

POST CARD

FOR CORRESPONDENCE

PRINTED IN ENGLAND

FOR ADDRESS ONLY

This is the truly holiday of a lifetime!

*Ms. S. Salam
18, October St.
Pyramids
Egypt*

GUARANTEED REAL PHOTOGRAPH



South & Central America



ANTARCTICA



Did you know?

The Antarctic has no government and no country owns this continent. While many countries tried to gain the ownership of these lands over time, a common agreement was reached that grants Antarctica the privilege of remaining the only region on earth which is not ruled by any nation. It is also the only continent on Earth without a time zone.

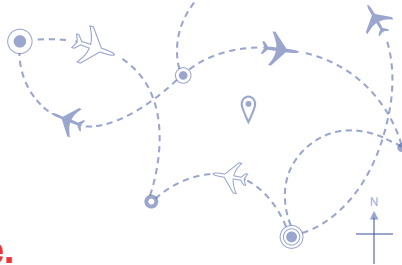
A deep freezer at home runs at about -20°C , the average summer temperature on the great Eastern Antarctica icecap is -30°C , the average winter temperature is around -60°C !

This is the only place on Earth where the emperor penguin can be found. It is the tallest and the heaviest of all penguin species.

Antarctica

Take a cruise & discover the sound of silence.

Ushuaia, at the southern most tip of Argentina, is the most popular departure point for this unique and magical encounter with icebergs, penguins, seals, kestrels, whales and so much more. Many choices are available for ships and cruises, with a range of options depending on the time available. Whichever way you choose to take this trip you can be sure that it will be a fantastic experience of a lifetime that is simply unforgettable.



Life changing experiences...

Cruises Plenty of ships cruise the Antarctic waters, from Russian ice-breakers to luxury expedition ships with special strengthened hulls. Itineraries can vary from exploring the Antarctic Peninsulas, the Falkland Islands and the mountainous South Georgia to the more adventurous Antarctic kayaking or onshore camping. All ships have knowledgeable onboard experts to explain the wildlife, weather and history of this frozen continent. Smaller cruise ships include zodiac landings, a chance to really see it all up close, larger vessels do not offer this option as they cannot enter some of the areas, this a fact to be considered when choosing your cruise.

Wildlife A true marine extravaganza, elephant seals, giant kestrels, fur seals, king penguins and whales just to mention a few. All in their natural habitat, snoozing in the sun on a rock, preening, fishing and going about their daily business, it's a magnificent world of its own and it is a privilege to visit and be a part of it if only for a short time.

Iceberg Alley Officially known as the Lemair Channel, this strip of sea is 11km long and less than a 1.5km wide, glaciers, sheer cliffs and snow topped mountains line this narrow channel



Facts for the traveller...

Best time to go

The summer months (Southern hemisphere) from November to March are the best times to visit the Antarctic. November can be a little colder as its early in the season but more pristine as cruise members tend



offering a stunning example of Antarctic beauty. Floating icebergs, penguin colonies, seals and the occasional whale can be spotted in this amazing stretch of water.

Zodiac landings This is where a trip to the Antarctic becomes life changing, setting foot on this continent and its surrounding islands is indeed a special experience. See king penguins, emperor penguins, leopard and fur seals, plentiful bird life and even different species of whales, get up close to icebergs, big and small, as they float past...this pristine, wild continent is captivating and more than awe inspiring.

The sound of silence Experience the joy of real silence, broken only by the sound of ice cracking, fascinating and more than memorable.

to mush up the ice. December to early February are the heaviest touristic months. Mid February and March are less crowded and is the best time for whale activity.

What you will be glad to have packed!

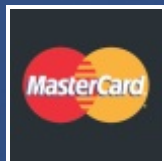
A nice thick woolly hat, or two! A high, turtleneck jumper and a warm woolly scarf along with a few thick pairs of socks and some warm gloves. Thermal underwear is also an option! Zodiac landings can be quite cold, as can standing on the deck when the icy wind is blowing. Most of the cruise ships provide you with Wellington boots and waterproof jackets, you might like to double check before you go. A waterproof bag for you camera is also a good idea for Zodiac trips.



Time to get social.

www.facebook.com/emecoholidays





Argentina



The ultimate in travel experiences...

Experience Argentina's lively cosmopolitan culture, spectacular landscapes and fascinating history. From the tallest mountains in the Andes, the pampas regions and famous gauchos, to the natural wonders of the Iguazú Falls, glaciers, Tierra del Fuego, Patagonia and Ushuaia, the southern most city in the world, this country has an astounding number of destinations and attractions that will make a holiday more than memorable. Once you've seen the natural wonders start on the fabulous culture, tango and history, then move on to the delicious food that Argentina has to offer...there's no doubt that a holiday here is one for the "Bucket List"!



Life changing experiences...

