

# Inca Explorer



**Peru - Bolivia – Argentina  
32 Days**

**From NZ\$9685 Lima to Buenos  
Aires \*\***

**Small group – Fully guided**

**Departs: 5 May, 16 Jun, 4 Aug, 1 Sep 2017**

- **Mysterious Nasca & Ballestas Islands**
- **Machu Picchu – legendary ‘lost city’ of the Incas**
- **Inca Trail – follow the Inca Footsteps (optional)**
- **Cusco – Capital of the Inca Empire-a true experience**
- **Sacred Valley of the Incas**
- **Colca Canyon – home of the mighty Andean Condor**
- **Lake Titicaca – floating reed islands and Uros Indians**
- **La Paz – city of contrasts and colour**
- **Isla del Sol – where the Inca king was born**
- **The incredible salt flats of Bolivia**
- **Salta & the ‘Train to the clouds’**
- **Buenos Aires – stylish Paris of the South**

**Latin Link Adventure**

**The South American Specialists**

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## **Information Sheet – Inca Explorer**

### **Fully Guided –34 days **A real kaleidoscope of the Andes - Peru – Bolivia – Argentina****

This 'off the beaten track' adventure gives you the opportunity to explore bustling colourful Andean markets and villages of rural Peru and Bolivia, you will discover the mysteries of the Inca Empire, still alive today. Visit Ballestas Islands –Peru's mini Galapagos and the mysterious Nasca Lines . The white city of Arequipa and a visit to the amazing Colca Canyon to spot the Condors

Marvel at the workmanship and energy of magical Machu Picchu in Peru .Highlights also include the charming colonial city of **Cusco** – Heart of the Inca Empire. Wonder at the remarkable monument of Sacsayhuaman, villages of Chinchero, Ollantaytambo and Pisaq. .

Visit the sacred island of the Incas in **Lake Titicaca**. Travel overland from La Paz through the incredible salt flats of Bolivia (stay in a hotel made of salt). Then into northern Argentina to experience the stunning Humahuaca Gorge , colonial Salta ,the 'Train to the Clouds' and the stunning Calchaqui Valley  
Finish up in stylish **Buenos Aires** where you can enjoy a tango show and an enormous juicy steak.

### **Inca Explorer – from Lima to Buenos Aires - \$9685 May,Jul, Sep departures,\$9995 -Jun Inca Trail option NZD\$495 surcharge**

NB These costs based on you flying internationally to/from South America with LAN Airlines. Should you travel on another airline a surcharge may apply

#### **Cost is subject to airfare increases and currency fluctuations – there are no hidden costs**

So no unpleasant surprises once you are in South America - you know before you leave exactly what this trip will cost and is such a bonus not having to dip into your money belt all the time to pay for 'EXTRAS' like some companies do. We pride ourselves on being totally upfront before you leave. Compare our inclusions for yourself – detailed on our Trip Dossier.

We want your adventure to be as hassle-free as possible – so you can expect the following on the 'Inca Explorer'.

#### **Cost Includes:**

All flights between Lima & Buenos Aires

ALL transport (boats, buses, taxis, trains etc)

ALL accommodation with breakfasts (twin share) ALL transfers as per itinerary

ALL entrance fees as per itinerary

ALL national park entrance fees

ALL sightseeing as per itinerary

Services of English speaking local guides

Farewell dinner & Tango show in Buenos Aires

Breakfast daily plus 3 Lunches, 1 dinner

Latin Link Tour Manager

#### **Does not include:**

Local Airport taxes & tips allowUS\$175, Insurance - Laundry - Personal Spending - Medical Expenses

#### **NOTE ON FLIGHTS**

**\*\*International flights on LAN Airlines Auckland –Lima & Buenos Aires –Auckland are in addition to costs stated above . As there can be seasonal specials on airfares these can vary between NZ\$1500 and \$2700 depending on when they are purchased . We will quote you the best airfares at the time of booking and keep you informed on any seasonal specials between time of booking and departure**

#### **NOTE ON FLIGHTS**

**All flights are subject to airline increases, fuel surcharges and change.**

All flights are with economy scheduled airlines, Lan Chile, Lan Peru, Lan Argentina.

All flights are booked by Latin Link Adventure and all Lan flights are eligible for Qantas Frequent Flyer Points.

