JOURNEY
LATIN AMERICA



PRIVATE JOURNEYS WITH JOURNEY LATIN

SIGNATURE BRAZIL, ARGENTINA AND CHILE: COAST TO COAST

15 days from **£5,650pp**

BRAZIL / RIO DE JANEIRO / IGUAZÚ FALLS / IGUAZU FALLS – ARGENTINIAN SIDE / IGUAZU FALLS – BRAZILIAN SIDE / ARGENTINA / BUENOS AIRES / MENDOZA AND THE VINEYARDS / SANTIAGO AND THE VINEYARDS / CHILE



WITH OVER 40 YEARS EXPERIENCE, NO-ONE KNOWS LATIN AMERICA LIKE WE DO

EXPERIENCE SOMETHING EXTRAORDINARY

WHY US

We are the UK's No.1 specialist in travel to Latin America and have been creating award-winning holidays to every corner of the region for over four decades; we pride ourselves on being the most knowledgeable people there are when it comes to travel to Central and South America and passionate about it too.

OUR JOURNEY

As our name suggests, we are single-minded about Latin America. This is what sets us apart from other travel companies – and what allows us to offer you not just a holiday but the opportunity to experience something extraordinary on inspiring journeys throughout Mexico, Central and South America.

WE LOVE LATIN AMERICA

- A passion for the region runs through all we do
- All our Consultants have lived or travelled extensively in Latin America
- Up-to-the-minute knowledge underpinned by 40 years' experience

TRAVEL WITH CONFIDENCE

- Fully bonded and licensed
- ATOL-protected
- On your side when it matters
- Book with confidence, knowing every penny is secure

THE REAL LATIN AMERICA

- Our insider knowledge helps you go beyond the guidebooks
- We hand-pick hotels with character and the most rewarding excursions
- Let us show you the Latin America we know and love

OVERVIEW & OUTLINE ITINERARY

This private, guided tour of Brazil, Argentina and Chile travels from Atlantic to Pacific, visiting three of the continent's grandest cities: Rio de Janeiro, Buenos Aires and Santiago, along with Iguazú Falls and some beautiful vineyards supplying some of the region's best wines.

DAY 1	**Arrive in Rio de Janeiro. Transfer to hotel on Copacabana beach.**
DAY 2	**Guided excursion to Corcovado mountain and Christ the Redeemer.**
DAY 3	**Guided tour including Sugar Loaf mountain.**
DAY 4	**Transfer to airport and fly to Iguazú Falls.**
DAY 5	**Visit the Argentine side of Iguazú falls.**
DAY 6	**Visit the Brazilian side of Iguazú falls.**
DAY 7	**Transfer to airport and fly to Buenos Aires.**
DAY 8	**Guided city tour with Teatro Colón.**
DAY 9	**Day at leisure in Buenos Aires.**
DAY 10	**Transfer to airport and fly to Mendoza.**
DAY 11	**Guided excursion to local vineyards.**
DAY 12	**Fly to Santiago.**
DAY 13	**Guided walking city tour.**
DAY 14	**Transfer to Matetic Winery.**
DAY 15	**Transfer to Santiago airport for international flight home.**

ITINERARY

This overview of Brazil, Argentina and Chile takes you from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific ocean, including three of South America's most impressive cities - Rio de Janeiro, Buenos Aires and Santiago.

You begin in Rio with its music on every street corner and football on every beach - all with a glorious mountain backdrop. Visit the Sugar Loaf Mountain and the Christ the Redeemer statue for magnificent views. Continue north to the Iguazú Falls, the immense, roaring cataracts which straddle the frontier of Brazil and Argentina.

Move on to Buenos Aires, a city oozing culture and nostalgia. Head back into the countryside and the sunny vineyards of Mendoza, where some of the best Argentine wine is produced. Visit some of the finest wineries then cross the Andes to Santiago and end your trip on a wine tour at one of Chile's also highly regarded wineries.

DAY 1

Arrive in Rio de Janeiro. Transfer to hotel on Copacabana beach.



