ATACAMA, JAGUARS & PATAGONIA

16 October 2026 - 14 November 2026

Tour Cost ($AUD): $41,950

Tour Duration: 30 days

Single Supplement ($AUD): $4,050





OVERVIEW

Join us on a remarkable journey to the extraordinary continent of South America, beginning in the other-worldly landscapes of the Atacama Desert, visiting the massive glaciers and turquoise lakes of Patagonia, and exploring the world's largest tropical wetland – the Pantanal – home to the magnificent jaguar. This is South America gone wild! Our momentous journey begins in Chile's sophisticated capital, Santiago, from where we explore the picturesque coastal town of Valparaiso. Moving north we cut through the great Atacama, the driest desert in the world, and home to colourful lagoons with their multitudes of pink flamingos, geysers and dramatic volcanic peaks. Flying south to Chilean Patagonia we spend several days inside the remarkable Torres del Paine National Park, renowned for its glaciers and rugged mountain scenery, before crossing into Argentinian Patagonia to arrive at the staggering Perito Moreno glacier at El Calafate – one of the largest continental glaciers in the world, where glistening icebergs 'calve' with a deafening roar. Iguassu Falls then beckons, and we explore both the Argentinian and Brazilian sides of these spectacular curtains of thundering water that span almost three kilometers. Our journey then heads north to one of the world's most remarkable wildlife reserves – the Pantanal, home to the largest and densest population of jaguars in the wild. We spend six nights discovering these extraordinary eco-systems - including three nights in the jaguar zone, where sightings of these magnificent cats are guaranteed. Finally we fly to Brazil's iconic city of Rio de Janeiro sitting in the shadow of Christ the Redeemer. A fitting finale to an extraordinary adventure!

Tour Fitness Level: Active

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TOUR MAP



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ITINERARY

16/10/2026 Australia – Santiago (D)

Fly from your preferred capital city to Sydney, connecting with our Lan flight to Santiago. Crossing the International Date Line, we arrive in Santiago on the same day.

Depart Sydney Latam Airlines LA 810, 12.45

Arrive Santiago 10.30

On Arrival into Santiago we transfer to our hotel. In the evening we enjoy a welcome dinner.

Hotel Pullman Las Condes

Santiago

17/10/2026 Santiago – Valparaiso – Santiago (BL)

This morning we drive out to the Pacific coast to visit the picturesque port of Valparaiso. It was built in the 16th century on a total of 43 hills, which are reached by narrow winding streets, staircases and a series of funiculars. Known for its eclectic architecture, the town has been declared a UNESCO World Heritage site. We then continue to the Casablanca Valley for a winery visit and lunch, sampling some of Chile's renowned cool climate wines. After our visit here we return to Santiago.

18/10/2026 Santiago – Calama – San Pedro (BD)

After breakfast we transfer to the airport for our flight to Calama.

Depart Santiago Latam Airlines LA 146, 08.50

Arrive Calama 13.18

On arrival into Calama we make the 90 minute transfer across the desert to San Pedro de Atacama. At an altitude of 2,400m, San Pedro de Atacama is an oasis village fed by two rivers and we spend today exploring this delightful place. It is surrounded by the Andes, volcanoes, salt flats, high plateaus, grassy river beds and salt-encrusted caves. Its history stretches back more than 10,000 years and the cultures of the Incas, Aymaras and Atacamenans converge here. In the late afternoon we drive to Valle de la Luna for a sunset welcome with drinks as we watch the light changes over the dunes and ridges. Later we enjoy dinner at our hotel.

Hotel Cumbres

San Pedro

19/10/2026 San Pedro de Atacama (BLD)

A full day excursion today to the Atacama Salt Flats. The scenery is a visual feast: multi-coloured mountains, cone-shaped volcanoes, bizarre wind-sculpted stone formations, and the shimmering salt crust of Chaxa Lagoon, with its many flamingos and other birdlife.

20/10/2026 San Pedro de Atacama (BLD)

An exciting day today as we travel into the high Andes to visit the beautiful Miscanti and Miniques Lagoons set beneath dramatic volcanic peaks of the

altiplano. These are some of the most beautiful landscapes in South America, providing an almost other-worldly atmosphere. We stop at small Andean villages which offer extraordinary views over the altiplano, before returning to San Pedro.

21/10/2026 San Pedro – Santiago (BD)

This morning is at leisure, before we board our coach for the drive back to Calama to connect with our flight to Santiago.

Depart Calama Latam LA 387, 14.46

Arrive Santiago 16.50

On arrival in Santiago we transfer to our airport hotel for an overnight stay.

Hotel Wyndham Aeropuerto

Santiago

22/10/2026 Santiago – Punta Arenas – Torres del Paine NP (BLD)

After breakfast we transfer to the airport for our flight to Punta Arenas – gateway to Patagonia.

Depart Santiago Latam LA 083, 08.50

Arrive Punta Arenas 13.18

On arrival in Punta Arenas we make the scenic drive across the steppe to our lodge in Torres del Paine National Park. Now we enjoy our first views of the Paine Massif, which is characterised by sharp granite peaks, glaciers and turquoise lakes.

