



# Buenos Aires to Lima: Mountain Lakes & Machu Picchu

September 05 - 25, 2021



21  
days

# Tour Overview.

This one-of-a-kind tour will take you from Buenos Aires, Argentina up through Bolivia, and on to Lima, Peru, in a 21-day, once-in-a-life-time adventure! You'll experience thrilling train rides, majestic mountain landscapes, the largest salt lake in the world (Uyuni), the highest freshwater lake in the world (Lake Titicaca), and one of the most important archaeological sites of all time—Machu Picchu.



Our journey will begin in the iconic city of Buenos Aires, from which we will fly to Tucuman and make an excursion to the Cafayate Valley, the second most important wine region in Argentina after Mendoza. From Cafayate, we'll travel to Salta, where we'll take the famous "Tren a las Nubes" up into the high, snow-capped Andes. Then, we'll pass through the other-worldly landscape of the Uyuni Salt Flats on our way to La Paz, Bolivia. The last leg of our journey leads us to beautiful Lake Titicaca in Peru and to the wonder of the world known as Machu Picchu. This Journey from Buenos Aires to Lima not only takes you to many of the region's must-see sites but also allows you to explore tourist destinations that are frequently omitted from other mainstream tours, including El Tigre near Buenos Aires, the Cafayate Valley in Argentina, and a rail journey on the Wara Wara Express in southern Bolivia, among others.

# Important Travel Information

Bear in mind that high altitude doesn't suit everyone, and the effects of high altitude on humans can be considerable. Before you register for the tour, consult your medical doctor regarding the effects that a journey over several days at a height between 3500m (11,483 ft) and 4000m (13,123 ft) above sea level may have on your body.

Apart from the high altitude, however, this trip is not particularly physically challenging; a normal healthy level of fitness is enough to participate. The most challenging elements are the optional hike to the highest point of Incahuasi Island in the middle of the Uyuni Salt Flat and the visit to the historic citadel of Machu Picchu, which is visited by millions of people of all ages each year and involves numerous ascents and descents on well-marked paths and stairs.



## Our Credo:

“Rail South America”, your South American Rail Expert, spares no expense to make your Tour the premiere experience possible. We will have you tell us what will make your trip the most special for you. If we can meet your needs, we'll do so. If there are additional costs involved, we'll transparently share them with you. We offer you only the finest experience. We guarantee your satisfaction.

# Tour Price 2021



Double Room accommodation	USD \$6,998/person
Single Room supplement	USD \$987/person

Accommodation: We stay at 3-4\* high-quality hotels during this trip.

## Included:

- ✓ All services mentioned in the program, accommodations, meals, entrance fees, train tickets, and taxes. All services are private for our tour group except the train and boat rides and the bus from Aguas Calientes to Machu Picchu.
- ✓ English-speaking Tour Leader and English-speaking local guides
- ✓ Flights in Economy Class from Buenos Aires to Tucuman, Uyuni to La Paz, and Cusco to Lima
- ✓ 1 Piece of luggage of up to 15kg (33 lb) per person

## Exclusions:

- ✗ International flight tickets to Buenos Aires, Argentina and out of Lima, Peru
- ✗ Meals not mentioned in the itinerary and drinks for ALL meals
- ✗ Travel, health and accident insurance
- ✗ Visa costs
- ✗ Tips for local guides and driver

# Daily Itinerary.



 Breakfast    Lunch    Dinner

**Note:** Given the dynamic nature of our tours, ongoing adjustments to this itinerary for the “Buenos Aires to Lima: Mountain Lakes & Machu Picchu Tour” are possible. We make our best effort to comply with the scheduled program, but due to our unique travel style and the regions visited, we may deviate slightly from the itinerary in order to take full advantage of opportunities that arise with the various destinations, peoples, and cultures.

## Day 1

### Sunday Arrival in Buenos Aires

Our driver will welcome you to Buenos Aires at Ezeiza International Airport and drive you to your hotel in the city. After check-in, the entire tour group will meet for a short coordination meeting to receive the latest updates for our tour program. The rest of the day is free time.



