



South America



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Itineraries



20 WEEKS The Big Loop

This classic South American journey takes in some of the continent's most famous sites, including Andean peaks, Amazonian rainforest, Machu Picchu, Iguazú Falls and the Galápagos Islands.

Start off in **Buenos Aires**. Spend several days exploring the mesmerizing Argentine capital. Go west to **Bariloche** for spectacular scenery then head to Chile's verdant Lake District at **Puerto Varas**. Continue north to **Santiago**, then cross back into Argentina to **Córdoba** and gorgeous **Salta** before re-entering Chile at the desert oasis of **San Pedro de Atacama**. Head into Bolivia to experience the surreal **Salar de Uyuni**. Continue to **La Paz** and on to Peru via **Lake Titicaca**. Linger at ancient **Cuzco** and **Machu Picchu** before going to **Lima** and on to Ecuador.

From **Guayaquil**, fly to the **Galápagos Islands**. Back on the mainland, visit colonial **Cuenca** and historic **Quito**. Pass into Colombia to the lush **Zona Cafetera** and bustling **Medellín**, then go to **Cartagena** for Caribbean allure. See beautiful **Parque Nacional Natural Tayrona**, then head towards **Leticia** and cross into Brazil. Head to **Manaus** for a jungle trip. Afterwards fly down to **Rio de Janeiro** for beaches and nightlife. Visit thundering **Iguazú Falls** and return to Buenos Aires.

8
WEEKS

Andean High

For rugged adventure, unparalleled alpine vistas, rich indigenous cultures and colorful market towns, journey down the Andes from Colombia to Argentina. Along the way, you'll pass through colonial towns, cloud forests and surreal desert landscapes.

Fly into **Bogotá**, taking in the old historic center and lively nightlife. Continue south to **San Agustín** to explore pre-Columbian ruins, and on to **Parque Nacional Natural Puracé**, for Andean treks. Then go to **Pasto** and on to the beautifully set **Laguna de la Cocha**.

Cross into Ecuador and visit **Otavalo** for markets and day trips to alpine lakes. Head west to **Mindo** for misty cloud-forest adventures. Continue south through **Quito** and on to **Volcán Cotopaxi** for hikes and majestic scenery.

Visit colonial **Cuenca**, relax in laid-back **Vilcabamba**, then continue into Peru and down to **Huaraz** for trekking in the Cordillera Blanca.

Spend a few days in **Cuzco**, then hike the **Inca Trail** to **Machu Picchu**. Head across shimmering **Lake Titicaca** into Bolivia for more hiking in the **Cordillera Real**. Continue south to the **Salar de Uyuni**, before crossing to Argentina by way of the spectacular **Quebrada de Humahuaca**. In Argentina end the trip at enchanting **Mendoza**, near massive **Cerro Aconcagua**, the western hemisphere's highest peak.



6

WEEKS

Patagonian Pilgrimage

Mysterious, windswept, glacier-riddled Patagonia is one of South America's most magical destinations. Patagonia – and the archipelago of Tierra del Fuego – is best visited November through March, and you can see more for less money if you camp.

Start in the outdoors-loving town of **Bariloche**. Take in the stunning **Parque Nacional Nahuel Huapi** and **Parque Nacional Lanín**. Head south to **Esquel**, for a taste of the Old Patagonian Express.

Travel west into Chile to the Andean hamlet of **Futaleufú** for outstanding rafting. Take the scenic Carretera Austral to **Coyhaique** and visit the caves of **Capilla de Mármol**. Head to windswept **Chile Chico** on Lago General Carrera, then cross into Argentina to **Los Antiguos**.

Bounce down to **El Chaltén** in spectacular **Parque Nacional Los Glaciares**, home of the wondrous Glaciar Perito Moreno, near El Calafate.

Cross back into Chile at Puerto Natales to hike beneath the granite spires of **Parque Nacional Torres del Paine**. Head to **Punta Arenas**, then south into Argentina's **Tierra del Fuego** and bottom out at edge-of-the-earth **Ushuaia**.

Travel north along the Atlantic, stopping for penguins in **Área Natural Protegida Punta Tombo** and whales in **Reserva Faunística Península Valdés**. End the trip in **Buenos Aires**.