#### **NOTES:**

(I) IT IS NOT COMPULSORY - to have the Yellow Fever Inoculation for this trip

(II) VISAS are not required for entry for NZ passport holders

(III) IT is advisable to have hepatitis A, Typhoid inoculations on this trip

(IV) Due to the high altitude travelled on this trip we require a doctors certificate for anyone over 60yrs old

#### **HOW TO BOOK:**

Send us your completed Reservation form with your deposit of \$500 to confirm your place,extra \$250 if doing Inca Trail

Group size based on a minimum of 6 people travelling and a maximum of 15.

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## What our clients are saying .....

Gary, this was an excellently crafted agenda put together by you and Russell. It matched any of my previous experiences from tall ships voyage crew in the Pacific and Antarctic to trekking in the Sahara and low Himalaya, and I am indeed indebted to you for such a successful outcome. **John H – UK – Inca Explorer 09**

I have had a really good time and will treasure the memories. It was the little people we met up in the Andes. Have lots of great photos. **Laura S – Christchurch – Inca Explorer 09**

A thoroughly enjoyable trip especially the Inca Trail and also a special mention to the local guides employed by you. Their knowledge and quality of service was excellent. We are convinced that the South American journey is right up there amongst the best of our overseas trips. Thanks again for a grand holiday.

**Jack & Joan – Dunedin – Andes Overland**

It's hard to put in a few words how much I did enjoy the trip so thank you for such a great trip and the wonderful memories.

**Janet – Wellington – Andes Overland**

Great holiday. Enjoyed travelling without worry in an unpredictable continent. Lots of fun and many different experiences. Thanks a million.

**Pauline – Christchurch - Incas & Llamas**

It was a hard month but one hell of an education for two green Kiwis not having travelled – but set them up and we'll be in for another round.

**Kelvin & Margie – Wellington - Incas & Llamas**

It was an incredible adventure. The colours and contrasts of South America will remain a memory for many years to come. I hope to return.

**Alison – Timaru – Amazon to Andes**

I really wanted say how much we both enjoyed the Secrets trip. It all went so smooooothly and was so very interesting. Even bits that sounded a bit so - so were fascinating. I guess the best bits for me were Machu Picchu (I had after all waited 45 years to get there!!), Easter Island and Lake Titicaca - all for quite different reasons. So thank you for all your hard work. It couldn't have been better. The weather was great, our health was great, the trip leader was great etc etc.

Many thanks again - **Hilary and John - Wellington – Inca Highways**

The itinerary was great – we travelled so far and saw so much – good choices. We've had such an amazing trip my head is a jumble of thoughts and memories. The Inca Trail was so well organised. The scenery in the Cordillera Blanca was just incredible – rugged, jagged mountains, snow and ice covered, glaciers, waterfalls, river and streams filled with glacial water. A great holiday shared by our diverse but compatible companions – never to be forgotten

**Joan – Auckland – Amazon to Andes**

This trip gave you plenty of time to 'do your own thing' along with the daily organised activities and really meet with the local people. A magical tour with very special memories.

**Peter – Wellington – Incas & Llamas**

A wonderful trip, which has special memories and rates among the most memorable I have done.

**Helen – Wellington – Incas & Llamas**

The trip itself was 'full on' and value for money, each day we could not predict what was going to happen. We travelled long distances at times and certainly saw a lot in the available time. Our Tour Leader was a good host and dealt with all our trials and tribulations extremely well.

**Peter – Ashburton – Incas & Llamas**

Excellent tour leader, great group to travel with and wonderful sights to see. Every day was an adventure even the routine aspects of catching transport, going to dinner, often became little adventures in themselves and made the trip exciting.

**Pat – Auckland - Discover South America**

I felt the trip was action packed and we extracted 150% from time and money. Sightseeing and guides were excellent and our tour leader was the greatest, was helpful and sensitive to differing needs and was good fun.

