

71 Day South American Explorer Tour

Join Robert and Tracy as we explore the best of South America. We will visit this continent's must see locations, including the great cities such as Rio de Janeiro during Carnival, ancient monuments like Machu Picchu, the natural wonders of Amazon Rainforest and the Andes Mountains including Tierra del Fuego.



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Our transportation to, from, and around the southern tip of South America will be provided by cruise ship. The advantage of using a cruise ship is that we arrive at our multiple destinations rested, well fed, and with no need to move luggage.

However, during our 19 days of inland tours, we will also cross the continent on airplanes, traverse through mountains on trains, explore the Amazon by river boat, and make wide use of private cars.

Our Tour description continues next page



Quick Summary – Tour group size limited to 6 people

We leave America (Fort Lauderdale, Florida) on a cruise ship (Holland America Veendam), with ports of call along the Atlantic coast of South America, arriving at Rio de Janeiro during the city's celebration of Carnival. We next take to the air as we visit the interior, including the Amazon rainforest and Machu Picchu. We circumnavigate the southern tip of the continent on a second cruise ship (Emerald Princess) and continue northward along the Pacific coast with ports of call along the way. We return to America (Los Angeles, California) on the Emerald Princess.

Pricing includes but not limited to:

- Accommodations in 4 star hotels
- Airfare within the continent of South America
- Cruise fares on Holland America and Princes Cruise Line.
- Amazon River boat fare, train fare, for inland tour
- Land transportation for private tours by private car
- Private tours by local guides at 10 ports of call (your choice)



Pricing excludes:

- Airfare to Fort Lauderdale and from Los Angeles
- Meals while on land tour, gratuities, and personal purchases.

January 19, 2018 to March 30, 2018 **From \$16,850 pp**

Contact us for detailed itinerary and inclusions. **Call (801) 556-1513**

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We will meet you in **Fort Lauderdale, Florida**, on January 19th, 2018, where we will board our transportation to South America, the Holland America ship *Veendam*. As we cruise south we will make stops in the Caribbean including the ABC islands of **Aruba, Bonaire, and Curacao**, located just off the South American coast.



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Trinidad & Tobago, a nation consisting primarily of two Caribbean islands off the coast of Venezuela, will be our next Port of Call. This country, one of the most prosperous in the Caribbean, is famous for its celebration of Carnival.

Carnival, an annual festival held every year before the days of Lent, is where thousands of costumed revelers parade thru the streets. While we are at Trinidad & Tobago (and the other cities as we head south) we will be able to witness the preparations for this spectacle. However, we will be fully captivated and surrounded by Carnival when we dock at Rio de Janeiro.



Continuing down the coast we will call at **Devils Island, French Guiana**, notorious for being used for the exile of French political prisoners of the 19th and 20th century. We cross the Equator and make land fall on the continent's mainland at **Belem, Brazil**, where the Amazon River meets the Atlantic Ocean. Though we will witness the majesty of the Amazon River here, later in our tour we will delve deeper into the river's mysteries.

Calling at the city of **Recife, Brazil**, home to three million inhabitants, we discover why it is called "Veneza Brasileira" (Brazilian Venice). Built on a series of island where three rivers meet, the city is an active, modern version of the Italian Venice. Our next stop of **Maceió**, with its pastel-colored colonial houses, a 19th-century cathedral, and many museums, is on Brazil's east coast with white-sand beaches that are protected by an offshore reef.



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Continuing our cruise south, our next port of call is **Salvador**. This city is known for its Portuguese colonial architecture, Afro-Brazilian culture and a tropical coastline. The Pelourinho neighborhood is its historic heart, with cobblestone alleys opening onto large squares, colorful buildings and baroque churches. Next port is **Búzios**, a Brazilian resort area set on an ocean peninsula east of Rio de Janeiro. It is known as an upscale vacation destination with numerous

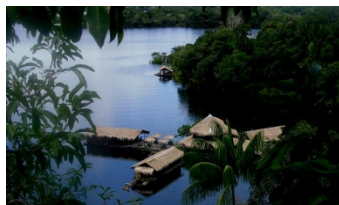


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beaches. These include Ferradura, a calm horseshoe bay with water sports, and Geribá, a popular surfing site.

We say goodbye to our cruise ship Veendam as we dock at **Rio de Janeiro** on February 11th, 2018. We disembark and transfer to our hotel in the quiet of the morning, before the city awakens that night to the celebration of Carnival. For the next several days, Carnival reigns all around us. Here, with 4 days to explore Rio and marvel at the intensity of the festivities, is where we begin our 19-day land excursion to the interior to South America.



Leaving Rio by air, we fly nonstop to the heart of the Amazon basin, the city of **Manaus**, on the banks of the Negro River in northwestern Brazil. This is the capital of the vast state of Amazonas and our departure point for the Amazon Rainforest. Just east of the city, the dark Negro River converges



with the brown, muddy Solimões River resulting in a phenomenon called the "Meeting of the Waters." The combined tributaries create the Amazon River. After touring Manaus for a day, we travel by boat to our lodge in the rainforest. Here, we can explore in comfort the wonders of the Amazon, the river, its wildlife and people for the next 3 days.



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Leaving Manaus, we fly nonstop to **São Paulo**, Brazil's vibrant financial center which we will make our home base for the next 5 days. Among the world's most populous cities with numerous cultural institutions, its iconic buildings range from its neo-Gothic cathedral to modernist curvy Edifício Copan.



