

# CHILE, BOLIVIA & PERU

Santiago, Atacama Desert, Uyuni Salt Flats, Machu Picchu & more



*This unique 15 day tour is truly an Andean adventure. Travelling from the Chilean city of Santiago, through breath-taking Bolivia, it concludes with the magnificent Machu Picchu in Peru - one of the New Seven Wonders of the World. Explore the contrasting landscapes of the Atacama Desert, visit the astonishing Bolivian Salt Flats then experience the wonderful cities of La Paz, Cusco and Lima. This tour really does give you a true insight into three of Latin America's most incredible countries.*

This document aims to give you all the information that you require for a smooth and comfortable trip to Chile, Bolivia & Peru. Please take the time to read this dossier to familiarise yourself with all the aspects of our tour. It includes important details such as flight details, insurance and visa requirements.

#### Your included meal guide:

B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner

#### DAY 1: UK to Santiago

Depart London on your scheduled, overnight flight to Santiago in Chile.

#### DAY 2: Santiago

On arrival, you will be met by your local guide and transferred to your hotel. Enjoy today at leisure.

#### DAY 3: Santiago B

Following breakfast you will embark on a half day city tour of Santiago, visiting the main attractions of this charming capital city. Beginning at the Government Palace, you will then continue to the main square 'Plaza de Armas', known as the heart and soul of Santiago and the centrepiece of the city's grid pattern layout. Next stroll around Santa Lucia Hill, a beautifully landscaped park where back in 1833 Charles Darwin once proclaimed that the view from here is 'certainly most striking'. Finish your tour with visits to the exclusive residential neighbourhoods of Vitacura and Las Condes, then return to your hotel for some time to rest and relax.

#### DAY 4: Santiago to San Pedro de Atacama B

This morning you will be transferred to Santiago airport for your flight to Calama, a city in northern Chile's Atacama Desert. Considered to be the archaeological capital of Chile as well as the centre of Atacama culture, San Pedro's people once roamed

this vast expanse of desert which is thought to be the driest place on planet Earth.

#### DAY 5: San Pedro de Atacama B

An early start takes you to the Tatio Geysers, situated on the highest geothermal field, some 4,300 metres above sea level in the Andean mountain range. Ringed by volcanoes, over 80 gurgling geysers shoot steam fumaroles reaching 50 metres in height of multiple vibrant colours; a dazzling spectacle to behold. Admire the varied fauna, such as the vicuña, the smallest of the six species of camelid which has adapted itself to survive in the extreme and inhospitable climate of the Andes. In the late afternoon your group will travel to Valle de la Luna to watch the sun set from this exquisite viewing point.

#### DAY 6: San Pedro to Ojo de Perdiz B/L/D

After breakfast and an early pick up you will begin your journey to the Bolivian Salt Flats via 4x4 jeeps to experience a full day tour of this incredible landscape. The first stop will be at the emerald Green Lagoon in the Eduardo Avaroa Reserve whose colour is caused by the moving sediments containing copper minerals. Then continue to the hot springs of Polques where you will have the chance to bathe before carrying on to the geysers of Sol de Mañana to marvel at the pools of boiling mud emitting pressurised steam.

#### DAY 7: Ojo de Perdiz to Uyuni Salt Flats B/L/D

Leaving your hotel after breakfast, your tour will continue to a chain of beautiful lagoons home to three different kinds of flamingo whose pink feet and feathers are a result of the active red algae which reacts with the sun's radiation. Lunch will be served outdoors on the shores of the lagoon before continuing your journey across the salt flats on to your unique accommodation for the night - a hotel built entirely of salt blocks!

#### DAY 8: Uyuni Salt Flats B/L/D

This morning journey to Isla Incahuasi, one of the main destinations within Uyuni Salt Flats. It was once a real island before the prehistoric lakes dried up, leaving a hilly outpost covered in hundreds of tall cacti growing haphazardly out of the ragged surface. Reach the top of the island and find your camera to take a panoramic shot of the 360 degree views over this spectacular sight. From here you will continue to see pyramids of salt piled on the land by salt miners who harvest the area for its lucrative minerals.