**Judy – Te Awamutu - Inca Highways**

Day	Date	Program	Overnight
1	Fri	<p><b><u>Lima</u></b>  For those travelling from NZ, fly from Auckland via Santiago to Lima and arrive same day. On arrival transfer to your hotel  Accommodation: Antigua Miraflores Hotel  <a href="http://www.antiguamiraflores.com">www.antiguamiraflores.com</a></p>	Lima
2	Sat	<p><b><u>Lima</u></b>  Lima, city of Kings and capital of Peru.  This was the principal city of Spanish South America from its founding in 1535 until the independence of the South American republics in early 19<sup>th</sup> century. It never rains in Lima and only for 2 months of the year are the skies blue . January and February.  You have the whole day to explore Lima. A city tour of the Greater Colonial Lima this morning allows you to appreciate the wonderful colonial buildings in downtown Lima such as the Santo Domingo Convent and the Casa Aliaga, one of South America's oldest Spanish homes. Drive by the elegant tree-lined avenues of San Isidro and Miraflores.  Afternoon at leisure or we suggest an optional visit to the world famous Gold Museum where you can browse through the unique ceramics gold and weavings. There is also one of the world's largest collections of armoury and a very extensive display of Pre-Columbian textiles</p>	Lima (B)
3	Sun	<p><b><u>Lima - Paracas</u></b>  Continue south by bus along the Panamericano Highway through desert countryside alongside the Pacific Ocean  This afternoon we have included an excursion into the Paracas Nature Reserve , a marine sanctuary located at the shore of the Pacific Ocean  Accommodation Hotel Santa Maria  <a href="http://www.santamariahostal.com">www.santamariahostal.com</a></p>	Paracas (B)
4	Mon	<p><b><u>Paracas - Nasca.</u></b>  This morning visit Ballestas Islands, known as Peru's mini Galapagos. An opportunity to watch resident and migratory birds, including flamingos, red-legged cormorants, Inca terns, boobies, as well as playful sea lions, amusing Humboldt penguins and, we are lucky, we might see marine otters.  This afternoon travel by bus to Nasca.  This small oasis town is famous for the mysterious lines etched in the desert pampas. Are they messages to travellers from outer space that landed here thousands of years ago or the works of an ancient culture depicting a planting calendar? Cut into the stony desert, like a giant sketching pad, these many lines include geometrical figures, giant animals and birds.  Enjoy a flight over these amazing lines . the only way to appreciate this archaeological mystery. Come away with your own theories and questions.  Accommodation: Hotel Alegria  <a href="http://www.hotelalegria.net">www.hotelalegria.net</a></p>	Nasca (B)

5	Tues	<p><b><u>Flight over Nasca Lines – then to Arequipa</u></b>  This morning it is your turn to become airborne and theorise on these mysterious lines etched in the desert. Wow - up you go to witness this gigantic sketching pad in the desert pampa. Who drew them? Why? Draw your own conclusions or come away with as many questions as answers!  This afternoon depart Nazca on our super comfy bus , arriving Arequipa later this evening . Transfer to your hotel  Accommodation: Tierrasur Hotel  <a href="http://www.tierrasur.com">www.tierrasur.com</a></p>	O/N Bus to Arequipa (B)
6	Wed	<p><b><u>Explore Arequipa</u></b>  Lying at 2880 metres above sea level at the foot of El Misti Volcano (5882m) is the Ciudad Blancaq. the white city, boasting a delightful climate, plenty of fascinating colonial buildings and gateway to the famous Colca Canyon, home of the condors, one of the world's deepest canyons.  Must sees here on our half day tour are a visit to the peaceful Santa Catalina Convent, one of the most fascinating religious colonial buildings in Peru. The convent, opened to visitors in 1970, is surrounded by imposing walls and the 450 nuns who lived here led a completely secluded life. Also here is Juanita the mummy of a young girl found in 1995 by an American mountain climber on Mt Ambato. She is encased in a freezing chamber inside the Museum and open for viewing</p>	Arequipa (B)
7	Thurs	<p><b><u>Arequipa- Colca Canyon Adventure</u></b>  Drive through the awesome Colca Canyon, one of the world's deepest canyons it is only accessible by a dirt road over the Altiplano before dropping to the village of Chivay at 3600 metres above sea level. The landscape is remarkable for its Inca and pre-Inca terracing which goes on for many kilometres and is the most extensive in Peru. Life here has changed very little through the centuries where the campesinos still farm the remarkable Inca terracing as their ancestors did before them.  Stay overnight in the small village of Chivay where you can relax in the hot thermal springs and delight in the haunting melodies of the panpipes.  Accommodation: Colca Llatqa Inn  <a href="http://www.colcallatqahotel.com">www.colcallatqahotel.com</a></p>	Chivay (B,D)
8	Fri	<p><b><u>Colca Canyon- Cusco</u></b>  You will get an early morning wakeup call today  After breakfast we continue deep into the Canyon to the Cruz de las Condors. This is a remarkable highlight – you can watch the impressive condors rising with the thermals – your chance to get great photos of these wonderful birds.  We then continue our journey of discovery and exploration in the hinterland of the Andes travelling overland to Cusco arriving early evening  Accommodation: Royal Inka 1 Hotel  <a href="http://www.royalinkahotel.com/hcusco.html">www.royalinkahotel.com/hcusco.html</a></p>	Cusco (B,L)