6
WEEKS

Sailing the Mighty Amazon

This tough but rewarding journey travels the length of the fabled Amazon, incorporating wildlife-watching, historic cities and beautiful river beaches.

Start in **Pucallpa**, Peru (a flight or bus ride from Lima). Before hitting the river, spend the night in nearby **Yarinacocha**, a lovely oxbow lake ringed by tribal villages. From Pucallpa, begin the classic slow riverboat journey north along the Río Ucayali to **Iquitos**. This northern jungle capital has a buoyant cultural scene and a bustling port, where you can catch a more comfortable cruise into Peru's largest protected space, **Reserva Nacional Pacaya-Samiria**. From Iquitos, get a boat to the tri-border region of Peru, Colombia and Brazil, and take a break in Colombia's **Leticia**.

From Leticia, it's three more arduous days to the bustling city of **Manaus**, which is famed for its 19th-century opera house and buzzing markets. This is also a great base for jungle excursions.

Chug east to **Santarém**, where you can visit the white-sand beaches of **Alter do Chão**. Another 3½ days further, and you'll reach culturally rich **Belém**, a good spot for sampling traditional Amazonian cuisine.

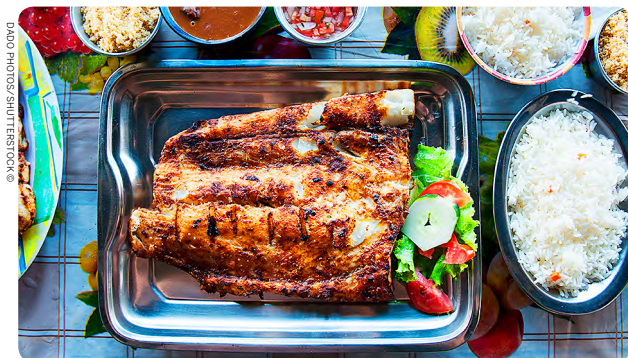
From here, cross over to **Ilha de Marajó**, a massive river island dotted with friendly towns, wandering buffaloes and pleasant beaches.



JESS KRAFT/SHUTTERSTOCK ©

Top: Iquitos (p947), Peru

Bottom: Traditional
cuisine, Belém (p413),
Peru



DADO PHOTOS/SHUTTERSTOCK ©

South America: Off the Beaten Track

0 0 1,000 km
500 miles

ISLA FLOREANA

Stay overnight in a simple guesthouse at this remote island in the Galápagos. You can take scenic walks, swim with sea turtles and lounge on pretty beaches guarded by sea lions. (p760)

POPAYÁN

This lively university town has lovely colonial architecture, grand museums and a celebrated (but affordable) food scene. It's also near the indigenous market town of Silvia. (p644)

SADDLE MOUNTAIN

Get into the wilds of Guyana at this hilltop lodge high up above the Rupununi River. You can go horseback riding on the savanna, with spectacular opportunities for wildlife-watching. (p806)

PARQUE NACIONAL DOS LENÇÓIS MARANHENSES

Come between March and September to see this landscape at its most dramatic, when crystal-clear freshwater lagoons fill the hollows between high, undulating dunes. (p408)





KUÉLAP

Escape the Machu Picchu crowds at this stunning pre-Columbian citadel in the north of Peru. You can make the most of the experience by overnighting at one of the basic guesthouses here. (p939)

THE CHACO

Paraguay's wild, dusty west teems with animal life. You can camp out under star-filled skies and spend your days spying macaws, otters, tapirs and countless other creatures. (p835)

PARQUE NACIONAL DE APARADOS DA SERRA

In the south of Brazil, this stunning national park is home to a jagged canyon with waterfalls, scenic lookouts and memorable hiking trails. (p353)

PARQUE NACIONAL PATAGONIA

This gem of restored grasslands, rushing rivers and snowbound peaks is home to guanacos, flamingos, foxes and pumas, and has great infrastructure for camping and hiking. (p543)

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ABBREVIATIONS

Arg	Argentina
Bol	Bolivia
Bra	Brazil
Chi	Chile
Col	Colombia
Ecu	Ecuador
FG	French Guiana
Guy	Guyana
Par	Paraguay
Per	Peru
Sur	Suriname
Uru	Uruguay

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Kevin Raub

Brazil, Chile, Colombia Atlanta native Kevin started his career as a music journalist in New York, working for *Men's Journal* and *Rolling Stone* magazines. He ditched the rock 'n' roll lifestyle for travel writing and has written over 95 Lonely Planet guides, focused mainly on Brazil, Chile, Colombia, USA, India, the Caribbean and Portugal. Kevin also contributes to a variety of travel magazines in both the USA and UK. Along the way, the self-confessed hophead is in constant search of wildly high IBUs in local beers. Follow him on Twitter and Instagram (@RaubOnTheRoad).



