



## **SOUTH AMERICAN ADVENTURE – ITINERARY 2015**

*Details are subject to change*

### **Day 1 - SYDNEY – SANTIAGO - BUENOS AIRES**

DEPART SYDNEY: 1125

ARRIVE SANTIAGO: 1105

DEPART SANTIAGO: 1435

ARRIVE BUENOS AIRES: 1625

Transfer from airport to Hotel in downtown Buenos Aires – Hotel Pestana Buenos Aires

---

### **Day 2 - BUENOS AIRES (B)**

Today is a rest day in Buenos Aires – known as the Paris of South America. You will have a day to get over the long flight and to explore the city. We recommend visiting La Recoleta Cemetery; recognised as one of the most beautiful cemeteries in the world; it contains the graves of notable people such as Eva Peron. You can also visit the nearby markets and enjoy a Tango night at local restaurants.

Accommodation: Hotel Pestana Buenos Aires

---

### **Day 3 - BUENOS AIRES – IGUASSU (B)**

This morning you will leave Buenos Aires for your flight to Iguassu.

DEPART BUENOS AIRES: 0905

ARRIVE IGUASSU: 1055

Upon arrival into Iguassu you will be met and taken on a guided walking tour of the Argentine side of the falls; including the 'Devil's Throat', the highest and most impressive waterfall. Lunch at leisure. Iguassu consists of 275 falls spread in a half moon over 2.7km. The waters converge at the point where Argentina and Brazil meet. This is the widest waterfall in the world and is topped in height only by Victoria Falls in Zambia and Angel Falls in Venezuela. After the tour of the Argentine side, you will be transferred to your hotel on the Brazil Side.

Accommodation: Das Cataratas Hotel

---

### **Day 4 - IGUASSU (B)**

After breakfast this morning you will be taken on a full day Brazil side falls and Macuco tour. The Brazilian side offers the best panorama, including magnificent rainbows. On the Macuco safari we will visit the falls again but with a close up view from the water. The tour starts with a ride and walk through a jungle trail down to the river. Then we board a jetboat for an exciting ride up river for an 'up close and personal' experience of the falls.

Accommodation: Das Cataratas Hotel

### **Day 5 - IGUASSU – LIMA (B)**

Enjoy a sumptuous buffet breakfast by the pool.

You will have the day at leisure at the luxurious Cataratas Hotel. You can view the falls without the crowds, relax by the pool or take a taxi into the local markets where Paraguay, Brazil and Argentina meet.

Late in the day, you will be transferred back to the Argentine side of the falls for your flight to Lima.

DEPART IGUASSU: 2055

ARRIVE LIMA: 2010

Upon arrival in Lima you will be met and transferred to hotel where you will overnight.

Accommodation: Costa Del Sol Ramada Airport Hotel

---

### **Day 6 - LIMA - CUSCO (B)**

Transfer to the airport for your flight to Cusco

DEPART LIMA: 1215

ARRIVE CUSCO: 1335

Upon arrival in Cusco you will be met and transferred to your hotel. The remainder of the day is at leisure. **Rest and acclimatize** to the altitude (3,300m) **Briefing with guides and dinner at leisure** *The historic city centre of the Incas. Legend has it that the city was founded by Manco Capac and Mama Ocllo who walked out of Lake Titicaca, some few hundred miles away and planted a golden stake in the spot that was to become Q'osqo, the Navel of the Earth. Cusco grew into the heart of the mighty Inca Empire until it was laid siege to and sacked by the Spanish conquistador Pizarro in the 16th century. Nowadays the city boasts fantastic examples of colonial architecture which sits on foundations of solid Inca masonry. The surrounding hills are full of Inca sites which we visit next morning.*

Accommodation: Eco Inn

---

### **Day 7 - CUSCO (B)**

**Morning Tour of Outlying ruins.** A superb introduction into the Inca heritage of Peru. We start about ten kilometres out of Cusco at the **Inca ruin of Tambo Machay**. This is popularly called the Inca's Bath due to its finely preserved waterfalls, carefully diverted through fine stone channels. The Incas acknowledged water as one of the principal elements of life and revered it accordingly.

Next we visit the site of **Puca Pucara**, before following an old Inca road to **Salumpuncu (Temple of the Moon)** This demonstrates the Incas affinity with rock as they improve the naturally occurring features of this huge rock into caves, seats, carvings, mummy-niches and an altar that is bathed in moonlight on the full-moon of the Winter solstice.

We then visit the fascinating **Qenqo** which contains some of the finest examples of Inca carvings in-situ.

Our final and most stunning Inca site is the extensive **Sacsayhuaman**. Some stones are up to 8.5m high and weigh over 360 tones.

**We return to Cusco for lunch in the main square Plaza de Armas**

## **DAY 7 - CONTINUED**

**After Lunch - Cusco City Tour :** A chance to explore Cusco city on foot with your local guide, this tour is suitably flexible to your interests and can be tailored accordingly. After lunch in the Plaza de Armas we can visit to the **main Cathedral**, before walking down Inca rock lined streets to visit the **Qoricancha temple**, known as the very heart of the Inca Empire. On the way back to our hotel, we can visit a local produce market, shop for fine silver, ceramic or alpaca crafts.

