you accordingly.

#### **DEPOSITS**

For all group tour bookings, a deposit of \$1,000.00 per person per tour applies. For bookings that include extension tours, cruises in the Amazon, Galapagos, Fjords or Antarctica, All-inclusive hotels, Inca Trail and other products, please contact Contours Travel for respective deposit requirements as these range from 30% up to 50% of the total booking cost. Additional deposit of \$1,000.00 per person for Mexico and Cuba Tour due at time of tour confirmation.

# LATE BOOKING FEE

For all bookings made 75 days or less prior to the day you are due to depart from Australia, a late booking fee of \$50.00 per booking will apply.

# **DUE DATES FOR PAYMENT**

Payment of the total group tour cost is required 75 days prior to the day you are due to depart from Australia. If your booking is made less than 75 days prior to the day you are due to depart from Australia, payment of the total booking cost is required upon confirmation of acceptance of your booking application by Contours Travel. If your booking is made less than 30 days prior to the day you are due to depart from Australia, payment of a deposit of 100% of the total booking cost is required in order to process your booking. If Contours Travel is unable to secure your booking it will refund this deposit less its relevant service fee. Special payment arrangements and conditions apply for certain bookings. If special payment arrangements and conditions apply, Contours Travel will notify you accordingly.

#### PRICES

Prices shown in the Brochures and on the Website are indicative only. Prices are based on costs and exchange rates at 01 April 2016. Our costs include but are not limited to costs of research, consultation and communication with travel agents and overseas suppliers, marketing and advertising. All prices are per person and expressed in Australian Dollars, unless stated otherwise. All prices are subject to change without notice up to the day of departure due to factors including but not limited to currency fluctuation, government taxes, charges and levies. Any airfares quoted or confirmed are subject to change without notice prior to the ticket being written. Please note security and airport taxes around the world change daily. Prices shown in the Brochures and on the Website do not include costs that are not a compulsory part of the relevant tour. Such costs may include but not be limited to the following: visas, insurance, excess baggage, meals not mentioned, vaccinations, beverages, tips, shipboard gratuities, costs of a personal nature including but not limited to laundry, telephone calls, cost of passport and personal services to hotel rooms, emergency evacuation costs, departure taxes, security charges, other airport taxes, international and domestic airfares. Rates for South America Tours are based on Economy Class fares with LATAM Airlines (V Class), these are subject to availability; taxes and fuel surcharges are subject to change without notice. "Land and domestic air" rates are based on arrival in South America with LATAM Airlines, if arriving with different carrier this price

will be re-quoted. Please note that all tours are subject to availability and all prices are subject to change without notice until your holiday has been paid in full. We reserve the right to change the tour components, the departure date, or any other aspect of the tour at our discretion until the tour has been paid for in full. All tours are based on a minimum number of participants. If this minimum number is not reached we reserve the right to cancel or re-cost this tour as appropriate. If we re-cost the tour, your deposit is refundable in full. In all other circumstances your deposit is nonrefundable. Prices for 2017 will be set in August 2016. Deposits for 2017 tours are refundable until 60 days after prices have been published.

# CONTENTS

Contours Travel has taken considerable care to make sure all information in the Brochures and on the Website is correct. Circumstances beyond the control of Contours Travel may necessitate change in travel arrangements including but not limited to changes to itineraries, tours or cruises up to and after your departure date. Contours Travel cannot be held responsible for any changes to your travel arrangements that may occur. Contours Travel arrangements at any time due to changes including but not limited to airfare and land arrangement price increases, devaluation, fuel surcharges or exchange rates. Before you book, please check with your travel agent or Contours Travel if there are any alterations to the travel arrangements you selected.

## **DESCRIPTIONS, MAPS & PHOTOGRAPHS**

Featured in the Brochures or on the Website are based on current guides and are subject to change at any time. Maps and photographs are included for general information and may not necessarily reflect actual routings, locations or services. Hotel room photographs may not be specific to the actual room occupied.

#### AMENDMENTS

Should you make an amendment to your confirmed booking, a fee of \$40 per amendment will apply (if you amend your booking to Cuba, a fee of \$120.00 will apply) to cover extra costs including but not limited to administrative costs, communication costs and any applicable charges. Cancellation fees may apply.

### CANCELLATION

If it is necessary to cancel your travel arrangements, the following fees will apply per person per booking. If travel arrangements are cancelled more than 75 days before the due date for departure – the Deposit. If the travel arrangements are cancelled less than 75 days before the due date for departure – up to 50% of total booking cost. If the travel arrangements are cancelled less than 30 days before the due date for departure – up to 100% of the total booking cost. Cancellation fees from service providers including but not limited to airlines, cruise operators, hoteliers and coach companies may also apply. Special cancellation arrangements and conditions apply for certain bookings. If special cancellation arrangements and conditions apply you will be notified by Contours Travel accordinaly.

