

Grand Tour of South America



TRIP OVERVIEW

Take in the ancient ruins of lost civilizations, elegant colonial buildings, spectacular natural beauty and passionate culinary and dance traditions of Latin America as you travel to the most iconic sights of Peru, Chile, Argentina and Brazil. Wander the Inca citadel of Machu Picchu, the 42 hills of colourful Valparaíso, the cantinas and neighbourhoods of Buenos Aires and Rio de Janeiro and the thundering mist of Iguazú Falls on this comprehensive tour South America.

ITINERARY & DETAILS

This document aims to give you all the information that you require for a smooth and comfortable trip to Latin America. Please take the time to read this dossier to familiarise yourself with all the aspects of our tour. It includes important information such as flight details, visa requirements and travel insurance.

Your included meal guide:

B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner

DAY 1: UK to Lima

Depart London on your scheduled, overnight flight to Lima, Peru, via São Paulo.

DAY 2: Lima D

On arrival, you will be met and transferred to your hotel where you can rest and unwind before tonight's welcome dinner.

DAY 3: Lima B

Today's tour of Peru's vibrant capital starts at the Plaza Mayor with a visit to the lovingly-restored 18th century cathedral on the plaza's edge. View the majestic Archbishop's Palace, City Hall and Government Palace before continuing on to San Francisco Monastery, which boasts a network of underground chambers once used as the city cemetery. Wander through lively Plaza San Martín before stopping at the Larco Herrera Museum. Enjoy the remainder of the day at leisure to take in more of the city sights.

DAY 4: Lima to Sacred Valley B/L/D

Journey into the Incan heartland of Peru as today's flight takes you to the mountain city of Cusco and onwards to the Sacred Valley, an area of flat, fertile land which sustained many ancient towns and villages. En route, stop at the well-preserved terraced Incan ruins of Ollantaytambo fortress, a stronghold of Incan resistance against the Spanish, and the village of Pisac, renowned for its lively market and stone Incan buildings, before arriving at your hotel.

DAY 5: Machu Picchu B/L/D

Visit the mountaintop Incan citadel of Machu Picchu, one of the standout highlights of Latin America. Catch your first breath-taking glimpse of the ancient city as your train winds its way to its lofty location. Mystery still surrounds this enigmatic city and its 200 stone structures, although modern-day experts believe it was the residence of ancient Incan rulers. Explore its age-old sun temple, sacred plazas and ceremonial bathhouses before returning to the Sacred Valley for the night.

DAY 6: Sacred Valley to Cusco B

Explore the Inca fortress of Sacsayhuaman, made up of precisely laid 200-tonne blocks that highlight the masterful stonework of that civilisation. Travel onward to Cusco for a city tour of this city nestled in the Andes and time at leisure to admire its fine colonial architecture.

DAY 7: Cusco to Santiago B/D

After breakfast, you'll be transferred to the airport for your flight to Santiago,

Chile's cosmopolitan capital.

DAY 8: Santiago B

Santiago is emerging from the shadow of its glitzier South American neighbours, with its splendid colonial buildings, majestic mountain backdrop and thriving culinary scene making it a delight to explore. Today's tour starts at the National Museum, and also takes in Santiago's historic centre, the bohemian Bellavista district and the views from San Cristóbal Hill. Enjoy the rest of the day at leisure.

DAY 9: Santiago B

Wander the streets of the port city of Valparaíso as today's excursion takes you to this colourful city, built across 42 hills. Journey from its merry slopes and UNESCO-listed historic quarter to the coastal city of Viña del Mar — a resort known for its fine beaches and pristine parks. Travel back to Santiago, stopping en route at an award-winning winery in Casablanca Valley for a tour and tasting session.

DAY 10: Santiago to Puerto Varas B

Fly to the city of Puerto Montt, where a short tour of the city allows for fantastic views over views of Angelmó Bay and Reloncavi Bay. Continue to the pretty town of Puerto Varas, which overlooks vast Lake Llanquihue, for your overnight stay.

