



# SENSATIONAL

# South America



**W**elcome to this special feature supplement to mark the launch of our new South America brochure for 2011/12. Herein you will find a taste of just some of the tantalizing cultural experiences and wilderness adventures which fill the new brochure.

Galapagos is always a favourite and this year we have some fabulous new luxury yachts which will ensure a memorable journey around this enchanted archipelago. Two Quasar yachts, the Grace and the Evolution are featured here, plus we have two pages dedicated to the magnificent Patagonian wilderness - find out some of its best kept secrets in our "Best of Patagonia" feature.

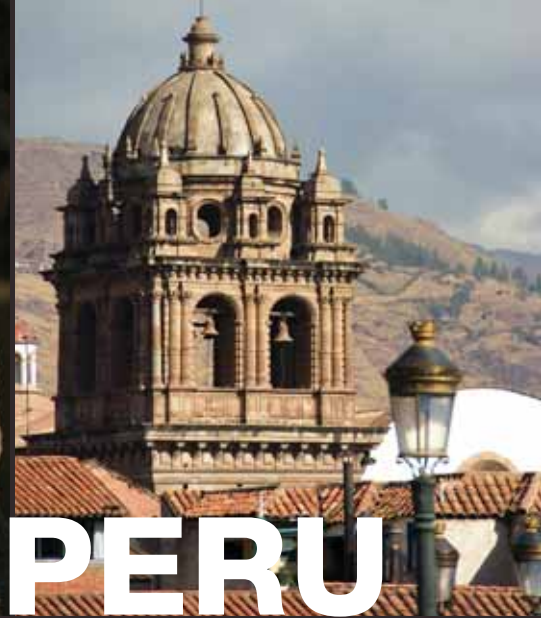
Our South America brochure has increased to 88 pages this year with some new additions such as the beautiful country of Colombia, including such highlights as Bogota, picturesque Villa de Leyva and the historic treasures of Cartagena. And in Central America we have expanded our program to include the cultural wonders of Nicaragua and Guatemala as the perfect complement to nearby Costa Rica's magnificent wildlife and wilderness.

Our experienced South America consultants will be happy to discuss any of these inspirational destinations with you.



  
NATURAL FOCUS  
SAFARIS

  
LAN 



# 3 FACES OF PERU



**W**ith a passion for all things Peruvian, Inkaterra has been welcoming visitors to ancient Peru for over 30 years. Their 3 inviting properties are located in 3 diverse areas: La Casona is in historic Cusco, Inkaterra Machu Picchu Pueblo hotel is located below the famous Inca sanctuary and Reserva Amazonica is in the heart of the Peruvian Amazon.

The jewel in Inkaterra's crown of properties is the beautiful La Casona in Cusco. A lovingly restored colonial manor house, the hotel is a member of the prestigious *Relais & Chateaux* group.

The 11 suites surround a central courtyard and look out over the picturesque cobblestone streets of Cusco.

Inkaterra Machu Picchu Pueblo Hotel is situated in the town of Aguas Calientes below the ancient citadel - the 'Lost City of the Incas'. This sanctuary retreat has 85 intimate cottages which are set across 5 hectares of tropical gardens, filled with orchids and a large variety of birds. The cosy Andean style casitas feature warm alpaca blankets and welcoming fireplaces. Families are well catered for with interconnecting rooms and all young

adventurer receives their very own explorer's kit with a flashlight, cap and colouring pencils.

The family-orientated Reserva Amazonica property is adjacent to the Tambopata National Reserve in the Amazon Rainforest. Activities including a Canopy and Anaconda walk via suspension bridges, visiting the Butterfly House and nearby Lake Sandoval are all suitable for children. The 35 thatched cabanas have screened porches with hammocks, ceiling fans and warm water showers. It has bunk beds available and a special children's menu.



