JOURNEY
LATIN AMERICA



PRIVATE JOURNEYS WITH JOURNEY LATIN

SIGNATURE PERU AND BRAZIL: MACHU PICCHU AND RIO DE JANEIRO

12 days from **£4,240pp**

PERU / LIMA / CUSCO / SACRED VALLEY OF THE INCAS / MACHU PICCHU / BRAZIL / RIO DE JANEIRO



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

Peru's highlights and one of Brazil's top destinations, all while staying in first-class accommodation. Visit the Andean Inca capital Cusco, the Sacred Valley of the Incas and jungle-clad Machu Picchu. Fly to exotic Rio de Janeiro to complete your tour.

DAY 1	**Arrive in Lima and transfer to your hotel in Miraflores on the Pacific coast.**
DAY 2	**Colonial Lima and Larco Museum**
DAY 3	**Fly to Cusco, transfer to Urubamba.**
DAY 4	**Full day excursion to Pisaq ruins and the Sacred Valley of the Incas.**
DAY 5	**By road to Ollantaytambo, then train to Machu Picchu with guided tour of ruins**
DAY 6	**By rail and road back to Cusco.**
DAY 7	**Half-day guided tour of the city and surrounding Inca ruins.**
DAY 8	**At leisure in Cusco.**
DAY 9	**Fly to Rio de Janeiro, transfer to hotel in Copacabana.**
DAY 10	**Jeep tour to Corcovado and the statue of Christ, and arty Santa Teresa quarter.**
DAY 11	**Day at leisure in Rio**
DAY 12	**At leisure in Rio; transfer to airport for international flight home.**

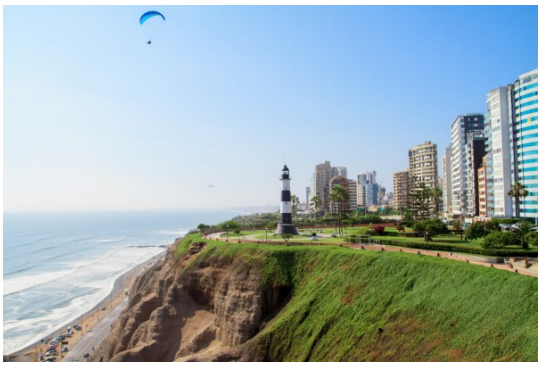
ITINERARY

This luxurious private journey through Brazil and Peru captures the cultural highlights of the southern Andes of Peru and the exotic beauty of the Iguazú Falls and Rio de Janeiro in Brazil. Arrive in the vast metropolis of the Peruvian capital, Lima, and move on to historic Cusco, the former Inca capital and a treasure trove of meticulous Inca stonework and graceful colonial architecture. Travel onwards into the fertile Sacred Valley of the Incas and travel by rail alongside a tempestuous river through a narrow gorge leading to the Inca citadel of Machu Picchu set on a sub-tropical mountain saddle above the Urubamba Valley.

Fly across the continent to Brazil where you'll immediately notice a different culture and pace of life. You arrive in Rio to revel for a few days in this exciting outdoor city, including an adventurous jeep tour climbing through rainforest to the peak of Corcovado mountain and the famous statue of Christ the Redeemer. Once in Rio, you can easily extend your stay to visit some of Brazil's other highlights, including the astonishing Iguazu Falls, or the wildlife wonders of the Amazon and Pantanal.

DAY 1

Arrive in Lima and transfer to your hotel in Miraflores on the Pacific coast.



You will be met at the airport and escorted to your hotel in the cliff-side Pacific residential and commercial district of Miraflores. The journey encapsulates the invigorating buzz of a modern-day Latin American capital. Lima is a vast, complex metropolis, with a history dating from the era of its wealth and importance to Imperial Spain to its current status as a dynamic, growing city of trade, industry and tourism.

DAY 2

Colonial Lima and Larco Museum



Tour the principal republican sites of Lima: including the Museum of Art, the monument to Miguel Grau, the Palace of Justice and the Plaza San Martín. From here you will continue to a selection of the colonial churches, promenades and palaces which showcase some of the Spanish architecture that forms part of Peru's heritage. Other stops include the church of Santo Domingo and the ornate cathedral or San Francisco Church.