Buenos Aires This seductive, cosmopolitan city will keep you captivated from the moment you arrive, fabulous architecture, cobblestoned streets, modern plazas, green parks, art galleries, fabulous museums and some of the best steak you'll ever eat in your life! So much to do and see with a shopping, restaurant and nightlife scene that is truly hard to beat.

"Teatro Colon" Considered one of the best Opera Houses in the world and known as the "Jewel in the Crown" of Buenos Aires, the Teatro Colon has recently undergone a complete renovation and restoration. Catch a performance here and enjoy an evening of memorable opulence and beauty, the theatre also runs tours that are well worth enjoying too.

Let's Tango With its humble beginnings in the late 19th century the Tango has become an art form in Argentina, a must see whilst you are in Buenos Aires, "tango theatres" offer dinners and tango performances. The Gran Café Tortoni, an 'institution' for locals and visitors, is a famous café that offers tango shows, book in advance though, plenty of others to choose from, ask your hotel for guidance on the best shows available.



Heaven for shoppers The retail scene in Buenos Aires is the perfect place for shopaholics, from well known international names to thriving local designers, there are some excellent buys to be found. El Centro Avenue is one of the biggest shopping streets offering just about everything. Recoleta is the most expensive area with a handicraft market at Plaza Francia each weekend that's worth visiting. San Telmo offers one of the best antique markets in the world at Plaza Dorrego on the weekends, great for browsing, unique articles and people watching!

The Spectacular Iguazú Falls Shared with Brazil the Iguazú Falls have recently been added to the 'New Seven Wonders of the Natural World'. Considered by some to be the world's most beautiful falls they consist of a network of 275 different waterfalls spanning an area 3km wide with the average water flow being around 1500m³ per second! The "Devils Throat" is the biggest attraction and well worth seeing from one of the available boat tours, numerous wooden walkways also offer fabulous

views of the falls and plenty of "Kodak Moments".

Wines in Mendoza Considered the heart and soul of Argentina's wine country, Mendoza is the place to visit world class vineyards and enjoy superbly delicious food. Located in the Andes to the west, near the Chilean border, Mendoza offers its visitors not only superb food and wine but also breathtaking mountain views, great outdoor adventures and some pretty good night life as well, great holidays to be enjoyed here.

Did you know?

Argentina is the 3rd biggest producer of beef in the world and the 5th largest producer of wine.

Buenos Aires is the 3rd most populated city in the world.

Pato is the national sport of Argentina, it's a mixture of basketball and polo.

PLATINUM MASTERCARD®

GETS YOU EMERGENCY CARD
REPLACEMENT ANYWHERE
IN THE WORLD





Tiping

Restaurants 10%

Porters 2 peso per bag

Taxis do not expect tips unless they've carried bags, in general left over change is enough.

Time zone

GMT -3

Shopping hours

Mon - Fri: 9am to 8-10pm

Saturdays: 10am to 1-5pm

Sundays have similar hours but some shops can be closed.

Currency

Argentine Peso (ARS)



Life changing experiences...

The Patagonian Lake District Bariloche, flanked by the Andes, has snow capped mountains, lakes, evergreen forests and magnificent scenery with fabulous winter and summer activities. The area is popular with skiing and snowboarding enthusiasts from all over the world throughout the winter months, as well as hikers, climbers and nature lovers in the summer. Add to that the fact that Bariloche is the chocolate capital of Argentina and you have a truly perfect holiday destination!

Patagonia's Glaciers Stop at El Calafate on your way south through Patagonia, a visit to the Perito Moreno Glacier from here is a must. This massive glacier is 5km wide and over 20 stories high, an amazing sight, hike on the ice and take a zodiac ride past the huge wall of blue ice, awe inspiring to say the least and not to be missed.

Tierra del Fuego & the end of the world!

"The Land of Fire" consists of one main island and hundreds of smaller islands, all shared territory between Argentina and Chile. The Tierra del Fuego National Park offers rugged and beautiful landscapes with fabulous bird life. Make your way to Ushuaia, the southernmost city in the world, take a ferry ride through the Beagle Channel, steep green covered peaks and blue glaciers offer breathtaking views. From here you can continue your journey of a life time with a cruise through the Straits of Magellan, sailing close to Cape Horn or take the ultimate trip and cruise to the Antarctic Peninsula. Life changing at its best.



Facts for the traveller...

Weather

Summer months are from November to January, with average temperatures from 21°C to 37°C in the north. Winter is from May to July and temperatures will vary from North to South, Patagonia is frozen in winter but the Iguazú Falls in the north are around 15°C to 21°C.

Best time to go

Spring (September through November) and autumn (February to March) are the best times to visit Buenos Aires. Summer is the best time to visit Patagonia, the weather is milder at that time and more services are available in the area. Ski season runs from June to October.

