

# SOUTH AMERICA STUDY TOUR 2011

## DRAFT ITINERARY

July 26 departure

DATE	ACTIVITY	OVERNIGHT
<b>DAY 1</b> <b>Tues, Jul 26</b> <b>(Meals on plane then dinner)</b>	Overnight flight to Santiago, the capital of Chile. Met by our Chilean guide and transported to our hotel in the pleasant residential-commercial district of Providencia. Rest/freshen up from the flight before a panoramic tour of the city. This intriguing city of 5 million people has one of the world's most dazzling locations. Sights visited include the Palacio de la Moneda, the Plaza de Armas and the incongruously named, Avenida del Libertador Bernardo O'Higgins (la Alameda). In the evening, we have a welcome to Chile cocktail party and dinner, which offers the first opportunity to try the Chilean national drink, the 'Pisco Sour'.	Santiago  <b>Flights depart Tues morning various Australian ports to arrive Auckland approx. 3pm then: LAN800</b> <b>Departs Auckland 4.40pm</b> <b>Arrives: Santiago 12.10pm</b>
<b>DAY 2</b> <b>Wed, July 27 (B,L)</b>	This morning we board our charter coach and travel to the agricultural area south of the city. We are briefed on the agriculture of Chile enroute to the Santa Rita vineyard, one of Chile's finest. We enjoy a tour of the winery and discussions about this world renowned export industry. Lunch is at Santa Rita in their beautifully restored colonial house. This afternoon there is also time for visiting the new Andean Museum before free time for shopping, or your own sightseeing. Free evening.	Santiago
<b>DAY 3</b> <b>Thu, July 28 (B,L,D)</b>	This morning we are off to the airport for our short flight to Temuco, a major agricultural city in the magnificent Lakes District and the centre of Chile's grain industry. This is a region of lush farmland, dense forest, snow-capped volcanoes and of course, deep crystal clear lakes. With reliable rainfall and rich volcanic soils, this region of Chile boasts some of the highest average wheat yields in the world. Accompanied by an advisor from SOFO (the local Ag & Pastoral Society), we visit some major farms in the area to talk with the owners about their agricultural practices and product marketing.	Villarrica  <b>LAN231</b> <b>Departs Santiago 10.20am</b> <b>Arrives: Temuco 11.45am</b>
<b>DAY 4</b> <b>Fri, Jul 29 (B,L,D)</b>	More farm visits today on our very scenic way south to Puerto Varas for overnight.	Pto Varas
<b>DAY 5</b> <b>Sat, Jul 30 (B,L,D)</b>	We have a morning flight to southern Patagonia and Punta Arenas – the southernmost city in the world perched on the Straits of Magellan. This is a remote settlement physically cut off from the rest of Chile by two huge ice caps and countless glaciers. After a brief tour of Punta Arenas we head north across the dry 'pampas' to the ferry terminal of Puerto Natales. An advisor from the local INIA research station accompanies us on the coach trip north to provide an insight of agriculture (mainly sheep/wool production) in Patagonia. Puerto Natales is the gateway to Chile's most stunning national park, Torres del Paine. The town is a spectacular settlement sited on the Seno Ultima Esperanza channel – or Last Hope Sound – says it all really.	Pto Natales  <b>LAN281</b> <b>Departs Pto Montt 8.50am</b> <b>Arrives: Punta Arenas 11.00am</b>
<b>DAY 6</b> <b>Sun, Jul 31 (B,L,D)</b>	Today our guide will introduce us to one of the planet's most visually stunning national parks standing guard against the elements at the foot of the world. Torres del Paine is a massif crowned with wierd twisted granite peaks rising out of the surrounding pampa. Afterwards we cross into Argentina and onto El Calafate.	El Calafate
<b>DAY 7</b> <b>Mon, Aug 1 (B,L,D)</b>	El Calafate is in an environment which ranges from enormous, majestic glaciers through to thick sub-Antarctic woodlands and savage unclimbed crags. The town is sited on the shores of Lago Argentino, one of the world's largest and most beautiful lakes. El Calafate is also the access town for Glacier Perito Moreno, one of the world's natural wonders and one of the very few advancing glaciers on Earth. We visit this glacier as it wages a titanic battle with Lago Argentino. On our spectacular boat cruise to the face of the glacier we will witness huge chunks of ice detonate off the glacier with the report of a cannon, and plunge into the water below. Afternoon flight to Buenos Aires and transfer to our downtown hotel.	Buenos Aires  <b>AR2898</b> <b>Departs El Calafate 3.35pm</b> <b>Arrives: Buenos Aires (AEP) 6.31pm</b>

