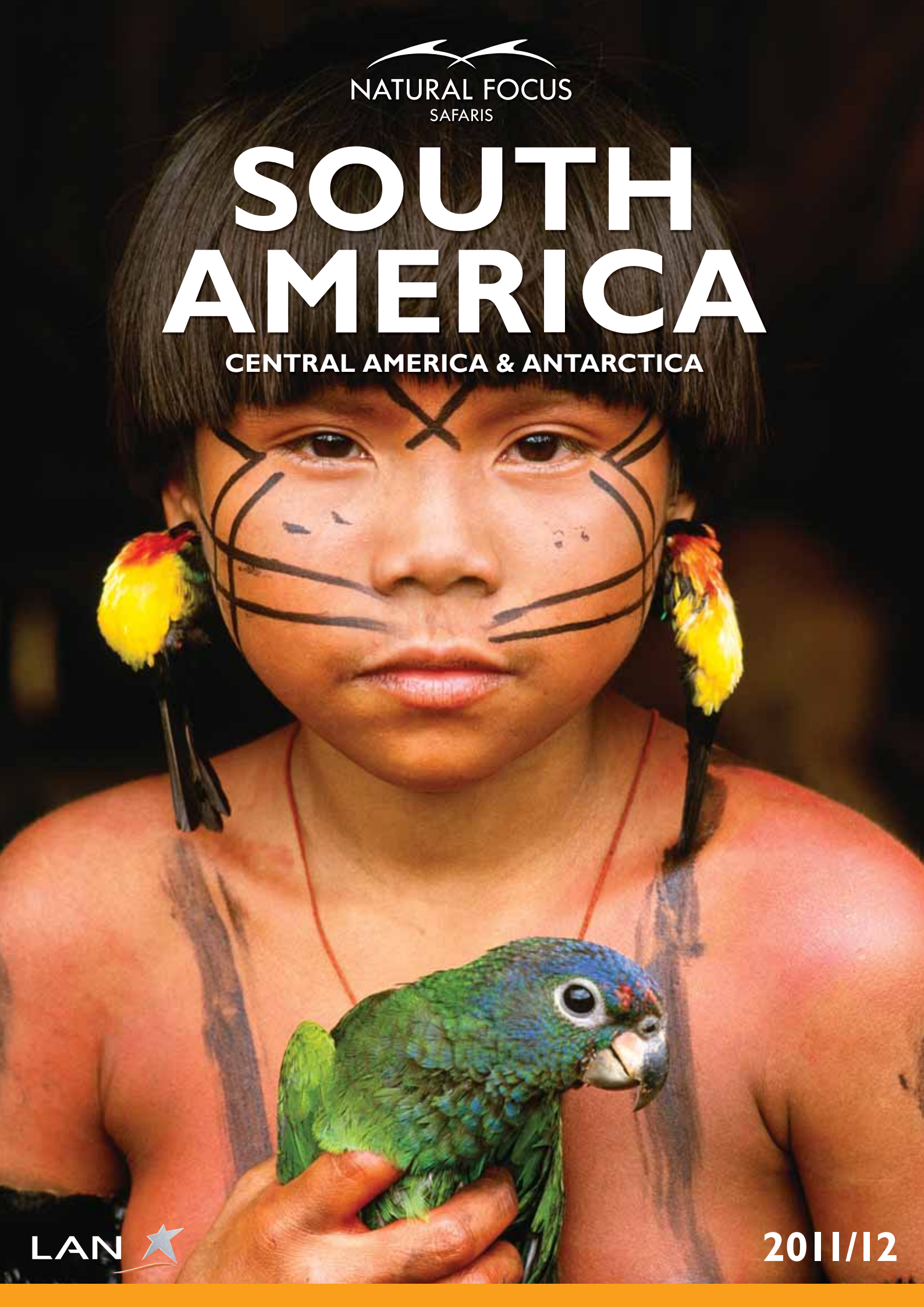




NATURAL FOCUS
SAFARIS

SOUTH AMERICA

CENTRAL AMERICA & ANTARCTICA



DISCOVER SOUTH AMERICA

From the lush Amazon Rainforest to the snow-capped peaks of the Andes mountains South America is the perfect destination for every style of travel. This intriguing continent offers an astonishing diversity of landscapes, peoples and cultures, exciting cities, magnificent wilderness and abundant wildlife.