Transportation

Air travel is convenient and the most practical way to get around this large country. If time is not an issue then the Argentinean bus services throughout the country are excellent, organized, cost effective and offer superb scenery. Buenos Aires has a good subway system making it easy to get around the city centre, local buses are also



available, make sure you know when to get off and clearly inform the driver! Taxis are metered and relatively safe, many companies can be ordered by phone at no extra cost. Argentina also offers "Remises", an excellent option for travellers, a driver with his or her own personal car. These are arranged from small store fronts in all cities and towns, they can be a very economical and convenient way of getting around.

Did you know?

Patagonia is one of the least polluted places in the world.

The hottest and coldest temperatures ever recorded in South America have occurred in Argentina.



Time for more than a coffee break.

☎ (02) 27736272 - 25774646



Transportation

Brazil is a vast country, if holiday time is limited then air travel is recommended. Rail connections are limited here and generally not very comfortable. Bus services within Brazil are quite good and economical and operated by many private companies, luxury buses run the overnight connections between major cities. Inner city buses and underground systems in São Paulo and Rio are efficient and well connected, however it is best to leave valuables at your hotel. Taxis are easy to find in the streets, and a convenient way to get around, especially in the evenings, wherever possible ask the hotel concierge to arrange a taxi for you.

Did you know?

Scientists have estimated that there may be up to four million species of plants and animals in Brazil.

Brazil is the largest country in Latin America.

São Paulo is the largest city in Brazil.

Brazil has won the football World Cup five times.

Brazil



Rainforests, carnival, football and so much more!

With its vast lands, fun loving people and legendary “Carnival”, Brazil is everything you've ever imagined it would be. From the mighty Amazon River with its tropical rainforests, to the pampas regions, famous gauchos, mountains, waterfalls and beautiful beaches with beautiful people all along the coast, Brazil will keep you entertained from the moment you arrive. Passionate people and their love for life, music, dancing and of course football are at the heart of this country that has so much to offer its visitors... you might just want to stay a little longer!



Life changing experiences...

Rio de Janeiro So much to see and do here, Rio is a city that grabs your attention and holds it tight until it's time to leave. Visiting the beach is a must for everyone, try the famous Copacabana, truly the heart and spirit of Rio, or Ipanema and Leblon for a slightly less hectic atmosphere. Take a tram (or two) to the top of Corcovado Mountain, home to the huge statue that overlooks the city and bay for spectacular views. Rio's nightlife will probably keep you up most nights, samba and fun loving people are an intoxicating mix!

Carnival Held at the beginning of March every year, the Carnival in Rio is simply the world's biggest party. A riot of colour, incredible floats, dancers and throngs of people all moving to the intoxicating samba beat. A real over-the-top experience of a lifetime!

São Paulo Overwhelming in size, the world's 3rd largest city, with its 20 million inhabitants is a vibrant cultural and ethnically diverse metropolis. Cosmopolitan in every sense of the word São Paulo offers the visitor plenty of excellent museums, theatres, concerts and cultural delights, plus an amazing nightlife and selection of food and restaurants that is almost never ending. Don't miss this ultimate urban experience.



Facts for the traveller...

Weather & best time to go

Most of Brazil sees little changes in weather throughout the year, it is mainly as you travel south that the changes in weather become more acute, note that Brazil in general does have plenty of rain, from short showers to heavier downpours. Winter in Brazil lasts from June to August, and the weather is

relatively moderate, with São Paulo averaging 13-18°C. Rio can be very wet in the winter. Summer from December to February can be very hot and humid, especially anywhere south of Rio. The North East Coast of Brazil has the best weather most of the year round and can be very pleasant.

Currency

Brazilian Real

Time zones

Rio de Janeiro, São Paulo, Brasília, Bahia, Minas Gerais: GMT -3, DST is applied but not in all states.

Shopping hours

Mon - Fri: 9am to 6pm
Sat: 9am to 1pm

Language

Portuguese is the official language, some English is spoken.

Tipping

Generally tipping is not expected in bars and restaurants, a small tip will be appreciated if service is excellent. Taxis are not tipped, although for convenience and to avoid dealing with small change the bill can be rounded off. Hotel porters receive between R\$5 - R\$10 and housekeeping R\$5 per day.

Explore the Mighty Amazon Second only to the Nile in size this fascinating and awe inspiring river is an experience no to be missed. Take a cruise and see the Brazilian rainforest up close, lush, steamy, mystical and full of fascinating tropical wildlife. Guides on board will keep you informed, take a canoe and explore the creeks or enjoy a guided walk into the forest for a little added adventure! A special trip worth doing.

Iguassu Falls Lying on the border of Brazil and Argentina these spectacular falls are massive and truly breathtaking. With a more panoramic view from the Brazilian side the falls are surrounded by jungle with lush green vegetation and fascinating wildlife. To avoid a hot and humid visit the best time to see the falls is in spring or autumn.

