



Best of South America

 **Tour Length:** 25 Days
 **Tour Departs:** 7 September 2027

Discover the very best of South America on our 25-day journey — a perfect mix of vibrant cities, breathtaking natural wonders, rich culture, exceptional cuisine, and unforgettable experiences.

From the cosmopolitan elegance of Santiago and the colourful coastal charm of Valparaíso, to the iconic beaches and dramatic landscapes of Rio de Janeiro, this itinerary has been thoughtfully designed to showcase the continent's most celebrated highlights. Stand in awe before the mighty Iguazú Falls, feel the rhythm of tango in Buenos Aires, and indulge in Argentina and Brazil's legendary cuisine. In Peru, discover the contrasts of colonial Lima, the breathtaking beauty of the Sacred Valley, and the mystical wonder of Machu Picchu — one of the New Seven Wonders of the World. Carefully paced touring, hand-selected hotels, immersive cultural experiences, and special group dining moments ensure a journey that is both enriching and effortless.

Highlights

- Iguazú Falls
- Rio de Janeiro – Stand beneath Christ the Redeemer. Ride to the top of Sugarloaf Mountain. Santiago & Valparaíso
- Buenos Aires – Discover historic neighbourhoods. Experience a live tango show. Savour an authentic Argentine asado.
- Lima – Explore elegant colonial architecture. Enjoy Peru's world-famous cuisine.
- Sacred Valley & Machu Picchu

Tour Costs Per Person

Per Person Share Twin/Double Room

\$21,850

Price Per Single Room

\$26,430

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Tour Costs

Inclusions

- Economy Class air travel from Auckland. Upgrades to Business Class are available on request.
- All Airport, Government & Security Taxes
- Superior Class hotel accommodation
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary
- Air-conditioned coach transportation for all touring
- Sightseeing and entrance fees as indicated in the itinerary
- Services of local guides for touring and sightseeing
- Tips to local guides and coach drivers
- Fully escorted by a Maher Tours leader (subject to minimum numbers)

Exclusions

- Any meals and sightseeing tours not specifically mentioned in the itinerary
- Travel insurance (advice and assistance supplied, visa fees, if required)
- Items of a personal nature such as room service, laundry, drinks, telephone charges etc.

Booking Conditions

- Initial Deposit due at time of booking: NZD \$3,000 per person
- Second Deposit due Friday 26 March 2027: NZD \$3000 per person
- Final Payment Balance due Friday 11 June: Balance

To register for this tour please contact us at 0800 500 518 or tours@mahertours.co.nz

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Tour Itinerary

25 Days

Day 1 | Home - Santiago

TUESDAY 7 SEPTEMBER (D)

Today we fly to Santiago, crossing the international dateline en route, arriving mid afternoon of the same day. We are met and transferred to our hotel for a 3 night stay. This evening, we have a welcome group dinner at the hotel.

Day 2 | Santiago

WEDNESDAY 8 SEPTEMBER (B)

This morning, we enjoy a sightseeing tour of the city. We begin with a visit to the historic downtown, where the city's central square (Plaza de Armas) stands out as the kilometer zero and nerve center of the capital, marking the starting point of Santiago's construction during the colonial era. Next, we will visit the civic district, home to ministerial buildings and the presidential palace, La Moneda. Afterward, we will enjoy an impressive panoramic view from San Cristóbal Hill, which we will access via funicular. From here, we can admire part of the Andean foothills surrounding the capital. We will then head to the eastern district, where we will see the city's modern side and its striking architectural contrasts.

Day 3 | Winelands and Valparaíso

THURSDAY 9 SEPTEMBER (B,L)

After breakfast we depart towards the Casablanca Valley known mainly for the great production of Chilean wines, namely the Sauvignon Blanc, among others. We visit Veramonte Vineyard, characterized by following organic and sustainable practices. After the tour and wine tasting in Veramonte, we continue to Valparaíso (Chile's main port), declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO, due to its colourful constructions that decorate the hills and provide the city with a characteristic architecture and unique identity. Here we will visit the main attractions of the city. Continue to Viña del Mar, known as "The Garden City", where we will have lunch before we return to the city.