#### DAY 9: Uyuni Salt Flats to La Paz B

Depart the salt flats today after breakfast and transfer to Uyuni airport for your flight to La Paz, located 3,600 metres above sea level and known as 'the city that touches the sky'. Discover this dizzying city on a half day tour, visiting the main square, Plaza Murillo, the historic centre of La Paz and home to the Cathedral and Presidential Palace. Next continue to the 16th century San Francisco church whose mestizobaroque façade features carvings of masks, dragons and tropical birds. Take the stone tunnel stairway to the roof for views across the city's skyline, then visit the charming colonial street of Calle Jaén. Finally, the tour arrives at Valle de la Luna - a dramatic change of scenery where erosion has produced stony forms resembling the moon.

#### DAY 10: La Paz to Puno B

Today you will be transferred to Desaguadero to cross the border between Bolivia and Peru and arrive at Lake Titicaca, thought to be the birthplace of the sun and known to be the highest navigable lake in the world. Travelling by motorboat, visit the floating Uros Islands, constructed entirely by the buoyant reeds that grow plentifully in the lake below. Meet the Uros women in their brightly coloured petticoat skirts who

will be happy to sell you their charming handicrafts. Continue to Puno where you will spend the night.

### DAY 11: Puno to Cusco B/L

Board the luxury Andean Explorer train after breakfast and begin the journey from Puno up to Cusco. Travel through rolling plains, mountainous highlands and low-lying clouds whilst enjoying the comforts of this exquisitely decorated twenties style train. Take lunch in the dining carriage and enjoy some fresh air in the outdoor observatory before arriving in the colonial city of Cusco for your overnight stay.

### DAY 12: Cusco B

Today's morning tour of Cusco will introduce you to this amazing colonial city built on the foundation of Inca Palaces. Visit the Temple of the Sun where you can appreciate the incredible masonry of the Incas, the Plaza de Armas and the Cathedral with its carved woodworks, altars and paintings. Later you will drive to the Inca fortress of Sacsayhuaman whose peculiar huge granite stone slabs of up to six metres in length fit perfectly on top of one another. Enjoy an afternoon at leisure to explore the rest of Cusco.

### DAY 13: Cusco B/L

Rise early in the morning to take a train to Aguas Calientes then continue by road to reach one of the New Seven Wonders of the World, the awe-inspiring ruins of Machu Picchu. Only re-discovered in 1911 by the explorer Hiram Bingham, this 500 year old citadel is considered to be one of the most extraordinary examples of

landscaped architecture in the world. Located on the saddle of a mountain, overlooking the deep canyon of the Urubamba River and in an area of lush tropical forest, it served as a place of worship, a site for stargazing and a private hacienda for the family of the Inca Pachacutec.

### DAY 14: Cusco to Lima B

Known as the 'City of the Kings', today's tour combines the culture of historic downtown Lima with the modern district of Miraflores. You will first visit the main square to see the Cathedral, Government Palace and City Hall. Next see one of the best preserved monasteries in Lima, the beautiful Santo Domingo Convent and then on to Miraflores, a bustling shopping area with stupendous views of the Pacific Ocean. Retire to your hotel for the final night of your journey across Latin America.

### DAY 15: Lima to the UK or Extension

Transfer to Lima airport for your return flight to the UK via Sao Paulo, Brazil, or continue on to your chosen extension.

#### Hotel Information

**Santiago (2 nights):** 3★ **Presidente Suites** - Luis Thayer Ojeda 383, Santiago 7510133, Region Metropolitana, Chile. Telephone Number: 0056 2 2630 0000

**San Pedro de Atacama (2 nights):** 3★ **La Casa De Don Tomas** - Calle Tocopilla s/n, San Pedro de Atacama, Chile. Telephone Number: 0056 5 5285 1055

**Ojo de Perdiz (1 night):** 3★ **Tayka Del Desierto** - Ojo de Perdiz, Bolivia. Telephone Number: 0059 1 2693 2987

**Uyuni Salt Flats (2 nights)** 4★ **Palacio Del Sal** - Salar de Uyuni, Uyuni Potosi, Bolivia. Telephone Number: 0059 1 6842 0888

