San Diego East County Chamber of Commerce presents...

Essential South America & Peru: Machu Picchu and Lake Titicaca

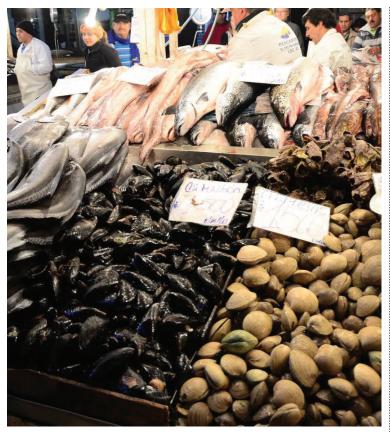
July 14 - August 1, 2026



For more information contact Educator Tour Travel Coordinator San Diego East County Chamber of Commerce



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Small Group Travel rewards travelers with new perspectives. With just 12-24 passengers, these are the personal adventures that today's cultural explorers dream of.

19 Days • 29 Meals: 17 Breakfasts, 5 Lunches, 7 Dinners

HIGHLIGHTS... Pisac Market, Ollantaytambo Ruins, Pablo Seminario Ceramic Studio, Quechua Community Visit & Lunch, Machu Picchu, Koricancha Temple, Uros Floating Islands, Home-Hosted Lunch, Larco Museum, Pisac Market, Ollantaytambo Ruins, Pablo Seminario Ceramic Studio, Quechua Community Visit & Lunch, Machu Picchu, Koricancha Temple, Uros Floating Islands, Home-Hosted Lunch, Larco Museum

ITINERARY AT A GLANCE

Day 1	Overnight Flight
Days 2, 3	Renaissance Santiago Hotel, Santiago
Days 4, 5	Diplomatic Hotel Mendoza, Mendoza
Days 6 – 9	Palladio Hotel BA MGallery by Sofitel, Buenos Aires
Days 10, 11	Hilton Garden Inn Miraflores, Lima
Days 12, 13	Casa Andina Premium Sacred Valley, Sacred Valley
Day 14	Sumaq Machu Picchu Hotel, Machu Picchu
Days 15, 16	Hilton Garden Inn Cusco, Cuzco
Days 17, 18	GHL Lago Titicaca, Puno
On some dates alternate hotels may be used.	

Day 1: Tuesday, July 14, 2026 Overnight Flight Set out to experience the sights, flavors, and rhythms of Chile and Argentina as you explore two countries, from bustling cities to sprawling ranches, vineyards, and natural landscapes. It all begins in Chile's cultural hub, Santiago.

Day 2: Wednesday, July 15, 2026 Santiago, Chile Arrive early this morning in Santiago, the vibrant capital city of Chile nestled in a valley of the Andes Mountains. Settle in at your hotel where you'll

enjoy early access to your room to recoup after your flight. This afternoon, meet your fellow travelers and head out on a panoramic tour of Santiago, getting a look at the city's blend of modern and colonial architecture and learning about its diverse history. Tonight, toast to the beginning of your South American adventure at a local restaurant. (D)

Day 3: Thursday, July 16, 2026 Santiago Follow your curiosity about Chilean history and culture to a museum because it's your choice! Choose between the Chilean Museum of Pre-Columbian Art, dedicated to the study and display of pre-Columbian artworks and artifacts from Central and South America -OR- the Memory and Human Rights Museum, which commemorates the victims of human rights violations during the last Chilean military dictatorship. After, set out to discover market-fresh Chilean food with a visit to the Mercado Central de Santiago. Joined by a local chef, walk through the fish market, stopping along the way to learn about the local seafood and pick up some ingredients. Then join a hands-on cooking experience at the chef's restaurant and sit down to a fresh feast for lunch. Take the rest of the day to enjoy Santiago as you please. (B, L)

Day 4: Friday, July 17, 2026 Santiago - Mendoza, Argentina An early morning flight brings you to the desert region of Mendoza, known for its vineyards and Malbec wine, and the stunning views of the Andes Mountains. Upon arriving to a vineyard, a pick-meup comes with a taste of yerba mate tea, a traditional South American caffeinated drink. As your guide demonstrates how to make a cup, learn about the cultural significance of this beverage that brings many Argentinean families together for daily "mate breaks." Enjoy a tour of the vineyard followed by a wine tasting and chef-prepared lunch. Later, settle into your hotel in the city of Mendoza for an evening at leisure.* (B, L)