DAY 11: Puerto Varas to Bariloche B/D

Make your way by coach and boat to the mountain resort of Bariloche, stopping in the town of Peulla for lunch and time to explore. Bariloche's snowy mountains and stunning glacier-fed lake make for a spectacular setting in the Andean foothills.

DAY 12: Bariloche B

Take in Bariloche's breath-taking scenery on a drive to breath-taking where a lift to the summit allows for fantastic views of the lakes and towns below. Drive through the region, passing historic hotels and chapels, crossing rivers and bridges and enjoying views over the peninsula before returning to your hotel in Bariloche for the night.

DAY 13: Bariloche to Buenos Aires B/D

Depart today for your flight to Buenos Aires, Argentina's lively capital. On arrival, you will be met and transferred to your hotel where you can enjoy the rest of the day at leisure.

DAY 14: Buenos Aires B

Today's tour leads you from the city square at Plaza de Mayo past the architectural wonders of Avenida de Mayo. Continue on to the historic neighbourhood of San Telmo before visiting the colorful alleyways and cantinas of La Boca and the modern offices of gentrified Puerto Madero. Explore the extraordinarily ornate gravestones of Recoleta's Cemetery before returning to your hotel.

DAY 15: Buenos Aires B/D

Enjoy a day of leisure then a night of merriment with an evening dinner and tango show at historic El Querandi restaurant. Witness Argentina's passionate traditional dance and enjoy delicious local food and wine in a traditional setting.

DAY 16: Buenos Aires to Iguazu Falls B/D

After breakfast, catch your flight to Iguazu Falls, Brazil, one of the Seven Natural Wonders of World. Upon arrival, journey to the mighty waterfalls and experience this natural phenomenon from the Brazilian side. Marvel at the islet of San Martin and Devil's Throat, the U-shaped section of the waterfall which got its name from the deep roar and clouds of mist it emits as water cascades through.

DAY 17: Iguazu Falls B/L

After breakfast, a day trip takes you into Argentina to experience Iguazu Falls from the Argentinian side. Marvel at its thundering waters as you walk along elevated footbridges to observation points with sweeping views, then make your way to Devil's Throat where you can enjoy the spectacle from a different perspective. Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant before returning to the Brazilian side for your overnight stay.

DAY 18: Iguazu Falls to Rio de Janeiro B/D

After breakfast, you will be transferred to the airport for your flight to Rio de Janeiro. On arrival, you will be met and transferred to your oceanfront hotel room, with the remainder of the day at leisure.

DAY 19: Rio de Janeiro B

This morning, travel to the summit of Sugar Loaf Mountain for a fantastic bird's eye view of Rio de Janeiro and Copacabana Beach. Take a train ride to the forested peak of Corcovado where Rio's iconic Christ the Redeemer statue overlooks the city and get a closer look at the 30-metre-tall figure which serves as a symbol of peace and Christianity.

DAY 20: Rio de Janeiro B/D

Enjoy a day at leisure to explore the sights of Rio, perhaps joining the sun-seekers on Ipanema Beach or exploring the city's beautiful cathedrals. Tonight's farewell dinner at a barbeque steakhouse marks the end of your tour.

DAY 21: Rio de Janeiro to the UK or extension B

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for your flight to the UK, via São Paulo, or continue on to your chosen extension.

ACCOMMODATION DETAILS & MAP



Accommodation

Your accommodation is selected for convenience, location, comfort or character, and can range from business hotels to leisure hotels. Hotel accommodation is generally rated as local three to four-star standard, but please note there is no international classification system for hotels, and differences in facilities and quality do exist between the UK and South America. All group tours hotels have private bathroom facilities and air-conditioning, where needed. Rest assured that all accommodation used by Mercury Holidays is regularly inspected by our staff and partners to ensure that standards meet your needs. If you have booked a triple share please note that your room will be a twin room with a rollaway bed or sofa bed added. This may limit the floor space in the room.

Please note: the hotels listed are provided for guidance only and final confirmation of your accommodation will be sent in a document, along with your final flight information, approximately 10 days before you travel.

Meals

Breakfast is always western style and served in the hotel each morning. Dinner (when included) will be taken in local restaurants or at the hotel. A variety of restaurants are visited giving you the chance to experience a range of dishes and flavours.