The final port of call is the private Larco Museum with its collection of beautifully modelled pottery, unique gold and silver work, mummies, and ceramics from pre-Inca civilisations.

DAY 3

Fly to Cusco, transfer to Urubamba.

Transfer to the airport and fly to Cusco in the Andes (1hr). Continue by road as you climb out of the bowl in which Cusco is set and descend into the fertile Sacred Valley of the Incas. Once the bread-basket of the empire, it was heavily populated in imperial times and many remaining ruins bear witness to the highly developed society that the Incas created.



DAY 4

Full day excursion to Pisaq ruins and the Sacred Valley of the Incas.

Take a guided tour exploring the valley. The drive takes in several of the villages and temple fortresses that pepper the region. The Pisac complex, set high above and visible from the eponymous colonial village you will visit, is built on terraces carved into the steep hillsides. The engineering and preservation are unrivaled. From the flat valley floor this intricate hillside rises up like a green staircase to the heavens.



Continue along this patchwork valley. The snow-capped Andean cordillera forms a stunning backdrop to Ollantaytambo, sitting strategically at the gateway to the Amazon basin, was never captured by the Spanish conquistadors, but was abandoned. The fortress, the colonial grid plan and the Inca foundations are still intact and there are wonderful views down over the sloping hillsides and into the fertile valley.

DAY 5

By road to Ollantaytambo, then train to Machu Picchu with guided tour of ruins



Transfer to Ollantaytambo and travel for 90 minutes by train to the town of Machu Picchu. As the river Urubamba enters its narrow gorge between thickly-forested granite hills, there is room only for a single track, which hugs the right bank and passes through hamlets that are no more than a collection of shacks beside the railway. Close to the foot of the mountain on a saddle of which the citadel was built is the town of Machu Picchu, dedicated to serving the many visitors with artisan markets, bars and restaurants.

The majestic ruined city, reclaimed from tropical cloud forest, is reached by minibus up a sinuous road, or on foot up a near vertical rocky path. The American explorer Hiram Bingham discovered it in 1911, by which time it was completely buried beneath jungle vegetation. The ruins' location is on a ridge spur amid forested peaks and above a roaring river canyon.

Upon arrival, you will have a guided tour of the ruins, learning all about the majestic site, its history and the many stories and myths that surround it, before retiring to the nearby Sanctuary Lodge for lunch and retreating to the town for an overnight stay.

DAY 6

By rail and road back to Cusco.



Return to Cusco by rail and road. The name Cusco derives from the Quechua word for navel, indicating its location at the centre of the Inca Empire, which reached its zenith at the same time as England was fighting the War of the Roses. Today its many impressive original Inca walls display extraordinary craftsmanship, while the bustling squares are dotted with ornate baroque colonial churches. It's a vivacious city, where shoeshine boys and postcard sellers jostle for your attention in cobbled streets lined with handicraft shops and cafés. In the evening, the town centre fills with people flocking to the many restaurants, bars and cafés.

DAY 7

Half-day guided tour of the city and surrounding Inca ruins.

Today you have a fascinating tour of the city. Among the feast of cultural; and historic delights you'll savour Q'oricancha, once the principal Inca Sun Temple, with extraordinarily intricate stonework, and then explore the colossal zigzag walls of Sacsayhuamán, brooding on a hillside above Cusco. In 1536 a desperate and defining three-day battle was fought between the Spaniards and the Incas around this fortress. The first conquistadors to see it were awestruck and centuries later it is still an extraordinary and imposing sight.



DAY 8

At leisure in Cusco.

At leisure in Cusco. It's a compact city, easy to explore on foot independently. You are at leisure to discover the street markets, the many baroque churches and museums, and to wander the attractive narrow streets. There are a number of optional excursions in the surrounding region, including a trip to Maras and Moray, about an hour's drive from Cusco. Moray is a system of ancient agricultural irrigation paths which now form circular depressions in the earth, with wonderful views into the Sacred Valley and in the shadow of the snowy peak of Mount Veronica. From here it is a short walk to the salt pans at Maras, circular pans of glistening white carved into the mountainside. Feeling you'd like to be active? White-water rafting, cycling and horse riding are on offer.