## Day 2

### Monday

# Tour of Buenos Aires

Discover the most famous neighborhoods and landmarks in Buenos Aires during a half-day city tour. Admire the Obelisk, the symbol of Buenos Aires, and the many open squares of Spanish colonial descent. Enjoy a drive on the widest street in the world, containing 22 lanes! Other highlights include a visit to La Boca neighborhood and a walk along “Caminito Street.”



## Day 3

### Tuesday

# River Cruise to El Tigre

We will board the boat at Puerto Madero and cruise to El Tigre along the “Costanera Navigation Canal,” parallel to the Buenos Aires shoreline. Along the way we’ll pass River Plate Stadium and the University of Buenos Aires. Then, our vessel will traverse the canals of the Rio de la Plata Delta, one of the largest in the world. After exploring Puerto de Frutos, a favorite spot for taking photos, we’ll have lunch in a local restaurant accessible only by boat. Finally, we’ll head to the Tigre train station, where we’ll return to Buenos Aires by train.



## Day 4

### Wednesday

# Buenos Aires - Tucuman - Cafayate

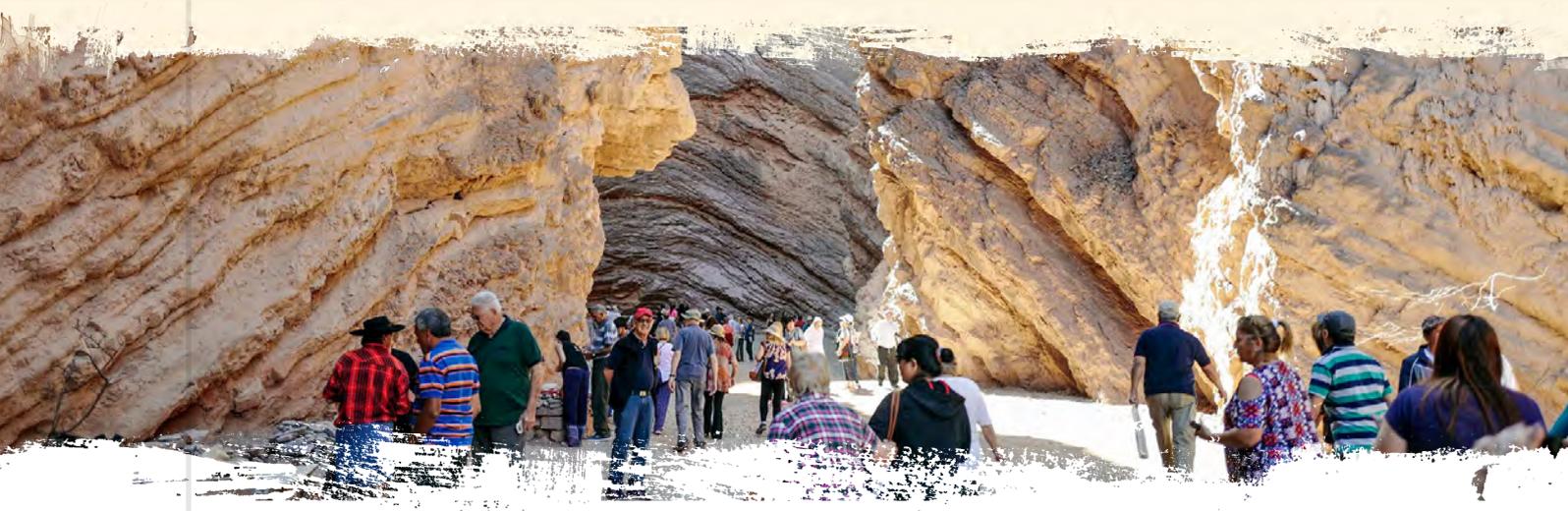
This day we’ll take a flight from Buenos Aires to Tucuman in Northwestern Argentina. After a short panoramic city tour in Tucuman, we’ll journey through the scenic Calaqui Valley to Colalao del Valle. Lastly, we will check in to our hotel for an overnight stay in Cafayate.