## SPECIALS

- Inkaterra offers guests a 10% discount when they combine a stay at all 3 hotels
- Children under 12 stay FREE at Inkaterra Machu Picchu Pueblo Hotel
- Stay 3 nights pay for only 2 at Inkaterra Machu Picchu Pueblo Hotel
- FREE Dinner or Spa session when you stay a min of 3 nights at Inkaterra La Casona

Conditions: Specials are not combinable and not to be used in conjunction with any other promotion. Availability is limited and will not be known until the time of booking. Valid for travel until 31 Dec 2011.

For more information including full terms and conditions please contact us for more information or ask your travel agent to do so.

› INKATERRA ‹

# ART OF TRAVEL

with explora

Since its formation over 15 years ago, Chile's luxury adventure company explora have continued to forge their own path and create unique experiences and journeys in some of Chile's most remote locations – Patagonia, Atacama and Easter Island.

With an emphasis on in-depth exploration of the surroundings, rather than simply the destination, explora offer guided small group excursions into the isolated and pristine environments surrounding their 3 luxury lodges. These daily adventures can be on foot, horseback, bicycle or boat depending on the location and season.

Each of their architecturally designed lodges blends with its wild and remote backdrop, and has an array of distinctive design features to showcase the surrounding landscape.

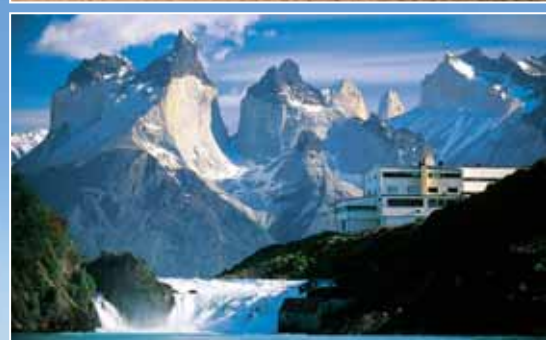
Hotel de Larache, set in the arid climate of the Atacama Desert, offers daily excursions that can include high altitude treks to the Altiplano salt flats or the Tatio geysers; horse rides, cycling trips or a visit to Termas de Puritama, the treasured hot springs nearby.

In Patagonia, explora's Hotel Salto Chico sits beside a picturesque waterfall in the

heart of the dramatic Torres del Paine National Park. The 44 rooms and 6 suites are peaceful and private and boast stunning views through large picture windows. Guided excursions explore the mountains and glaciers of this stunning region.

The award winning Posada de Mike Rapu on Easter Island offers unsurpassed ocean views from its 30 guest rooms. Daily explorations including treks or cycling to see the mysterious Moai, the carved stone statues that dot the island and whose origins remain enigmatic even today.

For the wanderlust traveller explora has a range of "traversias" or nomadic journeys that travel across the Andes to stunning locations in Bolivia or Argentina. Accommodation along the way includes explora lodges and special semi-permanent camps with basic creature comforts including hot and cold running water. Each traversias is well researched and accompanied by an expert guide, chef and support personnel. Activities are more robust than the lodge-based journeys, with higher altitudes (4000m) reached, so a moderate degree of fitness is recommended.



explora®





# BOP – THE BEST

**E**xplore the magnificent wilderness regions of Patagonia whilst discovering some of Chile and Argentina's most distinguished hotels and cruises. The fine properties and cruise ships featured in these pages cater for the discerning luxury traveller and are members of an exclusive marketing alliance called "BOP – The Best of Patagonia".

## Buenos Aires

Start your South American journey in glamorous Buenos Aires, steeped in the elegance of its European roots but also the birthplace of the sensual tango. This cosmopolitan Argentinian city offers a stunning range of entertainment with fine museums, historical sites, excellent restaurants and coffee houses, and great shopping, from exclusive designer boutiques, to art galleries and fascinating antique shops.



### ALVEAR PALACE HOTEL

Whilst in Buenos Aires stay in the heart of sophisticated Recoleta, one of the city's most exclusive suburbs surrounded by fine restaurants and chic boutiques. The Alvear Palace is considered one of the most elegant hotels in Buenos Aires, combining European style with modern technology and luxuriously decorated in Empire and Louis XV style. Featuring objets d'art and fine art throughout the hotel, the Alvear Palace offers 197 rooms and suites, a renowned fine dining restaurant with French cuisine, the lovely L'Orangerie restaurant, a bar, spa, wellness centre and gym.

