Discovering *South America*

From ancient temples to sun-drenched beaches, world-famous waterfalls and cities spiked with Latin flavour, South America offers a never-ending stream of discovery. South America is a vibrant and diverse continent, rich in natural beauty, culture, and history. It is the fourth largest continent in the world, home to 12 countries, including Brazil, Argentina, and Colombia.

Activity Level
Moderate to High

The continent is famous for its breathtaking landscapes, from the Amazon Rainforest, the world's largest tropical rainforest, to the Andes, the longest mountain range on Earth. Since the Spanish and Portuguese explorers began colonising South America it's been a source of endless curiosity as its archaeological secrets and rich wildlife have been gradually unveiled to the rest of the world.

And let's not forget its Latino passion and sense of fun. No city hosts a carnival like Brazil's Rio de Janeiro, with its hip-swaying samba dancing. And Argentina's Buenos Aires gives it a run for its money, too, with its sultry tango moves. South America is a wondrous place to explore.

Visa Process

Brazil: Visa requirements vary depending on your nationality. Australian passport holders are required to obtain a visa to enter Brazil. The eVisa application is available via **https://brazil.vfsevisa.com**

Please note that visa requirements are subject to change at any time, so we recommend checking the most up-to-date information at **https://apply.joinsherpa.com/travel-restrictions** to confirm whether a visa is required.

Peru: You do not need a visa to travel to Peru for tourism or short visits. You are normally given permission to stay for up to 30 days when you arrive. If you need to stay longer, you must apply for permission on arrival.

Argentina: You can visit Argentina without a visa for up to 90 days for tourism.

Chile: Australian, British and New Zealand passport holders do not require a visa for Chile when staying for up to 90 days for tourism purposes.

Gratuities

Brazil: Tipping is common. In restaurants, a service charge may be included in the bill, but it's customary to leave an additional 10% for good service.

Peru: Tipping is common for personal services like dining, hotel assistance, and guided tours. Typically, leave 10-15% at restaurants, a few soles for bartenders and hotel staff. Tipping taxi drivers is optional. For your local guides we recommend between US$ 5-8 per person, per day and for drivers, US$ 3-4 per person per day.

Chile: Tipping is voluntary but expected, particularly for bellmen, porters and waitstaff. For excellent service in restaurants, bars, and cafés, a 10% tip is customary. In taxis, for a short journey, it's easiest to round up your fare to the nearest significant amount in Chilean pesos.

Argentina: Tipping is common. Tipping between 1-5 pesos at hotels is considered acceptable, while in restaurants, a 10% tip is appreciated for good service. In taxis, round up your fare or leave a few pieces of change.

Please note: Entry and exit conditions can change at short notice, so it's important to check with the nearest embassy or consulate for the most up-to-date information. Additionally, severe weather conditions in mountain areas may lead to the closure of certain land border crossings to neighbouring countries.



The climate in South America varies depending on the location and time of travel.



Average Summer	Average Winter
Around 30°C	Around 25°C



Average Summer	Average Winter
Around 25°C	Around 15°C



Average Summer	Average Winter
Around 29°C	Around 8°C



Average Summer	Average Winter
Around 30°C	Around 8°C

Currency

Brazil: Brazilian Real (BRL)

Peru: Peruvian Sol (PEN)

Chile: Chilean Peso (CLP)

Argentina: Argentine Peso (ARS)

Credit Cards

Credit cards are commonly accepted in urban areas and tourist destinations. However, it's recommended to carry cash for smaller establishments and markets.

Plug Sockets

Brazil: Brazil typically uses Type N plug sockets. Consider bringing a universal adapter to charge your devices.

Peru: Peru uses 220 volt electricity, so visitors will need a converter for 110 volt devices. There are three associated plug types, A, B and C. Consider bringing a universal adapter to charge your devices.

Chile: Chile typically uses Type C and Type L plug sockets. Consider bringing a universal adapter to charge your devices.

Argentina: Argentina typically uses Type C and Type I plug sockets. Consider bringing a universal adapter to charge your devices.