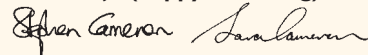
On a typical 3 week itinerary you can dance the tango in Buenos Aires, visit the mighty Iguazu Falls and traverse the Patagonian wilderness. In Peru alone you can explore the Inca treasures of Cusco, the Sacred Valley and Machu Picchu in the Andes Mountains, then descend to the steamy Amazon rainforest for a jungle safari. Or visit Central America and discover the natural beauty of Costa Rica and the colonial treasures of Nicaragua.

Cruising is a great way to explore, whether its on a riverboat down the Amazon, a luxury yacht in the Galapagos Islands, or a cruise ship through the fjords and inlets of southern Patagonia.

Over the past decade the continent has made huge strides politically and economically and many countries now have an excellent tourism infrastructure. There are many fabulous choices of accommodation, from 5 star city hotels, boutique hotels and sophisticated wilderness lodges, to beach retreats, eco rainforest lodges and historic estancias.

We would love to share our passion for this remarkable continent with you.

Feliz Viaje (happy travelling),



Stephen and Sara Cameron - Founders



© Stephen Cameron

Jaguar viewing in the Pantanal

TRAVEL WITH THE SPECIALISTS

Natural Focus Safaris specialises in small group tours and private tailor-made arrangements for the discerning traveller. For over 25 years, with parent company African Wildlife Safaris, we have been organising tours to some of the world's most fascinating destinations, including Africa, Antarctica, the Arctic, Bhutan, Canada & Alaska, Egypt and India. Our staff are all passionate travellers and over the years we have built up an enviable reputation for our knowledge, expertise and professionalism.

CONTACT US OR ASK YOUR TRAVEL AGENT

Call our experienced consultants to discuss your travel plans, or contact your travel agent.

Call us now on (03) 9249 3777 or 1300 363 302 (interstate callers).

Fax: (03) 9696 4937

E-mail: info@awsnfs.com

Web: www.naturalfocussafaris.com.au



Weather Chart												
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Atacama	05 24	05 24	04 23	02 23	0 22	0 20	0 20	0 21	0 22	0 23	02 24	03 24
Buenos Aires	18 30	17 29	15 26	12 22	09 18	06 15	06 15	06 16	08 18	11 21	13 25	16 29
Caracas	17 25	18 26	19 27	20 27	21 27	21 27	20 26	20 27	20 27	20 27	19 27	18 26
Bogota	04 21	05 21	06 21	08 20	08 19	07 19	07 18	07 19	06 19	07 20	07 19	05 20
Cusco	07 20	07 21	07 21	04 22	02 21	01 21	-1 21	01 21	04 22	06 22	06 23	07 22
Easter Island	19 26	19 27	20 26	18 24	17 24	16 20	15 20	15 20	15 20	15 22	17 23	18 25
Galapagos Islands	22 30	20 24	24 31	24 31	22 28	21 26	20 26	19 26	19 26	20 26	21 26	22 27
Guatemala City	11 23	12 25	14 27	14 28	16 29	16 27	16 26	16 26	16 26	15 24	14 23	13 22
Iguazu Falls	22 31	22 31	20 30	17 27	14 23	12 21	13 22	13 23	14 24	17 27	18 29	21 30
La Paz	06 18	06 18	06 18	05 19	-4 17	03 17	01 17	03 17	03 18	05 19	06 19	06 19
Lima	19 25	20 26	19 26	18 24	16 21	15 19	14 17	13 17	13 17	14 19	16 20	16 23
Manaus	24 31	24 31	24 31	24 31	24 31	24 31	24 32	24 32	24 33	24 33	24 33	24 32
Panama City	22 31	22 32	23 32	24 30	24 30	24 30	23 31	24 30	24 30	23 29	23 30	23 31
The Pantanal	17 31	17 32	17 32	17 33	17 33	13 32	13 32	15 34	17 34	17 34	17 32	17 32
Punta Arenas	07 15	07 14	06 13	04 09	02 06	01 04	01 03	01 04	02 07	03 10	04 12	05 14
Quito	08 21	08 21	08 20	08 21	08 21	07 21	07 21	07 22	07 22	08 21	08 21	08 21
Rio De Janeiro	23 30	23 30	23 29	21 27	20 26	15 23	15 24	16 28	19 29	20 30	20 21	21 31
San Jose	14 24	14 24	11 26	17 26	17 27	17 26	17 25	16 26	16 26	11 25	16 25	14 24
Santiago	12 29	11 29	09 27	01 23	05 18	03 14	03 15	04 17	06 19	07 22	09 26	11 28
Stanley	06 13	05 13	04 12	03 09	01 07	-01 05	-01 04	-01 05	01 07	02 09	03 11	04 12
Ushuaia	05 14	05 14	02 11	0 10	-1 07	-2 05	-2 04	-1 06	0 08	01 11	02 11	03 12

