



SEE YOU THERE

September **2022**

Headed to South America to touch on some of the adventures available in Peru...

Imagine this... a luxury small group journey. Experience the enduring heritage of the Incas, as you interact with the rural people of the Sacred Valley, sample Peruvian culinary delights and explore magnificent Machu Picchu, staying at the only hotel on site.

Sample Peruvian cuisine at a Chef's Table experience to understand its cultural impact on Peru and the world, and enjoy an exclusive street food tour led by a local chef.

Mingle with the residents of the Sacred Valley of the Incas and gain an intimate understanding of their ancestral weaving and farming techniques, during a private visit to their village, where you partake in a Pachamama ceremony.

Enjoy a private lecture on Machu Picchu with a renowned scholar in Incan history before discovering the magnificent ruins for yourself in the company of a local expert guide.

Discover Peru's rich musical traditions during a captivating private performance by an expert in Andean music.

Trek the last portion of the Inca Trail from KM 104 to Machu Picchu on select departures.



A sample day MACHU PICCHU

Today, depending on your choice of departures, explore Ollantaytambo, a fortress of massive stone terraces that hug the mountain slopes and the site of the Incas' greatest victory over the invading Spanish. Then Ride Like a Local, journeying aboard the Inca Rail First-Class Train deep into the Andes towards Machu Picchu gazing out at the spectacular Peruvian countryside. Alternatively, start by boarding a many-windowed Vistadome Train for the same scenic ride, but with a twist: disembark at KM 104 and set out with a guide on a hike that culminates at the Sun Gate (Inti Punku), looking out over the vast UNESCO World Heritage Site. Either way, arrive for your overnight stay at the only hotel located on-site at Machu Picchu. Overlooking the Urubamba River, Machu Picchu was built in the 15th century at the height of the Inca Empire. Although this "Lost City" was revealed to the rest of the world by American historian Hiram Bingham in 1911, its location was long known to locals. Its original purpose, however, remains a matter of some conjecture, as the Incas left no written records. In the early afternoon, explore the ruins with your expert guide and, as you wander amid the age-old stone walls, picture life as it might have been in this majestic citadel, set some 8,000 feet above sea level. On select dates, engage in a more active Day-5 adventure, departing the train early for an expert-guided hike along the last portion of the Inca Trail, starting at KM 104 and ascending to the Sun Gate (Inti Punku) overlooking Machu Picchu.

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Travel with a difference...

Sustainability is not a practice in Costa Rica; it is a way of life.

Sustainable practices are observed in every region of the country, across all industries, adopted by all citizens and embraced by visitors. From local Costa Rican cuisine to artisan crafts to traditional customs and celebrations, sustainability is embedded deeply in the culture and traditions of Costa Rica.



Costa Ricans are proud to live among and protect their country's rich environment, as this small nation holds five percent of the world's land-based biodiversity and 3.5 percent of its marine life.

Costa Rica produces nearly 93 percent of its electricity from renewable resources and 30 percent of its territory is protected natural land. A pioneer in the area of sustainability, Costa Rica is a model for sustainable practices for many industries within the region and around the world.

Although Costa Rica is a small territory, it makes up about 5% of the earth's biodiversity. Fortunately, this natural treasure is protected by the National System of Conservation Areas, preserving a total of 25% of the national territory.

Visitors can enjoy the country's majestic volcanoes, Pacific and Caribbean beaches, tropical rain forests, as well as exhilarating jungle landscapes, all without traveling long distances.



VIRTUOSO.

Valerie Wilson Travel

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Spotlight on Costa Rica



High on your families to do list should be a luxury family journey like this one.

From rainforests and beaches to volcanoes and hot springs, explore beautiful Costa Rica's variety of lush ecosystems and diverse wildlife for the ultimate family-friendly adventure.

Discover wild and exotic creatures alongside your expert local guide, including caimans, monkeys, toucans and poison dart frogs.

Enjoy a once-in-a-lifetime night-time expedition to the nesting site of the endangered Atlantic green sea turtle, on the long, protected beaches of Tortuguero National Park.

Experience Costa Rica's rainforests from the unique vantage points of a zipline course, aerial tram ride and suspended-bridges tour.

Kayak or boat ride through the creeks and lagoons of Tortuguero National Park, observing monkeys, birds and marine life.

Sample day: ZIPLINING IN A RAIN FOREST

Drive to a 1,200-acre nature reserve set in a neon-green rainforest at the edge of Braulio Carrillo National Park. On arrival, ascend into the trees for a thrilling zipline ride, surrounded by 360-degree views of the landscape and the sounds of howler monkeys and tropical birds. Your family may opt for an alternate excursion through the rainforest canopy on an aerial tram, viewing its lush scenery and wildlife up close in the treetops. Visit the butterfly garden and the frog pond, then embark on a boat ride to your lodge in Tortuguero. Once settled in, begin a fun, all-ages photography contest led by your naturalist guide, roaming the grounds of your resort to capture winning images of flora and fauna. Tonight, gather for a welcome dinner at your lodge.



Another sample day: KAYAKING THE CAÑO PALMA

Head north by boat to Caño Palma for an exciting kayak adventure in the richest biological ecosystem in Costa Rica, paddling alongside an expert local guide to Tortuguero National Park. You may opt for a motorized boat excursion

instead, or wander the beach where thousands of Atlantic green sea turtles return to nest each year. After lunch back at the lodge, prepare Costa Rican specialties with a local chef on a fun Chef's Table experience. The remainder of your day is at leisure. This evening, take an optional night walk, and later join your naturalist guide for a relaxing Scenic Sundowner, setting the mood for dinner on site.



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