ON YOUR ARRIVAL

On your arrival in Lima, Peru you will be met by a representative from our local agent, **Pure Peru**, holding a sign displaying: "Mercury Holidays". The Mercury Holidays/ Pure Peru representative will show you to your transfer vehicle. Please note for your arrival in Santiago on day 7 if you cannot see your representative they will be at Exit Gate 4. There are many illegal taxis operating around Santiago Airport and they have been known to steal from tourists. Official taxis are dark blue in colour. If you need to contact our agency representatives during your stay, the details are:

Peru (Pure Peru)

Address: Av. Ejercito 250 office 703, Miraflores, Lima, Peru
Office Phone Number: 0051 998 754 080 (Opening hours 8:30am to 5:30pm)
E-mail Address: customer-service@pure-peru.com

Emergency contact information

Mobile telephone numbers: 0051 99 875 4080

Chile (Pure! Chile)

Nueva Providencia 2214, office 186
Tel: 0056 9 5681 6943
E-mail: Sales1@pure-chile.com/ info@pure-chile.com

Emergency contact information

Telephone number: 0056 956816943

WHAT YOU NEED FOR YOUR TOUR

Visas

British passport holders are not currently required to obtain a visa in order to travel to Peru, Chile, Brazil and Argentina. Further advice should be sought from the applicable tourist authority for other nationalities and for general queries. We strongly advise you check your destinations' Tourist Board or Embassy for the most up-to-date guidelines regarding passport validity.

Argentina (Eurotur)

Address: Viamonte 486, Buenos Aires, Argentina
Office Phone Number: 0054 11 4312 6077
Email: patricia.parra@eurotur.tur.ar

Emergency contact information

Email: 247@eurotur.tur.ar
Mobile telephone numbers: 0054 911 6878 1562

Brazil (Blumar)

Address: Rua Siqueira Campos, 43 - cob 02 Copacabana, Rio de Janeiro, 22031-901
Phone: 0055 21 2142 9300
Email: juliepires@blumar.com.br

Emergency contact information

24-hour phone number: 0055 21 99109 7256

Insurance

We strongly recommend that you and all members of your party are suitably insured as soon as you book your holiday. It is a condition of booking that you must have suitable travel insurance. It is important that you purchase travel insurance that suitably covers your participation in whatever activities you may undertake at the time that you make



your booking. To assist you with this, we have arranged travel insurance in partnership with Holiday Extras. To arrange your travel insurance with Holiday Extras, please call 0800 781 4237 and quote 'WK830' for preferential rates. Please ensure you provide us with the name of your insurer, policy number and their 24 hour emergency contact number as soon as possible. Mercury Holidays will not be liable for any costs incurred by you due to your failure to take out suitable travel insurance from the date of booking.

Health and Vaccinations

It is your responsibility to check any health and vaccination requirements applicable to your booked arrangements. We can only provide general information about this. Health and hygiene facilities and disease risks vary from country to country. You should take health advice about your own needs as early as possible and in good time before your departure. Sources of information include; www.fco.gov.uk, www.travelhealthpro.org.uk, www.hpa.org.uk, your General Practitioner or a specialist clinic.

Altitude Sickness

Altitude sickness is a fairly common condition that can occur when you ascend to a high altitude (generally higher than 2,500 metres above sea level) quickly. The decrease in atmospheric pressure can make breathing more difficult as the body is not able to take in as much oxygen. Most cases are mild with symptoms that can include headache, nausea, dizziness and exhaustion. Several of the places in Peru are located at high altitude (over 2,500 metres above sea level) including Puno, Lake Titicaca and Cusco. Therefore, you may find you experience some symptoms at this altitude. It is advised that at these high altitudes you keep hydrated and avoid alcohol. If you do experience symptoms of altitude sickness during your tour, ensure you tell your guide immediately who will be able to advise the best thing for you to do. You can contact your GP before you travel for advice on medication for altitude sickness.