9	Sat	<p><b><u>Cusco</u></b>  Cusco, heart of the Inca Empire, known by the local Quechua Indians as 'Navel of the Universe'.  Cusco is an amazing experience. Lying in an exceptionally beautiful countryside 3300 metres above sea level, here you will encounter a fine blend of Spanish and Inca cultures, colourful Quechua Indian markets, Inca temples and massive stone walls which form the foundations of Colonial Cusco, originally part of the impressive monument of Sacsayhuaman, situated above the town. Morning at leisure. This afternoon enjoy a comprehensive walking tour of this delightful city, including the Cathedral, Plaza de Armas, Temple of the Sun.  Visit Sacsayhuaman -this magnificent Inca fortress, which overlooks the city of Cusco. Sacsayhuaman can be variously translated as 'speckled falcon' or 'speckled head'. The last interpretation refers to the belief that the city of Cusco was set out in the form of a puma whose head was the hill of Sacsayhuaman. The origins are uncertain but the fortress is generally attributed to the period of Inca Pachacuti, the man who essentially founded the Inca empire.  We also visit the ruins of Qenko, an area of well - preserved archaeological ruins and the Red Fortress of Puca Pucara.</p>	Cusco (B)
10	Sun	<p><b><u>Cusco -Sacred Valley</u></b>  Drive through stunning scenery to Chinchero, the most colourful and authentic market in Peru. Continue on to Maras Salt Pans. Another fabulous walk today. Discover these amazing salt pans still mined as they were hundreds of years ago,  Also visit Moray –these unusual Inca ruins consist of several enormous terraced circular depressions, the largest of which is about 30m. deep. Continue through the Sacred Valley to our hotel an old monastery (completely restored of course!).  Accommodation: Hotel Recoleta Monasterio  Calle Recoleta, Augustin  Urubamba  Ph: 0051 842 01666  <a href="http://www.hotelessanagustin.com.pe/hotel_recoleta.htm">www.hotelessanagustin.com.pe/hotel_recoleta.htm</a></p>	Cusco (B)
11	Mon	<p><b><u>Cusco – Sacred Valley Trekkers in group depart for Inca Trail Day 1</u></b>  Continue through the beautiful Sacred valley of the Incas. A visit will be made to Latin Link’s aid project run by Peru Challenge  Next is Pisaq where you will enjoy a panoramic walk along the original Inca pathways and terracing to the ancient town below. Visit the markets then continue through this lush valley where the towering fortress of Ollantaytambo dominates the surrounding area.  <i>For the June departure, this is the day of the Inti Raymi – The Quechua name for the Festival of the Sun. It was a time of offerings, sacrifices, dancing and celebration. In the old capital city of the Incas, this festival continues with all its ancient royal pomp and energy. Dances and ceremonies are played out at the worship center of Sacsayhuaman above Cusco.</i></p>	Sacred Valley of the Incas (B)

