



Exotic South America

February 13 – March 23, 2019 | 39 Days | 11,030 Nautical Miles



Journey Highlights

- The colonial charm of Cartagena
- A 3-night cruise on the Amazon River
- Wondrous Lake Titicaca and the floating island of Uros
- The amazing salt flats of Uyuni
- Picturesque Asuncion
- A traditional ranch experience at Estancia Vik Uruguay
- Experience the “end of the world” at Ushuaia
- Torres del Paine National Park – a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve
- Chiloe – a mystical Chilean island populated by tiny fishing villages
- Atacama Desert – the driest non-polar desert in the world
- Trujillo – the largest pre-Columbian city in South America
- Explore Nicaragua’s stunning Emerald Coast



ITINERARY

Wednesday, February 13: West Palm Beach, FL / Cartagena, Colombia 1,005 NM

Air Journey will greet you at Palm Beach International (KPBI) for a briefing about the forthcoming flight. Fly to Colombia – one of the most ethnically diverse nations in South America – for our visit to Cartagena, undeniably one of Latin America’s most beautiful cities lost somewhere in time between the sixteenth and nineteenth centuries, with the Caribbean sea as a sparkling backdrop. Sir Francis Drake laid siege to the city but the fortress walls and cannons remain, making the area within the old walled city a living museum.

Sofitel Santa Clara / *Welcome Cocktail and Dinner*

Thursday, February 14: Cartagena

Enjoy a full day tour to experience Cartagena’s colonial charm with its tiled roofs, balconies and flower-filled courtyards and relive history in the old walled city, the Ciudad Amarullada, where we’ll explore the four sectors, each one with a peculiar story to tell: San Diego, La Matuna, Getsemani and Santo Domingo. We’ll begin with a walking tour of the Old City. After lunch, we’ll continue with a city tour to enjoy the highlights of this beautiful city.

Sofitel Santa Clara / *Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner*

Friday, February 15: Cartagena / Iquitos, Peru 860 NM

Fly to Iquitos situated on the banks of the Amazon River in the heart of the northern Peruvian Amazon region. Transfer to Iquitos’ Main Wharf where the M/V Aria awaits you. Once onboard, you will appreciate the low-key luxury atmosphere of the M/V Aria. Enjoy the view from the Upper Deck as we leave Iquitos behind. Over the next three days, you will also sail along some of the largest tributaries of the Amazon, as well as the

mighty Amazon itself. You are embarking on a magnificent adventure to places visited by only a very few.

Amazon River Cruise

The 130-foot-long, **M/V Aria** is the ultimate luxury cruise ship on the northern Amazon River in Peru. Built in 2011 to the highest standards of modern small ship cruise lines, it is fully air conditioned throughout and all the suites on the Aria Amazon are comparable to a 5-star hotel with private baths, luxury toiletries and fine linen bedding to lull you to sleep under the stars of the Amazon. From the gourmet Peruvian cuisine to the crystal and china service at dinner, the amenities onboard the Aria Amazon will treat you to an intimate but luxurious Amazon River cruise.

Three highly trained interpreter Amazon River guides will take you on as many as three expeditions a day, aboard comfortable motorized skiffs. They will give you both the big picture of life on the Amazon, and will point out the multitude of small details that make the region special - a howler monkey hidden in a tree, a vivid butterfly resting on a leaf, a bird, such as the endangered harpy eagle, enjoying the tranquility of the Amazon basin. Includes all meals while onboard, all excursions and all beverages (alcoholic & non-alcoholic except premium brands).

M/V Aria / *Breakfast and Dinner (onboard)*

Saturday, February 16: Amazon River

The locals call Yacapana Islands "The Islands of the Iguana" because of the large number of these reptiles - like tiny dinosaurs - which inhabit them. Amazon folklore says that if you touch an iguana, you will develop some of its characteristics and, as no one wants to look like them, these animals are well protected. We will also see the famous Amazon River dolphins, pink or gray, along our route. Amazonian people believe that these dolphins possess the power to turn into men and women of great beauty.



After breakfast you will board a comfortable skiff to sail from the Amazon River to the Yarapa River. Life jackets, ponchos, rubber boots, and fresh water are always available in our private boats. As you float down the Yarapa, past the occasional fishermen paddling in their canoes, keep your binoculars ready to spot wildlife: terns, tropical songbirds, black collared hawks and sloth share this wonderful world with us. Upon arrival at Lake Moringo, use your hooks to try to catch some of the ferocious piranhas and other fish species. As you fish, trained naturalist guides will tell the story of the lake and its inhabitants.