**La Paz (1 night):** 4★ **La Casona Hotel** - Avenida Santa Cruz, La Paz, Bolivia. Telephone Number: 0059 12 290 0505

**Puno (1 night):** 3★ **Hacienda Plaza de Armas**- Jiron Puno 419, Puno, Peru

**Cusco (3 nights):** 3★ **Casa Andina Koricancha** - Calle San Agustin 371, Cusco, Peru. Telephone Number: +51 84 252633

**Lima (1 night):** 3★ **Casa Andina Classic Centro** - Avenida Petit Thouars 5444, Miraflores 15074, Peru. Telephone Number: 0051 1 447 0263



Accommodation will be either 3★ or 4★ and features an en-suite bathroom. Please be aware that there is some variance in the standards and star ratings of hotels within Chile, Bolivia and Peru; particularly in more of the remote areas visited on the tour. However, Mercury Holidays has visited and inspected all of the hotels to ensure that they are comfortable and of a good standard for our clients. The hotels listed are a guide only and if the hotels detailed are not available alternatives will be used of a similar standard. Final confirmation of your hotels will be sent in a document approximately two weeks before you travel.

#### Meals

Breakfast is always western style and served in the hotel each morning. Lunch and dinner where stated will generally be taken in local restaurants or at your hotel. Due to the remote location whilst in parts of Bolivia, you will have a cook with you who will prepare your lunch en-route.



### On your arrival

On arrival in Chile you will be met by a representative from our local agent, Chilean Travel Services (CTS), holding a sign displaying: "Mercury Holidays". The Mercury Holidays/ Chilean Travel Services representative will show you to your transfer vehicle. Your guide will be on hand 24 hours a day should you have any queries. However, if you need to contact CTS during your stay the details are:

### Chilean Travel Services

Antonio Bellet  
 #77 of 101  
 Providencia  
 Santiago  
 Chile  
 Telephone Number: 0056 2 2251 0400  
 E-mail: customer-service@pure-peru.com

### Emergency contact information

The arrangements in Chile, Bolivia & Peru are handled by our representatives 'Pure Peru' who are based in Lima, Peru. If you need to contact them during your stay you can find the emergency contact details below:

Contact	Telephone number
Pure Peru	0051 995 632 971
	0051 998 754 080
	0056 2 2251 0423

### Visas

British passport holders do not need to obtain a visa prior to travel, you will be granted a tourist visa on arrival into Chile, Bolivia and Peru that will cover you for the duration of your stay on the tour. Further advice should be sought from the applicable tourist authority for other nationalities and for general queries. We strongly advise you to check your destinations' Tourist Board or Embassy for the most up to date guidelines regarding passport validity.

### Insurance

You must obtain suitable travel insurance prior to departure. Mercury Holidays is partnered with Holiday Extras who offer insurance at the following prices, (worldwide, excluding USA).

Age in years	Up to 64	65-74	75-85
Up to 17 days cover	£42	£79	£135

For all persons 86 years and over, please contact us for insurance prices. Please ensure you provide us with the name of your insurer, policy number and their 24 hour emergency contact number as soon as possible. Mercury Holidays will not be liable for any costs incurred by you due to your failure to take out suitable travel insurance from the date of booking.

### Health and Vaccinations

It is strongly recommended that you check the latest health recommendations for travel to Chile, Bolivia and Peru with your GP at least 4-6 weeks before travel. Any medicines you may need during your journey should be packed in your hand luggage. We suggest it is worth taking a few first aid supplies such as travel pills, insect repellent, rehydration powder, plasters, stomach settlers, antiseptic cream, aspirin etc. Because these products can be more expensive abroad and familiar brands are not always available.

### Altitude Sickness

Altitude sickness is a fairly common condition that can occur when you ascend to a high altitude quickly (generally higher than 2,500 metres above sea level). The decrease in atmospheric pressure can make breathing more difficult as the body is not able to take in as much oxygen. Most cases are mild with symptoms that can include: headache, nausea, dizziness and exhaustion. Several of the places visited on this tour are

located at high altitude (over 2,500 metres above sea level) including San Pedro de Atacama, Uyuni Salt Flats, La Paz, Lake Titicaca and Cusco. Therefore, you may find you experience some symptoms at this altitude. It is advised that at these high altitudes, you keep hydrated and avoid alcohol. If you do experience symptoms of altitude sickness during your tour, ensure you tell your guide immediately who will be able to advise the best thing for you to do. You can contact your GP before you travel for advice on medication for altitude sickness. It is not advisable to drink the tap water.

