

viventura

We are South America!

viExplorer Peru, Bolivia, Chile

The viExplorer Peru, Bolivia & Chile tour includes must see places as well as hidden treasures across three diverse countries in just 20 days.

Discover Lima's nightlife before embarking on a city tour exploring museums and plazas in Lima's historical centre. Take a speedboat to the nearby Ballestas Islands and observe penguins and sea lions before walking through the white sand dunes of Huacachina. Fly over the infamous Nazca lines in the desert before discovering the beautiful white city of Arequipa. Relax in the wonderful city of Cuzco with beautiful colonial architecture, numerous archaeological Inca remains and villages and, of course, excellent bars and restaurants. Arrive early to Machu Picchu before the tourists arrive and relax in hot thermals in the afternoon. Travel through the high planes of Capachica and cross the majestic Lake Titicaca. Explore La Paz before visiting Laguna Colorada with its gigantic salt lakes, coloured lagoons, volcanoes, geysers, and highland flamingos. Finally, take a tour through the vast city of Santiago before heading back to Europe.

Day 1 - Monday | Europa

Your flight will leave Dublin and travel to Lima via Madrid.

We'll meet you at the airport in the evening, just in time to see Lima at night and try a local Pisco Sour cocktail.

The meals mentioned are given during the flight.
:t:Private Bus (approx 1 h)

Day 2 - Tuesday | Lima - Pisco

In the morning, we'll embark on a city tour of Lima. Lima can be a chaotic city at the best of times, but our guide will help us to avoid the traffic and instead take in such delights as the Plaza de Armas and the Monasterio de San Francisco with its famous catacombs.

After several hours of sightseeing, we'll head to the quiet neighbourhood of Barranco. Here, we'll find a big restaurant serving typical Peruvian cuisine popular with locals. We might like to try a Chicha Morada, which is a local drink, a bit like hot red wine, but without the alcohol :-)

If we want to spend more time in Lima, we can explore more of the historical centre. We might want to do some shopping or visit the Museo de Oro before departing Lima for Pisco.

Breakfast | Lunch | :t:Private Bus (approx 4 h)

Day 3 - Wednesday | Pisco - Ica - Nazca

In the morning, we'll take a speedboat to the rocky Ballestas Islands. It's prohibited for humans to enter the islands on land, so we'll have to stay in the boat and observe the animals from a distance of about 50 metres. However, we'll be able to observe penguins, sea lions and thousands of marine birds completely free from captivity.

We'll then travel to Huacachina, just outside the city of Ica. Here, we'll find white sand dunes. Aside from the natural beauty of this calm oasis, it will be possible to hire equipment for sand-boarding or to take buggy tour.

Finally, it's on to Nazca where we'll arrive at night.

Breakfast | Dinner | :t:Offroad vehicle (approx 1 h) | :t:Private Bus (approx 4 h)

Day 4 - Thursday | Nazca - Puerto Inka - Arequipa

Today, we'll get up early in preparation for a packed day.



Dates and Prices

viExplorer OpenAge

Explorer tours for any age

29/05/ - 17/06/2010 - 3199€ - Early bird discount*

17/07/ - 05/08/2010 - 3199€ - Early bird discount*

23/10/ - 11/11/2010 - 3199€ - Early bird discount*

Early bird discount

100 Euros off the published viventura price

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Firstly, we'll begin with a private flight over giant etchings in the desert otherwise known as the Nazca lines.

Secondly, we'll stop for lunch at Puerto Inca, where the archaeological centre of the Peruvian coast and a beautiful beach awaits us. Only those of us with a lot of courage will want to enter the sea, as the water temperature is a little cold and the waves very big.

Finally, we'll enjoy a seafood buffet next to the beach. After sampling the local seafood, we'll begin the long journey to the city of Arequipa.
Breakfast | Lunch | :t:Private Bus (approx 9 h)

Day 5 - Friday | Arequipa

In the morning, we'll visit one of the social projects sponsored by viventura's vSocial programme. This is a great opportunity to see where some of the money from our tour is being used to help the local community.

Later on, we'll have lunch with the viventura team before taking a tour through Arequipa. Together, we'll take in the popular antique market of San Camilo, the narrow streets of Santa Catalina Monastery and several other cathedrals and churches before getting to know the viventura team over lunch.