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After 2 days touring and shopping in Sao Paulo, leaving most of our luggage with the hotel, we take an overnight bag for a quick flight to visit the wonders of **Iguazu Falls**. The waterfalls of the Iguazu River, on the border of the Argentina and Brazil, are the largest waterfall system in the world. After our 2 day visit, we return to our hotel in Sao Paulo where we will stay for one more day.

We say our last goodbye to Sao Paulo and Brazil and fly nonstop across the Amazon Basin to **Peru**. For the next 6 days we visit this South American country which is home to **Machu Picchu**, an ancient Incan city high in the Andes Mountains. We will tour Machu Picchu, and the region around including the Sacred Valley, Inca Trail and colonial city of **Cusco**. Also, we make a quick stop on Peru's arid Pacific coast at **Lima**, the capital, with its preserved colonial center and important collections of pre-Columbian art. (Latter, during our cruise ship tour north, we will have the opportunity to return to this most interesting city.) We traverse the vast areas of Peru by plane, train, and private vehicle.



From Peru we fly nonstop to **Buenos Aires**, Argentina's big cosmopolitan capital city. Its center is the Plaza de Mayo, lined with stately 19th-century buildings including Casa Rosada, the iconic, balconied presidential palace. With three days here, we will have time to see and experience the city.

We now transfer to Princess Cruise Line as our mode of transportation. On March 1st, 2018 we begin our circumnavigation of the southern tip of South America on the cruise ship Emerald Princess.

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We next visit **Uruguay**, the second smallest country in South America. More than half of the nation's population lives in the capital of **Montevideo**. This city is an interesting and cosmopolitan capital, made up of 19th-century Beaux Arts buildings, parks, and historical monuments.

As we continue south to Patagonia we notice the change in weather. At **Puerto Madryn**, Welsh settlers



in search of land and led by Viscount Madryn, founded this small city in 1865. Life was not easy at first, with lonely prairies, cold winters, and wind. Still the Welsh survived, and today visitors can still see their legacy. Cruising farther south we come to tiny **Stanley**, capital of the **Falklands**. These islands long served as a way-station for ships, particularly whalers, bound to and from Cape Horn. They are best remembered today for the 1982 war between Argentina and the United Kingdom.

Just like the sailors of old, we now push farther south to the reaches of **Cape Horn**, the **Straits of Magellan**, and the **Beagle Chanel**. Navigating around the Cape was nearly impossible in the 17th century. However, those who made a successful trip were entitled to numerous benefits, including dining with one foot on the table and wearing gold loop earring, to boast of their seafaring victory. We will comfortably cruise this area (thus not earning the gold loop), with ports of call at **Ushuaia** (Tierra del Fuego), Argentina, and **Punta Arenas, Chile**.



Leaving the Atlantic behind, we now turn north, into the Pacific, and head for home. For the next 2 days we cruise the sparkling waters of Chile's legendary fiords. Here, you'll be graced by the presence of snowcapped mountain peaks, majestic forests, spectacular blue-tinged glaciers, and abundant wildlife.



Our first northward port will be **Puerto Montt**, the gateway to Chile's magnificent **Lake District**. You will see snow-capped volcanoes, alpine valleys, and glaciers. The impact of the German immigrants, who settled the region, lives on in the manicured rose gardens and gabled homes and their elaborate balconies.

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With a bay bordered by steep hills, stately old Victorian homes, and cable cars; **Valparaiso, Chile**, reminds many of San Francisco. This is Chile's oldest city and gateway to Chile's central valley and the capital of Santiago. The Maipo Valley, Chile's wine district is close by. Many of our fellow passengers will disembark our cruise ship, the Emerald Princes, at Valparaiso. However, we will continue with the ship cruising steadily northwards until we return home to the States.



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Our last stop in Chile is **Coquimbo**, the gateway to **La Serena**, a popular holiday resort. The town's central Plaza de Aromas has many colonial buildings, a 19th-century cathedral, and marketplace which features copper and silver jewelry, glass works and ceramics.



Our first port of call in **Peru** is **San Martin**, the gateway to the colonial town of **Pisco**. For thousands of years, pre-Columbian societies thrived in the surrounding river valleys. Using irrigation, they transformed the coastal desert into farmland. Their legacy includes the giant geometric etchings of the desert and their enormous burial mounds.



In 1535, Francisco Pizarro walked the open plains where Lima now stands. Becoming the center of imperial Spanish power, **Lima**, was a "City of Kings" where 40 viceroys would rule as the direct representatives of the King of Spain. In 1821, Lima became Peru's capital. This will be our second visit to this area and as such we will have time to enjoy the city.



As we continue to cruise north, crossing the Equator for a second time, we have several relaxing days at sea while the ship's crew treats us like Kings and Queens of old. With our ship providing constant entertainment, good food, and even quiet time, the days at sea are a delight.

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Making landfall in **Central America**, we stop at first **Puntarenas, Costa Rica**, where Spanish explorers hearing, the rumors of gold and riches, called this area the *costa rica* - the "Rich Coast." We also will stop in **Nicaragua**, the largest Central American nation. Until recent times Nicaragua was unfortunately known for a civil war. Today, the soldiers of old are now offering sightseeing tours of a beautiful country with stunning landscapes, vast cultural treasures, and an intriguing history.



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We know we are close to home with our next port of call at **Puerto Vallarta, Mexico**. Travelers are drawn by its climate, its excellent shopping with great values on leather goods, jewelry, handicrafts, and mile after mile of palm-lined beaches.



We return to America at **Los Angeles, California**, on March 31st, 2018, relaxed and refreshed by our cruising mode of transportation. After so many cities, natural wonders, festivals, and travel, we will be sad to depart. However, the experience of exploring South America in depth will last us all a lifetime.

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