High or Best Time Shoulder or Low Season Off Season



© Natural Focus Safaris



Argentina p46, 48-55



Bolivia p25-27, 47



Brazil p70-79



Chile p42-47



Colombia p80



Costa Rica p82/83



Easter Island p43



Ecuador p28-33



Falkland Islands p85



Galapagos p34-41



Patagonia & Lakes District p56-69



Panama & Guatemala p84



Peru p8-24



Venezuela p81

ACCOMMODATION & STYLE OF TOURS



© explora

Hotel Salto Chico

CITY & TOWN HOTELS

South America has many world class hotels, as well as fine boutique hotels and plenty of good 3 and 4 star accommodation. Not all our recommended hotels are featured in this brochure so if you can't find what you are looking for please contact us. Our accommodation is chosen for its quality, location, special character, or because it is the best available.

COUNTRY HOTELS, HOSTERIAS & POSADAS

Country hotels and inns may also be called lodges, "hosteria" or "posada" (pousada in Brazil) and the style of accommodation varies a great deal. Some offer boutique accommodation and gourmet meals, whilst others are simple inns. Activities may include guided visits to scenic, cultural or archaeological sites, nature walks, horseriding, etc.

GALAPAGOS CRUISES

The best way to see the Galapagos Islands is by boat. Our chosen ships range from luxury category to first class or superior tourist standard. Select from one of the larger cruise ships which accommodate 40 to 100 passengers, or choose a more personalised cruise on a motor yacht or catamaran, which take from 8 to 22 passengers. Naturalist guides conduct on-board lectures, shore excursions and snorkelling.



© Sofitel

Sofitel Copacabana



© Eurotur

Hotel Eolo



© Haugen Cruises

Nina

WILDLIFE & RAINFOREST LODGES

These are situated in or near national parks and wildlife sanctuaries, such as the Pantanal in Brazil or the Amazon rainforest in Peru, Ecuador or Brazil. Some are lodges, others are estancias (ranch houses), whilst a few may be tented camps like in Africa. Accommodation is often in thatched bungalows (usually with ensuite facilities). Access is generally by motorised canoe down a river and/or charter aircraft, or by road. Guided activities usually include wildlife viewing on foot, by boat or in a vehicle, visits to canopy platforms and local villages.

ESTANCIAS & FAZENDAS

The grand colonial estates and cattle ranches created in the 18th and 19th centuries are called Estancias in Chile and Argentina and Fazendas in Brazil. Some are grand historic houses, whilst others are rambling ranch houses. Many estancias showcase the traditional life of ranchers and cowboys (gaucho) on the grasslands, and offer activities such as horseriding, hiking and birdwatching. Some, such as those in Argentina's wine district, are more like gourmet retreats. Fazendas in Brazil's Pantanal offer stunning wildlife viewing and excursions in the beautiful wetlands.