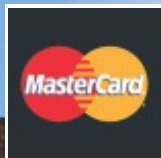
An oasis of approachable luxury
at Copacabana Beach

JW MARRIOTT
RIO DE JANEIRO



jwmarriottriodejaneiro.com

Av. Atlântica 2600 – Copacabana
Rio de Janeiro – Brazil



Did you know?

Over one third of the world's total copper production is produced in Chile.

In one 40 year span no rain fell in the Atacama Desert, it is the world's driest desert.

There are over 1300 volcanoes along the mountainous region.

Transportation

Chile has an excellent bus system throughout the country and a good rail system which runs part of the way north and south from Santiago. Air transportation can be quicker and easier if time is a concern. Santiago has an efficient metro system and taxis are also convenient throughout most cities in Chile.

Cruises are available to cover the southern parts and the Pacific coastline.

Tipping

Restaurants: 10%
Porters: 1000 pesos (approx \$2) per bag.
Taxis: Round off the fare.

Chile

Spectacular is an understatement!

A country of extreme beauty and incredible experiences, from the dry, hot Atacama Desert in the north to the southern icy glaciers in Patagonia, with volcanoes, geysers, beaches, mountains, rivers and lakes in between. Chile is a spectacular country to visit, with its unique elongated shape and rich natural setting you're never far away from exciting landscapes and a seemingly endless list of things to see and do. Friendly, hospitable people, fabulous food and wine, exciting cities and a rich history... what more could you ask for in a holiday destination.



South & Central America



Life changing experiences...

Santiago Set in a spectacular location, framed by the snow capped Andes Mountains, Chile's capital city is noisy, bustling, colourful and vibrant. Often regarded as a mere stepping stone to the rest of the country Santiago is a fascinating destination to explore, with wonderful street life, restaurants, nightlife in Barrio Bellavista, markets, colonial architecture and interesting museums with impressive collections.

Atacama Desert and San Pedro A relatively small community in a harsh landscape that has its own special beauty, this northern region of Chile offers a whole range of experiences for the traveller. Geysers shooting into the air at El Tatio, thermal waters at the Puritama River, Los Flamencos National Reserve and Moon Valley with its strange moon-like landscape. Unforgettable scenery.

Valparaiso Declared a World Heritage Site in 2003 this unique city is a mix of multi coloured mansions and houses balanced on steep hills overlooking the historic port. With sweeping views of the sea and city from every alleyway and around every corner, Valparaiso is an artist's dream. Ride the 100 year old Ascensor Artilleria for a breathtaking view of the city and ocean from the

top, with a good selection of local arts and crafts to browse through for souvenirs.

Viña del Mar Close to Valparaiso, the long white sandy beaches of Viña del Mar on the Pacific are a popular and fashionable destination for visitors and locals alike. Often referred to as "Chile's Riviera" you'll find waterfront hotels, parks, gardens, casinos, lively nightlife and some very good dining choices. The famous International Song Festival takes place every year in February, well worth attending. (Top tip: stay in Viña del Mar and visit Valparaiso from there.)

Patagonia The ultimate "World's End", shared with Argentina in Ushuaia, the Chilean side has its own spectacular area with the Torres del Paine Mountains, waterfalls, lagoons and the famous glaciers, this is truly an unforgettable place to visit. The Torres del Paine National Park attracts many visitors every year and is one of the best in South America. Make your way to Puntas Arenas and take a cruise around this entire area, being up close to a glacier and such spectacular scenery is life changing. This area and the Straits of Magellan is the starting point for Antarctic cruising and the end of the world!



Facts for the traveller...

Weather & best time to go

Southern parts are best visited during summer months, December through March. In the winter months from June through September, a lot of the south is impenetrable, but the skiing is excellent. In central Chile, spring months are November and December, with autumn from February to April, these are the best times to visit this region. The Atacama Desert in the north is sizzling hot in summer and bitterly cold in winter, however, the higher altitudes but can be explored all year round.

Currency Chilean Peso

Time zone

GMT-4 DST-3

Language

Spanish.

Shopping hours

Mon - Fri: 10am to 7pm
Sat: 10am to 2pm
Malls and shopping centers:
Mon - Sun: 11am to 9pm.

PLATINUM MASTERCARD®
GETS YOU EMERGENCY CARD
REPLACEMENT ANYWHERE
IN THE WORLD





● Transportation

● Taxis are the most popular with tourists, they are metered and reasonably priced, official taxis are red with a yellow triangle on the side, make sure the meter is not on when you get in and that they start it with your trip. Airport taxis have a \$25 fixed price, Government controlled.

● Costa Rica has a good bus service, it can be crowded at times but it is reasonably well organized and quite extensive.

Did you know?

Christopher Columbus discovered and named Costa Rica in 1502.

Costa Rica means "Rich Coast" in Spanish.