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<b>DAY 8</b> <b>Tue, Aug 2 (B,L)</b>	This morning we enjoy a Buenos Aires guided city tour and then a lunchtime meeting with Austrade Argentina Manager, Santi Rubio. This is a chance to discuss Argentinean agriculture, its challenges and opportunities for Australia. Free time in the afternoon for your own sightseeing, shopping etc. Option tonight for an unforgettable tango show.	Buenos Aires
<b>DAY 9</b> <b>Wed, Aug 3 B,L,D)</b>	Flight this morning to Cordoba situated at the geographical centre of Argentina, about 700 km northwest of Buenos Aires. We meet our farm specialist/agronomist guide from the Argentina Minimum Till Association (APPRESID) who will accompany us for the next few days as we explore 'La Pampa'. The Argentine pampas is regarded as some of the most fertile and reliable cropping and grazing country in the world. Called the 'heartland of Argentina', Cordoba has a strong colonial history blending with modern economic growth. The city lies in a fertile, agricultural area, watered by the Suquia, which runs through the city. The region's mild climate made this an ideal spot for early settlement on the colonial route between Lima (Peru) and the Atlantic Ocean. Founded before Buenos Aires, Cordoba was the first capital of the country and is now Argentina's second most important city. We enjoy farm visits in the Cordoba region including a 'gaucho' lunch with local farmers and consultants. Some time this evening to do your own exploration of the beautiful town centre (square) of Cordoba.	Cordoba <b>AR1506</b> <b>Depart Buenos Aires (AEP)</b> <b>9.35am</b> <b>Arrives Cordoba 10.55am</b>
<b>DAY 10</b> <b>Thu Aug 4 (B,L,D)</b>	This morning we head southeast through Sante Fe province meeting with minimum till operators and livestock farmers. This evening we enjoy a parilla (traditional Argentine grill) with local growers.	Pampas
<b>DAY 11</b> <b>Fri Aug 5 (B,L,D)</b>	More farm and cultural visits today as we travel through the pampas as we travel towards Buenos Aires.	Outskirts of BA
<b>DAY 12</b> <b>Sat, Aug 6 (B,L)</b>	We travel to Buenos Aires airport this morning to catch our flight to the magnificent Iguazu Falls, where the borders of Argentina, Brazil and Paraguay meet. We are met at the airport by our charter coach and local guide and cross to the Brazilian side of the Iguazu River. We then enter the Iguazu National Park and check into our magnificent colonial hotel. This is the only hotel within the National Park and is spectacularly located on the edge of the falls. Options today include an unforgettable (and easy) stroll along the boardwalk, from the front of our hotel, to many vantage points including the most impressive part of Iguazu Falls – Gargantua del Diablo (translated as the 'Devil's Throat'). This afternoon we take an exhilarating jungle tour and jetboat ride to the base of Gargantua del Diablo. There is also the option of a helicopter flight over the falls.	Iguazu Falls <b>AR2724</b> <b>Departs AEP 9.20am</b> <b>Arrives Iguazu 11.05am</b>  <b>OR - LA4028</b> <b>Departs AEP 11.40am</b> <b>Arrives Iguazu 1.25pm</b>
<b>DAY 13</b> <b>Sun, Aug 7 (B,L,D)</b>	Time this morning to take in more of the majesty of the falls before checking-out of our hotel, boarding our coach and visiting the giant Itaipu Dam – one of the seven wonders of the modern world. This enormous hydro scheme is a joint project between the governments of Paraguay and Brazil. Eight kilometres wide and requiring enough concrete to build five Hoover Dams, the Itaipu Dam spans the Parana River at the Brazil/Paraguay border. During its construction, workers shifted the course of the world's seventh largest river by removing 50 million tonnes of earth and rock to dig a 2 kilometre bypass. The main dam is as high as a 65-storey building and enough iron and steel was used at Itaipu to build 300 Eiffel Towers. Around 160 tonnes of water per second pour onto each turbine generating more than 70 per cent of Paraguay's electricity needs and 30 per cent of southern Brazil's. We catch our an afternoon direct flight to Rio de Janeiro – one of the most spectacularly located cities in the world. Tonight we have dinner at Maui's – a fantastic Brazilian churrascaria (steak house) located on Copacabana Beach.	Rio de Janeiro  <b>JJ3152</b> <b>Departs Iguazu 3.45pm</b> <b>Arrives Rio (GIG) 5.43pm</b>
<b>DAY 14</b> <b>Mon, Aug 8 (B,L)</b>	While in Rio we will see the major sights of this fantastic city including Corcovado (Christ the Redeemer) the Lagoon, Copacabana and Ipanema Beach and the Sugarloaf cable car. We will also do something most tourists don't – an amazing guided tour of some of the favelas (hillside shanty towns) of Rio. This tour is not intrusive nor patronising. It has the full backing of the local communities to help raise awareness of their unique living, social and political conditions. Then free time this evening with many options such as a spectacular Samba show.	Rio de Janeiro
<b>DAY 15</b> <b>Tue, Aug 9 (B,L,D)</b>	Morning flight to Salvador on the central northern coast of Brazil. City tour before our late afternoon flight to Barreiras in western Bahai state, one of Brazil's most dynamic and largest grain and cotton producing regions. Overnight Barreiras.	Barreiras <b>JJ3198</b> <b>Departs Rio (GIG) 9.04am</b> <b>Arrives Salvador 11.00am</b> <b>then connect with:</b> <b>JJ2231</b> <b>Departs Salvador 4.45pm</b> <b>Arrives Barreiras 5.58pm</b>