M/V Aria / Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Sunday, February 17: Amazon River

Rise with the sun to explore a 'lost river' along the Marañon River. After breakfast, we will take a jungle walk across suspended bridges deep into the high Amazon rainforest. Later, swim, canoe or kayak in Yanayacu-Pucate River as we look for legendary pink river dolphins. Focus our hi-tech telescope on the night sky to identify the planets and constellations. This evening before dinner you'll be introduced to some of the crewmembers whom you may not have met, working "behind the scenes" to ensure your countless exceptional experiences aboard the Aria Amazon.

M/V Aria / Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Monday, February 18: Disembark M/V Aria / Iquitos

We'll visit the local fresh market with your guides who can identify the day's catch by the fishermen of Amazonia and the region's exotic fruits. Return to the Aria for breakfast and to pack up. Before saying goodbye, we visit the Manatee Rescue Center, a kind of animal orphanage for Amazonian manatees to rescue, rehabilitate and release them back into the wild. We will also visit San Juan craft market on route to Iquitos.

Hotel Oro Verde / Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner



Tuesday, February 19: Iquitos / La Paz, Bolivia 820 NM

Fly to La Paz – our gateway to wondrous Lake Titicaca and its unique inhabited islands. The lake is South America's largest and the world's highest navigable body of water. Long considered a sacred place among indigenous Andean peoples, those who live on and around the lake believe that powerful spirits live in the lake's depths.

Titilaka / Breakfast and Dinner

Wednesday, February 20: Lake Titicaca

We'll visit the floating islands of Uros for a brief visit before continuing by boat to Taquile Island – a fascinating island of stunningly beautiful landscapes and friendly people - to visit archaeological remains belonging to the Tiahuanaco and Inca Culture and the local market. The Uros are descendants of one of the oldest cultures in South America.

Titilaka / Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Thursday, February 21: Lake Titicaca

Today is at leisure to relax or explore on your own. Optional activities include canoeing, hiking, biking and row boating.

Titilaka / Breakfast and Dinner

Friday, February 22: La Paz / Uyuni, Bolivia 250 NM

Fly to Uyuni. The Luna Salada Hotel is extraordinary because it is entirely made out of salt in Bolivia offering guests the essence of the Andes, on the edge of the world's largest salt flats. Step out onto the white salt pans to a vast expanse of white as far as the eye can see. The hotel offers sweeping panoramic views of Salar de Uyuni!

Luna Salada Hotel (Salt Moon Hotel) / Breakfast and Dinner





Saturday, February 23: Uyuni

We'll spend the day exploring the beautiful Salar de Uyuni (white desert) - the world's largest salt flat at 4,085 square miles. It's estimated to contain 10 billion tons of salt (less than 25,000 tons is extracted annually).

Luna Salada Hotel / Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Sunday, February 24: Uyuni

Today is at leisure to relax. For the adventuresome, bicycles are available at the hotel to explore Salar de Uyuni on your own.

Luna Salada Hotel / Breakfast and Dinner

Monday, February 25: Uyuni / Asuncion, Paraguay 590 NM

Fly to Asuncion – a picturesque city of modern and colonial architecture. Situated on unassuming hills above the east bank of Paraguay River, Asuncion is the capital and largest city of Paraguay. With few high rises downtown, El Centro retains its intimate 19th century feel with low balconied buildings and orange trees lining the narrow streets.

La Mision / Breakfast and Dinner

Tuesday, February 26: Asuncion

Enjoy a scenic tour to San Bernardino situated on Lake Ypacaraí. Along the way we'll visit the local handcraft cities of Luque (renowned for its craftsmanship of guitars and Paraguayan harps as well as Filigranas, gold and silver filigree jewelry), Aregua, Itaugua (famous for its cobweb-like lace - the Ñanduti weave) and Capiatá.

La Mision / Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Wednesday, February 27: Asuncion / Punta del Este 595 NM

Fly to Punta del Este – known as “the Pearl of Uruguay”.

Estancia Vik Jose Ignacio sits on 4,000 spectacular acres of rolling countryside where herds of cattle, horses and sheep roam freely alongside wild ostrich, fox, armadillo and other indigenous wildlife. The private residence hotel is located on a high point of the estancia with magnificent views out over the Laguna and Southern Atlantic Ocean.