Adam Skolnick

Argentina Adam's travel obsession bloomed while working as an environmental activist in the mid-1990s. These days he's an award-winning journalist and travel writer who writes about travel, culture, human rights, sports and the environment for a variety of publications, including the *New York Times*, *Playboy*, *Outside*, *BBC.com*, *Wired*, *ESPN.com* and *Men's Health*, and he's authored or co-authored over 35 Lonely Planet guidebooks. An avid open water swimmer and diver, he's also the

author of the critically acclaimed narrative non-fiction book, *ONE BREATH: Freediving, Death and the Quest to Shatter Human Limits* and *INDOLIRIUM*. He lives in Malibu, California. IG: @adamskolnick



Paul Smith

Paraguay From an early age, and with a vague and naive ambition to be the next David Attenborough, Paul dreamed of exploring the remotest areas of South America in search of wildlife. After spending two months in Bolivia as a student, that dream started to come true, but with David Attenborough still going strong he changed his career plans, became a travel writer and moved to Paraguay permanently in 2003.



Andy Symington

Brazil Andy has written or worked on over a hundred books and other updates for Lonely Planet (especially in Europe and Latin America) and other publishing companies, and has published articles on numerous subjects for a variety of newspapers, magazines and websites. He part-owns and operates a rock bar, has written a novel and is currently working on several fiction and non-fiction writing projects. Andy, from Australia, moved to Northern Spain many years ago. When he's not off

with a backpack in some far-flung corner of the world, he can probably be found watching the tragically poor local football side or tasting local wines after a long walk in the nearby mountains.



Phillip Tang

Peru Phillip grew up on a typically Australian diet of *pho* and fish'n'chips before moving to Mexico City. A degree in Chinese and Latin-American cultures launched him into travel and then writing about it for Lonely Planet's *Canada*, *China*, *Japan*, *Korea*, *Mexico*, *Peru* and *Vietnam* guides. See his writing at hello phillip.com; photos @mrtangtangtang; and tweets @philliptang



Luke Waterson

Ecuador, Peru Raised in the remote Somerset countryside in Southwest England, Luke quickly became addicted to exploring out-of-the-way places. Completing a Creative Writing degree at the University of East Anglia, he shouldered his backpack and vowed to see as much of the world as possible. Fast-forward a few years and he has travelled the Americas from Alaska to Tierra del Fuego and developed an obsession for Soviet Architecture and pre-Columbian ruins in equal measure.



Wendy Yanagihara

Ecuador Wendy serendipitously landed her dream job of writing for Lonely Planet in 2003, and has since spent the intervening years contributing to titles including *Southeast Asia on a Shoestring*, *Vietnam*, *Japan*, *Mexico*, *Costa Rica*, *Indonesia*, and *Grand Canyon National Park*. In the name of research, she has hiked remote valleys of West Papua, explored the tiny nooks and alleys of Tokyo sprawl, trekked on a Patagonian glacier, and rafted Colorado River whitewater. Wendy has also

written for *BBC Travel*, the *Guardian*, *Lonely Planet Magazine*, lonelyplanet.com, and intermittently freelances as a graphic designer, illustrator and visual artist.



Mark Johanson

Bolivia, Chile Mark grew up in Virginia and has called five different countries home over the last decade. His travel-writing career began as something of a quarter-life crisis, and he's happily spent the past eight years circling the globe reporting for Australian travel magazines (such as *Get Lost*), British newspapers (such as the *Guardian*), American lifestyles (such as *Men's Journal*) and global media outlets (such as CNN and BBC). When not on the road, you'll find him gazing at

the Andes from his home in Santiago.