### ESQUINA CARLOS GARDEL

Absolutely not to be missed whilst in Buenos Aires is the dazzling tango show Esquina Carlos Gardel. The performance takes place in a gorgeous Art Nouveau theatre built over the original restaurant where the famous tango singer Carlos Gardel used to meet with his friends and sing. This glamorous theatre recreates the atmosphere of the luxurious dining rooms popular during the golden age of tango. Dinner and drinks are served at your table during the show, but it is the artistry the tango dancers and tango musicians which is quite unforgettable.





# OF PATAGONIA

## Patagonian Lakes

Head south to the lakes region of Chile and Argentina, renowned for its startling beauty. Visit Bariloche, the Switzerland of Argentina or Chile's Puerto Varas on Llanquihue Lake beneath the snow-capped Osorno Volcano. It is possible to travel between the two on a fabulous journey by boat, bus and catamaran, experiencing the breathtaking scenery of mountains, lakes and virgin forest.



### LLAO LLAO HOTEL & RESORT

In the heart of the lakes region near Bariloche is the renowned Llao Llao Hotel & Resort. Spectacularly situated on a hill overlooking Lake Nahuel Huapi the Llao Llao is a grand country hotel with elegant but cosy interiors. The 205 guest rooms and suites are located in the original Ala Bustillo wing or the new lakeside Ala Lago Moreno wing. The resort offers 5 fine restaurants, lounges, bars, spa, gym, pool, tennis and 18 hole golf course. Enjoy guided hiking, mountain biking, windsurfing, kayaking and canoeing as you explore the idyllic countryside.

### HOTEL PATAGONICO

This beautiful Art Deco style hotel was fully renovated in 2007 and is the perfect base for exploring Chile's stunning lakes region. Facing Lake Llanquihue and the spectacular Osorno Volcano, the Patagonico is also at the starting point for the lakes crossing to Bariloche in Argentina. Filled with space and light and decorated with local hand-crafted materials, the interiors capture the spirit of southern Chile. The hotel has 91 guest rooms and suites, 2 excellent restaurants, a stylish bar, spa, sauna, gym and indoor pool. Enjoy local hikes, biking, rafting, and fishing.

### CRUCEROS AUSTRALIS

Cruise through untouched Patagonia at the southern tip of South America, travelling from Punta Arenas in Chile to Ushuaia in Argentina. Your voyage will take you past giant glaciers, through the Magellan Strait, Beagle Channel and around Cape Horn. Daily guided excursions visit isolated shores and islands and colonies of Magellanic penguins and elephant seals. Cruceros Australis operate 2 cruise ships, the 64 cabin Via Australis and the recently launched 100 cabin Stella Australis, both offering first class accommodation and service, expert crew and knowledgeable expedition staff.



# GALAPAGOS PARADISE

with Quasar Expeditions

Sail the famous Enchanted Islands of the Galapagos with Quasar Expeditions and discover giant Galapagos tortoises, curious seals, prehistoric marine iguanas, Blue-footed Boobies, Frigate Birds and many other unique species.

Quasar Expeditions are one of the most experienced luxury cruise operators in the Galapagos, with over 25 years' experience and two of the finest vessels - the M/Y Grace and the M/V Evolution. Both yachts offer the highest standards of safety and quality, with the relaxed atmosphere and personalised service of a boutique hotel. At the same time they are outfitted for a true expedition and each journey is accompanied by excellent onboard naturalist guides.

The beautiful M/Y Grace was once owned by Princess Grace of Monaco and offers an exceptional Galapagos experience. The yacht features 9 luxurious staterooms, elegant dining and lounge areas, sundeck, jacuzzi, kayaks and snorkelling gear. The M/V Evolution is a spacious 32 guest expedition yacht with wonderful amenities but still small enough for an up-close and personal discovery of the Galapagos.

For more information please call one of our experienced South America consultants on 1300 363 302 or ask your travel agent.