### Physical Accessibility

This tour is accessible to most people with a good level of fitness and mobility. It involves full days of sightseeing, often on foot, and includes some climbing of stairs and getting on and off coaches and boats. **This tour is not suitable for anyone with walking difficulties.**

### Group Size

The minimum number of travellers in your group will be 10, and the maximum will be 15. If in the unlikely event there are less than 10 people booked on your tour date then you may be asked to change to a different date. A full refund will be made available to you should this alternative not be suitable.

### Tour Guides

This is a fully escorted tour, meaning that you will be with a local guide in each of the main destinations on the trip. In addition to the local guides, a national guide will meet you in Calama and remain with the group until Cusco. In Santiago and Lima you will be accompanied by a local guide only.

### Tipping

Tipping is a common practice in South America and it is customary to tip approx. USD\$2-\$4 per person per day which is split between the driver and the local guide. Tips can be given at the end of each day, or at the end of the tour. Tips are accepted in US dollars and local currencies.

### Currency Exchange

Each of the three countries visited on this tour have their own currency: Chile = Chilean Peso (Ch\$), Bolivia = Boliviano (Bs), Peru = Nuevo Sol (S/). US Dollars are widely accepted in large

hotels and restaurants but local currency will be needed for payment in smaller establishments. Therefore, it is recommended that you either take a mixture of currencies or take US dollars and change this into the local currency as and when you need to. Cash machines are available in the major cities to withdraw money in the local currency of the country.

### Personal Expenses

You will need to take some extra money with you to cover any personal purchases, such as souvenirs, laundry and extra drinks and snacks. Approximately £400 per person will be sufficient for the duration of the tour, depending on how much of a bargain-hunter you are!

### Itinerary Changes

The order of events and sightseeing may vary according to local conditions or for operational purposes. For this reason, we have indicated approximate times only. Your local guide will inform you of any schedule changes as they are informed of them. Some road construction and/or weather conditions may lengthen the driving times. Our intention is to adhere to the day-to-day itinerary as printed; however order of events and sightseeing may vary according to local conditions.

### What to Pack

- Clothing - It is advisable to bring clothes for a range of temperatures and wear layers - due to the high altitude, even in summer months, temperatures can be very low in the morning and evenings but quickly get hot when the sun rises.
- Rain wear for rainy season
- Long-sleeved shirts and long trousers
- Insect repellent
- Personal toiletries and first aid kit
- High factor sunscreen - this is particularly important due to the high altitude where there will be less atmospheric protection from the sun
- Hat with a big brim for sunny days
- Comfortable shoes such as trainers
- A pair of light boots
- A torch with batteries and binoculars
- Sunglasses and plastic bags
- Towel and swimsuit • Ruck sack or light bag
- Anti-bacterial hand gel
- An electric plug converter - three different plug sockets are used, so it is best to bring a multi adapter

### Flight and Airport Information

Your flight is to **Santiago International Airport in Chile** with **TAM Airlines (JJ)** departing from **London Heathrow Terminal 3**.

Route	Depart	Arrive	Flight Duration	Flight Number
Heathrow-Sao Paulo	22:10	06:05	11 hours 55 minutes	JJ8085
Sao Paulo-Santiago	07:35	10:35	4 hours	JJ8026
Santiago-Calama	12:30	14:40	2 hours 10 minutes	LA340
Uyuni-La Paz*	07:35	08:35	1 hour	303
Cusco-Lima	10:00	11:25	1 hour 25 minutes	LA2022
Lima-Sao Paulo	12:25	19:50	5 hours 25 minutes	JJ8067
Sao Paulo-London Heathrow	23:45	15:10	11 hours 25 minutes	JJ8084

**IMPORTANT: Please note that all flight times are subject to change. Final flight details will be confirmed on your e-ticket and final documentation which will be sent to you approximately 10 days before departure.**