Costa Ricans refer to themselves as "Ticos" (males) and "Ticas" (females).

There are about 750,000 species of insects that live in Costa Rica, including about 20,000 different types of spiders, also, more than 10% of the world's butterflies live here.

Costa Rica

Mother Nature's paradise...

A country of unsurpassed natural beauty, relaxing and welcoming, Costa Rica's coastline borders the Caribbean on the east and the Pacific Ocean on the west, perfect for pristine beaches, blue waters and endless water sports. The spectacular fiery volcanos, tropical rainforests, mountain ranges, lakes and an amazing variety of flora and fauna give visitors a whole range of outdoor activities to experience, with its amazing national parks Costa Rica is also a leader in eco-tourism. Lay on the beach, surf the waves, visit smouldering mountains, try some white-water rafting or take in a little of the local history... whatever you decide to do in Costa Rica you won't be disappointed.



Life changing experiences...

San José A city of diverse people and architecture, from refined urban development to European inspired styles with a Costa Rican twist. With San José as the starting point for all adventures the city itself is sometimes overlooked, it offers superb museums, vibrant markets, a sophisticated nightlife and above all a window into the culture of modern Costa Ricans.

Fiery Volcanos Costa Rica has over 200 volcanic formations dating back 65 million years, today five are classified as active volcanoes and are amongst the country's top attractions. Arenal Volcano, considered the most active in the country, is a sight to behold with colourful eruptions and flowing lava rivers that offer a dazzling experience, especially after dark. Try a canopy tour through the rainforest tree tops, experience the thermal spas of the area and marvel at nature's true beauty.

Play Golf "Guanacaste", known as the "Gold Coast" is home to four spectacular courses with lush tropical vegetation, exotic birds, wildlife and ocean-side holes. Garra De Leon golf course, one of the oldest in the area has it all and more. Stay in the luxurious golf resort overlooking the Pacific and treat yourself to a game or two, life changing and great fun!



Facts for the traveller...

Weather

Costa Rica generally enjoys a tropical climate as it's near to the equator, there is no real winter season and plenty of sunshine throughout the year. The rainy season starts in May and finishes in



Shopping Plenty of large shopping malls are available, the "Multiplaza Escazu" being the latest addition offering famous international brands. However, a visit to the Central Market in San José is a real shopping adventure, it can be a little claustrophobic and it is literally a maze of shops and eateries but it offers a look at authentic urban culture in Costa Rica. Wander through and enjoy, keep a hold of your bag and an eye on your pockets though!

Fabulous beaches Costa Rica has nearly 300 different beaches along its beautiful Caribbean and Pacific coastlines, each unique and each equally stunning in its own way. Try "Guanacaste", the Gold Coast for some special beaches and luxurious hotels. Nature, wildlife, luxury and some pretty good food and nightlife will make it a memorable stay.



November, the warm dry season is the winter, there's little difference in actual temperature.

Best time to go

Dry, with low humidity, March is the most popular month for visitors.

Language

Official language Spanish, English is widely spoken.

Currency

Costa Rican Colón

Time zone

GMT - 6

Shopping hours

Mon - Sat: 9 am to 6/7 pm
Mostly closed on Sundays, times can vary.

Tipping

10% is usually added to restaurant bills, if you feel the service has been good you can add to that. Taxis do not expect tips but will appreciate it if you do add a small amount.

Porter: \$1-2 per bag

Housekeeping: \$1 per day

Tour guides: \$5-\$10 per person

Tour Drivers: \$5 per day



The world is just a phone call away.

☎ (02) 27736272 - 25774646





Ecuador

Home to the theory of evolution.

A wealth of diverse landscapes packed into this small country, from the snow topped Andes Mountains, the sunny Pacific Coast, the lush Amazon rainforest to the incredible natural wonders of the Galapagos Islands. With half of the country in the Northern Hemisphere, the other half in the Southern Hemisphere and the Andes running through the centre of the country Ecuador seems like three countries in one and has something to offer every type of traveller. Its culture and heritage is fascinating, its volcanic activity is awe inspiring and its wildlife is more than an education, Ecuador is a complete experience that shouldn't be overlooked when planning a holiday.



Life changing experiences...

Quito An incredible mix of old and new, trendy cafés, restaurants, hotels and modern buildings dominate one side of Quito whilst the Old Town, vibrant, crowded, noisy and colourful captures the past on the other side. Quito is a World Heritage City and is one of the best preserved colonial cities in South America, well worth a visit but keep in mind that it is almost 3,000m above sea level, if you're not used to the altitude it will leave you breathless, keep your pace a little slower whilst you explore.

Ride the Quito Teleferico One of the world's highest aerial lifts and one of Quito's most popular attractions, ride the gondola up the steep slope of Volcano Pichincha to the lookout point at Cruz Loma. On a clear day you can see 13 volcanoes and summits around Quito that are over 4000m high. There are restaurants, shops and cafes at the lookout, there's even an oxygen bar for those short of breath! Quite an adventure.