In the afternoon, we'll be free to relax before enjoying the many excellent bars and restaurants Arequipa offers.

Breakfast | Lunch

Day 6 - Saturday | Arequipa - Cuzco

In the morning, we'll take a flight from the white city of Arequipa to the comparatively green city of Cuzco.

After a little rest, we'll embark on a city tour of Cuzco, taking in the rich history evident in the surrounding colonial architecture.

Later on, we'll head for several archaeological Inca ruins, including, Tambomachay, Saqsayhuaman, Coricancha and La Piedra de los doce Angulos.

In the afternoon, we are free to relax and enjoy the wonders of Cuzco before experiencing its many bars and restaurants at night.

Breakfast | :t:Flight (approx 2 h)

Day 7 - Sunday | Cuzco

Today, we will be free to relax on our own.

You might decide to visit the Inca museum where you can see a collection of Inca mummies as well as Inca ceramics, textiles, vases and jewellery.

If you would rather escape the centre of the city, it's worth visiting Plaza de San Blas where you can wander lots of charming alleys and visit lots of small art galleries or workshops.

Breakfast

Day 8 - Monday | Cuzco - Aguas Calientes

In the morning, we'll leave Cuzco early by train and head along the Sacred Valley towards Machu Picchu.

We'll arrive at the Winay Wayna ruins and to la Puerta del Sol where we'll have our first view of the majestic Machu Picchu with very few other tourists. From here, we'll register for the Inca trail and begin our 6 hour hike towards Machu Picchu. On the way, we'll see lots of antique ruins before arriving in the afternoon.

Included

flight from/to Dublin
Irish airport fees
all internal flights
all other carriers and transfers (trains, buses, etc.)
all overnight stays in selected hostels in double rooms
viventura tour coordinator
additional local guides
meals as indicated in the tour itinerary
entrance fees and other costs indicated in the itinerary
adventure and fun

Not Included

airport tax for domestic flights



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After some time enjoying amazing views of the ruins, we'll take a bus back down before relaxing in some hot thermals.

Breakfast | Lunch | :t:Train (approx 3 h) | :t:Trekking (approx 6 h) | :t:Public Bus (approx 1 h)

Day 9 - Tuesday | Aguas Calientes - Machu Picchu - Cuzco

Another early start, as we take a bus in the morning to enjoy Machu Picchu before too many tourists arrive. The early morning clouds combined with the sun that appears gradually, makes for a mystical experience.

We'll have a guided tour of the ruins before enjoying plenty of free time on our own to explore the ruins. In the afternoon, we'll return to Cuzco by train.

Breakfast | :t:Train (approx 4 h)

Day 10 - Wednesday | Cuzco

Today, we'll be free to relax on our own. But, despite being a free day, there will be an abundance of things to do or places to go.

You might like to visit the Sacred Valley of the Incas which contains numerous archaeological remains and villages.

Alternatively, a visit to the huge circular terraces of Moray would be highly recommended. The terraces overlap creating the shape of a gigantic garden-like theatre.

Finally, a visit to the town of Maras includes local salt mines which are very interesting to observe and photograph.

Breakfast

Day 11 - Thursday | Cuzco - Capachica

Today, we'll leave Cuzco and travel through the high planes of Capachica.

In the evening, we'll visit a local community where we will enjoy an evening meal and sleep until the following day. The experience will be very humble and a great way to get an insight into the real culture of the locals who rely on their animals and agriculture to make a living. Given the small size of the houses, our group will not all sleep in the same house.

Breakfast | Dinner | :t:Private Bus (approx 9 h)

Day 12 - Friday | Capachica - La Paz

In the morning, we'll depart Capachica and cross the majestic Lake Titicaca at around midday. On our way across the highest navigable lake in the world, we'll visit the pre-Incan people known as Los Uros who still live on the lake using islets made from dried reeds.

In the afternoon, we'll travel on to the border town of Desaguadero, where we'll change our bus and continue our journey towards La Paz.

Breakfast | Lunch | :t:Boat (approx 3 h) | :t:Private Bus (approx 5 h)

Day 13 - Saturday | La Paz

Today, we'll be free to relax on our own in the chaotic, but beautiful city of La Paz.

You might like to visit the Mercado de Brujas (Witches market) where you can find exotic wood carvings, medicinal herbs and a host of other supernatural things to buy.