Anna Kaminski

Argentina, Colombia Originally from the Soviet Union, Anna grew up in Cambridge, England. She graduated from the University of Warwick with a degree in Comparative American Studies, a background in the history, culture and literature of the Americas and the Caribbean, and an enduring love of Latin America. Her restless wanderings led her to settle briefly in Oaxaca and Bangkok and her flirtation with criminal law saw her volunteering as a lawyer's assistant in the

courts, ghettos and prisons of Kingston, Jamaica. Anna has contributed to more than 30 Lonely Planet titles. When not on the road, Anna calls London home.



Brian Kluepfel

Ecuador, Venezuela Brian had lived in three states and seven different residences by the time he was nine, and he's just kept moving, making stops in Berkeley, Bolivia, the Bronx and the 'burbs further down the line. His journalistic work across the Americas has ranged from the Copa America soccer tournament in Paraguay to an accordion festival in Quebec. He has contributed to Lonely Planet titles including *Costa Rica*, *Belize*, *Guatemala*, *Bolivia* and *Ecuador*. Brian is an

avid birder and musician and dabbles in both on the road; his singing has been tolerated at open mics from Sámara, Costa Rica, to Beijing, China.



Tom Masters

Colombia, French Guiana, Guyana, Suriname Dreaming since he could walk of going to the most obscure places on earth, Tom has always had a taste for the unknown. This has led to a writing career that has taken him all over the world, including North Korea, the Arctic, Congo and Siberia. Despite a childhood spent in the English countryside, as an adult Tom has always called London, Paris and Berlin home. He currently lives in Berlin and can be found online at www.tommasters.net.



Carolyn McCarthy

Argentina, Chile, Peru Carolyn specializes in travel, culture and adventure in the Americas. She has written for *National Geographic*, *Outside*, *BBC Magazine*, *Sierra Magazine*, the *Boston Globe* and other publications. A former Fulbright fellow and Banff Mountain Grant recipient, she has documented life in the most remote corners of Latin America. Carolyn has contributed to 40 guidebooks and anthologies for Lonely Planet, including *Colorado*, *USA*, *Argentina*, *Chile*, *Trekking in the Patagonian Andes*, *Panama*, *Peru* and *USA's National Parks*. For more information, visit

www.carolynmccarthy.org or follow her Instagram travels @mccarthyoffmap.



MaSovaida Morgan

Ecuador MaSovaida is a travel writer and multimedia storyteller whose wanderlust has taken her to more than 40 countries and all seven continents. Previously, she was Lonely Planet's Destination Editor for South America and Antarctica for four years and worked as an editor for newspapers and NGOs in the Middle East and United Kingdom. Follow her on Instagram @MaSovaida.



Anja Mutić

Argentina Born and raised in Zagreb, Croatia, Anja has traveled the globe as a professional wanderer for decades. Her travel-writing career has taken her to more than 60 countries, taught her several languages and won her several awards. She has lived, worked and traveled on every continent (except Antarctica), including a stint of several months living in Buenos Aires. Follow her on Instagram at Everthenomad.



Robert Balkovich

Brazil Robert was born and raised in Oregon, but has called New York City home for almost a decade. When he was a child and other families were going to theme parks and grandma's house he went to Mexico City and toured Eastern Europe by train. He's now a writer and travel enthusiast seeking experiences that are ever so slightly out of the ordinary to report back on.



Jade Bremner

Ecuador Jade has been a journalist for more than a decade. She has lived in and reported on four different regions. Wherever she goes she finds action sports to try – the weirder the better – and it's no coincidence many of her favorite places have some of the best waves in the world. Jade has edited travel magazines and sections for *Time Out* and *Radio Times* and has contributed to the *Times*, *CNN* and the *Independent*. She feels privileged to share tales from this wonderful

planet we call home and is always looking for the next adventure.



Cathy Brown

Argentina Cathy is a travel writer (Lonely Planet, OARS, Luxury Latin America) and editor (Matador Network). She lives with her three kids in the Andes of Argentine Patagonia, where she hikes, gardens, drinks Malbec, works with medicinal herbs and indigenous cultures, and is building a straw-bale house. She's passionate about any adventure travel, including surfing, rafting, skiing, climbing or trekking, and works closely with the Adventure Travel Trade Association.



