

VIP 31 day Small Group Tour of South America. Fully escorted from East Maitland by Warwick (Curly) Gladman. 17 April – 17 May 2020

Itinerary in a nutshell

Discover some of South America's most vibrant cities on this exciting itinerary that takes you on an unforgettable journey combining vibrant culture, city life, natural wonders and history. This itinerary is carefully paced, with hand-selected activities and visits, accompanied by expert guides to offer you a memorable trip of a lifetime.

Why you'll love this itinerary

- Watch a spectacular tango show in Buenos Aires, home of the beautiful dance.
- Stand next to Rio's Christ the Redeemer Statue, admiring the view of the city and beach below
- Take an adrenaline filled boat ride under the stunning Iguazu waterfalls.
- Enjoy two visits to the iconic Inca citadel of Machu Picchu, including a guided tour.
- Browse the colourful textile markets in the Sacred Valley town of Pisac.
- Wander the cobbled streets of Cuzco, once the epicentre of the Inca Empire.
- Overnight on Lake Titicaca, the highest navigable lake in the world.
- Experience the city of La Paz Bolivia.

DAY 1 Friday 17th April 2020 Greenhills Travel East Maitland – Sydney

Today we will meet at Greenhills Travel Centre in East Maitland and take a bus down to Sydney Airport hotel where we will stay for one night prior to our four week tour.

DAY 2 Saturday 18th April Sydney / Santiago / Buenos Aires

This morning we will depart Sydney on our LATAM flight to South America with a brief stop in Auckland. As we cross the International Date Line we 'gain' a day so will arrive in Santiago also on Saturday where we connect with our flight onto Buenos Aires, Argentina's capital. On arrival early this evening we will be met and taken to our city hotel for three nights. Meals in flight

DAY 3 Sunday 19th April Buenos Aires

Buenos Aires is the capital of Argentina and is the most fashionable city in South America, with many beautiful buildings, parks and plazas. After breakfast, we will have a brief South American orientation meeting. Later this afternoon we will be taken on a private city tour taking in the Government House (where Eva Peron sang from the balcony), City Hall, the House of Congress, the Metropolitan Cathedral, the world famous Colon Theatre, Avenue 9th July (the widest street in the world) and the historic La Boca District. Tonight, we will have dinner and a show at the city's superior Tango Cabaret. (BD)

DAY 4 Monday 20th April Buenos Aires – Gaucho Ranch

This morning we will be taken by road on a tour out of the city into the fertile farming land (The Pampas) that surround Buenos Aires. We will visit a local town where we will discover some Argentine traditions before continuing to a traditional Estancia (cattle ranch). We will have the option of going for a light horse ride through part of the property which is led by one of the Gauchos. You may prefer a horse and carriage ride or

alternatively a walk to explore and appreciate the location.

We will then enjoy an Asado (typical Argentine BBQ), followed by a demonstration of the gaucho horse taming skills. We will be returned to our hotel this evening. (BL)

DAY 5 Tuesday 21st April Buenos Aires / Rio de Janeiro

This morning we will be transferred to the airport for our flight to Rio de Janeiro. On arrival in Rio we will be met and taken to our hotel located right in Copacabana Beach for three nights. Rio de Janeiro sweeps twenty kilometers along the narrow alluvial strip between the mountains and the sea. The combination of the dark blue sea, studded with rocky islands, the densely wooded mountains and expanses of bare grey rock which surround the city is very impressive. Brazilians say: "God made the world in six days, the seventh He devoted to Rio". This afternoon is at leisure to enjoy the ambiance of the sidewalk cafes and bars of Copacabana. (B)

DAY 6 Wednesday 22nd April Rio de Janeiro

This morning we will be taken on a tour to Corcovado and the Statue of Christ. The tour passes by Rodrigo de Freitas Lagoon to Cosme Velho, where the modern funicular train is boarded for the 20 minute ride high up to the top of the 770 metre high Corcovado Mountain. The "Christ the Redeemer" statue is one of Rio's most famous landmarks. It is 37 metres high, weighs 1,100 tons and has a 360 degree view of the entire Rio area below, encompassing the city, the bay, the mountains and the sea within a circle of up to 160 km. The Tijuca Rain Forest and the famous beach suburbs of Barra and Sao Conrado are visited on the way back to our hotel. Tonight, we will be taken to a local traditional Samba show. (B)

