



A close-up photograph of a parrot's head and wing. The parrot has vibrant blue, green, and yellow feathers. Its eye is visible on the left side of the frame, looking towards the viewer. The background is dark, making the colors of the feathers stand out.

South America

This special feature aims to shine a spotlight on South America as we launch our brand new brochure for the continent.



Young boy in the Sacred Valley, Peru



Otavalan woman, Ecuador

Buenos Dias/Bom Dia!

► **WELCOME** to our celebration of all things South American, to tie in with the launch of our new South America brochure. We have been working hard over the last few months to pack all the highlights of this diverse continent into a beautiful, new edition, which is available now. In putting the brochure together we were reminded, yet again, of how much we believe South America is truly a destination that offers something for everyone, whatever your travel interests. From the dynamic hubs of Rio de Janeiro and Buenos Aires to the magnificent Inca citadel of Machu Picchu, the beautiful beaches of Brazil, the unique wildlife of the Galapagos and the stunning landscapes of Patagonia, South America can fascinate, excite and educate its visitors like no other place on earth.

In this new brochure we bring together the classic destinations of Peru, Ecuador, Chile, Argentina, Brazil and Antarctica, with the lesser-visited countries of Bolivia, Venezuela, Guyana and the Falkland Islands. New additions include the emerging hotspot of Colombia, and the little-explored countries of Uruguay and Paraguay. So, with the brochure hot off the press, over the following six pages we present a selection of opinions, pictures and information to show you what a wonderful part of the world this is. We want to inspire those who have never been, debunk a few myths for those who have concerns, whet the appetite of those wishing to re-visit, and give you a few of our personal highlights.

Thank you for reading; we hope you enjoy the new brochure and this article as much as we enjoyed putting them both together!

The Audley South America Team



If you liked that, then you'll really like this...

Audley travellers are a very well journeyed bunch, and we receive a lot of feedback about how places around the world compare. If you have enjoyed a particular aspect of a previous trip then the following section is designed to show you which South American sight or experience is likely to appeal.

by **Carolyn Foreman**

Latin America Programme Manager



Machu Picchu, Peru

Angkor – Lovers of ancient cultures and ruins will find that **Machu Picchu (1)**, whilst a smaller site than Angkor, has a thrilling location and matches it in impressive building and engineering feats.

Trips to Peru start from £1,950 per person.



Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Cape Town – Once joined together as part of an ancient continent, **Rio de Janeiro (2)** has the same spectacular location and iconic mountains, great beaches, good food and lively atmosphere of its South African sister.

Trips to Brazil start from £1,895 per person.



Galapagos Islands

Safari – Wildlife lovers, especially those who are partial to an African safari, will find that the wildlife of the **Galapagos (3)** is an incredible experience. The unique wildlife, intrinsic to Darwin's studies, has no fear of man.

Trips to the Galapagos start from £2,795 per person.



Iguazu Falls

Victoria and Niagara Falls – It is definitely not a case of 'if you've seen one big waterfall you have seen them all'. **Iguazu/Iguazú Falls (4)**, straddling the border of Brazil and Argentina needs two days to explore properly such is the variety of its views, wildlife and activities.

Trips to Brazil and Argentina start from £2,095 per person.



Winery, Chile

Winelands, South Africa – If you like your wine and your scenery then the **winelands of Chile and Argentina (5)** provide the experience of tasting all the major grapes and a look at different kinds of production, set against a backdrop of magnificent Andean mountains.

Trips to Chile and Argentina start from £2,295 per person.



El Chaltén, Patagonia

New Zealand – **Patagonia (6)** is for us a vaster, emptier, rougher and readier version of New Zealand. It is perfect for those that love getting out and about in a variety of ways in the great outdoors.

Trips to Chile and Argentina start from £2,475 per person.

Equally, we think that some of our destinations are beyond compare...



The Amazon

The Amazon (7)

Although rainforest is not unique to South America, the Amazon is the world's largest, and an iconic destination.

Trips to the Amazon start from £2,500 per person.



La Boca, Buenos Aires

Buenos Aires (8)

The architecture, food, atmosphere and history all combine to make Argentina's capital one of the great cities of the world.

Trips to Argentina start from £1,650 per person.



Salar de Uyuni, Bolivia

Salar de Uyuni (9)

With vast plains of brilliant white salt pans stretching as far as the eye can see this is Bolivia at its most bizarre and beautiful.

Trips to Bolivia start from £2,350 per person.



Adélie penguins, Antarctica

Antarctica (10)

The extreme conditions, stunning scenery, adorable penguins and incredible icebergs of the 'white continent' make it the ultimate travel destination.

South America is the stepping off point for Antarctica, prices start from £4,500 per person.

▶ Top five food experiences

1. Cooking lessons in Bahia, Brazil

From shopping for ingredients to learning how to cook the local dishes such as moqueca, a spicy creole fish stew, this is a fascinating day for anyone with an interest in food.

2. Indulging in ice cream

South Americans have a sweet tooth and ice cream across the continent is astounding. Try *dulce de leche* (caramel flavour) for a sugar rush like no other.