Physical Accessibility

This tour is accessible to most people with a good level of fitness and normal mobility. It involves climbing of steep stairs and getting on and off coaches. This tour is not suitable for anyone with walking difficulties. All our tours feature a "Tour Pace" to help find the right holiday for you. To travel on any of our tours requires unaided mobility and the ability to stroll around the sights, climb stairs and get on and off coaches and boats. The tour pace for Grand Tour of South America is rated as Advanced. A higher level of fitness as required as you may be on your feet for most of the day though this will be interspersed with regular breaks and vary from day to day. You will be walking around the sights, getting on and off coaches, trains, boats and climbing steps which may be irregular. There may be some time spend at high altitude. You will stay in variety of hotels, possibly including overnight trains, and accommodation standards may not match those you are used to at home. Our guides will always endeavour to provide the highest level of service and assistance; however, they cannot be expected to cater for customers who are unfit to complete the itinerary.

Personal safety

We recommend that you do not wear any jewellery whilst you are walking around. Don't advertise your cameras and phones; keep them in a bag or pocket where possible. Rio de Janeiro has had a bad reputation in the past for personal security, but this has vastly improved in recent years thanks to far more tourist police and better patrolling of problem areas. Keep cash to a minimum and leave your passport in the hotel's safe.

Tour Guides - Local Guide

This is a fully escorted tour meaning that you will be met by a local guide in each of the cities that you visit, ensuring that you have first-hand knowledge at all times.

Private Tour

If you have booked a private tour then you will be accompanied by a Driver Guide or a Driver and Local Guides. These will be available to you during all scheduled sightseeing. Private Tours can depart on any day of the week depending on flight and train schedules and the opening days of the attractions. They will follow the itinerary as described in the brochure unless you have been advised otherwise and you will still have all of the same meals, sightseeing and local excursions included.

Tipping

It is customary to tip both your driver and guide. We would recommend to tip approximately USD\$5. This is a total of \$50 per person to budget for tips on your trip. Tips will be collected at the end of each day. Tips are accepted in US dollars and the local currencies.

Group Size

The minimum number of travellers in your group will be 10, and the maximum will be 35. If in the unlikely event there are less than 10 people booked on your tour date, we will endeavour to reduce any disruption to your holiday and try to operate your tour with lower passenger numbers. If we are not able to operate your departure date, then you may be asked to change to a different date and a full refund will be made available to you should this alternative not be suitable.

Currency Exchange

Peru

The currency in Peru is the Nuevo Sol (S/).

Chile

The currency of Chile is the Chilean Peso (CLP / CH\$).

Brazil

The currency in Brazil is the Brazilian Real (BRL)

Argentina

The currency is the Argentinian Peso (ARS).

We recommend that you exchange your currency before you leave the UK. It is important that you budget carefully and ensure you have the right form of currency before you arrive in the country. Cash machines will also be available throughout the tour in order to withdraw money in your local currency.

Personal Expenses

You will need to take money with you to cover any personal purchases such as souvenirs, laundry, any meals not included in the itinerary as well as drinks and any additional snacks. Approximately £650- £800 per person will be sufficient for the duration of the tour. It is a good idea to try and maintain a supply of small notes and change in the local currency for tipping or small purchases.

A local tax called Ecotasa of approximately AR\$45 per person per night is to be paid to the hotel in Bariloche upon check in or check out.

Credit Card Information

As normal practice, you will be asked for your credit card details on check-in at the hotel in order to cover any extras incurred during your stay. If you do not have a credit card you may be asked for a cash deposit. American Express, Diners Club, MasterCard and Visa are widely accepted in hotels.

Itinerary Changes

The order of events and sightseeing may vary according to local conditions or for operational purposes. The schedules of the domestic airlines in country are subject to frequent changes. For this reason, we have indicated approximate times only. Your local guide will inform you of any schedule changes as they are informed of them. Some road construction &/or weather conditions may lengthen the driving times. Our intention is to adhere to the day-to-day itinerary as printed; however, order of events and sightseeing may vary according to local conditions.

WHAT TO PACK

- Insect repellent and high factor sun cream
- Comfortable walking shoes
- Waterproof lightweight jacket
- Sunglasses and hat
- Clothing - It is advisable to bring clothes for a range of temperatures and wear layers. Due to the high altitude, even in summer months, temperatures can be very low in the morning and evenings but quickly get hot when the sun rises.

