

Peru, Brazil & Argentina

• • •

1 unusual journey for Roy Giampoli, family & friends

*** Day 1: Lima, Cusco Wednesday, 29 May 2013**

Fly to *Cusco* this morning.

Later today, take a city tour of *Cusco*. Lima allows us to glimpse colonial Peru, *Cusco* is the gateway to the country's Inca past. Once the Inca Empire's capital, this is the oldest continuously inhabited city in South America. In fact, the majority of *Cusco*'s population still speaks Quechua. Ancient walls, arches, and other remains decorate the entire city, sometimes peeking out through excavations-in-progress.

A tour this afternoon takes us to some of the most interesting sites around town. A millennium ago, the Inca built the Temple of the Sun, Coricancha, to house the empire's governing body. It is believed that Coricancha was constructed with 700 gold panels. But even more remarkable is the architectural design used in the temple: trapezoidal doorways, curved retaining walls, and dry masonry that have survived hundreds of earthquakes. In the 1500s the Spanish conquistadors, who admired Coricancha's location, used stones from the temple to construct one of the largest Roman Catholic churches in the world, Santo Domingo.

Plaza de Armas in *Cusco*'s center marks the spot that the Inca called Aucaypata, a central square that stretched all the way to the present-day Plaza del Regocijo. Just north is the Cathedral, built between 1550 and 1650 on the site of the Inca's Virachocha Palace. This is known as one of the most beautiful Spanish colonial churches in the Americas. Its altar is made of solid silver.

Dinner is at your leisure, we recommend MAP Café and Ciccolina.

Overnight: Palacio Nazarenas

(breakfast)

*** Day 2: Cusco, Sacred Valley, Cusco Thursday, 30 May 2013**

This morning after an early breakfast at the hotel, drive to the *Sacred Valley*. We head to the town of Chinchero, well known for its ruins and for a lovely church that houses a collection of paintings from the *Cusco* school. We enjoy a textile demonstration given by local Chinchero artisans. Then visit the ruins and the church in town. Chinchero also affords great views of the splendid, surrounding snow-capped peaks.

Next, the salt mines of Maras. Its salt flats, unusually beautiful, span across a wide-open hill above the Urubamba Valley.

Not far from Maras are the Moray ruins. Terraces arranged in concentric circles spread out at intervals, reminiscent of a Greek theater.

Lunch is at a private hacienda, Huayo Ccari, owned by a well-known *Cusco* family. Our hostess prepares a delicious Andean *nouvelle cuisine* meal served in the garden, with spectacular views of the valley.

Return to *Cusco*, dinner at your leisure.

*Overnight: Hotel Rio Sagrado
(breakfast, lunch)*

*** Day 3: Cusco, Machu Picchu Friday, 31 May 2013**

This morning we set our sights on *Machu Picchu*. Begin with a scenic railway journey on the *Orient Express Hiram Bingham*, a luxury train. Dine on a gourmet brunch en route. If you choose the Hiram Bingham train, your guide takes a different train and meets you on your arrival

when you disembark. We board the train in Ollantaytambo.

The Hiram Bingham gets us to our hotel just after noon.

Later this afternoon, we're off to the ruins with our guide. It is believed that the Inca city of Machu Picchu was abandoned before Spanish *conquistadors* ransacked and conquered Peru. This would explain why it sat undisturbed for hundreds of years before Yale University professor Hiram Bingham "discovered" the Lost City, virtually untouched, in 1911. Archaeologists and anthropologists think that Machu Picchu served as a religious center for the ancient civilization. The complex's grassy central court is surrounded by almost 200 houses, palaces, and temples constructed of dry masonry. Particularly noteworthy: the Temple of the Sun (a round building), the Temple of Three Windows, the Sacristy, and the mysterious Intihuatana (Hitching post of the Sun).

But perhaps most impressive is the site's setting—dramatically perched atop a 2,000-foot high ridge overlooking the rushing Urubamba River.

*Overnight: Machu Picchu Sanctuary
(breakfast, brunch, lunch, tea, dinner)*

* Day 4: Machu Picchu, Cusco Saturday, 1 June 2013

Though our inclination may be to sleep in this morning, we are encouraged to rise early for a look at the ancient site as it catches the rays of a rising sun. (Please note: Check-out time at the Sanctuary Lodge is 9 a.m.; neither late check-out nor dayroom arrangements are offered by the hotel.)

The remainder of our time is at leisure to explore Machu Picchu with your guide. There are three optional activities to choose from before we leave. (Please note that Option 2 requires advanced booking and an additional fee to be paid by travelers on site.)