WILDERNESS TOURS/HIKING

South America abounds in unspoilt and spectacular wilderness areas perfect for sightseeing, easy walking, trekking and mountaineering. The best examples are: The Patagonia Region, such as Chile's Torres del Paine National Park and Argentina's Los Glaciares National Park (the Fitz Roy Ranges), and the Atacama Desert in Chile, Argentina and Bolivia. Accommodation varies from luxury lodges to comfortable hosterias or historic 18th and 19th century estancias. The most famous hike is of course the Inca Trail in Peru.



© Napo Wildlife Centre

Napo Wildlife Centre



© Eurotur

Estancia Bella Vista de Guerrero



© Jenn Boyd

Walking at the foot of Mont Fitz Roy

AMAZON RIVER CRUISES

Explore the Amazon River and its tributaries on a riverboat cruise from Iquitos in Peru or Manaus in Brazil. Boats offer comfortable or luxury accommodation, air-conditioning and good food. Naturalist guides will accompany you on shore excursions to see wildlife or visit Indian villages.



Amazon Clipper Premium Boat

PATAGONIA CRUISES

Patagonia is famous for its mountains, glaciers, lakes, fjords and marine wildlife. Explore this spectacular land on a small ship cruise through the waterways of Tierra del Fuego in southern Chile, on board the Stella, Via Australis or the M/V Skorpios. Or further north in the famous Lakes District embark on the "Crossing of the Lakes", travelling by boat and bus between Chile and Argentina.



M/V Skorpios III

HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL EXPERIENCES

South America has many fascinating archaeological and historical sites from ancient pre-Inca remains to impressive Inca ruins, particularly in Peru, Bolivia, Ecuador, northern Chile and Argentina. See extravagant Spanish or Portuguese colonial architecture, such as in Cusco or Arequipa in Peru, Quito in Ecuador, or Salta in Brazil. Much of the indigenous culture remains alive in the small towns with their festivals, markets and traditional arts and crafts.



Street market, Cusco

OUR SOUTH AMERICA SPECIALISTS

Many of our experienced team of consultants have travelled in South America. Based at our office in South Melbourne, they have the knowledge to help you design the perfect holiday to suit your style and budget.



Stephen Cameron

Company founder and CEO Steve Cameron has visited much of South America, and twice travelled from southern Argentina to Antarctica. A wildlife enthusiast and photographer, Steve loves the animals and landscapes of the Amazon Rainforest, Patagonia, the Atacama Desert and the Galapagos Islands. He recently travelled to a remote lodge in Brazil's Pantanal to photograph jaguars. Over the past 25 years Steve has also travelled extensively in Africa, India, Canada and Alaska.



Jenn Boyd

As a keen nature lover Jenn is passionate about South America. She has journeyed to Peru, Bolivia, Argentina, Chile, Patagonia, Venezuela, Ecuador, Galapagos Islands and Antarctica. In 2009 she represented NFS at the Latin America Travel Mart in Chile, before exploring Chile's Atacama Desert and taking a cruise in Patagonia. Jenn's enthusiasm and innovative ideas are key factors in designing unique itineraries for our clients.



Taleen Gaidzkar

Taleen has hiked the Inca Trail to Machu Picchu, visited the jungles of Ecuador, cruised the Galapagos Islands, explored Easter Island and voyaged to Antarctica. In 2009 she embarked on an expedition from Bolivia's high altitude salt flats to the Atacama desert in Chile, and explored the Amazon on the M/V Aqua. Taleen has been in the travel industry for 30 years and is one of our senior travel consultants. She is also an expert on Africa, Canada and Alaska.



Sara Cameron

Co-founder of NFS, Sara has travelled to Chile, Brazil, Peru, Argentina, Antarctica, Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands. Most recently she has explored Chile's spectacular Torres del Paine and the rugged landscapes of the Atacama Desert. A wildlife lover, Sara has also travelled widely in Africa and Canada.