DAY 7 Thursday 23rd April Rio de Janeiro

This morning we will be taken on a tour to "The Sugar Loaf", located uniquely above the entrance to Guanabara Bay. It is reached by a spectacular 2-stage cable car ride that offers a beautiful look at the city and its beaches from a vantage point high above Rio City. We then tour through the old part of Rio that includes the historical district of Lapa and a tour into Maracana Stadium – the world's largest stadium that, prior to its 2013 renovation, has held over 200k spectators. Afternoon is at leisure. (B)

DAY 8 Friday 24th April Rio de Janeiro / Iguazu Falls

This morning we will be collected from our hotel and transferred to the airport for our flight to the Iguazu Falls, considered by many as the most impressive in the world and surpassing in grandeur both Niagara and Victoria. Some 275 separate cascades fall in wild array of spray over a winding three kilometre cliff frontage into a gorge sixty metres deep. One of the most spectacular of the falls is aptly named "The Devil's Throat"! We will be met from our flight and taken to our well located hotel for two nights. We will take an amazing walk along the Brazil side of the falls on specially built gantrys that take us over the water to the very edge of this natural wonder of the world. (B)

DAY 9 Saturday 25th April Iguazu Falls

This morning we will be taken by road across the border into Argentina to visit the Argentine side of the falls – a very different perspective from the Brazil side, but equally impressive. We will be taken on an informative drive through the dense tropical rainforest to the river where we will board our powerful boat for an incredibly spectacular ride up the Iguazu River to the base of the falls. (B)

DAY 10 Sunday 26th April Iguazu Falls / Lima

This morning is at leisure to further explore the falls or just relax around the pool in this tropical paradise. There may be the option to take a helicopter flight over the falls or visit a very impressive bird park for those

interested. This afternoon we will be transferred to the airport for our flight to Lima. On arrival into Lima late tonight we will be met and taken to our hotel for three nights.

Lima, "The City of the Kings" is a very beautiful city. It was the first seat of Government of Spain in 1533 and still has many perfectly preserved buildings from this Colonial period. It is also famous for its fine gold and silver. (B)

DAY 11 Monday 27th April Lima

This morning is at leisure to relax after yesterday's flight. This afternoon we will be taken on a city tour of Greater Lima. We will be taken to visit the three distinct historical periods of the city: Pre- Columbian, Colonial and Modern. The tour visits the Santo Domingo Convent, the Government Palace and the Plaza de Armas (Main Square). We have then arranged a visit to the Casa Aliaga, one of South Americas oldest Spanish homes and still inhabited by the original family. Count Gonzalo de Aliaga is a direct descendant of the Spanish Royals, and his family have lived in this mansion since the 1500's. It is through Lews friendship with this family that we can visit this "living museum". We will then drive by the elegant residential tree-lined avenues of San Isidro and Miraflores to Parque Salazar to enjoy spectacular views of the western side of the Pacific Ocean. (B)

DAY 12 Tuesday 28th April Lima. This morning we will visit one of Lima's symbolic markets. Here we can appreciate the amazing variety of fish, exotic fruit and vegetables used in Peruvian food. We will then have an amazing lunch overlooking the Huaca Pucllana, a massive 2000 year old adobe pyramid which has recently been painstakingly restored. It is built with seven staggered platforms and served as an important ceremonial and administrative center of the ancient civilization that inhabited the Central Coast of Peru. After lunch, we visit the Larco Herrera Museum, regarded as Peru's best museum showcasing the ancient culture of Peru. It is a privately owned museum located in an 18th-century vice-royal building built over a 7th-century pre-Columbian pyramid. (BL)

DAY 13 Wednesday 29th April Lima / Iquitos / Amazon Lodge

Early this morning we will be transferred to Lima Airport for our flight to Iquitos, deep in the Amazon Basin. We will be met on arrival in Iquitos and transferred to the river where we will board our powerful speed boat that takes us into the jungle to our remote Jungle Lodge. Enroute to the lodge, we pass the jungle town of Indiana. Originally a Franciscan mission, Indiana has grown into a large river community with its own market, high school and small hospital. Our lodge is located 80km down the Amazon River from Iquitos and deep in primary jungle. Our stay here

is for three nights. This afternoon we will hike in the beautiful primary rainforest reserve which includes many huge trees festooned with epiphytes. After dinner there may be local flute or guitar music for us to enjoy at the "jungle" bar while we listen to guides relating some of the many legends of the Amazon forest. (BLD)