Fabulous Beaches Take a dip or relax in the sun, the Pacific coastline offers plenty of beautiful beaches to choose from, Esmeraldas in the north, Manta, Puerto Lopez where salsa reigns at

night or Bahia de Caráquez further south. Snorkel or scuba at Salango, or follow the top surfing spots all along the coast, there's simply a wealth of sun, sea and sand.

Inca Ruins "Ingapirca" is Ecuador's most important Inca site. Start your journey at the southern end of the Andes central valley, visit Cuenca, the third largest city and a World Heritage Site, famous for its colonial architecture, ceramics and handicrafts, travel north to the village of Achupallas where the old Inca road leads to the ruins of "Ingapirca". A fascinating look at an ancient civilization.

Galapagos Located 960km off the coast of Ecuador the Galapagos Islands is a naturalist's paradise. Santa Cruz Island is the starting point for visitors, giant Galapagos tortoises, all manner of bird life, mammals and other species studied by Darwin can be found here. Swimming, snorkelling and diving is a real treat in these pristine protected areas around the islands. A visit to Galapagos is more than memorable, and well worth adding to your holiday itinerary.



Shopping The "Otavalo Market", a two hour drive north of Quito, is a great place to shop for the vibrantly coloured local textiles, ponchos, pullovers, hand woven wool, trays, platters and even the famous Panama hats. Explore the markets in and around Quito too, from silver to handmade guitars, local paintings and more, plenty to see and plenty to buy!

Did you know?

Ecuador is home to 4,500 species of butterflies, 1,640 species of birds, 345 species of reptiles, 358 species of amphibians, and 258 species of mammals.

Ecuador is the maker of the famous Panama hats as well as felt and leather ones, the hats are shipped to Panama and distributed from there.

PLATINUM MASTERCARD®
GETS YOU EMERGENCY CARD
REPLACEMENT ANYWHERE
IN THE WORLD







Facts for the traveller...

Weather & best time to go

Ecuador's climate is basically tropical and offers the same weather all year round, temperatures may vary because of altitude and region. Rainy season is from December to May in the mountains and from January to April on the coast where it rains most days. The dry season is from June to November in the mountains, May to December on the coast with less humidity and milder temperatures. In the centre, the average temperature is about 25°C throughout the year so anytime is a good time to go.

Transportation

Air transport is reasonable and time saving between cities, luxury buses provide long distance journeys as well and are a good option. Standard buses can be hailed anywhere within the city areas. Taxis are most useful for visitors and quite cheap, in Quito they have meters, make sure it's operating and negotiate the fare before you begin. Taxis at the airport are not metered so do negotiate the fare in advance. Rail travel is limited to two famous lines for tourists, the dramatic descent from Alausí along El Nariz del Diablo (the Devil's Nose) an amazing train track

and engineering marvel, well worth the trip, and the weekend train between Quito and the Area de Recreación El Boliche, near Cotopaxi.

Currency

Officially the US Dollar.

Tip: Take plenty of US\$1 and \$5 bills as there never seems to be any change.

Tipping

Generally tipping is not compulsory but can be appreciated. Upscale restaurants add 12% tax 10% service charge on the bill, if the service is good you can show your appreciation with a 5% tip for the waiter. Round up the bill in cheaper restaurants, where charges are not included.

Taxis don't expect tips, round off the bill.

Porters: 50c to \$1.

Guides \$5 per person per day.

Drivers half of that amount.

Shopping hours

Mon - Sat: 9am to 6pm, family shops usually stay open as long as someone is awake, markets vary but usually early opening and late closing hours.

Language

Spanish is the official language.

Time zone

GMT -5

Health tips

Some basic tips to keep in mind when travelling to Ecuador... Avoid drinking tap water, and eating raw vegetables/salads. Be aware of altitude sickness, take it easy until your body adjusts, and drink plenty of bottled water. Protect against mosquitoes and have your vaccines for Yellow Fever and Hepatitis A up to date.

Did you know?

Ecuador is a huge exporter of roses, they are grown in green houses just outside of Quito.

Cotopaxi, south of Quito is one of the highest active volcanoes in the world.





Mexico

A cultural treasure with an unrivalled love of life!

Warm welcoming people in a country that is vibrant, alive and full of fascinating destinations for the holiday maker. With amazing beaches to visit, more water sports than you can imagine, delicious, irresistible cuisine and an ancient legacy of Aztec and Mayan cultures to explore, Mexico is an exciting country to visit, with everything and more than anyone could hope for in a holiday. Join in a local Fiesta and experience their abundant love for life ... colourful costumes, eating, music and non-stop dancing, Mexico is well worth discovering for yourself.



Life changing experiences...

