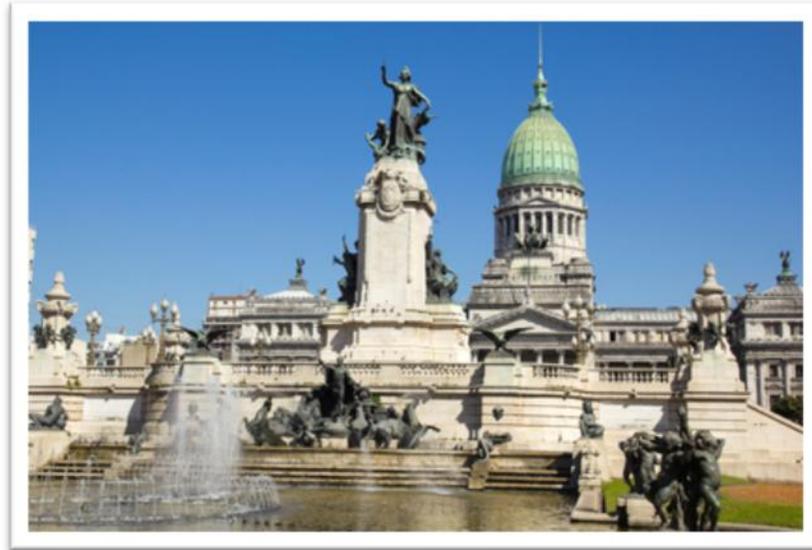


Small Group Luxury Itinerary – 14 Days
Essence of South America



Day 1

This most comprehensive of South America tours begins at The Ritz-Carlton, Santiago at 6:00 PM. A transfer from Santiago Airport to The Ritz-Carlton, Santiago is included. Please join us for our welcome cocktail reception and dinner tonight.

Accommodation: The Ritz-Carlton, Santiago

Day 2

Your first full day in South America tours first the city of Santiago – both up-close and from a scenic hilltop perch. Visit the historic and lively Plaza de Armas, with its fountains, sculptures and intriguing people-watching opportunities – it is at the heart of civic and government activity. Travel outside of the city, where a special gourmet lunch at the De Martino Winery introduces you to Chilean wine, celebrating years of wine-making traditions. Spend the remainder of the day at leisure in Santiago.

Accommodation: The Ritz-Carlton, Santiago



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Day 3

Patagonia is said to be one of the most beautiful areas on Earth. Fly from Santiago to the Patagonian port city of Puerto Montt, founded by German immigrants in 1853. Continue on through the rolling countryside of scenic Patagonia, viewing lovely lakes and mountains, to Puerto Varas, the lakeside "city of roses," where the influence of those German settlers is seen in both architecture and beautiful gardens. Explore the interesting sights of this charming city as you please or enjoy life along the spectacular lake – and have dinner at your leisure in your hotel.

Accommodation: Hotel Cumbres Puerto Varas

Day 4

Today, you'll cross the majestic Andes Mountains – a highlight of South America tours – traveling from Chile to Villa de Angostura in Argentina. Following a morning drive from Puerto Varas to the Argentine border, board a private boat and cruise to Bariloche, the "Switzerland of South America" on Nahuel Huapi Lake in Nahuel Huapi National Park; have dinner à la carte this evening at your leisure at Llao Llao Resort, your home for the next two nights, where you'll enjoy a Lake Suite in the Moreno Wing.

Accommodation: Llao Llao Hotel & Resort

Day 5

Today's the day... to spend a leisurely day as you please at one of the best resorts featured on our South America tours. There are many amenities and activities to enjoy at Llao Llao (some at an additional charge) including tennis, swimming, sailing, archery, spa treatments and Pilates among others; a private tango lesson is included, on us; or, you might decide to do some more exploring of Nahuel Huapi National Park on your own. Or, if you wish, visit the ski-resort town of Bariloche – the largest city in the Lakes District (famous for its chocolates).

Accommodation: Llao Llao Hotel & Resort



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Day 6

The day begins just right in Bariloche with a chairlift ride up Cerro Campanario for a breathtaking, 360-degree perspective of the Andes' soaring mountain peaks, wide-open sky and lake waters below. This afternoon, fly to Buenos Aires, the "Paris of South America" as one of our most popular tours to South America continues. Arrive at the Alvear Palace Hotel, a landmark in La Recoleta, one of the city's most elegant districts; dine à la carte, as you please, tonight at the hotel.