- Personal toiletries
- Loo paper for public WCs
- Ruck sack
- Binoculars and Torch
- Swimming costume
- A multi adapter travel plug
- First aid kit containing travel pills, rehydration powder, plasters, stomach settlers, antiseptic creams, aspirin, etc.

FLIGHT INFORMATION

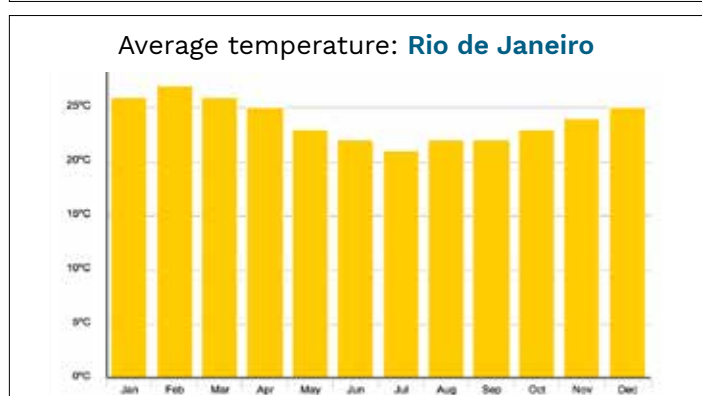
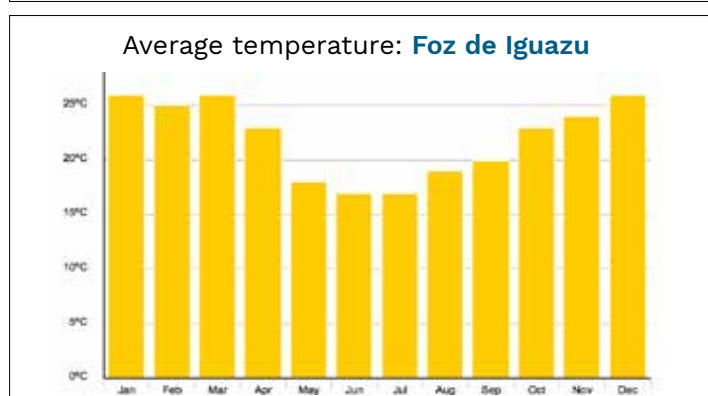
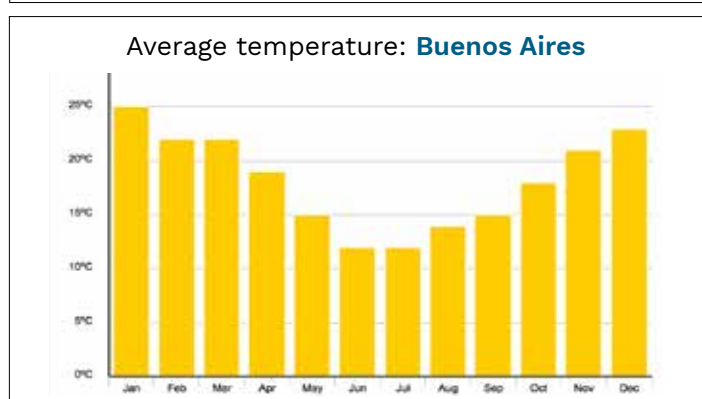
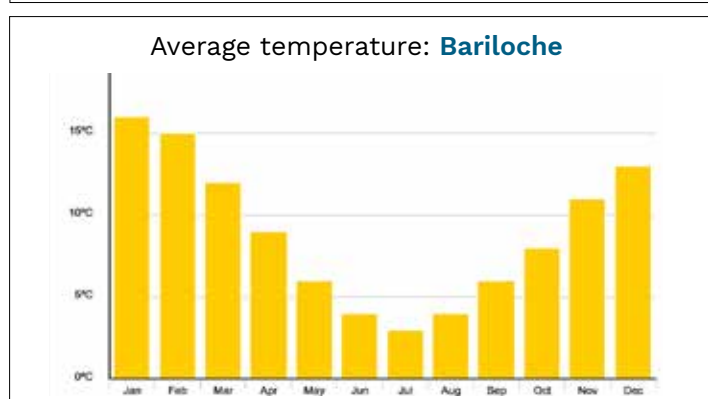
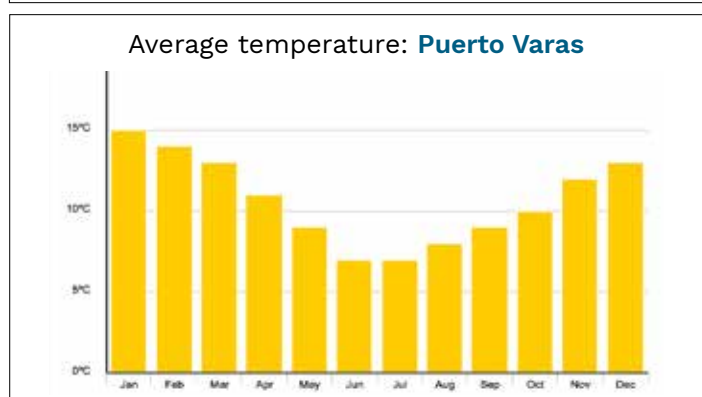