Mexico City A bustling, slightly surreal atmosphere prevails in this huge sprawling city, handsome colonial architecture sits next to the ever changing modern facades. There is no denying Mexico City's fascinating history and culture, today however, it is a vibrant, urban city that offers everything to those who visit. Ride a brightly painted open topped barge along the city's canal system, experience the latest in the local art scene, sample the street food or the trendy restaurants and night clubs, explore the markets for beautiful handicrafts and you will find Mexico City is simply intoxicating.

Visit Acapulco Mexico's original "party town" and in its time the international playground for the rich and famous. Acapulco still offers its visitors crazy nightlife, stunning scenery and beautiful, if a little crowded beaches, make sure to watch the local divers plunge off the famous cliff at La Quebrada. The city is an exciting mix that will certainly keep you entertained.

Cancún Located on the Yucatan Peninsula, Cancún and its resorts are a magnet for visitors from all over the world, they are Mexico's answer to



Vegas and Ibiza. From fabulous soft, white sandy beaches, warm turquoise waters, beautiful underwater reefs and marine life, great shopping, restaurants, bars and nightlife to thought provoking ancient Mayan and Aztec ruins along most of the peninsula. A Cancún experience is simply what you want it to be.

La Paz Located on the southern end of the Baja California Peninsula, La Paz is a port city as well as an ideal spot for rest and relaxation! Those looking for sun and sand will have come to the right place, La Paz is a quirky, cosmopolitan town that has some pretty trendy shops and unique restaurants along the beach, great for wandering. Venture into the clear turquoise waters and you will find an amazing range of tropical fish and reefs, take a trip to surrounding towns, Todos Santos and Cabo San Lucas, and you'll find more places to explore.

Shopping

The choices are endless here, from malls and boutiques in Mexico City, to markets and "touristic" shops in the popular towns and cities around



Did you know?

Mexico introduced chocolate to the world!

Hot chocolate is the sacred drink of the Aztecs.

The word "tomato" comes from the Aztec language.

Mexico. The local handicrafts of this amazing country are unique and unrivalled, if shopping is your passion then take the time to look at Mexico's traditional side, you won't be disappointed.

PLATINUM MASTERCARD®
GETS YOU EMERGENCY CARD
REPLACEMENT ANYWHERE
IN THE WORLD





Facts for the traveller...

Weather

Mexico beaches are known to be hot in summer, Mexico City itself rarely gets too hot due to its high altitude, you may need to pack something warmer. The warmest months are April and May, from May or early June to September warm days often turn to cool wet evenings. November to February are the coldest months in the year.

Best time to go

There's something for everyone all year round here, December to April is the high season, summer months are hot but always popular.

Currency

Peso

Shopping hours

Big towns & cities: Seven days a week 10-11am to 8-10pm.
Smaller towns might have more limited hours and close for 'siesta' between 2 and 4pm.

Transportation

Mexico has a very comprehensive and well organized road and bus system for travelling around the country, 'First Class' or 'Executive Class' are the best buses to use. Inner city buses are definitely more "local" in flavour, not for the faint at heart, and watch any valuables, not really recommended. The Subway system in Mexico City and Monterrey is cheap, clean and efficient. Taxis are plentiful and the most flexible way to get around the cities, for safety reasons try to arrange taxis from your hotel or via a reliable taxi company.

Time zones

Mexico has more than one time zone and it can be a little confusing.
CST Central Standard Time: GMT-6 (covers most of Mexico)
MST Mountain Standard Time: GMT -7
PST Pacific Standard Time: GMT -8

Language

Spanish, English is usually widely understood.

Tipping

Restaurants: 10-15%
Porter: US\$1 per bag
Housekeeping: US\$1-5 per day
Taxis: Round up the bill to the nearest 5 or 10 pesos.

Did you know?

Mexico City sinks 10 inches each year.

The Aztecs played a ritual ball game known as "tlachtli" in which the losers were often sacrificed to the gods.

The Caesar salad was first created by Caesar Cardini in Tijuana, Mexico.









emeco holidays

Experience South & Central America packages...

SOUTH AMERICA

-  **Tango Experience**
8 days - Buenos Aires
-  **Passion Brazil**
13 days - Salvador, Morro de Sao Paulo, Fortaleza, Jericoacoara, Rio de Janeiro, Buzios
-  **Adventure Patagonia Trekking**
7 days - Puerto Natales, Torres del Paine, Chileno, Los Cuernos, French Valley, Lake Grey, Mirador del Condor.
-  **The Splendor of Peru**
10 days - Lima, Cusco, Sacred Valley, Machu Picchu, Puno
-  **Focus on Colombia**
16 days - Bogota, Villa de Leyva, Coffee Region, Popayan, San Agustín, Cartagena, Santa Marta
-  **Discover Ecuador**
12 days - Quito, Papallacta, Amazon Jungle, Banos, Cotopaxi, Galapagos Islands