3. Dining in style

Buenos Aires in Argentina, São Paulo in Brazil and Lima in Peru have some of the best restaurants in South America. Try Cabañas Las Lilas for the best steak in Buenos Aires.

4. Tucking in to street food

Look out for *pão de queijo* (cheese bread, Brazil), *pochoclo* (popcorn, Buenos Aires), *choripan* (the Argentinian version of the hot dog) and *empanadas* (South American-style Cornish pasties).

5. Go local

Try the Andean 'delicacy' of *cuy* (guinea pig) if you have adventurous taste-buds.

Eating and drinking

South America isn't renowned for its cuisine in the same way as for example, Vietnam, Thailand or Morocco are, but we think it has some of the best flavours and foods we have ever tasted – at least for carnivores. Argentina is justifiably famous for its steaks, Brazil offers a diverse array of regional flavours, and both countries are renowned for their own adaptations of the barbecue. Peru has jumped on the idea of fusion food by taking international dishes and adding an Andean twist, and no trip to Chile would be complete without sampling Patagonian lamb. To accompany the food, Chilean and Argentinian wines are undoubtedly some of the best in the world and Brazilian *caipirinhas* (a cocktail of rum, lime, sugar and ice) are fabulously potent.



Dining with a view, Argentina

Something that tends to confuse visitors to South America are the meal times. While you can expect to have your main meal at lunchtime in Peru and Bolivia, in Argentina, Chile and Brazil restaurants can be empty until at least 10pm. It may be hard to adapt if you are travelling between countries, but to experience the real character and charm of a place it's always best to eat when and where the locals do.

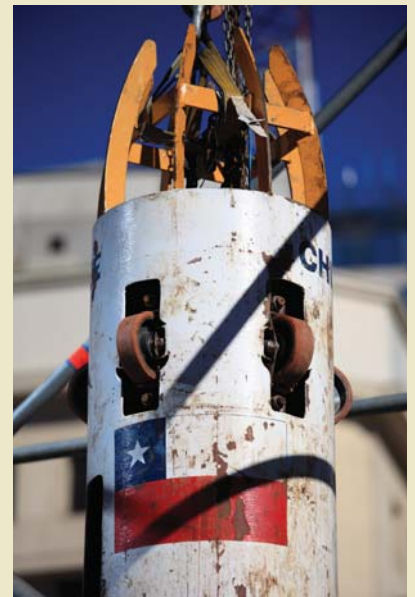
Your Audley 'Travel Organiser' that contains your itinerary and other important information will include up-to-date restaurant recommendations, many passed on to us by returning clients. Special mention must go here to *La Ciccolina* in Cuzco, highlighted as a favourite (without any prompting by us!) of practically every single client visiting Peru.



Chincheru market in the Sacred Valley, Peru

South America on the World Stage

Whereas once South America was more famous (or should that be infamous?) for dictatorships and drugs rather than safety and stability, the continent is well on the way to getting a far more positive image on the world stage. Brazil is due to host both the football World Cup and the Olympics in the next six years, a number of South American countries are demonstrating impressive economic growth despite the international recession, and the incredible rescue of the 33 trapped Chilean miners in October 2010 transfixed much of the world. The continent is shaking off its shady past and demonstrating to the rest of the world what a bright and promising future it has.



Right: The 'Phoenix' rescue pod, Chile



Top: Typical lunch in Brazil



Bottom: Corn, a staple ingredient for many South American dishes

Our charity projects

The Latin America team have established links with several charity projects and we raise money for them each year. **Task Brazil** support abandoned street children in Rio and **Amigos de Santa Cruz** support education, better healthcare and sustainable economic development for the remote villages of Santa Cruz La Laguna in Guatemala. The one particularly close to our hearts is the **Suma Kamaña** project in La Paz, Bolivia, which provides healthcare, education and play activities for children whose parents are in prison.

We first raised money for Suma Kamaña by sponsoring Phil, one of our specialists, to run the London Marathon in 2007. Our most



Suma Kamaña, Bolivia

recent charity event was our Latin America Charity Shoe Shine in November 2010, where we polished the shoes of all our Audley colleagues and raised over £500.

The support and funding from Audley goes a long way to helping these extremely worthwhile charities. Please ask us for further information if you would like to contribute or visit the projects while you are in South or Central America.



Amigos de Santa Cruz, Guatemala



The Latin America team on a charity shoe shine



Amigos de Santa Cruz, Guatemala

Follow the children

A trend we have noticed recently is the number of clients who have told us that they are travelling to South America because they want to follow in the footsteps of their children! But while the kids have been backpacking and causing sleepless nights by not phoning home, the parents have been travelling

in a little more comfort and style. In keeping with this trend, over half of the team here have recently sent their own parents on their first trip to South America. So, if your offspring have explored the continent, don't let them show you up with their traveller's tales, beat them at their own game!

Myths debunked!

Always liked the idea of a trip to South America but were too daunted to try it? Here, we answer some of the most common concerns for those considering a trip to this part of the world.