12	Tues	<p><b><u>Train to Aguas Calientes or Day 2 - Inca Trail</u></b>  After breakfast you have an early morning transfer to Ollantaytambo to catch the train to Aguas Calientes, a small railroad town with tons of character – enjoy a soak in the hot pools under the Andean sky or explore the town  Accommodation: Santuario Hotel  <a href="http://www.santuariohotel.com">www.santuariohotel.com</a></p>	Aguas Calientes(B)
13	Wed	<p><b><u>Bus to Machu Picchu- Cuzco or Day 3 – Inca Trail</u></b>  It's an early start today. This is the best time to enjoy the peace and tranquillity not to mention the magic of Machu Picchu is before the trainload's of visitors arrive. Machu Picchu, known also as 'Lost City of the Incas'. It is undoubtedly the best known and most spectacular archaeological site on the continent and is considered a must for all visitors to Peru. You will travel by bus up the zig-zag, the Hiram Bingham highway, to the ruins where your first views will take your breath away. Enjoy a fully guided tour of the ruins, some time to explore on your own, before returning down the mountainside. Time for a snack and then board the train to Ollantaytambo and transfer to our hotel in Cusco.    Accommodation: Royal Inka 1 Hotel  <a href="http://www.royalinkahotel.com/hcusco.html">www.royalinkahotel.com/hcusco.html</a></p>	Cusco(B)
14	Thurs	<p><b><u>Cusco or Day 4 Inca Trail</u></b>  Free day to explore this delightful city – everyone's favourite. The day is yours to enjoy, all the convents, churches, museums, alpaca and jewellery bargains.</p>	Cusco (B)
15	Fri	<p><b><u>Cusco - Puno</u></b>  Bus ride to Puno through the dramatic landscapes of the highland plateau, with occasional views of tiny Andean villages and herds of llamas and vicunas. We will stop at Andahuaylillas, where there is a beautiful baroque church built at the beginning of the XVIIth century. It is very well known thanks to its beautiful mural paintings. We will make a second stop at Raqchi, where there is an Inca temple built to worship Wiracocha, one of the most important Inca gods. Finally, we will stop at the archaeological museum of Pukara (200BC-AD300) then we will lunch at a restaurant en route. Arrive in Puno late afternoon.  Accommodation: Qelqatani Hotel  <a href="http://www.qelqatani.com">www.qelqatani.com</a></p>	Puno (B,L)

16	Sat	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Uros Islands -Copacabana</u></b></p> <p>What an experience! By boat visit the curious floating reed islands and the Uros Indians who live there. Everything is made of these reeds, houses, schools, boats, churches etc. Once you reach the reed islands, you can experience gliding across Lake Titicaca in an authentic reed boat - you can't beat it! Return to Puno.</p> <p>This afternoon continue through lovely scenery, which follows this mighty lake to the Bolivian border.</p> <p>After border formalities continue to the sleepy town of Copacabana.</p> <p>Accommodation: Hotel Rosario del Lago  <a href="http://www.hotelrosario.com/lago">www.hotelrosario.com/lago</a></p>	Lake Titicaca (B)
17	Sun	<p><b><u>Isla del Sol – La Paz</u></b></p> <p>Morning to explore around Copacabana or an optional boat trip out on the lake to tranquil Isla del Sol (Island of the Sun) where legend has it that the first Inca King rose out of the lake.</p> <p>On this legendary island, visit the Pilkokaina Inca Palace and enjoy a short walk to the Gardens, Sacred Stairs and Fountain of the Inca. As we ascend to Yumani village, we have a magnificent view of the lake set to the backdrop of Mount Illampu.</p> <p>Return to Copacabana and continue through even more stunning scenery, with snow-capped peaks and the blue lake, to La Paz, capital of Bolivia and highest capital in the world.</p> <p>Known as City of Contrasts, here ancient traditions meet the new millennium of chaotic traffic and towering buildings.</p> <p>Accommodation: Hotel Rosario</p> <p><a href="http://www.hotelrosario.com/la-paz">www.hotelrosario.com/la-paz</a></p>	La Paz (B)
18	Mon	<p><b><u>City tour and shopping</u></b></p> <p>A morning tour takes you down to where the air is thicker and the elite live. Visit the witches markets, Calle Jaen with its museums, San Francisco Church, Plaza Murillo, National Congress, Cathedral, Presidential Palace, continuing to the very unusual eroded formations of the Moon Valley.</p> <p>The afternoon is free to enjoy the uniqueness of this colourful bustling city and shop for bargains and gifts.</p>	La Paz (B)
19	Tues	<p><b><u>Explore La Paz</u></b></p> <p>Optional tour to Tiwanaku (Pre-Columbian) ruins outside the city or a Mountain Bike down the world's most spectacular road or spend the day with a little more shopping and people watching. A great city to do that!</p>	La Paz (B)