CENTRAL AMERICA

-  **Mexican Haciendas**
6 days - Oaxaca, Cancun, Riviera Maya.
-  **Diversity of Costa Rica**
8 days - San Jose, Tortoguero, Monteverde
-  **Wonders of Guatemala, Honduras & Belize**
11 days - Antigua, Lake Atitlan, Peten - Tikal, San Pedro & Belize
-  **The Best of Venezuelan Orient**
8 days - Caracas, Puerto Ordaz, Gran Sabana, Santa Elena, Caripe, Puerto La Cruz, Margarita Island

All tours and packages can be customized and tailor made to meet your specific interests. Contact us at Emeco Holidays for a detailed itinerary and quotation, according to season, length of stay, package destinations, requested hotels and number of persons.

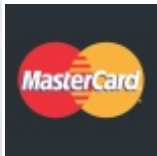
 (02) 27736272 - 25774646

Email us at: info@emecoholidays.com

5, Talaat Harb Street, Downtown, Cairo

www.emecoholidays.com





Transportation

Most of Peru would be inaccessible without air transport and if time is a factor then air travel is the best way to get around, double check flight schedules though. The rail system is not well connected but the Inca Rail to Machu Picchu from Cusco is worth taking. The bus is popular for long distances if time is not an issue, however it is subject to weather conditions, road conditions and on occasions, political unrest. Best to fly and continue with shorter bus trips to the destination.

Tipping

Restaurants: 10-15%
Porters: \$1 per bag
Drivers: 10-15% of the daily rate
Guides: \$5-10 per day

Did you know?

Peru is the third-largest country in South America.

The Andes is the world's longest mountain range and the second highest (the Himalayas are the highest).

Peru

The land of the Incas

An amazing display of cultural legacies dating back thousands of years makes Peru a fascinating country to explore. From the Amazon jungle, beaches, lush green mountains, vast deserts and shiny modern cities to the marvels of the ancient Inca Trail and Machu Picchu. There's no shortage of stunning landscapes here, whether dry desert or towering green mountains the sights throughout this diverse country are beautiful, relax on the beach one day and hike over snowy peaks the next. Peru is a country that offers something for everyone and does it with a confidence built on its culture and history.



Life changing experiences...

Lima Located between the Pacific Ocean and the foothills of the Andes, Lima has retained its centuries old living history and colonial beauty and managed to add a modern side into the mix quite successfully. Culturally speaking the city is a treasure chest for the traveller, from the Spanish colonial mansions in the centre, to the many beautiful churches, fascinating museums and Inca ruins. Festivals, nightlife and delicious cuisine add to Lima's charm and make it a city well worth exploring.

Fly over the "Nazca Lines" An amazing look at ancient art, these extensive line drawings and complex designs of more than 30 figures, some up to 300m long, are etched in the desert floor and can only be seen from the air. Organized tours and flights over the site are available, an interesting and puzzling look into an ancient culture's legacy.

Machu Picchu For anyone visiting Peru this is a must, discovered in 1911, this complex system of ancient Inca terraced land was literally carved into rock, a tribute to the extraordinary skill and knowledge of this ancient civilization. Listed in 2007 as one of the new Seven Wonders of the World,



Machu Picchu is one of the world's premier must see destinations... life changing, memorable and simply fascinating.

Cusco Known as the gateway to Machu Picchu, and one of the last stops on the legendary "Inca Trail". Cusco city remains relatively unspoiled with it's ancient atmosphere and sheer beauty. One of the most popular tourist destinations, the city is also one of the most significant archaeological sites in South America. Colonial architecture, Inca palaces, cobbled plazas, colourful markets, incredible museums and even a lively nightlife, this is yet another of Peru's must see destinations.

Shopping Alpaca wool sweaters and blankets are a wonderful buy in Peru, local gold and silver work by artisans is quite beautiful, whilst Inca inspired artwork and handicrafts are also excellent quality and beautifully made. High end goods are also to be found with plenty of trendy boutiques to explore.



Facts for the traveller...

Weather

The weather in Peru varies according to area and geography, altitude changes can be extreme and bring the climate from snow in the mountains to hot sun on the coast. Temperatures can also vary greatly to the south. There are three main zones; Amazon jungle in the East, dry coastal desert in the west and the Andes Mountains in the middle of the country. Coastal winters are very cold at night, the rainy season starts in the Andes in September and goes through to March.

Best time to go

June to September is high tourist season and is the best time to visit most areas.

Currency

Nuevo Sol

Time zone

GMT-5

Shopping hours

Larger cities:

Mon-Sat: 9am - 6pm, some until 7 or 8pm (some shops shut for 2 hour lunch break from 1-3pm). Most are closed on Sundays. Markets usually open all week up to 7pm.



Time to get social.

www.facebook.com/emecoholidays