Accommodation : Eco Inn      Dinner at leisure

---

## **Day 8 - CUSCO – SACRED VALLEY (B, L)**

### **Full day tour of the Sacred Valley, Pisac markets and Ollantaytambo fortress**

On the way to the famous Pisac Market, we visit the **Cochuasi Animal Sanctuary**, a one of a kind rehabilitation centre started by a family of biologists. In 2014 there were condors, pumas, llamas, alpacas, macaws and many other species, all rescued from poachers. Our next stop is the picturesque **Andean village of Pisac**. The village is famous for its local market and superb artisan stalls throughout the week.

After Pisac, we enjoy a **buffet lunch at 'ALLPAMANCA'**; a **local restaurant at Yucay**, before continuing to the remarkable **fortress of Ollantaytambo**, built by the Incas. This was the site of the last big battle between the Incas and Spanish before the remaining Inca rebels fled into the jungles of Vilcabamba. In this lovely, well-preserved village and ruins you can still feel the true magic of the Incas. The hill-top, Inca sun temple displays some of the finest stonework in the area.

Accommodation: Casa Andina Private Collection

---

## **Day 9 - SACRED VALLEY (B)**

After a leisure breakfast, enjoy the gardens of this beautiful sanctuary surrounded by mountains. This is a rest day to relax, have a hot-stone massage or perhaps venture out for lunch and a horse show. **You'll have the day at leisure to relax and prepare for the trek. Meet for a briefing and dinner.**

Accommodation: Casa Andina Private Collection

---

## **Day 10 - SACRED VALLEY – INCA TRAIL - LLACTAPATA (B,L,D)**

**Today our Inca Trail trek starts.** Our guides pick us up this morning for the drive past the impressive Inca fortress of Ollantaytambo and a chance to buy any last minute supplies. After an interesting drive to the end of the road at Pisca K'uchu (km82) we meet our support team of traditional porters before embarking on the famous Inca trail to Machu Picchu. The trek undulates along the banks of the Urubamba river and **we camp the night at Llactapata (2,788m)** beside some spectacular ruins which, if you have the energy, we have time to explore. This is camping and trekking in style. Whilst walking all you need to carry is a daypack, all camping equipment and food is carried by the porters. All camp chores are done for us and delicious food is served by our talented chef.

### **DAY 11 – LLACTAPATA TO LLULLUCHUPAMPA (B,L,D)**

Today we trek up the **Cusichaca valley to the small hamlet of Huallyabamba**, the last inhabited place on the trail. From there we follow ancient Inca paths past hummingbirds and stunted cloud forest. Our camp is at **Llulluchupampa (3,680m)** - a beautiful grassy area with outstanding views down the valley.

### **DAY 12 – LLULLUCHUPAMPA - PHUYUPATAMARCA (B,L,D)**

We rise early and head to the top of **Warmiwanusca (Dead Woman's pass, 4,200m)**. This is the highest point of the trail before we descend into the **Pacasmayu valley** and then climb again passing the first of many Inca ruins. Our second pass of the day (3,998m) gives us spectacular views of the Vilcabamba range. Walking on well preserved Inca pathway we pass **Sayacmarca ruins** with plenty of time for an in depth tour before passing through a tunnel and a gentle climb which brings us to **Phuyupatamarca ruins (3,650m)** (the place above the clouds), our campsite for the night.

### **DAY 13 - PHUYUPATAMARCA – MACHU PICCHU (B,L,D)**

After an early morning chance to catch the sunrise on the surrounding snow-capped mountains of **Salcantay (6,200m) and Veronica (5,800m)**, we say a farewell to our porters with a traditional song and dance. Our final day hiking brings us down into the cloud forest on a series of **Inca stairways to Winay Wayna**, another interesting ruin full of swallows and orchids. Finally, we contour through cloud-forest to **Inti Punku, the Gateway of the Sun** and our first glimpse of Machu Picchu. We enjoy our first visit to the upper levels of the ruins, before checking into our hotel right beside the ruins entrance. You will have the opportunity to **explore the ruins at your leisure late in the day when the crowds have dispersed.**

Accommodation: Machu Picchu Sanctuary Lodge - 5 star

---

### **DAY 14 – MACHU PICCHU – SACRED VALLEY (B,L,D)**

In the morning we return to **Machu Picchu for a fully guided tour**. There is time afterwards to hike to the Inca Bridge, Watchman's hut or else just wander through the ruins, soaking up the atmosphere. For the adventurous, we have included a permit to **climb Huayna Picchu** for a "Condor's eye" view of the ruins. Later, we catch the bus down to Machu Picchu town (Aguas Calientes) and board the **train for an interesting ride back to the Sacred Valley.**

Accommodation: Sol Y Luna Sacred Valley Pizza Night

---

### **Day 15 - SACRED VALLEY - CUZCO (B)**

Bus back to Cusco to end tour

**Options to extend to other destinations of fly home via Santiago**

#### **Notes:**

**Alternative itinerary for people not walking Inca Trail** is 2 extra nights at Casa Andina in the Sacred Valley, 1 extra night at Machu Picchu and 1 extra train ticket to Machu Picchu. (accompanied by guide)

#### **For more information**

Email: [gabrielle@freespiritadventures.com.au](mailto:gabrielle@freespiritadventures.com.au)

Phone: +61 8 414 410 963