Day 4 | Santiago – Rio de Janeiro

FRIDAY 10 SEPTEMBER (B,D)

The morning, we will be transferred back to Santiago Airport for our flight to Rio de Janeiro. On arrival we will be met and transferred to our hotel for a 3-night stay. Tonight, we have dinner at the hotel.

Day 5 | Rio de Janeiro

SATURDAY 11 SEPTEMBER (B,D)

Today we get to experience the vibrant heart of Rio de Janeiro. We will take a walk through the city, which gives visitors a feeling for the legends around downtown Rio's narrow streets and old historical buildings. Next we will visit the famous landmark of Rio de Janeiro, the extraordinarily decorated, vibrant and impressive Escadaria Selarón, a staircase covered in more than 2,000 pieces of colourful tiles, mirrors, and ceramics stairs. After a stop for lunch, we head to Santa Teresa, one of Rio's oldest neighbourhoods. It offers majestic views of Rio's main attractions and is considered the Bohemian section of Rio de Janeiro. Enjoy Dinner tonight at a local restaurant.

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Day 6 | Rio de Janeiro

SUNDAY 12 SEPTEMBER (B)

After breakfast, we visit the city's most famous landmarks and see the natural beauty of Rio de Janeiro from above. First off, we embark on a comfortable train that ascends the mountain, where the statue of Christ the Redeemer is located 2,300 ft above sea level. The Christ statue, known as the "wonder of Rio," was elected one of the 7 "New Wonders of the World." Enjoy the most amazing views from the top. After stopping for a bite to eat, we catch the cable car to the summit of the famous "Sugarloaf" for even more spectacular views of the bay.

Day 7 | Rio de Janeiro – Iguazu Falls

MONDAY 13 SEPTEMBER (B,D)

Today we say farewell to Rio as we return to the airport and join our morning flight to Iguassu (Brazil). On arrival you will be met and transferred to your hotel on the Argentine side of the Falls. Tonight we have a group dinner at a local restaurant.

Day 8 | Iguazu Falls

TUESDAY 14 SEPTEMBER (B,L)

Our day combines both adventure and nature as we experience the breathtaking beauty of the Argentine side of Iguazú Falls. We will explore the extensive network of walkways and trails in Iguazú National Park, getting up close to the awe-inspiring cascades from multiple angles - including the iconic Devil's Throat.

Day 9 | Iguazu Falls

WEDNESDAY 15 SEPTEMBER (B,D)

Today we will visit the stunning Falls from the Brazilian side. The Iguassu River splits into 275 amazing waterfalls, one of the most majestic spectacles in the world. The virgin jungle of the national park surrounds the deep "Garganta del Diablo" (Devils Throat), a confluence of rapids falling straight down. Spray rises over 30 metres from the bottom (hidden by the mist) and countless rainbows are threaded under the sun. Butterflies and tropical birds fly over the falls. Enjoy lunch with amazing views over parts of the falls before we return to the hotel.

Day 10 | Iguazu Falls – Buenos Aires

THURSDAY 16 SEPTEMBER (B,L,D)

This morning, we transfer to Iguazu Falls Airport for our flight to Buenos Aires. We are met on arrival and transferred to our hotel for a 4-night stay. This evening we enjoy dinner at a traditional local Argentine BBQ (parrilla) restaurant, where we will savour some of the country's famous grilled meats and local flavours — the perfect introduction to the culinary traditions of Buenos Aires.