Praful Albuquerque

Our National Sales & Marketing Manager, Praful has worked in travel for over 30 years, initially in India and Africa. In Peru he has visited Lima, Cusco, Machu Picchu, the Sacred Valley and a number of Amazon rainforest lodges. Praful has also travelled to Rio and Parati in Brazil, but the highlight was a wildlife safari through the famous Pantanal.



Anne-Marie Zambelli

General Manager of our South Melbourne Office and with 26 years' experience in the travel industry, Annie loves the great wildlife and wilderness areas of the world. She has visited Argentina, Chile and Ecuador, including cruising the Galapagos Islands and getting up-close to penguins and iguanas. She has also explored the beautiful Ecuadorian highlands and escorted a group of clients to Antarctica. Annie is also an expert on Africa and India.



Galapagos Iguana



The endangered Golden Lion Tamarin © Luciano Candisani



Galapagos Tortoise, the world's largest © Metropolitan Touring

CONSERVATION

As a specialist tour company focusing on the wildlife and wilderness of South America, Antarctica, the Arctic, Africa, Bhutan, Canada and Alaska, Natural Focus Safaris is committed to helping preserve the natural environment. Over the years we have made significant contributions to conservation societies and research projects in the destinations we visit through our policy of giving clients the opportunity to contribute \$8 (or more) per person which we then match dollar for dollar. We don't charge an administration fee so 100% of contributions go to the nominated conservation project. Featured here are some of the projects we and our clients have contributed to.

GOLDEN TAMARIN CONSERVATION

Just a few decades ago the squirrel sized Golden Lion Tamarin monkey was critically endangered and reduced to a mere 200 animals in the wild. A conservation effort was begun to save the tamarin with a breeding program and initiatives to preserve their habitat in the Atlantic coastal rainforests of south-eastern Brazil. Their number has now rebounded to about 1000 and the Golden Lion Tamarin is an international symbol of success in conservation. If you would like to visit the tamarins please see our tour on page 71.

GALAPAGOS CONSERVANCY

The Galapagos Conservancy (GC) is dedicated exclusively to the long-term protection of the Galapagos Islands and work in partnership with the Charles Darwin Foundation and the Galapagos National Park. Their work has resulted in the eradication of donkeys, pigs and goats from many of the islands and the restoration of the eco-system. One of their most recent projects is the 2010 Project Pinta: Re-tortoisering Pinta Island. For more information please see: www.galapagos.org

THE RAINFOREST ALLIANCE



Rainforest Alliance

Natural Focus Safaris and Rainforest Alliance work together to promote sustainable tourism in Latin America.

The Rainforest Alliance works to conserve biodiversity and ensure sustainable livelihoods by transforming land-use practices, business practices and consumer behaviour. Many of the rainforest lodges found in this brochure have been verified by them. For more information please see: www.rainforest-alliance.org



25 years

OF INSPIRATIONAL JOURNEYS

In January 2010 African Wildlife Safaris, parent company for Natural Focus Safaris, celebrated 25 years of organising tours to Africa. Since 2000 the Natural Focus Safaris division has specialised in some of the world's other great wilderness destinations - Canada, Alaska, South America, Antarctica, The Arctic, India and Bhutan. The company is still family owned, started by Steve and Sara Cameron back in 1985, and they continue to be involved on a daily basis. Our travel consultants are also very well-travelled, and many have been with us for 15 or more years.



© Mónica Burgos: flickr.com/momz76



Taquile piper

BEFORE YOU BOOK

The information contained in this brochure was correct at the time of publication. Since then, however, changes beyond our control could have occurred. Please refer to our Booking Conditions on page 87, in particular with respect to prices, itineraries, tour duration, standard of services, tour content, airfares and airline schedules. Before you book please check with your travel agent or Natural Focus Safaris to ascertain if there are any alterations to the tour you have selected.