DAY 14 Thursday 30th April Amazon Lodge

Early this morning we travel by boat on a full day excursion down the Amazon and up the Napo River, one of the Amazons major tributaries to the Sucusari Reserve. Here you can climb and walk the Amazon Canopy Walkway, one of the longest treetop walkways in the world through primeval forest in an area named by scientists as the "Biodiversity Capital of the World". We will walk through virgin forest with its canopy of vegetation embellished with wild orchids and bromeliads. The birdlife is particularly rich in this area and you may see monkeys and marmosets. Your expert guide will highlight the various plant, animal and bird life of the jungle. The local Shaman will explain the medicinal properties of many of the Amazonian plant species that are used by the locals. We then return by boat back to the lodge for dinner. (BLD)

DAY 15 Friday 1st May Amazon Lodge

After breakfast this morning we will have a morning boat ride to look for dolphins, fish for piranha and walk along a river beach before lunch. After lunch we take a gentle hike in the beautiful primary rain forest reserve surrounding the lodge which includes many huge trees festooned with epiphytes. (BLD) * *The details and order of activities in the Amazon may change due to weather conditions*

DAY 16 Saturday 2nd May Iquitos / Cuzco / Sacred Valley This morning we will travel back up river to Iquitos where we take our flight to Cuzco - "The Inca Capital" as it is known. On arrival, we will be met by our private vehicle and driven through Cuzco and down to the Sacred Valley of the Incas to our hotel, where we will have three nights accommodation. (B)

DAY 17 Sunday 3rd May Sacred Valley – Pisac. After breakfast this morning we will drive to the famous and traditional Pisac Market. Here we will have time to bargain with the local Indians for their fabulous artifacts and weavings. Lunch today will be at beautiful Colonial Hacienda in the valley. (BL)

DAY 18 Monday 4th May Sacred Valley – Maras / Moray / Ollantaytambo
This morning we will travel to Moray, a fantastic place where circular and semi-circular agricultural terraces were built into the top of a limestone hill overlooking the Urubamba Valley and were used by the Incas as a botanical laboratory. Apart from their agricultural function, some believe they have a mystical meaning that we have yet to unlock. Close at hand is the Colonial village of Maras, famed for its salt pans where one of the finest salts in the world is extracted... Maras salt. We will then visit the Inca Fortress city of Ollantaytambo. Dominated by two massive Inca ruins, the quaint village of Ollantaytambo is the best surviving example of Inca city planning, with narrow cobblestone streets that have been continuously inhabited since the 13th century. (BL)

DAY 19 Tuesday 5th May Sacred Valley / Machu Picchu After an early breakfast we will be transferred to Ollanta Train Station for our excursion to Machu Picchu. We will follow the Urubamba River on one of the world's great train journeys. Machu Picchu, the "Lost City of the Incas" is undoubtedly the best known and most spectacular archaeological site on the continent and is a must for all visitors to Peru. Our archaeologist guide will take us on an amazing walk through this "wonder of mankind". Lunch is supplied at Machu Picchu and for the next 2 nights we will stay in a wonderful hotel in the township of Aguas Calientes, located just below the ruins - an absolute highlight in itself! (BL)

DAY 20 Wednesday 6th May Machu Picchu / Cuzco We have this morning free to further explore the ruins of Machu Picchu or climb the peak behind the ruins, Huayna Picchu. Just before lunch we will take our train to Ollanta, where we will be met and transferred to Cuzco by road. Cuzco is the archaeological capital of the Americas and the continent's oldest continuously inhabited city. Massive Inca-built stone walls line most of Cuzco's central streets to form the foundations of Colonial and modern buildings. The streets are stepped, narrow and filled with Quechua-speaking descendants of the Inca Civilization. (B)