Myth No.1: It's not safe

As a whole, the continent is perfectly safe for visitors; we do not and would not send clients to any places that are considered risky. As with big cities the world over, there are certain urban areas where it is not recommended to go but all our guides ensure that our clients know this.

Myth No 2: I don't speak any Spanish so it will be too hard to travel around

English is widely spoken in the main areas of South America and our guides all speak excellent English. Plus, it's amazing how much you can achieve through mime and smiles!

Myth No 3: It's all fiestas, siestas and 'mañana mañana' - a bit too disorganised for me

The pervading spirit of South America is a relaxed and fun one but our South American partners take their jobs seriously and provide the best of both worlds – impeccable service imbued with a Latino atmosphere.

Myth No 4: It's really expensive

Our prices start from £1,850 for a 10 day trip to Brazil and Argentina, putting it broadly in line with trips to other parts of the world that we operate.



Tango is essential to life in Buenos Aires

Meet the team

South America comes under the auspices of the Latin America team here at Audley; we also arrange trips to Mexico, Central America and Cuba, as well as Antarctica and the Arctic. Having done a quick tally, we've worked out that between us we have spent over 25 years in Latin America and the Polar regions. Our backgrounds prior to Audley are diverse: among us you'll find former engineers and archaeologists, city traders and teachers, tour leaders and youth hostel managers. Our common trait is our passion for this part of the world and our luck at being able to combine our love of the continent with our day jobs. The department was set up in 2001 by Carolyn who is still here overseeing things, and who is still delighted to be putting her Latin American Studies degree to good use.



Richard arriving at Machu Picchu at the end of the Inca Trail

Some of our specialists' favourite places, experiences and moments

Seeing a family of giant otters in the Pantanal – I heard their grunts and waited silently in the boat until I saw them appear, popping up out of the water with their babies in tow – magical!

Paula Kirby

Antarctica is my all-time favourite place in the world. So peaceful, so beautiful, so remote, so many penguins.

Carolyn Foreman

Taking the tram to the hilltop barrio of Santa Teresa in Rio after the sun had gone down. There were amazing views of Lapa's samba clubs and the twinkling city lights below.

Beth Collins

My absolute favourite experience was watching a penguin swim past me as I snorkelled with the playful sea lions in the Galapagos.

Anna Richards



Jon at St Andrews Bay, South Georgia

Witnessing an impromptu tango show in the street whilst sitting in a pavement cafe in the colourful district of La Boca, Buenos Aires.

Oonagh Mallinder

Climbing Cotopaxi, a 5897 metre high volcano in the Ecuadorian Andes. We climbed in the dark with crampons and ice axes, and reached the summit for sunrise. With clear skies and amazing views it was literally breathtaking.

Phil Chanel

Waking in my hammock at the base of Angel Falls, Venezuela, where eight hours of torrential rain had given way to a perfect sunrise, clear blue skies and a monumental amount of water coming over the falls.

Mark Garrett



Nick rappelling in the Argentinean Lake District



Rebecca in the Orinoco Delta, Venezuela

Practicalities, planning and prices

South American trips come in all shapes and sizes – and with a variety of price tags. You can choose to travel with your own guide or transport, or join carefully selected group excursions which offer good value and a sociable experience. Either way, your trip will still be completely tailor-made.

Accommodation ranges from simple three-star properties that offer good value for money to delightful B&Bs and luxurious boutique hotels. Our favourites, in every budget category, offer something special whether it is a wonderful location, a fascinating history or charming hosts.

So what does all this add up to? There are myriad options, but to give you a feel for where our prices start, here are two examples. A 10-day trip taking in Rio de Janeiro, Iguazu Falls and Buenos Aires, starts from £1,850 per person while a 14-day classic tour of Peru starts from £2,455. Both options include flights, accommodation and an extensive range of excursions and activities.

You can find a wide range of itinerary ideas on our website at www.audleytravel.com or, better still, call one of our South America specialists to talk through the options and choices. Our number is 01993 838 600.

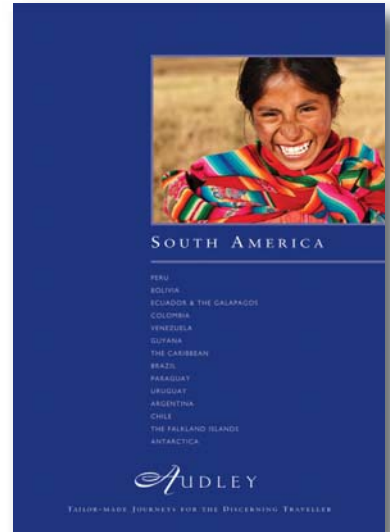
You can also find plenty of inspiration and practical information on our website.



The luxurious Cavas Wine Lodge, Argentina



Room at the simple but delightful Hosteria Pantavi in Ecuador



NEW South America brochure

The new South America brochure is out now. Please call our South America specialists on 01993 838 600 to order a copy, or visit www.audleytravel.com/brochures



We also have brochures for **Central America, Mexico & Cuba, the Galapagos Islands and Antarctica.**