Day 5: Saturday, July 18, 2026 Mendoza Enjoy a leisurely morning before continuing your taste of the region's renowned wines with a visit to a family winery. Sample wines selected to show the richness of the terroirs and come to appreciate the unique qualities of the Luján de Cuyo wine-producing sub-region with its dry, almost desert-like climate and irrigation from the Mendoza River's pure Andean meltwater. The rest of the day is yours to enjoy the laid-back city of Mendoza with its inviting restaurants and atmospheric plazas. (B)

Day 6: Sunday, July 19, 2026 Mendoza - Buenos Aires Say so long to Mendoza as you fly to Buenos Aires, a city that radiates Latin-infused rhythm mixed with European heritage. Set out on a guided tour of Buenos Aires, sampling the local eats along the way and exploring the fusion of flavors that comes with the city's Spanish, Italian, and Jewish influences. During a panoramic tour, discover the San Telmo, Puerto Madero, La Boca, and Recoleta neighborhoods. Then, settle in at your hotel in the elegant Recoleta neighborhood, full of historical and architectural charm. This evening, come together for dinner and indulge in savory Argentine flavors. (B, D)

Day 7: Monday, July 20, 2026 Buenos Aires Today begins with an **Impact Moment** focused on the work of the Abuelas de Plaza de Mayo, a human rights organization that has helped to restore the identities of children taken during Argentina's military coup from 1976 to 1983. Meet with someone who was personally impacted and learn about los desaparecidos ("the disappeared") and this time in Argentina's history. This afternoon, it's your choice how you see more of the city. Choose between two walking tours, either exploring the captivating Recoleta Cemetery -ORdiscovering the colorful murals of the Palermo neighborhood. This evening, it's time to live like the locals! Take a lesson from a professional tango dancer, then take your moves to the dance floor at a local milongas social club. (B)

Day 8: Tuesday, July 21, 2026 Buenos Aires Today is yours to explore Buenos Aires as you wish, taking your time to wander through neighborhoods, savor Argentine cuisine, or maybe visit the city's fantastic opera house. Add another stamp to your passport during a full day optional excursion to one of Uruguay's oldest towns. Take an early morning ferry across the Rio de Plata







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For bookings made after Dec 15, 2025 call for rates.

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* All Rates are Per Person and are subject to change, based on air inclusive package from SAN

IMPORTANT CONDITIONS: Your price is guaranteed once deposit is received and booking confirmed by Collette. Your price is not subject to increase after the deposit is received and booking confirmed, except for charges resulting from increases in government-imposed taxes or fees. (See registration form for consent.)

to Colonia del Sacramento** with its picturesque cobblestone streets and charming cafes. Travel into the Uruguayan countryside for an included lunch, followed by free time to explore the city's Historic Quarter before returning to Buenos Aires by ferry. Tonight, perhaps you'll decide to join an optional tango show and dinner at a popular tango house. (B)

Day 9: Wednesday, July 22, 2026 Buenos Aires - San Antonio de **Areco - Buenos Aires** Set out into the countryside to explore Argentina's Pampas region. In San Antonio de Areco, discover the small town's strong connection with silversmithing and gaucho culture. A visit to Museo Draghi offers the chance to see silversmiths at work and admire a private collection of silverware. Then, it's on to experience a true taste of gaucho life by spending the rest of the day on a traditional estancia, following a bumpy, unpaved road to the gates of the ranch's sprawling land and inviting, rustic house. You may decide to explore the property by horse drawn carriage or head inside the main house to relax and take in views from the porch. Gather for a traditional asado lunch, with flame-cooked meats served at the table along with sides and wine. Later, sit back and enjoy a folk performance of gaucho traditions with singing, dancing, and displays of horsemanship topping off an unforgettable encounter with this South American way of life. This evening back in Buenos Aires, gather for dinner at a local restaurant and toast to the end of a grand adventure.