Accommodation: Alvear Palace Hotel

Day 7

No doubt about it, Buenos Aires defines "sizzle" on South America tours... and you'll discover why today when a local guide shows you the city. First up is a visit to Plaza de Mayo, Metropolitan Cathedral and Casa Rosada (government palace) where you'll see the balcony made famous by Evita Perón. Explore the colorful La Boca neighborhood, which is both a working class barrio and artist colony, and then enjoy lunch in the San Telmo District, a mix of colonial-style homes, narrow lanes, artist lofts and hip bars. This evening, experience the allure of the infamous tango when a superb show follows dinner at Esquina Carlos Gardel.

Accommodation: Alvear Palace Hotel

Day 8

After a morning at leisure in Buenos Aires, today's look at the city's life and culture begins with a fascinating behind-the-scenes visit to Teatro Colón, Buenos Aires' seven-tiered opera house first opened in 1908. Its opulent stained glass, marble staircases and excellent acoustics recently underwent a three-year refurbishment. The remainder of the day and evening are free for you to explore more of this fascinating city as you wish; lunch and dinner are on your own.

Accommodation: Alvear Palace Hotel



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Day 9

See the immense Avenida 9 de Julio, a stately avenue traversing Buenos Aires that was modeled after Paris' Champs Elysées in the 1930s, along with the posh Embassy District and the Rose Garden, an oasis of green. On foot, explore La Recoleta Cemetery, the final resting place of many of Argentina's most famous and wealthiest families, including the grave of Evita Perón. South America tours are not complete without experiencing one of nature's greatest wonders. Fly from Buenos Aires to the Argentinean side of the mighty Iguazú Falls – deeper and twice as wide as Niagara Falls – for a two-night stay. As you explore Iguazú National Park, you'll be amazed by the sheer size of the falls and the natural beauty that surrounds them. Wherever you look, the views are breathtaking. Your hotel is set in the heart of the national park; dine tonight at the hotel's restaurant, boasting wonderful views of the thundering waters!

Accommodation: Sheraton Iguazú Resort & Spa

Day 10

You'll have to visit two countries to get a complete look at Iguazú Falls, a highlight of South American tours. Today you'll experience the Argentinian side, walking along grated walkways of metal. Spend the day exploring the natural treasures of Iguazú National Park, designated a World Heritage Site for its rare and endangered flora and fauna. Guided hikes take you to the Superior and Inferior Circuit and Devil's Throat, through which the falls' largest volume of water passes. The afternoon is free for you to do as you wish. Your hotel concierge can tell you about the optional boat rides, helicopter excursions and hikes that are available here (at additional charge).

Accommodation: Sheraton Iguazú Resort & Spa

Day 11

Cross the Tancredo Neves Bridge from Argentina to Brazil to view the famous falls (known as Iguaçu here) from a different perspective this morning; you'll never forget your walk along the base of the falls on the Brazilian side – 275 cascades form a 1 1/2 mile-long waterfall. Later, fly to Rio de Janeiro and your oceanfront hotel on the beautiful seafont of Copacabana Beach, the 5-star Miramar Hotel by Windsor.

Accommodation: Miramar Hotel by Windsor



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Day 12

Arise in amazing Rio for an unforgettable excursion up Corcovado Hill by train to Tijuca National Park to see the world-famous statue of Christ the Redeemer... another highlight on one of our best South America tours! Then discover the passionate nature of Rio's beloved Carnaval celebration, which draws visitors from around the world each year, on a visit to Samba City – where a local guide leads you on a behind-the-scenes look at the business of Carnaval and the creation of its dazzling costumes and floats, which includes an exclusive samba performance. Follow lunch at the famous Colombo Tea Room with a walking tour of Rio's historic downtown, including the Cathedral and other Belle Époque landmarks; spend the evening as you please on your own in Rio tonight.

Accommodation: Miramar Hotel by Windsor

Day 13

Our incomparable tours to South America conclude with an incredible day in and around Rio de Janeiro. It begins with a private boat cruise on Guanabara Bay, to see some of the city's iconic beaches, fortresses and the breathtaking Rio skyline, and continues with a tour of the historic downtown and its many Belle Époque landmarks. After lunch at a traditional Brazilian churrascaria, a two-stage cable car ride to the 1,390-foot summit of iconic Sugarloaf Mountain rewards with stunning views. Return to the hotel in the late afternoon, and join us this evening for a farewell cocktail party and dinner at a local Rio restaurant. Truly saboroso!

Accommodation: Miramar Hotel by Windsor

Day 14

One of our most popular tours to South America ends in Rio de Janeiro. Spend your last day in Rio as you wish, browsing in the city's museums and shops or savoring the sights on Rio's beautiful beaches. While hotel check-out time from Miramar Hotel by Windsor is 12:00 noon, if you are on a later flight, we have reserved a hospitality room to refresh and relax before making your flight. A transfer is included from Miramar Hotel by Windsor to Rio de Janeiro International Airport; plan to arrive at the airport at least 3 1/2 hours before your flight departs.