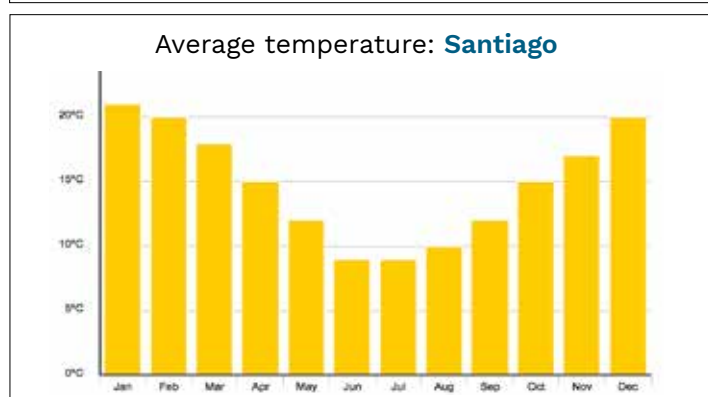
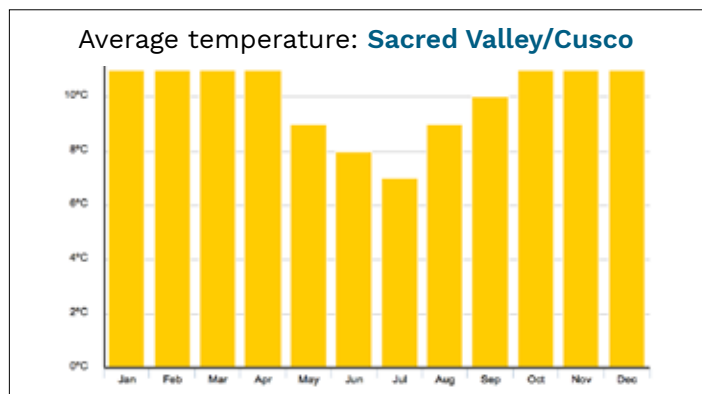
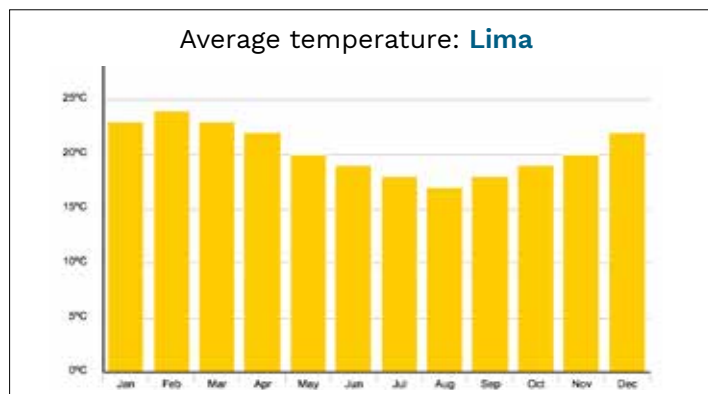
IMPORTANT: Please note that final flight details, including terminal, airline and baggage allowance, will be confirmed on your final documentation which will be sent to you approximately 10 days before departure. A printed E-ticket is no longer required at check-in, all you need to do is present your passport to the staff at the desk and your boarding pass will be given to you.