A short walk away you will find the Museo Del Coca (Coca Museum) for an interesting overview on the history of Coca, Coca-Cola and Cocaine.

Christoph H.

The 24 days in South America were a really great experience. With our day and night totally committed travel guide (who knew the best restaurants and bars and did not get upset for too long when someone lost something ;-)) we felt very comfortable. The program was tightly organized, but if one wants to see that much in such a short time, there is no other choice. The organization (transfers, accommodation, events) could not be topped. The hotels, except for Potosi (horrible beds) were always good. Simple, but clean. And most of the time one was on route anyways. My highlights were the 4-day-Inca trail (a challenge, but an unforgettable experience), the Death Road in La Paz and the Salt desert. Thank you very much Alejandro and the "rabbit group" for the great and unfortunately too short time!

Claudia T.

The tour was simply great – I would have liked to stay and travel more through South America. There were so many impressions that sometimes we were only able to get the events into the right order with the help of the group, photos and the travel diary. Highlights were the visit to Machu Picchu in a mystical morning mood (mist rising from the valley), Sand boarding and the salt desert in Bolivia. The support before and after the tour succeeded without problems and was well organized. All of our questions were immediately answered – there was always a contact person. Regarding the hotels I was positively surprised – I had been expecting less quality. Our guide cared a lot for us, we had lots of fun and laughed a lot. Too bad that we had to say goodbye to our guide before Santiago because we got into a farewell mood before the real farewell. Furthermore, there was nowhere to party in San Pedro de Atacama after 1 o'clock. My conclusion: it was a great tour that I can really recommend.

Janine L.

I liked my first tour to South America very much. Everything went very well. We were able to collect wonderful impressions of different countries. My absolute highlights were Machu Picchu, the salt desert and the Mountain biking tour near La Paz. Of course, we experienced a lot more. I also liked the alternating program between city tours and excursions into the nature. I maybe would have liked to stay one more day in Santiago de Chile or Lima. The hostels were surprisingly very good and thanks to our guide Alejandro we were also spoiled with culinary delights. It was surely not my last visit in South America.



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For those that desire, there will also be the opportunity to purchase a city tour through La Paz. One such tour takes you through the city from the perspective of a Bolivian as opposed to a tourist.

Breakfast

Day 14 - Sunday | La Paz - Oruro - Uyuni

Today is a long journey. We'll travel by public bus to Oruro. From here we'll take the train until Uyuni. Despite spending most of the day travelling, it will be a good opportunity to experience the local transport systems and the incredibly busy terminals.

Breakfast | :t:Public Bus (approx 3 h) | :t:Train (approx 7 h)

Day 15 - Monday | Uyuni - San Juan Bautista

We'll set off from Uyuni in off-road vehicles towards Colchani from where we'll be able to access the Great Salt Flat. Here we'll learn about the production of salt and be able to admire the art of salt sculpture. We'll also visit a decaying collection of historic steam locomotives and rail cars known as the Cemetery of Trains and pass by a unique hotel, made entirely of salt, including the tables, chairs and beds.

The last highlight of the day will be a trip to the isolated ecosystem of Isla el Pescado (Fish Island). Despite its name, we won't find any fish here. In fact, we'll be in relative isolation except for several large cactuses, some of which will be more than 1000 years old!

After enjoying a picnic, we'll continue our journey to the border of the Great Salt Flat. Here, our accommodation here will be particularly simple, with running water only available until 10pm.

Breakfast | *Lunch* | *Dinner* | :t:Offroad vehicle (approx 4 h)

Day 16 - Tuesday | San Juan Bautista - San Pedro d.A.

We'll continue our journey in off-road vehicles, enjoying the beautiful yet cold landscape.

In the Laguna Colorada (Red Lagoon), we'll have a picnic lunch surrounded by gigantic salt lakes, coloured lagoons, volcanoes, geysers, and despite the rugged terrain, many highland flamingos.

With a bit of luck the water will be high enough to enjoy hot thermal baths, although if this is the case, we might suffer a little when the times comes to get out.

In the afternoon, we'll cross the border and change our vehicle.

Breakfast | *Lunch* | :t:Offroad vehicle (approx 9 h) | :t:Private Bus (approx 1 h)

Day 17 - Wednesday | San Pedro d.A.

In the morning, we'll be free to relax on our own and enjoy a lie-in or shop for souvenirs.