Day 10: Thursday, July 23, 2026 Buenos Aires - Lima Fly to Peru, one of the treasures of South America. Travel through this intriguing land visiting some of the world's most legendary sites, including Machu Picchu, the "Lost City of the Incas." Arrive late this evening in Lima, the "City of Kings." Due to arrival times, there are no scheduled activities today. (B)

Day 11: Friday, July 24, 2026 Lima Discover Lima's fascinating history during a colonial tour through the historic city center, a UNESCO World Heritage site. Admire the artwork at San Francisco Monastery and enter the catacombs. View the elegant Cathedral at Plaza de Armas and visit the Casa de Aliaga – former house of

the conquistador Jeronimo de Aliaga y Ramirez – where the energy of colonial and republican Lima comes to life. Enjoy some free time this afternoon to discover Lima on your own. Get to know your fellow travelers at a welcome dinner featuring artfully crafted Peruvian dishes. (B, D)

Day 12: Saturday, July 25, 2026 Lima - Cuzco - Sacred Valley Fly to Cuzco, in the heart of the Inca civilization. Journey through the Andes to the majestic Sacred Valley of the Incas, the agricultural center of their grand empire. While en route to your hotel, explore different towns in the valley, each a representation of the region's unique culture. After a short lesson on the local language, stop in Pisac village to browse the colorful handicraft market. Settle into your hotel nestled in the heart of the Sacred Valley. (B)

Day 13: Sunday, July 26, 2026 Sacred Valley - Ollantaytambo -**Sacred Valley** This morning, visit the spectacular Ollantaytambo ruins, the only Incan settlement that has been continually inhabited since its inception. A uniquely terraced complex topped with carved stone panels, these ruins reflect ancient Incan architecture and heritage. Then, head to the Pablo Seminario Ceramic Studio where you'll get first-hand knowledge of this internationally renowned artist's techniques and designs, inspired by ancient Peruvian cultures. Deep dive into the cultures of modern Andean people and experience an **Impact Moment** as you mingle with a nearby community. Thanks to their effort and teamwork, tourism has become an additional income to agriculture which has positively impacted their quality of life. You'll get a true taste of their daily life when participating in small group workshops that teach you traditional methods of growing, harvesting and weaving. Celebrate their culture as you learn their dances and listen to their musical instruments before enjoying a home-hosted farm-to-table lunch featuring local specialties. (B, L)

Day 14: Monday, July 27, 2026 Sacred Valley - Machu Picchu Prepare for an early morning departure as you climb aboard your train to Machu Picchu for breathtaking views through panoramic windows as you ride through the Andes to the "Lost City of the Incas." Hidden by mountains and semi-tropical jungle, Machu Picchu is considered the most spectacular sight in South America. Spend the afternoon with your guide uncovering the mysteries of these majestic ruins. Tonight, stay at the base of Machu Picchu for a chance to further soak up its atmosphere. Enjoy an exclusive culinary demonstration and learn how to craft the perfect ceviche and pisco sour before your dinner featuring a Peruvian menu. (B, D)

Day 15: Tuesday, July 28, 2026 Machu Picchu - Cuzco This morning, take advantage of free time and explore the local markets in Aguas Calientes on your own, or you may choose to visit Machu Picchu again this morning. Return to the Sacred Valley by train. Upon arriving in Cuzco this evening, take time to explore the captivating city at your leisure. (B)

Day 16: Wednesday, July 29, 2026 Cuzco Start your morning on a tour of Cuzco, visiting the San Pedro Market, the Koricancha temple, the central Plaza de Armas, and the Cuzco Cathedral. Later, it's your choice! Travel above the city to discover the important sacred Incan ruins of Sacsayhuamán Fortress -ORembark on a walking tour through the enchanting streets of Cuzco, going off the beaten path and uncovering the city's best-kept secrets. The rest of the afternoon is yours. This evening, dine at your leisure at a local restaurant featuring the local flavors of Cuzco. (B, D)

Day 17: Thursday, July 30, 2026 Cuzco - Puno Today, fly to Puno, hugging the shores of Lake Titicaca. Known as the birthplace of the Inca Empire, ancient legends say that life began here. Upon arrival, check into your lakeside hotel. Tonight, enjoy an evening at leisure. (B)

Day 18: Friday, July 31, 2026 Uros Floating Islands - Lake Titicaca - Chullpas de Sillustan - Puno Spend today getting to know the locals. Enjoy a morning cruise to the floating islands of the Uros people of Lake Titicaca. Experience walking on the island's spongy surface made from compacted beds of tortora reeds and meet the locals, learning about their history and lifestyle. Then, cruise to a local rustic village for a home-hosted meal and swap stories with Peruvian families before visiting the mystical Chullpas de Sillustani – an archaeological area boasting 13th-century funerary monuments. (B, L)

