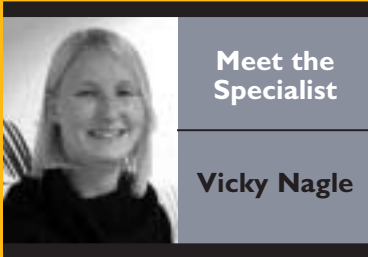




# Latin Afficionada



Meet the Specialist

Vicky Nagle

*Continuing our focus on one of our specialists in each issue, Vicky Nagle from the Latin America team recounts her travels and interests both prior to joining Audley and during her time here.*

**A**fter a childhood spent in Germany due to my father's job, and a gap year in Italy, South Africa, Botswana and Brazil (I was lucky to have saved enough for a varied time!), I went to Nottingham University to study Hispanic and Latin American Studies. Degrees such as this involve a year spent in the region, in order to improve language skills and undertake a dissertation. One of my major interests is ancient cultures and archaeology, so I lived half of the year in Mexico and wrote my dissertation on the Aztec and Maya civilisations. I also took the opportunity to visit as many ancient sites as possible - I think I visited more than 50 in all! For the other half of the year I lived and "studied" in Belo Horizonte, Brazil but in truth I spent more time backpacking around the country, along with Argentina, Chile (including the magnificent Easter Island) and Uruguay - it was all far too tempting.

Starting at Audley was a dream come true for me, as it allows me to talk all day about something I am passionate about. Upon a week of my starting I was sent off to Chile and Peru for a month in order to thoroughly research the countries, it's a

tough job! Machu Picchu lived up to every expectation, it is a stunning and magical place that should be on every traveller's must-see list. I am also dying to go back to see the recently discovered ruins at Choquequirao when it fully opens to visitors.

One good thing about this job is that we only sell places that we are completely familiar with, so whilst in Chile I was visiting the hotels to thoroughly check them out, finding restaurants to recommend, experiencing the excursions that our clients take and generally immersing myself in the country so that when I am speaking to my clients they have complete confidence in me. A further trip with Audley has seen me travel to Ecuador and the amazing Galapagos Islands, where I was astounded by the abundant, friendly and fearless wildlife. I also researched many of the boats that we feature in our Galapagos programme. As you read this I will have just returned from another trip to Chile to re-visit old haunts and investigate new places, plus I will have explored the Perito Moreno glacier in Argentina and spent a few days checking out the hotels and tango lessons in Buenos Aires, despite my two left feet!