20	Wed	<p><b><u>La Paz – Sucre</u></b>  Transfer to the airport for a morning flight to Sucre . On arrival transfer to your hotel  Accommodation: Hotel de Su Merced  The Hotel de Su Merced is set in the old site of the city, two blocks and a half from the 25 de Mayo central square.  Sucre has some of the finest colonial architecture in the world. See the Constitutional Capital of Bolivia and the seat of the Supreme Court on our morning tour.  Sucre is called the white city. It's a city of towers, beautiful churches where the architecture reflects the life of the colonial Spanish aristocracy.  Sucre was the birth place of the independence movements of the Americas. In fact, Sucre was the first to rebel against Spanish rule on 25th May 1809. Its colonial past is visible in many religious and civil buildings distributed in the center of the city. Narrow streets, churches, fastidious residences, white facades, red roofs allow us to discover a past of art and religion. In 1991 Sucre was declared Cultural Heritage of Humanity by the UNESCO in light of its Historical and Cultural value.  It is neat to just walk around this safe city and take in the different colonial buildings and wonder what life was like years ago.  Acommodation: Hotel de Merced</p>	Sucre (B)
21	Thurs	<p><b><u>Sucre- Potosi</u></b>  This morning travel by bus into the highlands to the UNESCO World Heritage city of Potosi with its rich history and Spanish architecture. Potosi is known as the Imperial City and is situated at the foot of Cerro Rico (Rich Mountain) famed for its mineral wealth. The Spanish created one of the most important and populous cities on the continent, after the discovery of the silver-rich mountain in 1545. Situated at an altitude of more than 13,123ft (4,000m), it is also the highest city in the world although not quite the thriving metropolis that it once was.  Potosi was founded in 1546. It soon produced enormous wealth, becoming one of the largest cities in the world with a population of more than 200.000 people. In Spanish there is a saying ´vale un Potosí!´ (´it's worth a Potosí´), which means being worth a fortune. It is from Potosí that most of the Spanish silver came. According to official records, 45.000 tons of pure silver were mined from Cerro Rico from 1556 to 1783. Of this total, 7.000 tons went to the Spanish monarchy. The tradition tells that the Spanish conquerours found incredible amounts of silver, enough to build a bridge completely made out of silver from Potosí to Europe. During the early 19th century, struggles for independence caused many churches to be looted. Then the city's wealth was removed to Europe or to other parts of the Spanish realm. By then the population dropped to less than 10.000. By the time of independence in 1825, the mines of the Cerro Rico were almost exhausted.  The opportunity to visit the mines this afternoon  Accommodation: Hotel Colonial</p>	Potosi (B)

<b>22</b>	<b>Fri</b>	<b><u>Potosi</u></b> Visit to Casa de la Moneda, Convento de Santa Teresa and San Francisco. Tour through the old colonial center with its old narrow streets and mine neighbourhoods	Potosi(B)
<b>23</b>	<b>Sat</b>	<b><u>Potosi –Uyuni</u></b>  This morning we continue across the altiplano to Uyuni then transfer to your hotel on the edge of the salt flats This hotel is one of the most extraordinary in the world, constructed out of blocks of salt. Accommodation: Luna Salada Hotel	Uyuni (B)
<b>24</b>	<b>Sun</b>	<b><u>Salt Flats – Uyuni-Villazon</u></b> The Uyuni Salt lakes area area of impressive beauty Full day visit to the Uyuni Salt Lake.Start your day visiting the huge Uyuni Salt Lake, the cold water springs, the Colchani Salt Factory and Isla Pescado famous for its giant cactus. After lunch continue to Coquesa Mummies and then back to Uyuni .We have arranged use of a hotel room at Hotel Tambo Aymara until late evening when you will be transferred to the railway station and depart on overnight train - executive class	Uyuni (B,L)
<b>25</b>	<b>Mon</b>	<b><u>Villazon –Purmamarca</u></b> Arrive Villazon early this morning where you will be assisted across the border and connect by comfortable bus to Tilcara and connect by car to the charming town of Purmamarca Accommodation: Refugio de Cocquena Hotel	Purmamarca
<b>26</b>	<b>Tues</b>	<b><u>Purmamarca-Salta</u></b> Visit the Seven Colours Mountain surrounding Purmamarca-incredible colours . Then to Tilcara with its archaeological museum and Indian Fortress( entrance fee to be paid direct ) Continue on to Humahuaca then visit Leon and Tumbaya.Travel past La Cienaga Dam, Campo Alegre Dam and La Caldera. Travel through Jujuy on the way to Salta Located in the northwest of the Argentine Republic, the province of Salta amazes the tourist with its geographical and cultural heterogeneity. Surrounded by three countries (Chile, Bolivia and Paraguay) and six provinces (Jujuy, Formosa, Chaco, Santiago del Estero, Tucumán and Catamarca), its vast territory covers all kinds of landscapes, from the arid desert of La Puna, to the lush green forest.This region is also the centre of the fruit production, lemons,olives , tobacco for Argentina and has a very pleasant climate at this time of year Accommodation: Hotel Virrey	Salta (B)