Estancia Vik / Breakfast and Dinner

Thursday, February 28: Punta del Este

Today is at leisure to relax or explore optional activities available at the resort.

Enjoy the Absolute Nero granite swimming pool, gym and spa, private polo field and stable of Criollo riding horses. The polo field and adjoining golf green offer a wonderful golf practice area.

Handmade canoes, kayaks, kites and wind surfers, sail boats and fishing equipment are all available to enjoy the arroyo and nearby lakes. Nature walks and bird watching, tennis, bicycling and hiking are all part of the activities available.

The expansive property is host to riding and polo horses, farm animals, and indigenous wildlife. There is a game room with a pool table, table tennis and a variety of other games.

Estancia Vik / Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Friday, March 1: Punta del Este

Today is at leisure to relax or explore on your own.

Estancia Vik / Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Saturday, March 2: Punta del Este / Ushuaia, Argentina 1,320 NM

Fly to Ushuaia. Virtually at the end of the world, Los Cauquenes Resort & Spa is situated on the shores of the Beagle Channel just outside of Ushuaia and offers panoramic views of the snow-covered peaks of the imposing Andes mountain range.

Los Cauquenes Resort & Spa / Breakfast and Dinner

Sunday, March 3: Ushuaia

We'll sail the waters of the Beagle Channel and observe Les Eclaireurs Lighthouse, sea lions, Magellanic Penguins, and over 20 different sea bird species.

Los Cauquenes Resort & Spa / Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Monday, March 4: Ushuaia

Today is at leisure to relax or explore on your own.

Los Cauquenes Resort & Spa / Breakfast and Dinner

Tuesday, March 5: Ushuaia / Puerto Natales, Chile 245 NM

Fly to Puerto Natales. Enjoy beautiful sightseeing along the way while we transfer to the Tierra Patagonia. Located in the furthestmost south of Chile, the hotel is surrounded by nature, in splendid isolation, overlooking Lake Sarmiento and the towering peaks of Torres del Paine National Park which was named a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve in 1978.

You'll consult with the head guide at the beginning of your stay to select the best excursions for you, taking into account individual interests and fit ness levels.

Tierra Patagonia / Breakfast and Dinner

Wednesday, March 6: Patagonia

Today a choice of selected tours will be available to either explore the lakes and glaciers, enjoy several waterfalls, or hike on one of the many tranquil trails. Excursion options include walks, treks, horseback rides, bicycle rides and scenic tours.

Tierra Patagonia / Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Thursday, March 7: Patagonia

Today a choice of selected tours will be available to either explore the lakes and glaciers, enjoy several waterfalls, or hike on one of the many tranquil trails. Excursion options include walks, treks, horseback rides, bicycle rides and scenic tours.

Tierra Patagonia / Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Friday, March 8: Patagonia

Enjoy the remaining day with hiking or sign up with the hotel for a full day tour.

Tierra Patagonia / Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner



Saturday, March 9: Puerto Natales / Castro, Chile 645 NM

Fly to Castro. Part of Chilean Patagonia and populated by tiny fishing villages, Chiloe is the mystical Chilean island that time forgot. The beauty of this destination is as much in the landscape as it is in the island residents with their deep-rooted culture and timeless traditions.

Tierra Chiloe / Breakfast and Dinner

Sunday, March 10: Castro

Today a choice of selected tours will be available for you to discover the magic of the archipelago, its culture and natural landscape, from a different perspective. Cultural excursions, boating, horseback riding, biking, hiking or simply looking around, are just a few of the possibilities awaiting you.

Tierra Chiloe / Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner



Monday, March 11: Castro

Today a choice of selected tours will be available for you to choose from.

Tierra Chiloe / Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Tuesday, March 12: Castro / Calama 1,395 NM

Fly to Calama, located 60 miles northwest of San Pedro de Atacama, an oasis in the desert, Valley of the Moon. We have selected our hotel Tierra Atacama, a deluxe hotel near San Pedro de Atacama, to enjoy excursions which will capture profound landscapes, natural events and inhabited places that bare the ingredients and surprises that make the experience unforgettable. Select your tours with the hotel (included).