**Day 5**

## Thursday **Cafayate Valley**

Under the expert guidance of a local wine specialist, we'll tour a winery in the Cafayate Valley, where we'll discover the famous Malbec, Tannat, and Torrontes grapes and enjoy beautiful views of the valley. Following a fascinating wine tasting, we'll lunch at a magnificent country house surrounded by vines, within walking distance of our hotel. The rest of the afternoon you'll have at your leisure. That night we'll stay at our hotel in Cafayate.



**Day 6**

## Friday **Cafayate - Salta**

We'll leave Cafayate in the morning and follow the breathtaking "Rio de las Conchas Valley" towards Salta, stopping several times to take photos at scenic spots along the way. We'll also stop for lunch before reaching Salta. Once we've checked in to our hotel, we will visit the main attractions of the city of Salta, including the "Plaza 9 de Julio," the famous cathedral, the municipality, the Convent of San Francisco, and San Bernardo Hill. We'll stay overnight in Salta.



## Day 7

Saturday

### Tren a las Nubes

This morning we'll travel from Salta to the small village of Alfarcito, after which our journey continues through the "Quebrada de las Cuevas" to San Antonio de los Cobres. There we'll embark on the "Tren a las Nubes" and travel by rail to the Polvorilla Viaduct. This trip to the viaduct takes an hour and carries us 4,200 meters (13,780 ft) above sea level. The train will stop for 30 minutes at the bridge, at which time you are free to take photos and buy souvenirs for family and friends back home. We'll have lunch in San Antonio de los Cobres before returning to Salta in the evening. We'll stay overnight once more in Salta.



## Day 8

Sunday

### Salta - Quebrada Humahuaca

North of Salta lies the Quebrada de Humahuaca, a UNESCO-listed valley which features steep rock faces that change their color depending on the hour of day and angle of view. Ancient traders used this route through the canyon over 10,000 years ago. There we'll enjoy an easy hike beneath the colored rocks in the picturesque village of Purmamarca, which you'll have the opportunity to explore on your own in the afternoon. We'll stay overnight in Purmamarca.



## Day 9

Monday

### Border crossing into Bolivia; the Wara Wara Express to Uyuni

Early in the morning, we'll begin traveling northward on Route 9. Along the way you'll see many dusty, authentic indigenous villages. We'll reach the Bolivian border before midday and have lunch in Villazon. Mid-afternoon we'll board the "Wara Wara Express" to Uyuni, viewing many fascinating landscapes along the way, especially before we reach the railway station of Tupiza. The train will make an early morning arrival in Uyuni, where a local guide will welcome us at the railway station and take us to the Hotel Palacio de Sal, where we'll spend the rest of the night.



## Day 10

### Tuesday Uyuni

We begin our first day in Uyuni by visiting the Uyuni Salt Flat in Colchani, where we'll tour an artisanal salt processing plant and witness traditional salt extraction methods. At the Incahuasi Island in the middle of the world's largest salt flat, we'll discover incredible giant cacti, and those who are able may hike to the highest point of the island for fantastic views out over the salt flat and of the surrounding mountains. For lunch, we'll picnic in the middle of the salt flat. That night, we'll stay at the Hotel Palacio de Sal.



## Day 11

### Wednesday Uyuni - La Paz

In the morning, we will drive out to a spot to witness how salt is excavated and how locals produce salt bricks for construction. Then we'll visit an outlook above Coquesa Village from which we'll have fantastic views over the salt flat. Lunch will be a picnic near Coquesa, after which we'll drive across the salt flat to the small city of Uyuni, where we'll take time to explore the famous train cemetery. Numerous oxidized steam engines and wagons are found at this spectacular site, which is surrounded by extraordinary salt desert scenery. We'll enjoy an early dinner in town and take the evening flight from Uyuni to La Paz, where we'll stay overnight.