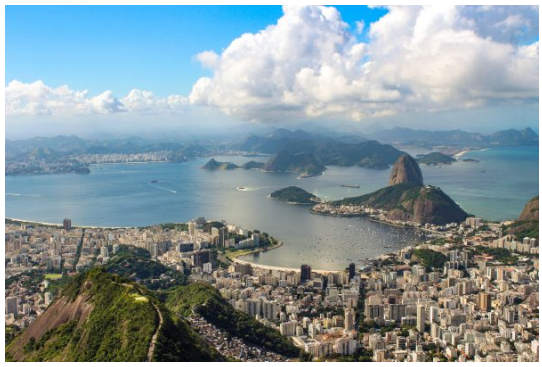


DAY 9

Fly to Rio de Janeiro, transfer to hotel in Copacabana.

Fly to Rio de Janeiro (via Lima) and transfer to your hotel on the beachfront in Copacabana. Rio is arguably 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.

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. Rest of the day at leisure.



DAY 10

Jeep tour to Corcovado and the statue of Christ, and arty Santa Teresa quarter.



Take an exhilarating trip by open-topped jeep through tropical fruit-laden vegetation up the sheer-sided Corcovado Mountain to drink in the views from beside the famous Christ the Redeemer statue on the peak.

Continue to Santa Teresa, the colonial heart of the city which sits on a hill close to the Cathedral in the busy centre. This is a popular residential area for artists and TV personalities who occupy the stately shaded houses lining its cobbled streets. There are plenty of old-fashioned bars, or bodegas, and an ancient rickety tram still climbs around impossibly steep lanes lined by high walls sheltering museums, parks, art centres, smart restaurants and one or two luxury hotels.

DAY 11

Day at leisure in Rio



Relax, explore independently or join an optional excursion of your choice. Popular sites to visit include Sugar Loaf Mountain, the Olympic Park from the 2016 games, and the Iconic Maracana football stadium.

DAY 12

At leisure in Rio; transfer to airport for international flight home.



If your flight is departing in the late evening, you have most of the day at leisure in Rio. The chic boutiques of Ipanema are a stroll away along the beachfront. The quarters of Leblon, the smartest part of town, and Lagoa – the shores of this attractive urban lagoon – have excellent restaurants and night clubs with world class performers. Close by are the recently refurbished Botanical Gardens, an oasis of calm in this sometimes frenetic city.

If you wish to extend your adventure, why not fly to the thundering Iguacu Falls, immerse yourself in the wildlife havens of the Amazon rainforest or Pantanal, or relax in one of the numerous coastal resort towns near Rio.

INCLUDED EXCURSIONS

- Guided tour of Lima
- Full day guided excursion to Pisaq ruins and the Sacred Valley
- Guided tour of Machu Picchu
- Guided walking tour of Cusco city
- Guided jeep tour of Corcovado mountain and Santa Teresa

ESSENTIALS

3 flights (may vary depending on seasonal connections); 2 rail journeys (longest 4hrs).

This holiday uses a choice of first class hotels, a mix of historic and contemporary style with well-equipped rooms, excellent facilities and stunning locations.

Breakfast daily; lunch days 4 and 5; dinner day 5.

We carefully select our local partners, some of whom we have worked with for over 25 years. Their English-speaking guides understand the expectations of our clients very well, and are consistently singled out for praise by the latter on their return.

12 days, 11 nights: Lima 2; Urubamba 2; Machu Picchu 1; Cusco 3; Rio de Janeiro 3.

The unit of currency in Peru is the sol; in Brazil it's the real (plural: reais).

Cash machines are available in all major cities and towns, and so taking a debit or credit card with a PIN number is the most convenient way of withdrawing money while on your trip, and in most shops and restaurants you can also pay by card. However, since cards can get lost, damaged, withheld or blocked, you should not rely exclusively on a card to access funds.