Airport Extras

If you wish to arrange Airport car parking, lounges or accommodation at preferential rates, we recommend you book this in advance with Holiday Extras Tel. 0871 360 2000, quoting HX313.

WEATHER AND CLIMATE

Weather can vary quite considerably throughout the year, so please familiarise yourself with the climate charts below.



Buzios Beach Stay

If you have not yet booked this fabulous extension, there is still time to do so. Please contact 0333 003 0522



TRIP OVERVIEW

Located a little over 100 miles from Rio de Janeiro, the former fishing village of Buzios draws both local and international visitors for its expanses of sparkling, emerald water, more than 17 white sand beaches and picturesque cobbled streets and waterfront, which have earned it the well-deserved title of 'Brazil's St. Tropez'. Made famous in the 1960s by a visit from Brigitte Bardot, the town has maintained its chic feel and developed an excellent food and nightlife scene.

ITINERARY & DETAILS

This document aims to give you all the information which you will require during your extension in Buzios.

Hotel options in Buzios

You will be transferred from Rio de Janeiro to Buzios for your stay at the following hotel:

5★ Vila da Santa Hotel Boutique and Spa

4 nights Bed & Breakfast

Vila da Santa Hotel Boutique & Spa is nestled in the historical heart of Búzios, right on the seaside, with direct access to the beautiful Ossos Beach. Located between Ossos square and Ossos beach, next to Sant'Ana church, the hotel brings back to life the enchanting atmosphere of the Búzian style from the 60's and its colorful Mediterranean architecture. The Hotel is just a 15-minutes walk from the famous Rua das Pedras (Street of Rocks) and the Orla Bardot (Bardot Boulevard). It is surrounded by the pristine and calm waters of Búzios, next to Azeda and Azedinha beaches. Address: Praça Eugenio Honold, 173 - Praia dos Ossos, Armação dos Búzios, RJ 28950-000, Brazil. Phone: 0055 (22) 26235770.

Any alternative hotels or board basis will have been confirmed at booking. Please speak to our reservations department if you are unsure.

Please note: the hotels listed are provided for guidance only and final confirmation of your accommodation will be sent in a document, along with your final flight information, approximately 10 days before you travel.

Personal Expenses

You will need to take some extra money with you to cover any personal purchases such as souvenirs and laundry plus meals and drinks.

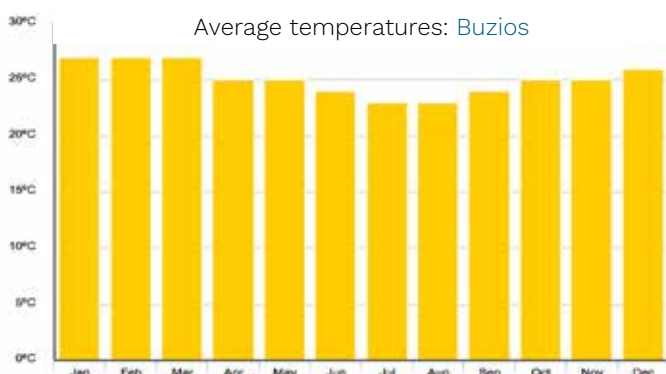
Tour Guides

Your stay in Buzios is not escorted by a tour guide. All internal transfers are included.

Please note: This extension takes place after your main tour.

WEATHER AND CLIMATE

Weather can vary quite considerably throughout the year, so please familiarise yourself with the climate charts below.



Vila da Santa Hotel Boutique and Spa

FLIGHT INFORMATION

Please note: Final hotel and flight details will be confirmed on your final documentation which will be sent to you approximately 10 days before departure.

For any further enquiries or for more information call us on **0333 003 0522**