☞ Option 1: Hike to Inti Punku, or Sun Gate, original gateway into Machu Picchu when approaching the site along the Inca Trail. Inti Punku is the first point in the Inca Trail where the ruins of Machu Picchu are visible. (Approximate total time for this excursion is 2.5 hours: 75 minutes to get there, and 75 minutes to return). Views of the site and surrounding landscape along the route are superb.

☞ Option 2: Hike up to Huayna Picchu, the mountain behind Machu Picchu. This hike is strenuous and recommended only for travelers comfortable with heights and who have a good fitness level. A fair amount of

climbing is required. Get fabulous views of Machu Picchu from the top. Total time for this excursion? 2.5 hours. You may want to extend your hike and go to the Moon Temple as well, which is close to Huayna Picchu. This adds an extra hour total to this excursion. Total time for the Huayna Picchu visit, including the Moon Temple? 3.5 hours. (This hike requires advanced reservations.)

☞ Option 3: Take a 45-minute hike along a narrow Inca road that leads to an ancient stone bridge.

Have lunch at your hotel this afternoon.

This evening board the *Orient Express Hiram Bingham* for your journey back to Cusco. Your guide takes the Vistadome and meets you when you disembark in Cusco.

When we arrive in town, check in to your hotel.

*Overnight: Palacio Nazarenas
(breakfast, lunch, dinner)*

* Day 5: Cusco, Lima; Rio de Janeiro Sunday, 2 June 2013

Enjoy the morning at leisure.

This afternoon we fly to Lima and connect through to Rio de Janeiro.

*Overnight: in flight
(breakfast)*

* Day 6: Rio de Janeiro Monday, 3 June 2013

Arrive into Rio early this morning.

Welcome to *Brazil*. Upon arrival in *Rio de Janeiro*, we are met and driven to the *Copacabana Palace Hotel*.

Located right on Rio's Copacabana beach, the Copacabana Palace Hotel is the most renowned hotel in Rio de Janeiro and has welcomed the rich and famous since 1923. A glamorous icon of the city of Rio, this Orient-Express hotel has a reputation of exemplary service, superb cuisine, and opulent luxury. Ever since Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers danced together at the Copacabana Palace in the "Flying Down to Rio," the hotel has been *the* place to stay when visiting Rio de Janeiro.

Enjoy the day at leisure.

*Overnight: Copacabana Palace
(breakfast)*

* Day 7: Rio de Janeiro Tuesday, 4 June 2013

Perhaps no single image is more evocative of Rio than the imposing statue of "Christ the Redeemer" that overlooks the city from the heights of Corcovado Mountain. We

drive through some of the city's colorful residential areas, ending at the funicular railway station at the foot of Corcovado. A 20-minute ride brings us 2,340 feet above sea level, offering spectacular views as we ascend. At the mountain's summit stands the imposing statue of Christ.

We descend the mountain through lush tropical landscapes of the Tijuca National Forest, with several lookout points along the way.

This afternoon you have a car and driver at your disposal. Dinner is on your own.

*Overnight: Copacabana Palace
(breakfast)*

*** Day 8: Rio de Janeiro Wednesday, 5 June 2013**

This morning, enjoy a half day city tour and trip to Sugarloaf Mountain with your English-speaking driver/guide.

Downtown is the business center of Rio. Here colonial Rio meets modern skyscrapers. Drive down Rio Branco Avenue with the remarkable neighborhood composed of three generations of buildings. The ground stone of the Candelária Church was laid in the late 18th century and completed a century later. Among the buildings from the turn of the 20th century, the Opera House (Theatro Municipal) is the most splendid. See Carioca Square, the church of Santo Antonio, built in the 17th century, and for contrast modern buildings such as the Petrobrás headquarters and the new Cathedral. Rio's aqueduct, built in the 18th century, now serves as a bridge for the street-cars connecting downtown to Santa Teresa district, an old residential area.

Drive through Flamengo Park for a privileged view of the highlight, Sugarloaf Mountain, at 1,300 feet above the harbor. Reach the summit by cable car. The view overlooking the city of Rio de Janeiro is one of the most spectacular in the world and one you will never forget.

This afternoon is at leisure to enjoy the beach.