DAY 21 Thursday 7th May Cusco This morning we will walk to a chocolate making centre. Peru is a producer of many of the finest cacao varieties in the world. We will learn all the steps to make chocolate, from the harvest of the cacao in the plantation to the production of a chocolate bar. We will roast the cacao beans, peel them and grind them to produce a paste. This cacao paste was used to prepare the first known cacao drink, the traditional hot chocolate. You will be able to take your own chocolate home. This afternoon we will be taken on a comprehensive tour of Cuzco. We will visit the Koricancha (Temple of the Sun) and the lookout of San Cristobal from where we have a beautiful view of the city. We also visit the Plaza de Armas (Main Square) and some of the other important Inca Ruins outside the city of Cuzco. (B)

DAY 22 Friday 8th May Cuzco Your day is at leisure. (B)

DAY 23 Saturday 9th May Cuzco Your day is at leisure. (B)

DAY 24 Sunday 10th May Cuzco / Puno

Today you will take the train across the Andean Altiplano, via the La Raya Pass (the highest rail pass in the world) and on to the city of Puno on the shores of Lake Titicaca. This journey takes about 10 hours and will provide a wonderful insight into Indian life as it has been for hundreds of years. We will experience some of the world's most spectacular views and the only area in the world where the almost extinct vicuna, (a member of the Cameloid family), still exist in large numbers. On arrival in Puno on the shores of Lake Titicaca, you will be taken to your hotel for tonight. (BL)

DAY 25 Monday 11th May Lake Titicaca

We will be collected early this morning and travel by road through the town of Juli (famous for its Colonial Church) and onto Copacabana where the majestic Church of the Virgin of the Lake is visited. Here we board the Catamaran Consuelo for our crossing of Lake Titicaca. We sail past the Island of the Moon and travel on to the Island of the Sun where we stop to visit the Yumani Sacred Site, the Inca water springs, which are rumored to be a source of eternal youth. Here we will also visit the Aymara Cultural Centre. As we spend overnight on this catamaran, it is possible to visit the unspoiled village of Challapampa, where we will experience the daily life of the natives with their animals - unchanged for almost 500 years. Tonight, we will enjoy dinner aboard Catamaran Consuelo. (BLD)

DAY 26 Tuesday 12th May Lake Titicaca / La Paz This morning we will depart Challapampa and sail through the Straits of Tiquina where the land-locked Bolivian Navy is based.

We travel on to Chua Port where we will board our coach to La Paz, the world's highest capital city. On arrival into La Paz we will be taken to our luxury downtown hotel for three nights. (B)

DAY 27 Thursday 13th May La Paz

This morning we will be taken on a comprehensive city tour of La Paz and the spectacular Moon Valley, on the outskirts of the city. We visit the Indian and Pagan sacrificial markets, Calle Jaen with its museums, San Francisco Church, Plaza Murillo, National Congress, Cathedral, Presidential Palace, the areas of Obrajes, Calacoto and finally the very unusual eroded formations of the Moon Valley. Our afternoon is at leisure to enjoy our surroundings. (B)

DAY 28 Friday 14th May - La Paz - Your day is at leisure. (B)

DAY 29 Saturday 15th May La Paz / Santiago

This morning we will be transferred to La Paz Airport to connect with our flight to Santiago. We will be in transit until our flight home departing just after midnight to Sydney. (B)

DAY 30 Saturday 16th May Santiago / Sydney

DAY 31 Sunday 17th May Sydney

Your flight arrives back into Sydney this morning. Transfer back to Maitland. *Welcome Home!*

\$17500 per person Double/Twin Room (2 people per room)

\$19500 per person Single Room

Your Holiday includes:

- * Economy-class airfares throughout.**
- * Accommodation in comfortable hotels (4+ *) with private facilities (except the Amazon which is basic, but still with private facilities).**

- * All airport transfers as described with English speaking guides.**
- * All city and sightseeing tours as described with English speaking guides.**
- * All admission fees on such tours.**
- * Meals as indicated: B = breakfast L = lunch D = dinner**
- * All ground transportation as described.**
- * All touring vessels.**
- * Re-confirmation of all onward flights**

Not included:

- * Excess baggage.**
- * Beverages.**
- * Items of a personal nature.**
- * Travel insurance.**
- * Passport & visa costs.**
- * Tipping.**

G T C
GREENHILLS
TRAVEL CENTRE

Shop 9 5-9 Mitchell Drive

East Maitland NSW 2323

Tel 02 4931 0300

Email travel@greenhillstravelcentre.com.au