We recommend that additionally you take a reasonable quantity of US dollars cash (no more than is covered by your insurance), which you can exchange into local currency, and possibly some travellers' cheques (American Express are the most widely accepted), though these are gradually falling out of use. Dollar bills should be in good condition, soiled or torn bills may be refused. You can take sterling, but the exchange rate is not always competitive or even available, restricting the number of places where you can change money.

It is very difficult to give a guideline for essential expenses but a budget of around US$50 per person, per day should cover the cost of meals not included in the holiday itinerary, drinks and the odd souvenir. Eat at the best restaurants and you will pay considerably more.

Tips are welcomed and local guides often rely on their tip as a significant proportion of their income.

Most service industry workers will expect a tip of some kind and so it is useful to have spare change for hotel porters, taxi drivers and the like. It is common to leave 10 – 12% in restaurants.

Tipping guidelines can be found in our Briefing Dossier.

INSURANCE

Travel insurance is essential.

Details of our recommended policy can be found on our Travel Insurance page.

AIRPORT TAXES

If you have purchased your flights through Journey Latin America, the international departure tax is usually included in the ticket.

TRIP SUITABILITY

This is a fairly leisurely tour, although it visits a number of places in a short time. Greater distances are travelled by air. Drives are relatively short and scenic, stops possible.

The stay in the Andes is at altitudes of between 2,800 and 3,500m (see the paragraph "Altitude" below).

The rainy season in the Andes runs between November and March when there are showers many afternoons. The dry

season is from May to September, when the sun is strong during the day, but at night the temperature drops dramatically (from freezing to 10°C). April and October are less predictable, with both rainy and sunny spells.

In sub-tropical Rio, December to March are the hottest and most humid months, with temperatures sometimes reaching 40°C, and rain which falls in brief, heavy showers. From June to September, temperatures are more moderate (18-23°C) and there is plenty of sunshine, but cold fronts can usher in periods of up to several days of cloud and drizzle in Rio.

Your stays in Cusco and the Sacred Valley are at high altitude (2,800-3,300m). A small minority of visitors may suffer temporarily from altitude sickness. Symptoms vary; most common are mild headaches, slight nausea and breathlessness. If you don't recover in a day or two speak to our representatives; in very rare instances it is necessary to descend to lower altitudes. Most people are unaffected and if you drink plenty of water and allow your body to acclimatise (don't exert yourself or drink alcohol) in the first couple of days after arrival, you will minimise your chances of suffering any symptoms.

Please refer to our Briefing Dossier for further information.

For day-to-day wear you should go prepared to encounter all seasons. Both warm clothing and a sun hat are essential at altitude; a light fleece jacket and a Gore-Tex outer shell makes a good combination. Trousers, skirt or shorts made from light, quick-drying synthetic materials work well. If you plan to eat in smart restaurants, although clothing is not formal (no need for jacket and tie), something quite smart would be appropriate.
If you are travelling in the southern summer you'll only need summer clothing for Brazil, plus beachwear and an umbrella. Winter in Rio (June-August) is less predictable and can be a bit chilly, though never cold.

Strong, comfortable footwear is essential and you should bring insect repellent, sun block and sun glasses.

Due to luggage restrictions on the train to Machu Picchu, main luggage must be left in Cusco. You can take up to 10kgs per person on the train and an overnight holdall is recommended to separate your luggage for the night spent away from Cusco.

Please get in touch with the office before departure if you have any doubts. Good equipment is very important and hard to come by in South America.

Preventative vaccinations are recommended against the following; typhoid; polio; tetanus; hepatitis A. For specific requirements you must consult your GP.

As of 2018, visitors to Brazil travelling on our holidays should be protected with a vaccination against yellow fever, and carry the corresponding certificate. In April 2013, the World Health Organisation Strategic Advisory Group of Experts on Immunisation concluded that a single primary dose of yellow fever vaccine is sufficient to confer sustained immunity and lifelong protection against yellow fever disease, and that a booster dose is not needed.

You can also find helpful information on the Masta Travel Health website.

Holders of a full British passport do not require a visa, although passports must be valid for at least 6 months after the trip begins. Anyone with a different nationality should enquire with us or check with the relevant consulate.

If flying to the US, or via the US you will need to fill in your online ESTA application.

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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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