## Day 12

### Thursday

## City Tour in La Paz

On our tour of this fascinating city, we'll visit the Witches Market (which showcases the mystical rituals of the indigenous people), the San Francisco Church, and the historic district around the "Plaza Murillo" containing the legislative buildings and the Government Palace. In addition to breathtaking views of La Paz from the Killi Killi outlook, this afternoon we'll take in equally lush views of the city and the surrounding mountains while on an extensive cable car tour of La Paz, where this type of transportation (Telefericos) makes up the primary mode of public transport. We'll return to the hotel later in the afternoon.



## Day 13

### Friday

## Day at leisure in La Paz

You have a free day. We'll stay overnight again in La Paz.



## Day 14

### Saturday

## La Paz - Copacabana - Sun Island

On this day we will travel from La Paz to Copacabana, a small town with a delightful name on the Bolivian side of Lake Titicaca. We'll board a boat in Copacabana and cruise over to nearby Sun Island, where we'll have an "Aptapi," a typical lunch featuring a variety of potatoes. After lunch we'll cruise around Sun Island and visit the ruins of the Pilkokaina Incan temple before we return to Copacabana. We'll stay overnight in Copacabana.



## Day 15

### Sunday

## Copacabana - Puno

In the morning you will have free time in Copacabana. You'll have the option of participating in a tour with our guide, where we'll visit the Sanctuary of the Virgin of Copacabana, one of the most important religious figures in South America (the most famous beach in Rio de Janeiro was named after her, and pilgrims from all over South America come to the Bolivian side of Lake Titicaca to worship her). We'll have lunch at the hotel, and in the afternoon we'll cross the border to Peru. After a two-hour journey, we'll arrive at the city of Puno, and the rest of the day will be free time. We will stay overnight in a hotel on the outskirts of Puno.



## Day 16

### Monday

## "Titicaca Train" to Cusco

Early in the morning, we'll head to the Puno Railway station and board the "Perurail Titicaca Train" that will carry us to Cusco through 390 km (242 miles) of dramatic high-Andean scenery in approximately 11 hours. At La Raya, the train reaches its highest point of 4,321 meters (15,177 ft.) above sea level. The descent to Cusco from that point follows the Urubamba River and stops at various remote villages, reaching Cusco in the evening. Our driver will await us at the railway station and take us to the hotel in Cusco for our overnight stay.



## Day 17

### Tuesday

## Sacred Valley of the Incas

This day, we'll visit the picturesque small town of Písaq. There you can walk on cobblestone streets and buy souvenirs before having lunch in the valley. On the way back to Cusco, we'll stop at the fascinating Incan sites of Moray and Maras. We'll arrive back at Cusco in the afternoon, where we'll stay again overnight.



## Day 18

# Wednesday Machu Picchu

This morning we'll take the four-hour trip on the IncaRail First Class Train from Cusco's San Pedro Station to the historic Incan site of Machu Picchu, having lunch on the train. At Machu Picchu, we'll explore the famous Lost City of the Incas with an expert guide. That evening, we'll depart from the railway station in Aguas Calientes aboard the "Belmond Hiram Bingham Train" to Porroy. There will be a gala dinner on the train. From Porroy, we'll return to Cusco on our private vehicle and spend the night in Cusco.



## Day 19

# Thursday Cusco

In the morning, we'll tour Cusco, one of the highlights of which is the Santo Domingo Convent, which the Spanish built over an ancient Incan Palace. Outside of Cusco, we'll visit the Inca military fortress Sacsayhuaman and have a look at a textile factory, where we'll learn about the different qualities of wool and various weaving technics. You'll have the afternoon free for shopping and relaxing. We will stay overnight again at our hotel in Cusco.