Steve, James, Sara & Jeremy at Iguazu Falls © Stephen Cameron



Relaxing with the locals © Klein Tours

FAMILY SAFARIS

South America is a great destination for children, with exciting wilderness areas like the Amazon rainforest, Patagonia, the Atacama Desert and the Galapagos Islands. There are also interesting cultural and archaeological sites, such as Cusco, Machu Picchu and Lake Titicaca in Peru. Visit an Estancia (ranch) in Argentina and experience the gaucho (cowboy) way of life, or take them to San Pedro in the Atacama Desert and hike, horseride or mountain bike with an experienced guide.

We are experts in arranging itineraries for families and small groups. Over the past 8 years the owners of Natural Focus Safaris, Steve and Sara Cameron, have put their experience to the test during their sons' teenage years by organising a number of family tours for friends to South America, Africa and Antarctica. There are so many options to choose from so call our experienced travel consultants to discuss an itinerary.



© Puyuhuaipi Lodge

Family experience in beautiful Patagonia

TAILOR-MADE ITINERARIES

We are experts in tailor-made travel and design itineraries for all individual travellers. Below are some sample itineraries which include some of South America's most popular destinations. Price will vary depending on the standard of accommodation you choose, the season in which you are travelling and the mode of travel. Our experienced sales team have all travelled widely on the continent and they can help you design the perfect itinerary to suit your style and budget. Please call us on 1300 363 302 or (03) 9249 3777, or email info@awsnfs.com or ask your travel agent.

OPTION 1: PERU & ECUADOR 22 DAYS/21 NIGHTS

Highlights: Cusco, Machu Picchu, Galapagos Cruise, Amazon eco-lodge.

- Day 1** Arrive Santiago and transfer to hotel
- Days 2/3** Fly to Cusco and transfer to Sacred Valley for 2 nights
- Day 4** Machu Picchu
- Days 5/6** Cusco
- Day 7** Fly Cusco/Lima/Guayaquil in Ecuador
- Days 8-14** Fly to Galapagos Islands and commence 7 night cruise
- Day 15** Fly to Quito, historic capital of Ecuador
- Days 16-18** Fly to Amazon Eco-lodge (3 nights)
- Day 19** Fly back to Quito, connect to Santiago (night flight)
- Days 20/21** Inflight to Sydney
- Day 22** Arrive Australia

OPTION 2: CHILE/ARGENTINA/BRAZIL 21 DAYS/20 NIGHTS

Highlights: Torres del Paine, Perito Moreno, Buenos Aires, Iguazu Falls, Rio, Parati.

- Day 1** Arrive Santiago and transfer to hotel
- Days 2-5** Fly to Punta Arenas and transfer to Torres Del Paine lodge for 4 nights
- Days 6/7** Drive to El Calafate for 2 nights with visit to the Perito Moreno Glacier
- Days 8-10** Fly to Buenos Aires. City tour, Tango show and dinner
- Day 11** Fly to Iguazu, tour of falls
- Day 12** Drive to Brazil side, tour of falls, overnight Das Cataratas Hotel
- Days 13-15** Fly to Rio, flavela tour, dinner and sambo show
- Days 16/17** Drive to Parati, boat trip to islands. Parati hotel
- Day 18** Drive to Rio, Fly to Santiago and transfer to hotel
- Days 19/20** Inflight to Sydney
- Day 21** Arrive Australia

OPTION 3: CHILE/PERU 21 DAYS/20 NIGHTS

Highlights: Vina del Mar, Cusco, Machu Picchu, Colca Canyon, Amazon cruise.

- Day 1** Arrive Santiago and transfer to Valparaiso and Vina Del Mar
- Day 2** Valparaiso
- Day 3** Drive to Santiago and Fly to Lima
- Day 4** Fly to Arequipa
- Days 5/6** Colca Canyon
- Day 7** Arequipa
- Days 8/9** Fly to Cusco and transfer to Sacred Valley for 2 nights
- Days 10/11** Machu Picchu
- Days 12/13** Cusco
- Days 14-17** Fly to Iquitos and board luxury boat for Amazon cruise
- Day 18** Fly Iquitos/Lima/Santiago (night flight)
- Days 19/20** Day use of hotel. City Tour. Inflight to Australia
- Day 21** Arrive Australia