Day 19: Saturday, August 1, 2026 Puno - Lima - Tour Ends As your tour comes to a close, spend the morning relaxing on the shores of Lake Titicaca before flying to Lima. Upon arrival, head to the Larco Museum, a former mansion built on the site of a pre-Columbian temple. The museum offers a collection of over 3,000 years of ceramic, textile, and precious metal artifacts. After this incredible trip through history, your tour concludes with a farewell dinner on the grounds of the museum before departing for Lima's airport and your connecting flight home. (B, D)

Important Tour Information:

Book Now rates valid until Dec 15, 2025, valid on air inclusive packages only.

The overall activity level of this tour is a level 4. This means you're ready to seize the day, whatever it may bring. You lead an active life at home (walking, biking, and half or full day hikes are things you may enjoy) and 10,000 steps a day is normal for you. You can handle longer walking tours (more than 3 hours covering 3+ miles at a steady clip) and activities that involve traversing uneven terrain, steep slopes, standing for periods of time, and varying altitudes and temperatures. You don't mind being on the go with some early starts, late nights, and full days. You can handle altitudes of 9,000 feet or higher with little to no issue. This level is not appropriate for travelers who use wheelchairs, walkers, and other mobility assistance devices.

Travel with no more than 24 travelers on this tour where a smaller group setting means a more personal travel experience.

If you require any special assistance while on tour, please make us aware at time of reservation so the necessary request form can be sent to your attention.

In general, hotels outside of Lima are small with one or two levels and do not have elevators, which may require you to climb 10-15 steps to get to/from the room.

Some walking tours may last more than 3 hours and cover 3 or more miles at a steady pace.

Complete passport information is required 60 days prior to departure to book train tickets to Machu Picchu. If passport information is incomplete or inaccurate within 60 days, there is a strong possibility that we will be unable to confirm you. You will be subject to any additional charges incurred from failing to provide passport information within the designated time frame.

*Restaurants in Mendoza do not open for dinner until 8:00 p.m.

**The optional tour to Colonia del Sacramento, Uruguay must be booked at least 60 days prior to departure.

Single accommodations are limited and are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Single rate subject to change based on availability. Triple rooms are not available.

To complete your tour, we <u>include</u> roundtrip airport-to-hotel transfers when purchasing our airfare with your tour. If you have arranged for your <u>own air</u>, we are pleased to provide you the option of *purchasing* these transfers. Please note that all transfers will leave at pre-scheduled times.

For air-inclusive reservations, the name provided at time of booking must match your government-issued ID that will be used during travel. Name changes are subject to penalties.

Please be advised many airlines do not provide advance seat assignments until check-in at the airport. Advance seating will be subject to the airline's terms and conditions.

Arrival flights should arrive before noon in order to participate in the Santiago city tour.

Due to tour scheduling, return flights should not be booked prior to 9:00 p.m.

Internal flights are required in order to participate on this tour and are included in the final price, quoted at time of booking.

Economy air rate and schedule are applicable for groups of 10 or more traveling on the same flights and dates.

Travel Requirements:

Passports are required for this tour at your expense. Certain countries require that your passport be valid at least 6 months beyond the dates of your travel. You are strongly urged to contact the appropriate consulate for details. Visit www.travel.state.gov for the U.S. State Department for the latest details about passports and visa requirements. IMPORTANT: We recommend that travelers take a photocopy of their passport and applicable visas. It should be packed separately from your actual passport and visa. We also recommend leaving a copy at home with your emergency contact.

Upon entry into and exit from Argentina, all travelers, regardless of their citizenship, are submitted to biometrics checks, such as digital fingerprints and a digital photograph, at the immigration counter.

Each traveler is responsible for proper documentation and inoculations that may be required and/or recommended to participate on this tour. Please contact your local travel clinic or personal physician for specific details on the destinations you are traveling to and from.

A deposit of \$1,396 per person is due upon reservation. Reservations are made on a first come, first served basis. Reservations made after the seat reduction date of December 08, 2025 are based upon availability. Final payment due by April 15, 2026. Deposits are refundable up until December 15, 2025.

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