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<b>DAY 16</b> <b>Wed, Aug 10 (B,L,D)</b>	This morning we travel 100 km west to Luis Eduardo Magalhães (LEM) for farm visits in this exciting frontier of broadacre grain and cotton production.	Luis Eduardo Magalhães
<b>DAY 17</b> <b>Thu, Aug 11 (B,L,D)</b>	Travel south west by charter coach today to Brasilia, the political and administrative capital of Brazil.	Brasilia
<b>Day 18</b> <b>Fri, Aug 12 (B,L,D)</b>	Morning flight to Cuzco in the Peruvian Andes, via Lima. Cuzco is the ancient capital of the Inca Empire. Met by our local guides at the airport and transferred to our hotel for a quiet afternoon to acclimatise to the 3400 metre (11,200 feet) altitude. Cuzco is a fascinating blend of Incan and Spanish colonial influences and was declared a World Heritage Site in 1983. After a few hours rest we wander along ancient cobblestone laneways to our nearby restaurant where we are entertained by some excellent traditional Peruvian music and dancing.	Cusco  <b>LAN2772/2043</b> <b>Departs Brasilia 10.00am</b> <b>Arrives Cusco (via Lima) 2.50pm</b>
<b>DAY 19</b> <b>Sat, Aug 13 (B,L)</b>	Early breakfast then transfer to the station to catch the Vistadome train to the ancient Inca city of Machu Pichu. This is one the world's great train journeys as we wind our way through the sacred valley of the Urubamba river to the town of Aguas Calientes. We then have a short bus ride to the top of the mountain and the citadel of Machu Pichu, discovered in 1911 by the American explorer Hiram Bingham. Guided tour of the ruins followed by lunch and more time to wander around this incredible site. Return by train to Cuzco.	Cuzco
<b>DAY 20</b> <b>Sun, Aug 14 (B,L,D)</b>	This morning we have a guided tour of Cusco – a city literally built on the foundations of the Inca palaces. We will visit the Koricancha or Temple of the Sun to appreciate the incredible masonry of the Incas, the Plaza de Armas and the Cathedral with its carved woodworks, altars and paintings. Afternoon flight to Juliaca where we are transferred to Puno on the shores of Lake Titicaca for overnight.	Puno <b>LAN2111</b> <b>Departs Cusco 2.05pm</b> <b>Arrives Juliaca 3.00pm</b>
<b>DAY 21</b> <b>Mon, Aug 15 (B,L)</b>	Continue around the Lake and cross into Bolivia, inspecting aspects of ancient Incan agriculture and modern Alpaca production. Brief tour of the fascinating town of Copacabana then onto the Lake where we will spend the night aboard our luxury catamaran.	On board luxury Catamaran
<b>DAY 22</b> <b>Tue, Aug 16 (B,L,D)</b>	Visit Sun Island, the Inca garden and the Sacred Spring before returning to the mainland to continue across the magnificent Altiplano to La Paz. Lunch then a short city tour of La Paz.	La Paz
<b>DAY 23</b> <b>Wed, Aug 17 (B,L,D)</b>	Leave La Paz for a dramatic journey across the Altiplano then down the Andes to the coast of northern Chile. Visit Lauca National Park which consists of dramatic snow capped extinct volcanoes, mountain lakes and abundant wildlife. Late afternoon arrival in Arica in the far north of the Atacama desert and one of the driest inhabited places on earth with an average annual rainfall of less than 1mm per year.	Arica
<b>DAY 24</b> <b>Thu, Aug 18 (B,L)</b>	Despite the desert conditions, there are a number of highly productive river valleys in the area and we will visit some farms in the morning before heading to the airport for a flight to Santiago. Late night departure (11.10 pm) for Australia (via Auckland). Arrive in Australia (Sydney at 7.30 am) on Saturday, August 20.  <i>Add-on options with this tour include Easter Island, the Amazon or The Galapagos Islands</i>	On plane <b>LAN393</b> <b>Departs Arica 3.45pm</b> <b>Arrives Santiago 6.10pm</b> <b>then connect with:</b> <b>LA801</b> <b>Departs Santiago 11.10pm</b> <b>Arrives Sydney (via Auckland) 7.30am (Sat Aug 20)</b>