**Day 20**

## Friday Cusco - Lima

We'll board a flight to Lima, then transfer to our Hotel in Lima's Miraflores district. Afterward, we'll go on an exciting tour of Lima's colonial past and discover the Plaza San Martin, the Plaza Mayor (containing the Government Palace), the Archbishop's Palace, and the Cathedral. We'll also drive through the modern district of San Isidro and Miraflores on our way back to the hotel, followed by a "Farewell Lunch" in one of Lima's famous restaurants. We'll stay overnight in Lima.



**Day 21**

## Saturday Departure

At the agreed time, our driver will take you to the international airport in Lima to board your international flight.



# Accommodation.



## Hotel Anselmo, Buenos Aires

The Hotel Anselmo is located in the traditional San Telmo district and has a restaurant, a fitness center, and a bar/lounge. All 50 individually decorated rooms provide free Wifi and minibars. Note that the Sunday market takes place right in front of the hotel; this is a must-see if you can arrive a day early before the tour.



## Hotel Asturias, Cafayate

Hotel Asturias is located in a large country house surrounded by Argentinean-style gardens in downtown Cafayate. The hotel offers an outdoor pool and attractive rooms with ornamental décor and free Wi-Fi. The spacious rooms feature elegant wooden floors and queen-size beds with llama-wool blankets. All rooms are equipped with cable TV.



## Hotel Alejandro I, Salta

Alejandro 1° offers stylish rooms with free Wi-Fi in a massive building overlooking Belgrano square. The hotel contains two restaurants. Fully carpeted rooms feature air conditioning and minibar, and all rooms have views of the city's historic towers, San Bernardo Hill, and the surrounding valley.



## Hotel Manantial del Silencio, Purmamarca

Featuring a large garden with a swimming pool at the foot of the Hill of Seven Colors, the Hotel El Manantial del Silencio offers rooms with free Wifi (although very slow) and a restaurant. The rooms have large windows that provide lovely garden and mountain views. All rooms have fans, heating, and a private bathroom.



## Hotel Palacio de Sal, Colchani

Staying at the Hotel Palacio de Sal is an extraordinary experience. Built out of salt bricks and featuring salt furniture, Palacio de Sal offers guests accommodations with free Wifi and a private bathroom. The hotel has a Spa with a small swimming pool—well worth bringing your swimwear.



## Hotel Europa, La Paz

Rooms at Hotel Europa include a sofa, LCD cable TV, and mini-bar. The hotel has two restaurants and a bar on the top floor, as well as a small swimming pool. There are also many restaurants within walking distance of the hotel, and central areas of the city can easily be reached on foot.



## Hotel El Rosario Lago, Copacabana

This is the highest location where we'll stay overnight. All rooms provide cable TV, telephone, heating, and a private bathroom. The hotel offers an excellent lunch on Sunday, and hot coca tea is available to guests at any time.



## Hotel Jose Antonio, Puno

This hotel is located outside of Puno and across the road from Lake Titicaca. The hotel has comfortable rooms, all with cable TV and private bathrooms. The hotel restaurant is excellent, and wifi is available throughout the hotel. The lake can be accessed across a bridge, from which you can also observe a stunning sunset.



## Novotel, Cusco

Located in a 16th-century building in Cusco, Novotel Cusco offers modern rooms with heating and cable TV. It is only three blocks from Plaza De Armas and the cathedral. All of the rooms in Cusco Novotel are equipped with a mini-bar, a work desk, and a private bathroom.



## Hotel Doubletree Pardo, Lima

This hotel is centrally located near Kennedy Park in Miraflores. Numerous restaurants and shopping centers are in walking distance of the hotel. The rooms are equipped with a flat-screen TV, private bathroom, a desk, and a coffee machine.

# Are you ready to book?

When you are ready to book, please use visit [www.railsouthamerica.com](http://www.railsouthamerica.com) to reserve your seat. We will then contact you to discuss further details of the trip.



## Questions?

Give me a call!

**+593 981 312 458**