Cultural Norms

Brazil: Brazilians are friendly and warm people. Respect elders and dress modestly when visiting religious sites.

Peru: Peruvians are friendly and welcoming. Respect local customs and dress modestly when visiting religious sites.

Chile: In Chile, cultural etiquette emphasises politeness and respect. Greet with a handshake to show respect when greeting someone and address people formally, using "Señor" or "Señora." You'll also notice that Chileans value their personal space and regard direct eye contact as respectful. Dress modestly: Clothing in Chile is conservative and formal.

Argentina: Argentines are friendly and value personal relationships. Greet with a nod and handshake to show respect when greeting someone. You'll also notice that Argentines are touchers and stand close to each other when speaking, so don't back away. Dress modestly: Argentines are extremely fashion conscious; it's advised to dress well if you want to make a good impression.

Check in Process

Have your passport or a valid form of identification ready for check-in.

Check-in is usually from 3pm local time.



Dining

Brazil: Brazilian cuisine is diverse and flavourful, with popular dishes like feijoada, churrasco, and acarajé. It is not recommended to drink tap water, so stick to bottled.

Peru: Peruvian cuisine is diverse and delicious, with dishes like ceviche, lomo saltado, and causa rellena. However, as hygiene levels differ to the UK, it's important to be mindful when eating out. Always drink bottled or filtered water and avoid drinking tap water.

Chile: Dining in Chile offers a delightful blend of flavours, reflecting the country's diverse geography and cultural influences. Fresh seafood is a highlight, especially dishes like ceviche and king crab from the coastal regions. Tap water is safe to drink almost everywhere in Chile due to it having some of the highest water quality standards in the world, if you'd prefer to be more cautious, bottled water is available.

Argentina: Beef is the main part of the Argentine diet, so don't miss the opportunity to indulge in asado, where a selection of meat is cooked over an open fire and served with red wine and salads. In general, tap water in Argentina is treated by chlorine and therefore drinkable. However, exercise caution in small settlements or rural areas by sticking to bottled or filtered water.

What to pack

Essentials:
Passport & Visa: Ensure you have your passport, visa, and any necessary travel documents.
Travel Insurance: Always a good idea for unexpected situations.
Money: Cash (especially small denominations) and credit/debit cards. ATMs are widely available.
Health Kit: Any prescription medications, over-the-counter medicines (Ensure that you travel with these in your hand luggage)
Luggage Tags: We suggest traveling with a luggage tag with the guest's name, address, and phone number clearly stated on it. Please use one luggage tag per suitcase and label your smaller overnight bag/carry-on luggage.

Clothing:
Pack layers for varying temperatures and comfortable shoes for walking, Consider cultural norms when selecting your attire.

Personal Items:
Toiletries: Basic items like toothpaste, shampoo, soap, and any specific personal items you use.
Sunscreen & Sunglasses: Protection from the strong sun is crucial.
Insect Repellent: Especially important in rural or tropical areas.

Electronics:
Adapter/Converter: Phone & Charger: With a local SIM card, you can have better connectivity and avoid high roaming charges.
Camera: To capture your travels (with extra memory cards and batteries).

Other Useful Items:
Small Backpack/Daypack:
For day trips and carrying essentials.
Hand Sanitiser:
For cleanliness on the go.
Overnight Bag: If you are staying in Cusco before and after your night in Sacred Valley, you will be asked to leave your main luggage at the Cusco Hotel in storage. Your luggage with be safely stored, whilst you take your overnight bag for your stay in the Sacred Valley.

Emergency

Brazil: In case of an emergency, dial 190 for police, 192 for medical emergencies, and 193 for the fire department.

Peru: In case of an emergency, dial 105 for police, 117 for medical emergencies, and 116 for the fire department.

Chile: In case of an emergency, dial 133 for police, 131 for medical emergencies, and 132 for the fire department.

Argentina: In case of an emergency, dial 911 for police, medical, or fire emergencies.

It's advisable to have travel insurance for medical emergencies.