27	Wed	<p><b>Salta</b> Salta is known not only for its inhabitants' warmth but also for its cultural heritage. It inherited the diaguita-calchaquí nation of the Inca Empire, a result of the Spanish colonial past and the native spirit that fought for national independence. Morning tour of Salta.</p>	Salta (B)
28	Thurs	<p><b>Salta- Train to the Clouds</b> It leaves from the train station at the city of Salta and ends its route at La Polvorilla Viaduct. The railways reach a height of 4,200 meters above sea level, turning this train into one of the highest in the world. The train offers meals onboard, translator services, and medical assistance for any passenger that may be affected by the lack of oxygen caused by the height. The trip lasts approximately sixteen hours, from seven am until midnight or later. The train runs 217 km. and passes through 29 bridges, 21 tunnels, 13 viaducts, 2 spirals, and 2 zigzags. There are two stops throughout the trip: one at San Antonio de los Cobres station, and the other one at La Polvorilla viaduct. It leaves from the city of Salta, the lowest point, and from there it begins the upward route until it reaches the final point at La Polvorilla Viaduct, the highest in the trip. As you reach the different stations, local villagers at picturesque stands sell craftwork, clothes, and regional products as interesting souvenirs of the trip.  The train services include dining car, medical practice, audio, video, and bilingual guides.</p>	Salta (B)

29	Fri	<p><b><u>Salta – Cafayate</u></b>  Leaving from the City of Salta, tour around one of the most impressive circuits in the Republic of Argentina as you visit the legendary Calchaquí Valley.  In order to visit the Calchaquí Valleys and appreciate their beautiful sceneries and the quaint villages from the early XVIII century nestled in their geography, travel a total distance of 520 kilometers through three main roads, namely Provincial Route 33 and National Routes 40 and 68.  From the very beginning, fascination takes hold of travelers as they enter the San Fernando de Escoipe Ravine. Surrounded by mountains and bordered by Provincial Route 33, it sets the start of adventure. The local vegetation is typical of the mountain rain forest, with the presence of hydrophile and xerophile plants. Ancient laurels, willows, walnuts, peachtrees, poplars and some conifers are always present in the area.  At the end of the Escoipe Ravine, the winding <b>Questa del Obispo</b> (Bishop's Slope) begins. It got its name from Monsignor Cortázar, the maximum ecclesiastical authority in Salta, who was traveling from Salta to Cachi back in 1622 and spent the night at this spot lying at 3,400 m.  At the top of the slope, known as <b>Piedra del Molino</b> (Millstone), lies a chapel raised to honor the Archangel Raphael, "Patron Saint of Travelers". This spot features an unforgettable view of the endless slope, which gets mingled with the granite formation of feldspar, mica and quartz contained in the area.  Driving on, there appears a place which faithfully honors its name: the "Enchanted Valley", a dreamed-of place with red soil and green grass where the huge rocks and the uneven terrain astonish the most daring visitors, who are used to being delighted by natural wonders.  Continue on to Los Cardones National Park. The road leads to Cachi Pampa. "salt pampa" in the Cacán tongue.  After a few kilometers, the Tin Tin Straight is entered. Fully paved, this 12-kilometer-long stretch displays the impressive snow-capped Curacatao summits in the distance. The tour always features the characteristics of the scenery, totally worth beholding. A little further, the town of Cachi opens its gates to show its simple beauty. It is a good moment to make a stop, rest for a while and tour around the purely colonial district. Cachi means "salt" in the Quechua or Cacán tongue, and it was given such a name by the local natives, who had mistaken the summit of Nevado for a big salt deposit. When touring around the village, visitors can appreciate the politeness of the people, who appear to be in tune with the architectural surroundings. Continue through Molinos to the wine growing region of Cafayate  Accommodation: Los Sauces Hotel</p>	Cafayate (B)
30	Sat	<p><b><u>Cafayate – Salta –Buenos Aires</u></b>  Cafayate, dunes and vineyards in a fertile valley surrounded by colourful mountains are the best setting to taste delicious wines from an ancient cellar  Return through the "Quebrada de las Conchas" (Shells Ravine) where traces of prehistoric times still remain in the many aeolic formations such as The Theatre, The Devil's Throat, The Toad and some others. As we get closer to Salta, the vegetation becomes more lush as we descend down towards the city. Transfer to the airport for your evening flight to Buenos Aires  Accommodation: Wilton Hotel</p>	Buenos Aires (B)