Enjoy the casual and friendly ambiance at the hotel such as a seat in a private corner by one of the terrace fire pits, lounge

next to the pool or relax on one of the shady outdoor decks. When night falls, take in the brilliant stars, bask in the peace and wonder that is the Atacama Desert.

Tierra Atacama / Breakfast and Dinner

Wednesday, March 13: Calama

Your tour guide will be available to help you select from numerous tours available including walking and hiking, biking, volcano climbing, horseback riding, bird watching, as well as excursions by vehicle to the more remote areas of the area. Excursions include visits to remote lagoons, red rock formations, salt flats, volcanos, geysers, Moon Valley, petroglyphs, and small villages where you'll meet local families.

In the evening, experience Astronomy in the starry desert! Tierra Atacama together with the Ahlarkapin Observatory offers an astronomy excursion that gives guests a unique chance to discover the southern skies while learning about its scientific and ancestral significance. First guests will observe the sky with the naked eye and later discover amazing visualizations through one of the largest private telescopes in the area to observe planets like Mars and Saturn.

Tierra Atacama / Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Thursday, March 14: Calama

Your tour guide will be available to help you select from numerous tours available including hiking, trekking or biking. Over the Quito hill, a short distance from San Pedro are the ruins of the Pukará (fortress), constructed by the atacameños to defend themselves from other inhabitants of South America. Built on the summit of a hill overlooking the San Pedro River, Pukara de Quito is an ancient Indian fortress whose construction dates back to the XII century. It was declared a national monument in 1982.

Tierra Atacama / Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner



Friday, March 15: Calama

Your tour guide will be available to help you select from numerous tours available including hiking, trekking or biking.

Tierra Atacama / Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Saturday, March 16: Calama / Arequipa, Peru 460 NM

Fly to Arequipa (its historic center is a UNESCO World Heritage Site) - known as the White City (Ciudad Blanca) due to its many colonial-era buildings made from sillar - a white volcanic rock. Its religious, colonial, and republican architectural styles blend European and native characteristics into a unique style called "Escuela Arequipeña".

Liberator / Breakfast and Dinner

Sunday, March 17: Arequipa

Discover colonial Arequipa with a local guide who will introduce us to some of the city's most important historical sites. Visit several districts including Cayma and Vallecito, and explore landmarks like the 17th-century Recoleta Convent and the colonial-era Casa del Moral. We'll also enjoy fabulous views of Arequipa and its spectacular scenery from the Carmen Alto viewpoint.

Liberator / Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Monday, March 18: Arequipa / Trujillo, Peru 665 NM

Fly to Trujillo and transfer to the De Sol y Barro Sanctuary Lodge.

De Sol y Barro Sanctuary Lodge / Breakfast and Dinner

Tuesday, March 19: Trujillo

With our local guide we'll explore the ancient world of the pre-Incan Moche and Chimú civilizations. We'll visit the Temple of the Moon (Huaca de la Luna) to learn the history and significance of the terraced temple, built by the Moche out of adobe brick. Then we'll visit Huaco el Dragon, the Temple of the Dragon, built for religious and ceremonial purposes by the Chimú people who lived in northern Peru from about 900 to the 1400s.

We'll continue to Chan Chan, the former Chimú capital. This UNESCO World Heritage site is the largest pre-Columbian city in South America and was the center of Chimú political and cultural life from approximately 900 to 1470, when the Incas arrived and conquered the city.

De Sol y Barro Sanctuary Lodge / Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner



Wednesday, March 20: Trujillo / Rivas, Nicaragua 1,235 NM

Follow the Pacific coast of Central America to Nicaragua. Discover things on Nicaragua's stunning Emerald Coast that you simply can't find anywhere else - like biking through the forest, golfing along the fringes of the jungle and seashore, or luxuriating in the Mukul Spa!

Mukul Resort & Spa / Breakfast and Dinner

Thursday, March 21: Rivas

On a ferry ride across the fresh waters of Lake Nicaragua you'll have the opportunity to see volcanoes up close and feel the magnitude of Lake Nicaragua. Our destination is Ometepe Island, recently designated a UNESCO Biosphere, for a full day exploration of the biggest volcanic lake island in the world.

Mukul Resort & Spa / Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Friday, March 22: Rivas

Today is at leisure to relax or explore on your own. Choose from the optional activities available at the resort including biking through the rain forest, golfing in the jungle or on the ocean-shore, and day-tripping to the historic village of Granada.