### Baggage Allowance

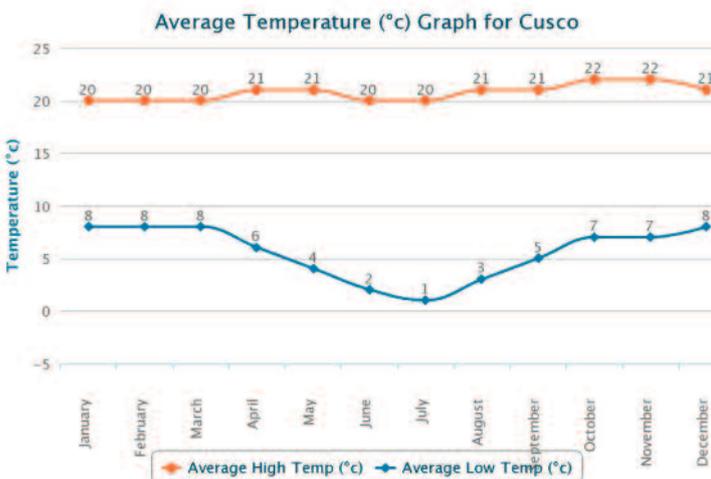
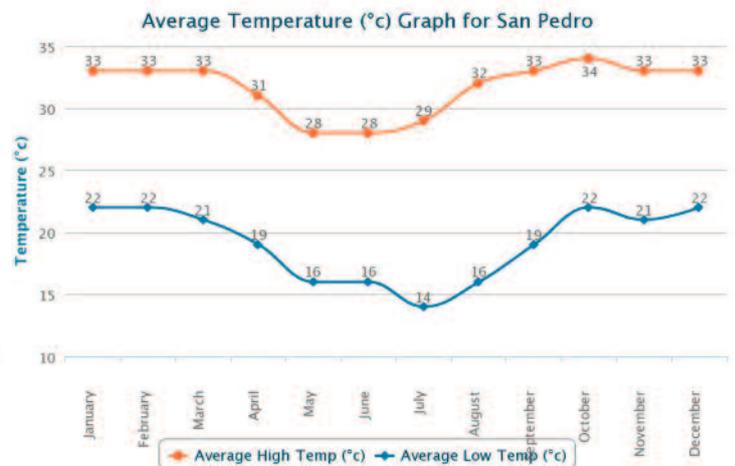
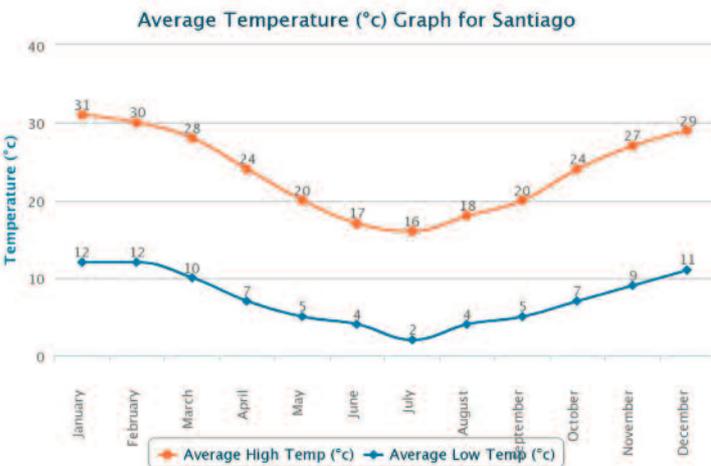
Baggage allowance (per person): Each passenger is entitled to 23kg of hold luggage plus one item of hand luggage not exceeding 56cm x 40cm x 20cm in size and 1 personal item such as a handbag or laptop. Internal flights are with LAN airlines or Amazonas airlines. Each passenger is entitled to 20kg of hold luggage plus one item of hand luggage not exceeding 5kg. Please be aware of the difference between the weight restrictions of international and internal flights. Weight restrictions will be finalised on E-ticket receipt. Check-In should be at least 3 hours before departure. \*Please note: your internal flight from Uyuni - La Paz is booked in resort by our partners and therefore will not appear on your e-ticket. These details will be given to you when you are in Bolivia.