Transfer to your hotel slap bang in the middle of Copacabana beach's famous promenade. Rio is the most romantic, intriguing and beautiful city on the continent. Sumptuous apartments overlook the sparkling bays against the backdrop of half-built slum dwellings, favelas, which cling precariously to the hillsides. But everywhere the city is being spruced up in time for the World Cup and Olympic Games. Rio has an awesome bay-side location among near-vertical granite mountains. Here, tropical foliage swoops down to white-to-toffee coloured sandy beaches in turn battered by the huge waves of Atlantic surf.

DAY 2

Guided excursion to Corcovado mountain and Christ the Redeemer.



There is probably no better place to appreciate Rio's magnificent cityscape, bays and beaches than from atop the 710m high jungle clad Corcovado mountain, part of the urban Tijuca national park. The ascent is in itself memorable: the rack railway which goes almost to the summit has been here since the late 1800s, although since refurbished. Nowadays, an electric-powered cog-wheel train climbs steeply through the lush Tijuca rainforest, with its abundant flowers and fruit trees, to the steps (or elevators) below the iconic statue of Christ the Redeemer.

At 30m high, the statue was erected in the early 1930s, has since become part of Brazil's cultural identity and been declared one of the new Wonders of the World. On clear and sunny days, Corcovado offers stunning views of the city of Rio, including the instantly recognisable Sugar Loaf mountain, Niteroi bridge, and the famous beaches. There's plenty of time to take pictures but no amount of time is enough to totally take it all in. After exploring the viewpoints you'll take the railway back down to the base before returning to your hotel.

DAY 3

Guided tour including Sugar Loaf mountain.



A private guided tour takes you to Sugar Loaf mountain, which you ascend by the famous cable car: from the summit you can survey Copacabana beach and Botafogo Bay with its bobbing sailboats and yachts.

You might consider in your free time a visit to the Botanical Gardens, founded in 1809 but recently refurbished to offer a stunning display of endemic and imported shrubs, trees and flowers, including orchids and a large variety of fruit trees. It's a tranquil oasis in such a buzzy city, many paths are shady and there are benches where you can sit down and wait to spot a curious monkey or toucan.

DAY 4

Transfer to airport and fly to Iguazú Falls.



Fly to Foz do Iguaçú before crossing the border to your hotel into Argentina.

The Iguazú Falls are unquestionably one of the most extraordinary natural phenomena in the world. A total of 275 falls thunder over a 60m high rust-coloured cliff surrounded by dense tropical forest. The U-shaped Devil's Throat is the most dramatic sight, here the frothing water of the Iguazú river crashes over a 1.5 km-wide precipice and columns of vapour are thrown skywards. Elsewhere the river flows decorously through the rainforest breaking up into dozens of smaller cascades.

DAY 5

Visit the Argentine side of Iguazú falls.



Start at the National Park Visitor Centre, where there is a display illustrating the biodiversity of the tropical rainforest. From there, a little natural-gas-powered train transfers you to Cataratas station where the Upper Walk begins.

This sequence of causeways and passerelles links dozens of tiny, basalt islands at the top of the rock face. These walkways cross the myriad streams of the river Iguazú as they cascade over the lip of the precipice. A succession of lookout points allows your gaze to follow the water, as it plunges onto the rocks below.

You can then continue to the Lower Walk, which gives you a totally different perspective of the falls. Climb back up to the train and continue to Devil's Throat Station. From here, a kilometre-long walkway leads you across the river to view the thunderous Garganta del Diablo from the Argentine side, a spectacular vantage point from which to peer into the thundering vortex below where the water swirls and roars in an agitated maelstrom.

DAY 6

Visit the Brazilian side of Iguazú falls.



Your guided tour will take you to the walkways on the Brazilian side of the falls which offers an overall panoramic vista. Most impressive perhaps is the 1.5km paved walkway with viewpoints at strategic intervals – you get a panoramic view of the whole sweep of the cataracts – an entirely different experience from the Argentine side. Towards the end of the walk, there's an observation tower adjacent to the falls, and a walkway at the bottom takes you out for a closer and much wetter experience.