<b>31</b>	<b>Sun</b>	<p><b><u>Buenos Aires (B)</u></b>  This morning a three and a half hour sightseeing tour visiting the most outstanding sites. Departing from the Hotel to get to 9 de Julio Ave. the widest in the world, past the famous Colon Opera house, the Obelisk commemorating the first founding of the city in 1536 to get to Plaza de Mayo (May Square), and the buildings surrounding it: Government House, Metropolitan Cathedral with the Mausoleum of General San Martin, Argentina's greatest national hero and the Cabildo, the colonia town hall built in 1751. Then on to La Boca, typically Italian district, where first Italian immigrants settled and Caminito street. The tour continues to Buenos Aires port area, past San Martín Square towards Palermo Chico residential district and Palermo Park with its jacaranda and palo borracho trees which flower in the spring and late summer. The ride continues to Recoleta elegant district to visit Recoleta Cemetery where the famous are laid to rest (including Eva Peron). Return to the hotel along the stylish Alvear Ave.</p>	Buenos Aires (B)
<b>32</b>	<b>Mon</b>	<p><b><u>Depart Buenos Aires</u></b>  Day at leisure until being transferred in the evening to the airport for your flight to Santiago connecting with your overnight flight home .</p>	(B)

## IGUAZU FALLS & RIO EXTENSION

<b>32</b>	<b>Mon</b>	<p><b><u>Buenos Aires -Iguazu (B)</u></b>  Morning flight to Iguazu .  Tour into the Parque Nacional del Iguazu on the Argentine side . Enjoy a walking tour on the falls. The view is magnificent, specially the one right on top of the Devil's Throat. Transfer to your hotel</p>	Iguassu (B)
<b>33</b>	<b>Tues</b>	<p><b><u>Iguassu</u></b>  Morning tour to view the Brazilian side of the Falls.</p>	Iguassu (B)
<b>34</b>	<b>Wed</b>	<p><b><u>Iguassu -Rio de Janeiro</u></b>  Transfer to the airport for your flight to Rio . On arrival transfer to your hotel located in Copacabana.  Afternoon tour to one of the older parts of Rio called Cosme Velho, from where we take the train to the Corcovado mountain with the gigantic statue of Christ the Redeemer (2.300ft above sea level). A modern Swiss-made cogwheel rail climbs the mountain from its base at 15 meters almost to the summit at 710 meters. The trip up takes 17 minutes approx, at a maximum speed of 15km/h. The trip down takes 22min. a a speed of 12km/h.. return to your hotel.</p>	Rio de Janeiro (B)

<b>35</b>	<b>Thurs</b>	<b><u>Rio (B)</u></b> This morning visit to the world famous Sugar Loaf Mountain in the middle of the Guanabara Bay, from where one of the most breathtaking views of the city of Rio can be seen. (take the two-stage car up to the top of the Mountain). The tour also offers a panoramic tour to downtown Rio, which is a great opportunity to see some of the historical sites of the city such as the Cathedral and the Municipal Theatre. Afternoon at leisure	Rio de Janeiro
<b>36</b>	<b>Fri</b>	<b><u>Depart Rio de Janeiro (B)</u></b> Transfer to the airport for your flight	

**Additional Cost : NZ\$1870**

**Inclusions:** accommodation in hotel . double/twin rooms with private facilities , local service charges & hotel taxes, transfers and tours as specified in the itinerary with local English speaking guides ,additional airfares , breakfast daily plus other meals as specified in the itinerary.