Gregor Clark

Brazil, Uruguay Gregor is a US-based writer whose love of foreign languages and curiosity about what's around the next bend have taken him to dozens of countries on five continents. Chronic wanderlust has also led him to visit all 50 states and most Canadian provinces on countless road trips through his native North America. Since 2000, Gregor has regularly contributed to Lonely Planet guides, with a focus on Europe and the Americas.



Alex Egerton

Argentina, Brazil, Peru A news journalist by trade, Alex has worked for magazines, newspapers and media outlets on five continents. Having had his fill of musty newsrooms, Alex decided to leap into travel writing in order to escape the mundane. He spends most of his time on the road checking under mattresses, sampling suspicious street food and chatting with locals. A keen adventurer, Alex has hiked through remote jungles in Colombia, explored isolated tributaries of

the mighty Mekong and taken part in the first kayak descent of a number of remote waterways in Nicaragua. When not on the road, you'll find him at home in the colonial splendor of Popayán in southern Colombia.



Michael Grosberg

Argentina, Bolivia Michael has worked on over 50 Lonely Planet guidebooks. Other international work included development work on Rota in the western Pacific; and teaching in Quito, Ecuador. He has also worked in South Africa, where he investigated and wrote about political violence, and trained newly elected government representatives. He received a Masters in Comparative Literature, and has taught literature and writing as an adjunct professor.



Anthony Ham

Brazil, Colombia Anthony is a freelance writer and photographer who specializes in Spain, East and Southern Africa, the Arctic and the Middle East. When he's not writing for Lonely Planet, Anthony writes about and photographs Spain, Africa and the Middle East for newspapers and magazines in Australia, the UK and US.



OUR STORY

A beat-up old car, a few dollars in the pocket and a sense of adventure. In 1972 that's all Tony and Maureen Wheeler needed for the trip of a lifetime – across Europe and Asia overland to Australia. It took several months, and at the end – broke but inspired – they sat at their kitchen table writing and stapling together their first travel guide, *Across Asia on the Cheap*. Within a week they'd sold 1500 copies. Lonely Planet was born.

Today, Lonely Planet has offices in Franklin, London, Melbourne, Oakland, Dublin, Beijing and Delhi, with more than 600 staff and writers. We share Tony's belief that 'a great guidebook should do three things: inform, educate and amuse'.

OUR WRITERS



Regis St Louis

Brazil, Chile Regis grew up in a small town in the American Midwest – the kind of place that fuels big dreams of travel – and he developed an early fascination with foreign dialects and world cultures. He spent his formative years learning Russian and a handful of Romance languages, which served him well on journeys across much of the globe. Regis has contributed to more than 50 Lonely Planet titles, covering destinations across six continents. His travels have taken him

from the mountains of Kamchatka to remote island villages in Melanesia, and to many grand urban landscapes. When not on the road, he lives in New Orleans. Regis also wrote the Plan Your Trip, Understand and Survive chapters.



Isabel Albiston

Argentina, Bolivia, Ecuador After six years working for the *Daily Telegraph* in London, Isabel left to spend more time on the road. A job as writer for a magazine in Sydney, Australia, was followed by a four-month overland trip across Asia and five years living and working in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Isabel started writing for Lonely Planet in 2014 and has contributed to 12 guidebooks. She's currently based in Ireland.



Celeste Brash

French Guiana, Guyana, Suriname Like many California natives, Celeste now lives in Portland, Oregon. However, she arrived after 15 years in French Polynesia, a year and a half in Southeast Asia and a stint teaching English as a second language (in an American accent) in Brighton, England – among other things. She's been writing guidebooks for Lonely Planet since 2005 and her travel articles have appeared in publications from *BBC Travel* to *National Geographic*. She's

currently writing a book about her five years on a remote pearl farm in the Tuamotu Atolls and is represented by the Donald Maass Agency, New York.



Brendan Sainsbury

Colombia, Peru Born and raised in the UK in a town that never merits a mention in any guidebook (Andover, Hampshire), Brendan spent the holidays of his youth caravanning in the English Lake District and didn't leave Blihty until he was 19. Making up for lost time, he's since squeezed 70 countries into a sometimes precarious existence as a writer and professional vagabond. copy of Lonely Planet's *Africa on a Shoestring*. In the last 11 years, he has written over

40 books for Lonely Planet.

OVER MORE
PAGE WRITERS

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