*Overnight: Copacabana Palace
(breakfast)*

*** Day 9: Rio de Janeiro, Iguazú Falls Thursday, 6 June 2013**

This morning, we fly to *Iguazú Falls*. Upon arrival, check in to the *Hotel das Cataratas*, located in the centre of the Iguazú National Park and surrounded by tropical nature alongside the famous Iguazú Falls. This charming 195 bedroom colonial-style hotel, the only hotel inside the Brazilian National Park, is a unique spot for those wishing

to experience the magnificent spectacle of the Iguazú Falls.

Iguazú's 275 cataracts crash down a two-mile cleft along the path of the Iguazú River that forms the border between Argentina and its neighbor to the east, Brazil. Each side offers a different perspective on this unique geographic spectacle. Spend the next two days exploring both sides of the falls.

This afternoon we take all terrain trucks through the jungle as far as the banks of the Iguazú River. From here we board special boats that will take us at high speed, to enjoy one of the most unforgettable experiences: the direct and wet contact with mighty Iguazú Falls.

Head back to the hotel to change and get ready for cocktails by the pool.

*Overnight: Hotel das Cataratas
(breakfast)*

*** Day 10: Iguazú Falls, Argentina Friday, 7 June 2013**

Today we explore the Argentine side. Drink in the beauty of the falls. Nowhere else in South America is the raw power of nature so evident. Each second, thousands of gallons of water spill over the dramatic precipice to the river below.

At Devil's Throat, 14 falls converge. The immense pressure creates such a thick cloud of mist that a permanent rainbow stretches across the whole of it. Enjoy some quality time with Mother Nature, as it were.

This afternoon we drive to the airport for our flight to *Buenos Aires*. You are met at the airport and driven to your hotel.

*Overnight: Park Hyatt
(breakfast)*

*** Day 11: Buenos Aires Saturday, 8 June 2013**

Enjoy breakfast at your hotel this morning. Then we're off to discover more of B.A., known as the Paris of the South. Visit the beautiful parks and gardens of Palermo, the bustling banking and business center, historic Government House, and Congress. We learn about the immigrants who came from Europe and the politics that swayed emotions, changed lives, and became the theme for numerous stories, songs, and plays.

Palermo Chico is the neighborhood of the rich and famous. Built up along with La Recoleta in the latter part of the 19th century, Palermo Chico emanates the wealth and prosperity associated with those decadent times. We

also see the parks and botanical gardens that make the area famous.

Then, the always-vibrant working-class neighborhood of La Boca, at the southeastern tip of Buenos Aires, known for its unusually colorful homes. The artist Quinquela Martín (orphaned here as a youth, and raised by longshoremen from the nearby wharf) returned repeatedly to the neighborhood to share his art with people by painting intricate murals on La Boca's houses. He both inspired—and was inspired by—the neighborhood's innovative use of color.

Pause for lunch on your own. We suggest *Café Tortoni*. Founded in 1858, it's the oldest coffee house in all Argentina, and it's seen its share of intellectuals, politicians, and artists.

After lunch, take some time on your own to explore San Telmo, one of the city's oldest *barrios* (neighborhoods) as well as one of its best-preserved. Within, you find a number of colonial houses, streets still paved with the original cobblestones (*adoquines*), historic old churches (San Pedro Telmo and others), museums, antiques stores, and a semi-permanent antique fair (*feria de antigüedades*) in the main public square, Plaza Dorrego. Shop, lounge, or watch the world go by; it is all time well spent.

✎ Consider this option: Deepen the connection between the artist and the audience with an insider look at contemporary art in Buenos Aires. Meet local artists in the intimacy of their private working spaces. These contemporary artists could be painters, photographers or sculptors, among others.

Overnight: Park Hyatt
(breakfast)

✧ Day 12: Buenos Aires Sunday, 9 June 2013

This morning we get down to exploring Buenos Aires on foot, starting with La Recoleta, the very hub of Buenos Aires elegance. The neighborhood boasts many French-style buildings, large green spaces, and first-class restaurants. Very early on, this area was made up of simple houses or *ranchos*. During the 17th century, however, the land was bestowed to the Recoleta fathers, who built both the convent and Pilar Church here in 1706.

During the yellow fever epidemic of 1871, rich families flooded the neighborhood intent on building large houses and palaces surrounded by vast gardens. These were meant to insulate them from the epidemic.

A final exploration of the city begins with a drive through Plaza de Mayo, the city center (B.A., in fact, was

literally built around it). Some of Argentina's most important historical events took place here. Today one often sees the Madres de la Plaza de Mayo, the women who show up in the square seeking information on the *desaparecidos*, loved ones who vanished during and after the military junta of 1976.