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Day 11 | Buenos Aires

FRIDAY 17 SEPTEMBER (B,D)

Staring at the heart of the city, the Plaza de Mayo, this morning's city tour of Buenos Aires highlights many famous sites, including the Government House, Casa Rosada, the Cathedral built on the site of the city's first church, Columbus Square, Boca Square, and other attractions in the "Paris of the Americas." This evening, we visit one of Buenos Aires' top tango houses for dinner and a tango show. After dinner, enjoy a performance of this passionate dance, which began in the late 19th century in poorer neighbourhoods and was originally danced by pairs of men to music played on flute, violin, and guitar.

Day 12 | Buenos Aires

SATURDAY 18 SEPTEMBER (B,L)

Today, we travel to the outskirts of Buenos Aires for our "Gacho" excursion. It allows us the opportunity to admire the traditional dances and enjoy the songs, and the food, of the Argentinian Gacho (cowboy). The venue is a beautiful country residence at an old ranch, located on the fringe of the city.

Day 13 | Buenos Aires

SUNDAY 19 SEPTEMBER (B)

Discover the vibrant soul of Buenos Aires on an immersive Markets Day experience today. We will wander the cobbled streets of San Telmo, where the famous market overflows with antiques, artisan crafts, street performers and local delicacies. Then we continue to the lively Mataderos Market, a celebration of authentic gacho culture, traditional food stalls and regional crafts that showcase Argentina's rural heritage. Finish in elegant Recoleta, browsing refined artisan fairs set among grand architecture and leafy plazas. A perfect blend of colour, culture and local flavour, this day offers an authentic taste of Buenos Aires beyond the usual tourist trail.

Day 14 | Buenos Aires - Lima

MONDAY 20 SEPTEMBER (B)

This morning we fly to Lima, the capital of Peru and known as the 'Gastronomical Capital of the America's', encompassing specialties from traditional coastal cooking to a refined global fare. Lima is home to various museums including Museo Larco & Museo de la Nacion and even boasts several of the top restaurants in the world. On arrival in Lima we have a culinary experience with Penélope Alzamora. Born in Lima, the chef Penélope Alzamora has been steeped in authentic Peruvian flavours from her earliest years. After touring the United States studying, working and teaching culinary arts, Penélope has returned to Peru to give us a master class in traditional cooking: from the market to dessert. We will visit her most trusted vendors and try some of their produce. From here we'll go to her kitchen in Barranco where she will teach us how to prepare various dishes, all accompanied, of course, with a pisco sour. It is said that, to get to know the culture of a country, it is necessary to visit its markets and savour its food, and what better way to do that than with a true expert!

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Day 15 | Lima

TUESDAY 21 SEPTEMBER (B,D)

Today we enjoy a guided sightseeing tour of Lima, starting in the historic colonial centre at Plaza Mayor. Here we admire the grand exteriors of the Government Palace, Lima Cathedral, and the Municipal Palace, before stepping inside the cathedral to explore its beautiful chapels and learn about Peru's religious history. We continue to the 17th-century San Francisco Convent, famous for its striking architecture and underground catacombs, once used as one of Lima's earliest cemeteries, and visit Casa de Aliaga, the oldest continuously inhabited private residence in the Southern Hemisphere. Our tour then passes through modern Lima, including the financial district of San Isidro, before reaching the coastal suburb of Miraflores for views over the Pacific Ocean. Enjoy dinner tonight at a local restaurant..

Day 16 | Lima – Sacred Valley

WEDNESDAY 22 SEPTEMBER (B)

This morning we take a short flight from Lima to Cusco. On arrival, we transfer to the Sacred Valley, where we will spend the next couple of days acclimatizing to the higher altitude.

Day 17 | Sacred Valley

THURSDAY 23 SEPTEMBER (B,D)

This morning we depart for the charming town of Pisac, where ancient Incan traditions blend seamlessly with colonial influences to create a distinctive local culture and way of life. We have time to explore the town's renowned artisan markets, famous for their colourful stalls offering finely crafted jewellery, ceramics, and traditional Andean textiles. A short distance away, high on the mountain slopes overlooking the Vilcanota River, lies the impressive Pisac Archaeological Park. This remarkable site features a series of agricultural terraces built at varying altitudes, separated by intricate stone structures that demonstrate the advanced engineering skills of the Inca civilisation. The most significant features is the Intihuatana, often referred to as the "Hitching Post of the Sun," an ancient ceremonial stone believed to have been used by the Incas as a solar calendar. Enjoy your group dinner tonight.