Mukul Resort & Spa / Breakfast and Dinner

Saturday, March 23: Rivas / Key West, FL 945 NM

Transfer back to the airport for our flight to Key West to clear US customs before flying back home.

Breakfast

South America Distance Chart

FROM:	TO:	MILES
West Palm Beach	Cartagena, Colombia	1,005
Cartagena, Colombia	Iquitos, Peru	860
Iquitos, Peru	La Paz, Bolivia	820
La Paz, Bolivia	Uyuni, Bolivia	250
Uyuni, Bolivia	Asuncion, Paraguay	590
Asuncion, Paraguay	Punta del Este, Uruguay	595
Punta del Este, Uruguay	Ushuaia, Argentina	1,320
Ushuaia, Argentina	Puerto Natales, Chile	245
<i>Ushuaia, Argentina</i>	<i>Punta Arenas, Chile</i>	145
<i>Punta Arenas, Chile</i>	<i>Puerto Natales, Chile</i>	100
Puerto Natales, Chile	Castro, Chile	645
Castro, Chile	Calama, Chile	1,395
Calama, Chile	Arequipa, Peru	460
Arequipa, Peru	Trujillo, Peru	665
Trujillo, Peru	Rivas, Nicaragua	1,235
Rivas, Nicaragua	Key West, FL	945
Total Miles		11,030

RATES

\$38,750 per person, double occupancy

\$5,725 Airplane Registration fee

Single supplement available on request

INCLUDED

- Presence of an Air Journey tour leader who will facilitate clearances, Immigration, refueling, flight planning, and provide help with any difficulty that might arise
- Full-time services of a professional Air Journey guide and local experts
- Lodging: for 39 days, 38 nights
- Meals: All breakfasts and most lunches and dinners.
- Wine selected by Air journey is included with dinner. All other beverages are not included.
- Tours and admission to all planned group sightseeing
- All service charges and taxes
- Customs and Immigration forms (filled by Air Journey when possible)
- Trip Kit for each aircraft including:
 - ✓ Extensive Navigation log (airports, route, frequencies, information of airspace, nav-aids, reporting points, international flight plan) tailored for each aircraft;
 - ✓ Flight plans and eAPIS manifest (departure and arrival) filed on your behalf;
 - ✓ Pilot briefing prior to each day's flight;
 - ✓ Weather website with constant updates showing TAF, METAR, Wind Aloft, prognostic forecast and review;
 - ✓ Fuel availability confirmed along the route of flight;
 - ✓ Jeppesen navigation charts and approach plates;
 - ✓ Flight bag and collared, cotton shirt for the pilot with his name and aircraft tail number embroidered on the upper front.

NOT INCLUDED

- Travel Insurance (available, call us for details)
- Passport and/or visa fees
- Airport arrival and departure taxes
- Beverages except as noted above
- Personal expenses such as laundry, room service, communication charges and other incidentals

SURVIVAL GEAR

Survival gear is not included in the cost of the journey but can be rented out. It will be waiting for you at the departure point.

Life vests and survival raft are mandatory.

Rental fees:

Life vest: \$7.00 per day

Raft: \$25.00 per day

AIRCRAFT INSURANCE

Aircraft Insurance coverage needed for: Mexico, Central and South America.

Most insurance companies will cover the Caribbean, Central America and South America but often excluding Colombia. BUT make sure that you check with your insurance company before registration for the journey. Should you have any problem getting coverage, please call 1-561-841-1551. Air Journey will help you work the details out with your insurance company.

CANCELLATION POLICY

- Given outside of 90 days of departure: Air Journey retains the plane registration fee
- Between 90 and 60 days of departure: Air Journey retains 50% of the tour cost plus the plane registration fee
- Between 59 and 45 days of departure: Air Journey retains 75% of the tour cost plus the plane registration fee
- Less than 45 days or No Show of departure: Air Journey retains 100% of the tour cost plus the plane registration fee

Note: Travel and Cancellation Insurance is strongly recommended and not included in the package. It can be purchased from Air Journey for approximately 6% of the cost of the Journey. Contact Anais ([561 841-1551 ext. 3](tel:5618411551)) at Air Journey for more details.

Air Journey reserves the right to cancel because of lack of participants (less than 5 airplanes), political unrest, terrorism, or severe weather forecast, in which case Air Journey will issue a full refund.

AIR JOURNEY

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