Hotel Rio Serrano

Torres del Paine, Patagonia

23/10/2026 Torres del Paine NP (BLD)

The Paine Massif is the centrepiece of the Patagonian wilderness and offers extraordinary panoramas that almost defy description. Today we enjoy a full day inside Torres del Paine National Park, soaking up these spectacular vistas including the powerful cascade of Salto Grande waterfall, and the long wind-swept turquoise waters of Lago Nordenskjold, set beneath the Paine Massif and reflecting the surrounding peaks and glaciers.

24/10/2026 Torres del Paine NP (BLD)

Torres del Paine National Park is also home to a variety of wildlife, and today we set out in search of South America's native guacana – the graceful wild camelids related to llamas and alpacas. We'll also see rheas – resembling small ostriches, and condors that soar effortlessly above the thermal currents. With luck we may also catch sight of foxes or even pumas.

25/10/2026 Torres del Paine NP – El Calafate (BLD)

After breakfast this morning we board our coach for the scenic drive across the Patagonian steppe, crossing the Chile-Argentina border, and continuing on to El Calafate. Located on the shores of Lake Argentino, El Calafate is the gateway to Los Glaciares National Park, home to the famous Perito Moreno Glacier. On arrival in the afternoon we check in to our hotel and later enjoy dinner at a local restaurant.

Hotel Xelena

El Calafate

26/10/2026 El Calafate (BLD)

Today is a wonderful day as we visit the magnificent

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Perito Moreno Glacier. One of the largest active continental glaciers in the world, UNESCO has declared it a 'Universal Patrimony of Humanity'. It flows into the south arm of Lake Argentino, where its towering ice walls frequently calve into glistening icebergs with a deafening roar. We walk the viewing platforms for amazing views of the blue and green ice, and, weather permitting enjoy a short boat ride close the glacier's face.

27/10/2026 El Calafate – Buenos Aires (BD)

After breakfast we transfer to the airport for our flight to Buenos Aires.

Depart El Calafate Aerolineas Argentinas AR 1895, 10.30

Arrive Buenos Aires 13.30

On arrival into Buenos Aires we transfer to our hotel.

Sofitel Recoleta

Buenos Aires

28/10/2026 Buenos Aires (BLD)

Buenos Aires, the fabulous capital of Argentina, is the most European city in South America with many beautiful parks and plazas. 'Portenos', as the locals call themselves, are fun-loving people who enjoy their city and music. On our city tour we take in Government House (Casa Rosada, or Pink House), Plaza de Mayo, the vibrant neighbourhood of San Telmo, and the famous Italian La Boca district, famous for its colourful houses and street life. In the evening we enjoy a spectacular tango show.

29/10/2026 Buenos Aires (BL)

Today we further explore this amazing city with a visit to Recoleta Cemetery, resting place of many notable Argentines including Eva Peron. We also visit the magnificent Teatro Colon opera house, and later continue to the waterfront district of Puerto Madero, where we have lunch at a classic Argentine steakhouse. The evening is at leisure.

30/10/2026 Buenos Aires – Puerto Iguazu (BLD)

Early this morning we transfer to the airport for our flight to Puerto Iguazu.

Depart Buenos Aires Aerolineas Argentina AR 1772, 06.30

Arrive Puerto Iguazu 08.25

Landing on the spectacular Argentinian side of the falls we take a walk across bridges and walkways that take us to within a few meters of many of the cascades for incredible views. The most famous is the 'Devil's Throat', where the water crashes 100m to the valley below, providing an amazing view. Late afternoon we cross into Brazil and check in to our hotel, located inside the Brazilian national park.

Belmond Hotel das Cataratas

Parque Nacional Iguassu

31/10/2026 Iguassu Falls (BLD)

The Iguassu Falls are considered by many to be the most impressive in the world, surpassing in grandeur both Niagara and Victoria. Some 275 separate cascades surge over a winding 3-km cliff frontage into a gorge 60m deep. The morning is spent exploring

the Brazilian side of the falls. We then travel to the Iguassu River where we board a powerful speed boat for a thrilling ride through the rapids to the very base of the falls. This afternoon we visit the superb Iguassu bird park, home to hundreds of exotic species and, weather permitting, take a magnificent helicopter ride over the falls for breathtaking views.

01/11/2026 Iguassu Falls – Cuiaba (BL)

Today we have some free time enjoying the falls on our own from the easy access paths outside the hotel. This afternoon we transfer to the airport for our flight to Cuiaba via Sao Paulo.

Depart: Iguassu Falls, Latam LA 3041, 17.25

Arrive Sao Paulo 19.05

Depart Sao Paulo Latam LA 3868, 21.45

Arrive Cuiaba 23.00

On arrival we transfer to our hotel.

Hotel Amazon Airport

Cuiaba

02/11/2026 Cuiaba – Chapada dos Guimaraes NP – Cuiaba (BLD)

Chapada dos Guimaraes is a national park of dramatic cliffs, waterfalls, caves, and sweeping views over central Brazil. Today we enjoy a full day excursion to the park, and take short walks to the key lookout points and falls. After our visit here we return to Cuiaba.