Day 18 | Sacred Valley

FRIDAY 24 SEPTEMBER (B)

Our first stop today is the remarkable Maras Salt Mines, a spectacular series of terraced salt pools that have been in continuous use since Inca times. The brilliant white salt pans cascade down the mountainside, creating a striking contrast against the surrounding green Andean landscape. Afterwards we continue to Moray, an impressive archaeological site featuring vast circular terraces believed to have been used by the Incas as an agricultural research centre. Descending deep into the earth, these terraces demonstrate the remarkable ingenuity and advanced farming knowledge of the Inca civilisation.

Day 19 | Machu Picchu

SATURDAY 25 SEPTEMBER (B,L,D)

This morning we depart Ollantaytambo aboard the scenic Vistadome Train for the unforgettable journey to Machu Picchu. Perched 2,430 metres above sea level on a mountain ridge overlooking the Sacred Valley, this extraordinary ancient city is the most famous of all Inca sites and one of the New Seven Wonders of the World. During our guided visit we will explore many of Machu Picchu's most important features, including the Main Square, the Circular Tower, the Sacred Solar Clock, and the Temple of the Three Windows, while learning about the history and mystery of this remarkable site. After our visit, we transfer to our hotel in Aguas Calientes for an overnight stay, reflecting on an unforgettable day at one of South America's most iconic and sacred destinations.

Day 20 | Aguas Calientes

SUNDAY 26 SEPTEMBER (B)

Spend the morning in and around Aguas Calientes before we catch the Vistadome train back to Ollantaytambo. We will visit one of the last remaining Incan towns, Ollantaytambo, which was once fiercely guarded by a massive fortress. We will discover the large archaeological complex of what used to serve as a wayside inn for royal delegations on long journeys. Surviving structures here include multiple walls and towers that were used to protect the citadel from possible invasions. After our visit, we will continue to Cusco where we will spend the next 3 nights.

Day 21 | Cusco

MONDAY 27 SEPTEMBER (B,D)

After breakfast, we visit the impressive Fortress of Sacsayhuamán, a remarkable example of Incan military architecture built from enormous stones fitted together with extraordinary precision. We then continue to Qoricancha, the "Temple of the Sun," once the most important religious site of the Inca Empire. Next, we explore the artistic neighbourhood of San Blas, known for its narrow streets and local artisans, before visiting the Church of the Society of Jesus in Cusco's Plaza de Armas, one of the finest examples of Spanish Baroque architecture in Peru. Our tour concludes at Cusco Cathedral, where we admire its beautiful atria and valuable 17th- and 18th-century paintings from the Cusco School. This evening we enjoy a group dinner at a local restaurant.

Day 22 | Cusco

TUESDAY 28 SEPTEMBER (B)

Enjoy a free day at leisure in Cusco, giving you time to explore this enchanting Andean city at your own pace. Wander the charming cobbled streets, relax in the historic Plaza de Armas, browse vibrant local markets, or discover hidden cafés and artisan boutiques.

Day 23 | Cusco - Santiago

WEDNESDAY 29 SEPTEMBER (B,D)

Today we return to Cusco Airport for our flight back to Santiago. On arrival, we are met and transferred to our hotel for an overnight stay. We enjoy a farewell dinner tonight for our last night in Chile.

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Day 24 | Santiago – Home

THURSDAY 30 SEPTEMBER (B)

After breakfast and check out, we transfer back to Santiago Airport for our return flight to Auckland. We cross the international dateline enroute.

Day 25 | Home

TUESDAY 1 OCTOBER

We arrive into Auckland early evening.



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