#### **NO SHOW**

If you fail to check-in at a designated location or service as confirmed in your booking, a "no show" fee equal to 100% of the cost of that particular component of your travel arrangements will be charged.

#### **REFUND FOR UNUSED SERVICE**

Once you have left your country of origin, Contours Travel will not refund or compensate you for any service not used by you due to late arrival, failure of any transportation to operate as scheduled, early departure or by notice. Contours Travel does not authorise any overseas suppliers including but not limited to hotel management and staff to make any undertakings on our behalf or otherwise in respect of refunds or other matters.

#### AIRLINES

The depiction or recommendation of any domestic and international airline in the Brochures or on the Website does not commit the airline to any travel arrangements and the airline shall not be responsible for statements or literature relating to the travel arrangements in the Brochure or on the Website.

# Terms & Conditions

#### **EXCLUSIONS**

You may be excluded from the tour at our discretion if you fail to comply with our instructions while on tour, interfere with other clients' satisfaction of the tour, jeopardise the safety of other clients, take part in illegal or undesirable behaviour, or if you become a hazard to yourself or other clients. You will not be entitled to a refund and we will not be liable to you for any loss, cost or damage resulting from your withdrawal from the tour.

#### **HOLIDAY VARIATION**

If unforeseen circumstances beyond the control of Contours Travel or suppliers or representatives of Contours Travel require Contours Travel to make necessary changes to your travel arrangements, Contours Travel reserves the right to cancel or reschedule your travel arrangements including but not limited to departures and itineraries. When it is necessary to change a hotel, Contours Travel reserves the right to substitute hotels of at least a similar standard.

# **TRAVEL INSURANCE**

It is a condition of booking that you have adequate travel insurance for the full duration of your travel arrangements in respect of illness, injury, death, loss of baggage, personal items and deposits, cancellations and curtailment of tours en route and medical expenses.

# PASSPORT, VISA AND VACCINATION

It is mandatory that you familiarise yourself with any visa and health requirements that may be applicable in the countries you are visiting. You are responsible for all entry and exit health requirements and any other documents required by any law, regulation, order, demand or requirement of a country visited or transited. Please note that passport and visa requirements are not the responsibility of Contours Travel. Contours Travel cannot be held liable for any loss or expense due to your failure to comply with the above.

## WARNING

You must check with your doctor whether you are fit to travel to your selected destination. If travelling to South American cities situated at high altitudes, check with your doctor that you are fit to travel to such places.

#### LIMITATIONS AND LIABILITY

Contours Travel, its employees and agents act only as booking agents and will not be responsible and exclude liability for injury, death, damage, loss or claims arising directly or indirectly from acts or omissions by suppliers or other service providers or from accidents, loss or damage to person or property, delays, changes in schedules, transport failures, strikes, wars, uprisings, acts of God or other causes over which Contours Travel. its employees and agents have no control. The Trade Practices Act 1974 (Cth) and corresponding legislation in other jurisdictions in certain circumstances imply mandatory conditions and warranties into agreements ("Consumer Warranties"). This clause does not exclude or limit the application of any Consumer Warranties or other warranties where to do so would contravene the law of the relevant jurisdiction or cause any part of this clause to be void. You hereby waive and Contours Travel hereby disclaims all warranties whether written or oral, express or implied, including but not limited to the Consumer Warranties. The liability of Contours Travel is limited to providing the Services again or payment of the cost of having the Services supplied again, the choice of which is at the option of Contours Travel.

# **SEVERANCE**

If any provision of these Terms is held to be invalid or in any way unenforceable, it shall be severed from these Terms and the remaining provisions shall not in any way be affected or impaired and these Terms shall be construed so as to most nearly give effect to the parties' intentions at the time when Contours Travel confirmed its acceptance of the relevant booking.

# **GOVERNING LAW**

All matters in respect of the Services provided by Contours Travel but not in respect of other things are governed by the laws of Victoria.

### **DEFINITIONS**

In these Terms, the following terms have the following meaning: (a) "Contours Travel" means Contours Travel Pty Ltd of 287 Victoria Street, West Melbourne, Victoria 3003, ABN 54907026274 and (b) "Services" means booking and packaging by Contours Travel of accommodation, transportation, tour and other services provided by other suppliers.



MEXICO CUBA CENTRAL AMERICA CARIBBEAN ISLANDS





Your Professional Travel Agent







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