### Airport Extras

If you wish to arrange Airport car parking, lounges or accommodation at preferential rates, we recommend you book this in advance with Holiday Extras - Tel. 0871 360 2000, quoting HX313.

### Weather and Climate

Weather can vary quite considerably throughout the year, so please familiarise yourself with the climate charts below.



# TUMBES BEACH STAY, PERU



Head to the beautiful beaches of Tumbes for 4 nights of relaxation. With an idyllic coastline and diverse wildlife, Tumbes provides the perfect end to your Chile, Bolivia and Peru tour.

**Tumbes:**

A uniquely lush area of coastal Peru, Tumbes boasts beaches of white sand, warm clear waters and almost year round sunshine. Offering an expanse of ecological reserves and mangroves, choose to spend this extra time in Peru exploring the local area, enjoying water-based activities and fresh seafood or simply unwind and relax on the picturesque beach and coastline.

**Hotel**

**Tumbes (3 nights):** Your Tumbes stay will take place at the

**3★ Casa Andina Select Tumbes** or the **4★ Aranwa Vichayito Tumbes** on Bed & Breakfast, unless otherwise stated at booking.

All internal transfers are included.

**3★ Casa Andina Select Tumbes** - 1A Zorritos, Peru  
Telephone Number: +51 1 2139700

**4★ Aranwa Vichayito Tumbes** - Mancora, Peru  
Telephone Number: +51 1 4364173

**Lima (1 night):** You will spend 1 night in Lima before your return flight to the UK staying at the **3★ Casa Andina**

**Classic Centro** - Avenida Petit Thouars 5444, Miraflores 15074, Peru. Telephone Number: 0051 1 447 0263.

**Tour Guides**

Your stay in Tumbes is not escorted by a tour guide.

**Personal Expenses**

You will need to take money with you to cover any lunches and dinners, as well as personal purchases, such as souvenirs, laundry, drinks and snacks.

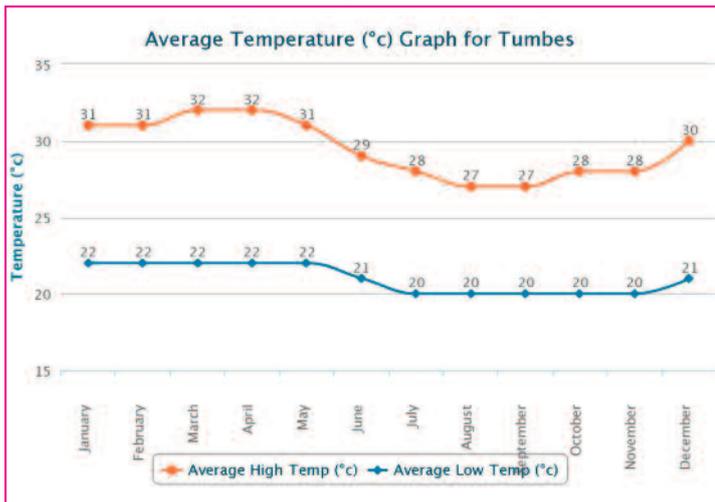
**Flight Information**

Route	Depart	Arrive	Flight Duration	Flight Number
Lima - Tumbes	11:25	13:20	1 hour 55 minutes	LA2330
Tumbes - Lima	14:05	15:50	1 hour 45 minutes	LA2331
Lima - Sao Paulo	12:25	19:50	5 hours 25 minutes	JJ8067
Sao Paulo - Heathrow	23:45	15.10	11 hours 25 minutes	JJ8084

**IMPORTANT: Flight times/numbers are for guidance only & are subject to change. Flights are with LAN airlines and TAM. Each passenger is entitled to 20kg of hold luggage plus one item of hand luggage not exceeding 5kg. Please be aware of the difference between the weight restrictions of international and internal flights. Weight restrictions will be finalised on E-ticket receipt. Check-In should be at least 3 hours before departure.**

**Weather and Climate**

Weather can vary quite considerably throughout the year, so please familiarise yourself with the chart below.



4★ Aranwa Vichayito