03/11/2026 Cuiaba – Fazenda Santa Tereza (BLD)

An exciting day today as we travel along the amazing Transpantaneira Road into the Northern Pantanal. Along the way we enjoy wildlife stops to see caimans, capybaras, and a range of colourful birdlife. This is one of the best routes for nature photography in the region. On arrival into Fazenda Santa Tereza we enjoy lunch, then head out by boat to search for wildlife on the nearby river. After dinner we take a safari drive in search of nocturnal wildlife.

Fazenda Santa Tereza

Northern Pantanal

04/11/2026 Fazenda Santa Tereza – Porto Jofre (BLD)

Continuing along the Transpantaneira Road we keep an eye out for wildlife as we head to Porto Jofre. On arrival here we board small boats for the transfer to the Jaguar Suites and Flotel, located in the heart of the jaguar zone. Thanks to its large and rich wetlands ecosystems, the Pantanal has the highest density of jaguars anywhere. These magnificent big cats are powerful swimmers and are often seen along rivers and in flooded areas as they hunt for cabybaras, caimans, deer, and other animals. After settling into our floating lodge, we head out on an afternoon boat excursion in search of these beautiful creatures and other wildlife along the riverbanks.

Jaguar Suites and Flotel

Porto Jofre

05/11/2026 Jaguar Zone (BLD)

A full day today exploring the Cuiaba River and its

channels by small boats, with around eight hours spent on the water, split into morning and afternoon sessions. Jaguars are remarkably visible and active during the day as they walk the riverbanks and swim between islands in search of prey – typically caimans and capybaras. We'll also see giant river otters, and an extraordinary variety of birdlife including jabiru storks, toucans, and ibis.

06/11/26 Jaguar Zone (BLD)

The photographer's paradise of the jaguar zone welcomes us again today, for a further full day dedicated to wildlife viewing. Our boat follows different stretches of the river system to maximise our chances of sightings and varied encounters. Late afternoon we return to the flotel for dinner and a relaxing evening.

07/11/2026 Porto Jofre – Fazenda Santa Tereza (BLD)

After breakfast we travel by boat back to Porto Jofre, then drive back along the Transpantaneira to Fazenda Santa Tereza. After lunch we enjoy a boat safari, focusing on birdlife, caimans and the late afternoon light over the beautiful wetlands.

Fazenda Santa Tereza

Norther Pantanal

08/11/2026 Fazenda Santa Tereza – Cuaiba (BLD)

The forest surrounding the fazenda is a prime location for howler monkeys, and today we set out on foot to observe these creatures, that spend most of their lives in the treetop canopy. We return to the fazenda for lunch, then board our coach for the road journey back to Cuaiba.

Hotel Amazon Airport

Cuiaba

09/11/2026 Cuaiba – Rio de Janeiro (BL)

This morning we transfer to the airport for our flight to Rio de Janeiro.

Depart Cuaiba GOL Linhas Aereas G3 2021, 03.30

Arrive Rio de Janeiro 07.00

Rio de Janeiro sweeps 20 km along a narrow alluvial strip between the mountains and the sea. Brazilians say: 'God made the world in six days; the seventh he devoted to Rio'. Enjoy breakfast before setting out to explore Rio's famous beaches including Impanema, Leblon, Sao Conrado and Copacabana. The remainder of the day is at leisure.

Hotel Mirimar by Windsor

Rio de Janeiro

10/11/2026 Rio de Janeiro (BLD)

Today we board a funicular train for the 20-minute ride to the top of the 800m high Corcovado Mountain. The statue of Christ the Redeemer on top of the peak is Rio's most famous landmark and one of the modern Wonders of the World, affording an incredible 360-degree view of the city. We also explore the historic Santa Teresa district and take a jeep excursion into Tijuca Forest, one of the world's largest urban forests, and a tropical-jungle preserve of vivid green, with beautiful trees, creeks and waterfalls.

11/11/2026 Rio de Janeiro (BLD)

We continue exploring Rio today with a visit to Sugar

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Loaf Mountain by cable car for classic views over Guanabara Bay and the city beyond followed by visiting some of the historic sites in the heart of the city. In the evening we gather for a farewell dinner at the end of our momentous tour followed by a lively Samba show!

12/11/2026 Rio de Janeiro – Santiago (B)

A relaxed day today, with the opportunity to walk along the beach and soak up the final views of Rio's coastline, before we transfer to the airport for our flight to Santiago.

Depart Rio de Janeiro Latam Airlines LA 771, 19.10

Arrive Santiago 23.50

On arrival in Santiago we connect with our flight to Sydney.

13/11/2026 Santiago – Sydney

Depart Santiago Latam Airlines LA 809, 01.05

Crossing the International Date Line we arrive in Sydney the next day.

14/11/2026 Arrive Sydney

Arrive Sydney 07.20

On arrival in Sydney connect with the flight to your chosen capital city.