DAY 7

Transfer to airport and fly to Buenos Aires.



Fly to Buenos Aires. The Argentine capital is an elegant, cultured and cosmopolitan city famed for its interesting museums and the fascinating port district of La Boca, with its cobbled streets and brightly painted houses. It was here that the tango was born, and Diego Maradona honed his footballing skills.

The centre of town is home to the colonial heartland, government buildings and churches, as well as chic shopping districts, which have a nostalgic Parisian or Italianate style. The bohemian quarter of San Telmo is full of quaint old houses interspersed with antiques shops, tango bars and classy restaurants. Slightly further out of the centre is the Recoleta district, even more evocative of the French influence, where Evita Perón was laid to rest.

DAY 8

Guided city tour with Teatro Colón.



Your guided city tour takes you along Avenida 9 de Julio, one of the widest boulevards in the world and studded by the Obelisk, an emblematic symbol of the city. Along this majestic highway is the 19th century Teatro Colón which, in terms of its architecture and design, as well as its excellent acoustics, is considered one of world's best.

On to the Plaza de Mayo, enclosed on three sides by the Metropolitan cathedral, the Town Hall and the Casa Rosada, the presidential palace. The tour continues to bohemian, arty La Boca, which was settled and built by Italian immigrants and has streets lined with brightly painted corrugated iron-clad houses. Visit also the district of Recoleta.

You might wish to spend the evening at an optional tango show – the passage of time has given respectability to a dance once confined to the seedy underworld bars of the red-light La Boca district. Nowadays, a number of 'tango houses' offer a dinner and show as an evening out.

DAY 9

Day at leisure in Buenos Aires.



A full day at leisure to explore the many facets of Argentina's capital city. Your city tour will have given you an overview of its distinctly different neighbourhoods but you may welcome the opportunity to retrace your steps or discover new ones. Soak up the atmosphere of bohemian San Telmo, perhaps have lunch in leafy Palermo or browse the upmarket shops of Recoleta.

If you'd like to explore further afield we can organise a full-day trip across the River Plate to Colonia del Sacramento, in Uruguay. Colonia was founded in 1680 and UNESCO has recently declared its beautifully preserve historic core a World Heritage Site. The modern part of town is lively and neat, its wide avenues lined with trees. The historic centre has narrow, winding cobbled streets with colonial buildings. One feature of many provincial Uruguayan towns is the number of 60 and 70-year-old cars that are still in use.

Other options include a trip to the River Plate delta. With elegant suburbs such as Tigre and San Isidro and its network of rivers and channels, the delta region is an attractive and popular retreat for residents of Buenos Aires, a world away from the big city.

DAY 10

Transfer to airport and fly to Mendoza.



Fly to Mendoza on the eastern flanks of the Andes. In a broad river valley, in view of snow-draped Andean peaks and surrounded by vineyards, Mendoza is well known as one of Argentina's premier wine-producing districts. The region of Mendoza experienced a massive wine-boom in the 19th century and early 20th century which turned it into the fifth largest wine growing area of the world and the first in Latin America.

Continue to the sleepy little town Chacras de Coria, a short drive outside Mendoza in the heart of wine country where you'll stay at one of the delightful small hotels in the region – a great base for vineyard visits.

DAY 11

Guided excursion to local vineyards.



You have a guided tour today which takes you to two of the local vineyards, where you can taste the wines of their well-known wine cellars. A variety of wines is produced including Tempranillo, Cabernet Sauvignon and Chardonnay, but it is Malbec which stands out for its quality and its grapes are the most widely cultivated. The grape was originally imported from Cahors in France but is now one of Argentina's specialities.

DAY 12

Fly to Santiago.



Today you'll fly across the Andes to the Chilean capital, Santiago.

The city is set in a broad Andean valley with the majestic snow-capped peaks as a backdrop and a smaller coastal range with a distinctly Mediterranean feel. Santiago is a huge metropolis, a mix of the old and the contemporary, with quarters of tree-lined avenues and affluent tranquillity and others full of commercial bustle. Poorer districts sprawl on the outskirts.