Next, the University of Engineering, the largest university in Argentina. It was founded in 1821. We also view the Main Post Office, the Ministry of Public Works, and the National Library.

The Evita Museum was inaugurated in 2002 on the 50th anniversary of her death. Located in a small 20th-century hotel, its permanent and temporary exhibitions detail the history of Eva Duarte from her childhood, her time as a young actress, her life as the first lady and wife of Juan Perón, her struggle for women's rights, her social work, and her resignation and death.

Enter La Recoleta Cemetery. A very interesting place, it illustrates how—even in death—the Argentinian elite believe it is important to display one's wealth. The cemetery is so densely occupied that in many of the ornate mausoleums, caskets are piled 30 feet high. This is the country's most expensive real estate.

To walk through the cemetery is, therefore, not only to explore a forest of interesting sculptures, but also to revisit Argentine history, for many here have played important roles in the country's past. The most famous person to rest at La Recoleta? Eva Perón.

Return to the hotel to freshen up.

✎ Consider this option: Have dinner and see a tango show at Esquina Carlos Gardel. A nightclub named for the creator of the tango, this 1940s-style venue serves up a decent dinner but superbly choreographed tango entertainment. The house orchestra plays with such power and emotion, especially its rendition of Gardel's signature song, "Mi Buenos Aires Querido." This is perhaps the most elegant of the tango show palaces, built over the location of Chanta Cuatro, a favorite restaurant of Gardel and his friends. Don't miss it.

Overnight: Park Hyatt
(breakfast)

✧ Day 13: Buenos Aires; United States Monday, 10 June 2013

Later today we head for the airport for your flights back home.

(breakfast)

✧ Inclusions

Accommodations (based on single and double occupancy); hotel taxes; ground transportation; transfers; sightseeing and meals as indicated; beverages (soda, water, and coffee/tea) with included meals; entrance fees.

✧ Exclusions

International airfare; internal airfare (priced separately); costs of passports and/or visas; personal expenses such as laundry; meals or beverages not listed; room service; excess baggage fees; communication charges; airport and port taxes; portage; all gratuities; personal insurance coverage. *Note: it is customary to pay for your guide's meal if you invite your guide to join you.*

✧ Gratuity Recommendations

ARGENTINA

While tipping is always at the discretion of the traveler, below are some guidelines for your consideration.

Guides: \$8 per person per day

Drivers: \$5 per person per day

Baggage porter: \$2 per bag

Taxis: tipping is not customary

Restaurants: 10% if gratuity is not included in the bill

BRAZIL

While tipping is always at the discretion of the traveler, below are some guidelines for your consideration.

Local guides: \$10 per person per day

Drivers: \$8 per person per day

Porters: \$1-2 per bag

Taxis: round up to nearest *real*

Restaurants: 15-20% if gratuity is not included

Most services in Brazil include a service charge of 10%.

An additional gratuity is appropriate if the staff has performed a special service for you. Because of high unemployment, services that may seem superfluous are customarily tipped. Parking assistants are the most notable, as they receive no wages, and gas station attendants, shoe shiners, and barbers frequently are tipped.

PERU

While tipping is always at the discretion of the traveler, below are some guidelines for your consideration.

Local guides: \$10 per person per day

Drivers: \$5 per person per day

Porters: \$1 per bag

Restaurant staff: 10% of bill, cash preferred

✧ Health Status

Touring during this program requires travelers to be in good health. Walking on uneven surfaces and climbing stairs are part of many of these excursions. If you have any health or mobility issues, we urge you to discuss them with us.

✧ Registration

A deposit of 25 percent of the total tour price is required at the time you book. The remainder of the cost of your trip is due 90 days prior to your departure date. Payment can be made by personal check, Visa, MasterCard, or Discover. If your reservation is made within 90 days of departure, the entire cost of the trip must be paid at the time of confirmation.

✧ Cancellations

Cancellations must be made in writing and received by R. Crusoe & Son. Cancellations received 90 days or more prior to departure are subject to a \$300 per person/per tour cancellation fee. Cancellations received less than 90 days prior to departure are subject to the following forfeit as a percentage of tour cost: 89-60 days, 10 percent of tour cost; 59-30 days, 35 percent of tour cost; 29 days or less, 100 percent of tour cost.

© 2012 R. Crusoe & Son

27 June 2013

R. Crusoe & Son strongly recommends travel insurance that includes coverage for trip cancellation or interruption; illness or injury while abroad; baggage loss, theft, or damage; and emergency medical evacuation. Information on our policy is available.