In the afternoon, we'll visit the desolate areas of Valle de la Muerte (Valley of the Dead) and the Valle de la Luna (Valley of the Moon). Here, we can observe vast and strange rock formations.

At night, we'll enjoy a farewell supper.

Breakfast | *Dinner* | :t:Private Bus (approx 3 h)

Day 18 - Thursday | San Pedro d.A. - Calama - Santiago

In the morning, we'll fly from Calama to Santiago.

Having found our hotel, we'll begin our city tour with a delicious lunch at the Central Market. This will be a great place to try the fresh local seafood.

Susan S.

This tour was an unforgettable experience for me. It was great fun to experience this diverse tour together. The tour consisted of many highlights, sometimes I was overwhelmed by the beauty and peace of nature, at other times by the colourful life of the big cities. It would have been positive if we had had a longer stay in those big cities (Lima, Santiago de Chile). Alejandro cared very well for us, the tour course was very well organized, and he was always present and answered our many questions :-).

A really great experience and lots of fun.

Helmut Schlegel

Basically I was very satisfied with the concept and realization of the tour. The preparation before the tour was optimal. Like this we have never experienced it and we have already done many tours of this kind. Our highlights were Machu Picchu (very atmospheric, impressive and overwhelming), Potosi with its silver mountain and the visit of the mine. Overwhelming was also the salt lake (a real experience), terrific journey from Chuvica through the Bolivian Volcano land with its borax lakes, the flamingos, vicuñas, lamas, the impressive mountain - and stone formations and the unique colour play of the landscape. A beautiful conclusion were the Inca ruins in San Pedro with its cave system (which strangely seemed to be unknown by the guide) and the unique landscape around San Pedro like the Valle de la Luna.

Claudia T.

The tour was a great adventure holiday with many highlights like the buggy tour through the dunes, the Inca trail and Machu Picchu, the Mountain biking tour on the Death road and the salt desert in Uyuni, only mentioning some. Our guide Carlos and his local fellows showed us in an entertaining way the countries and its people. An unforgettable experience!



Thereafter, we'll visit the presidential palace called La Moneda. Our tour will continue through the pedestrian zones of the business centre and towards the Plaza de Armas where we can observe the erratic driving of the 'Santiaguinos'.

Here we'll rest in a typical Santiago bar for a 'coffee with legs'. This will probably be the appropriate time to go to the city park on the San Cristobal mountain where we can look down over the vast city of Santiago and appreciate its size for the first time.

The remainder of the day is free.

Breakfast | Lunch | :t:Private Bus (approx 1 h) | :t:Flight (approx 2 h)

Day 19 - Friday | Santiago - Europa

Today, there will be some time before checking-in for the Atlantic flight back to Ireland.

In the morning, we might like to head to Pueblito Los Dominicos where we'll find more than 150 art workshops together providing a wonderful collection of Chilean handcrafts.

The rest of the day we'll be free to relax on our own.

Day 20 - Saturday | Europa

We'll arrive in Dublin via Madrid in the late afternoon.

Thomas Rudolph

It was a great, diverse and well organized tour. I could go on vacation again right now. South America is great and the temperatures are a lot more comfortable than in Ireland. Highlights were the buggy tour and the city tours. The hotels were generally clean and adequate. Only the first hotel in Lima I would change, too noisy, not clean, not a very good impression in the beginning of the tour. The travel guide was competent and spent his whole free time with the group. He recommended good restaurants and bars. The preparation previously was also very good and I have already recommended viventura.

Nicole Polder

The tour was very well organized and locally everything went well. My highlight was Machu Picchu. The accommodation was mainly simple, but in such a tour you have to be prepared for this. The rooms were always clean and there was hot running water. I liked the contact with the people, when we visited a school and when we spent a night with a family at Lake Titicaca. Our group harmonized very well, we had lots of fun!!!

Florian Gaspar

The preparation before the tour was very good, we did not feel alone and always got a quick answer to our questions. The tour in general was one big highlight; there was almost nothing that I did not like. Of course, visiting three countries in such a short time can get stressful at times, but our travel guide managed it well and cared very well for those with health problems. The accommodation was usually better than expected, only at the Lake Titicaca and in the salt desert it was not possible to take a shower, but that's ok for a couple of days. All in all the booking with viventura was worth it and when we plan a next trip to South America we would probably choose the same tour operator.