You'll be staying in Providencia a very pleasant, leafy district in which to stroll, browse the shops and stop at a pavement café. For an alternative view you might head over to Lastarria, one of the city's more bohemian quarters which has has many restaurants, bars, and boutiques. It is now a centre for the arts with cinemas, theatres, live performances and festivals.

DAY 13

Guided walking city tour.



There's a guided walking tour of the centre of the city today. Modern, high-rise buildings dominate the skyline and the history of earthquakes in Santiago's architectural heritage may not be immediately obvious to the visitor.

At street level, however, Santiago retains some fine historic buildings alongside eye-catching contemporary structures. This excursion will acquaint you with some of Santiago's more interesting landmarks and neighbourhoods on foot, allowing you to soak up the atmosphere of the city.

You are of course free to return and explore further in your own time. Historic ports of call include the Museo de Bellas Artes, Cerro Santa Lucia, the Central Market and the former Mapocho railway station. The tour includes a stop at the former National Congress where Salvador Allende was overthrown in 1973 in the coup masterminded by General Pinochet, and culminates in the Plaza Mayor, the heart of Santiago's historic centre.

DAY 14

Transfer to Matetic Winery.



Transfer to Matetic, a vineyard just 90mins' drive away between Santiago and the port of Valparaiso on the coast.

This young vineyard is situated in the Antonio valley, where a refreshing microclimate supports the cultivation of Pinot Noir and Shiraz grapes. This huge estate has a very peaceful, rural setting amid rolling hills covered in Mediterranean chaparral forest. It's a state-of-the-art design winery, ultra modern in appearance, established only in 1999 and in 10 years has already won awards for the quality of its wine and its biodynamic practices.

You spend your last night here: facilities include a restaurant specialising in Chilean cuisine with menus prepared to complement the vineyard's excellent wines, a spacious living room, pool table and bar. A tour of the winery and wine tasting is included.

DAY 15

Transfer to Santiago airport for international flight home.

INCLUDED EXCURSIONS

- Guided excursion to Corcovado mountain
- Guided tour to the Sugar Loaf mountain and Rio botanical gardens
- Visit to the Brazilian side of Iguazú Falls
- Visit to the Argentine side of Iguazú Falls
- Guided city tour of Buenos Aires with visit to Teatro Colón
- Tour of Mendoza wineries
- Guided walking tour of Santiago
- Wine tasting at Matetic vineyard

ESSENTIALS

SUMMARY OF NIGHTS
15 days, 14 nights: Rio de Janeiro 3; Iguazú 3; Buenos Aires 3; Mendoza winery 2; Santiago 2; Winery 1.

ACCOMMODATION
This trip uses upper mid-range accommodation and lodges that we think are great value, comfortable, well-located and which showcases a touch of local character. Properties vary in heritage from colonial style to resort-style lodges, but will all be well-equipped with rooms that have private bathrooms. Most accommodation is flexible and can be tailored to meet your specific preferences and requirements.

TRANSPORT
4 domestic flights (longest 2hrs), and road transfers no more than one hour.

MEALS
Breakfast daily; dinner day 14;

GUIDES
Our local, trusted and carefully selected partners understand the expectations of our customers very well, and their staff and guides are consistently singled out for praise by clients on their return. On this holiday, you will be joined by different guides for each activity and or region, ensuring you benefit from specialised expertise and knowledge, often from someone local to the area.

OPTIONAL EXCURSIONS
As well as any included activities, this Private Journey includes some free time for optional excursions. As optional excursions are often subject to availability, we recommend you discuss and arrange them with your Travel Expert as early as possible before you depart.

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GET IN TOUCH WITH US...

Our friendly, knowledgeable team of travel experts are always happy to chat about holiday ideas and share helpful advice. Give us a call today and begin planning your perfect trip to Latin America.

0208 747 8315

OPENING HOURS

Monday – Friday: 9am – 6pm
Saturday & Sunday: Closed

SEND US AN EMAIL

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