

Cruise Observer, Presented Compliments of Admiralty Cruises

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South America

A Treasure Trove for Modern Explorers

South American cruises offer magnificent combinations of nature at its most rugged and cosmopolitan cities.

SOUTH AMERICA DOESN'T GET THE RESPECT IT DESERVES AS A CRUISE DESTINATION because very few places on earth provide such diverse combinations of breathtaking natural beauty, native people and cultures and vibrant, sophisticated cities.

Covering thousands of miles and extending from the tropics to the sub Antarctic, South America is too big and too undeveloped in terms of highways and public transportation to fully absorb in a single cruise. Ships go where few hotels exist - and even people who enjoy a little thrill and adventure when they travel may feel relieved to re-board their ship after spending a day on the Amazon or in the dusty pampas of Argentina.

But the trip, which usually runs at least 11 days during the South American summer from November to May, will give you new insights into the continent's 14 countries and territories, with their Spanish or Portuguese legacies and their ongoing native cultures.

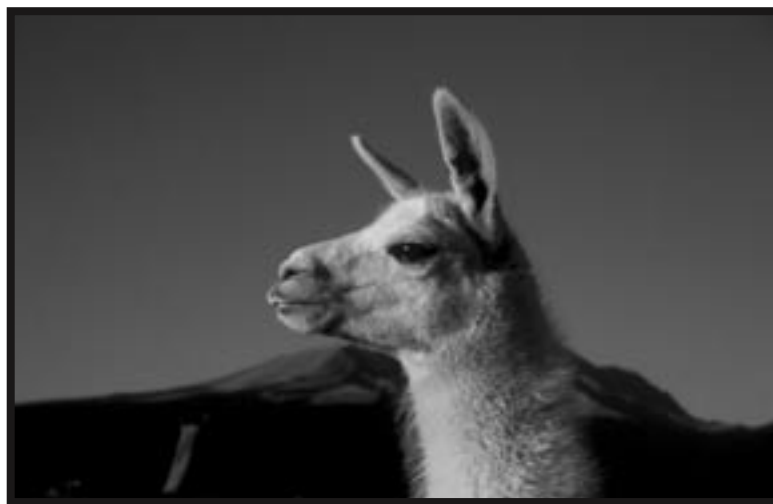
Because of the jaw-dropping beauty of the places seen on a typical South American cruise, some travel experts compare this trip with an Alaskan cruise, but there is one important distinction that veteran cruisers will appreciate, little or no cruise ship congestion. From the southern fjords to Buenos Aires, the ships have plenty of room to dock.

Given the north-to-south distance these cruises cover, it shouldn't be surprising that the weather runs the gamut — from the steamy equatorial Amazon to the downright nippy in the Cape Horn region.

There are two primary itineraries for South American cruises, each of them special and quite distinct. The Cape Horn cruise typically sails between Buenos Aires and Valparaiso, featuring numerous fjords, the wild Patagonia, and Cape Horn — the southernmost point on the continent.

An Amazon cruise is quite different, focusing primarily on Brazil, and the main attraction is the jungle and nature. Cruise operators offer a variety

of tours that range from canoe rides to wildlife experiences. A special highlight, not far from the typical departure port, Manaus, is the Encontro das Aquas, or meeting of the waters. This is not a port of call but the spot where the black waters of the Amazon meet with the tan waters of the ocean and run side by side for miles



Photos Courtesy of Celebrity Cruises

without mixing. Upon returning to the Atlantic and heading down the coast of Brazil, cities become the attraction, including Rio de Janeiro.

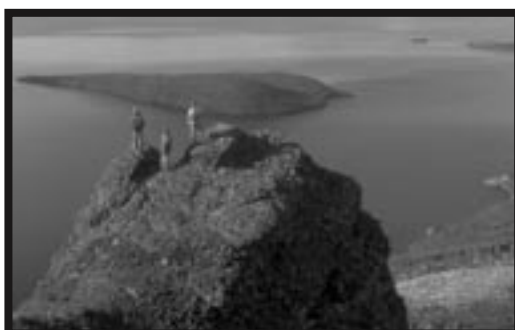
If you are interested in a cruise to South America next winter, we recom-

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mend that you start planning now. You will have a complete range of choices, from mass market ships to luxury yachts to expedition cruises. The luxury market is fully represented in South America next winter, with Crystal, Silversea and Seabourn all scheduled to make several sailings next winter. At the other end of the spectrum, Lindblad Expeditions offers year-round South American adventures aboard the *Polaris*. Celebrity Cruises introduces a new program through its new division, Celebrity Xpeditions, which will take guests on a series of seven- to 10-night journeys in

the Galapagos. The 296-foot vessel, which resembles a luxurious private yacht, accommodates 100 guests, and with 64 crew members, exceeds Celebrity's fleet-wide 2-to-1 guest-to-staff ratio.

Please let us know if you'd like more information about South American itineraries.



For reservations or more information please call

Admiralty Cruises (412) 531-5313 or (888) 861-0424 or visit www.admiralty-cruises.com