# JAGUARS guaranteed



## GUARANTEE

Anyone who spends a minimum of 3 nights at SouthWild Jaguar Camp and is unfortunate enough not to see a jaguar will receive an additional

**FREE 2 NIGHT STAY!**

Valid for use at any time up to 24 months after your original stay.

The world's largest wetland, Brazil's Pantanal is home to the largest concentration of jaguars on earth. Up to 7,000 of these giant cats prowl uninhibited across the 500,000 acres of jaguar reserves within the complex mosaic of savannah and tropical rainforest that make up the Pantanal. The new look SouthWild Jaguar Camp, formerly known as the Jaguar Research Centre is opening its doors to guests in July.

A hallowed spot known only to wildlife photographers and enthusiasts they are so sure that you will see jaguars and Giant Otters during your stay that they now offer a jaguar guarantee! Over the 2010 season 98% of guests saw jaguars with an average sighting of 1.5 jaguars per day. With the

greatest concentration of wildlife in the Americas, the Pantanal is also home to caiman (crocodile), tapirs, Black Howler Monkeys and over 700 specials of bird including the rare Hyacinth Macaw. We recommend combining your stay at the Southwild Jaguar Camp with a pre and post night at their sister property Southwild Pantanal. The area surrounding this camp is a haven for birds and offers spectacular viewing opportunities from mobile observation towers.

Our 6 day "Jaguar Encounter" includes 1 night pre and post at Southwild Pantanal, 3 nights at SouthWild Jaguar Camp, transfers from Cuiaba and viewing activities. Prices start from \$3318 per person share twin. Valid for travel 01 Jul-31 Dec 2011.

## READ WHAT OUR CLIENTS HAVE TO SAY:

*"We loved The Pantanal and had wonderful Jaguar encounters. We were fortunate enough to see these beauties quite closely three times over our 3 night stay. An American lady, who was in the group before us, saw some jaguars fighting and mating on two separate sightings!"*

Raylee Byrnes

*"During our 5 day stay, we had 12 excellent jaguar sightings, of probably 8 different animals, most within about 40 metres."*

Lyndon Howe

*"Our first trip out was very exciting as we spotted a jaguar in the trees in the distance. This was then quickly followed by another jaguar coming down to swim in the river. What a moment to treasure. Other sightings included watching a pregnant female hunting along the river bank, watching groups of Giant Otters playing and feeding, and seeing a jaguar hunting capybara – the highlight of the trip!"*

Peter Brown





Journey southwards to Chilean Patagonia and a magical world of deep blue fjords, Andean mountains, ice-filled lagoons and majestic glaciers. Skorpios Cruises are a long established company with a large fleet of ships including two tourist ships: the Skorpios II and the Skorpios III. Both are specially designed to cruise the channels and fjords of the Patagonian wilderness whilst providing a high standard of accommodation, personal service and professional staff and crew.

Skorpios II is a spacious 106 passenger vessel which voyages to the spectacular northern Ice Fields. Departing from Puerto Montt for a 6 day/5 night itinerary the cruise visits the island-studded Gulf of Corcovado, picturesque villages and the beautiful San

Rafael Lagoon and Glacier, the closest glacier to the Equator at 46.7 deg of latitude.

Skorpios III carries 92 passengers and experienced crew as it journeys into the stunning southern Icefields. The 4 day/3 night itinerary departs from Puerto Natales and travels through narrow channels, home to whales and dolphins, to visit a world of spectacular glaciers including the surreal blue Amalia Glacier, the El Brujo Glacier, the glaciers of the Calvo Fjord and the 5 glaciers of the Sarmiento Mountains.

These cruises are not to be missed so call one of our experienced consultants for more details.

# PURE SOUTH

with Skorpios Cruises



  
NATURAL FOCUS  
SAFARIS

**ALL RESERVATIONS & ENQUIRIES**  
Tel: (03) 9249 3777 or 1300 363 302  
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Please return the enclosed coupon for your copy of our 2011/12 South America brochure or ask your travel agent.