

WHY TRAVEL ON A VELOSO GROUP TOUR?

- Travelling with a **group** provides you the companionship of a **small number** of like-minded travellers with a shared desire to visit Latin America and an interest in local life, culture and the environment. By describing in detail the itinerary of each journey, our group tours attract people with similar interests and desire to explore.
- **Hotels** are 3 to 4 star, all with private facilities and with character, or best available, considering that we will spend most of the time out and about sightseeing.
- **Transport** is provided in comfortable and appropriately sized vehicles.
- All **tips**, flights, hotels and breakfast, luggage porters, transport, guided excursions and meals as described on the itinerary are included in the price shown. When travelling by train we will always book seats together in the best class of travel.
- You will also have the opportunity to pursue your own **individual interests** by making separate visits, excursions or eating in restaurants according to your taste.
- **Local life demonstrations** are included to enhance your experience and interaction with local people. These can be a chef preparing a dish, a weaver, dancing, music or jewellery making, going to a local school or making ceramics.
- **Festivals and Special events** also enhance ability to see local life. We have departures for the Easter Celebrations in Antigua, Guatemala, highlighted in **bold**.



2017															
Destination Countries	Page	Tour Name	Days	Prices from	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov Dec
Costa Rica	15	Canopy	12	£1945	21			12			26			28	
Argentina & Brazil	16	Heritage	15	£3128		9						3		19	
Mexico	17	Senderos	17	£2228	27	10/24	17	7	5			4	15/29	27	10/24
Peru	18	Inca	16	£2778				5			26			4	27
Guatemala & Belize	19	Tikal	16	£2998				11							9
Bolivia & Peru	20-21	Moneda	20	£3634				11			25			3	
Argentina & Chile	22-23	Patagonia	21	£4196	12										2
2018															
Costa Rica	15	Canopy	12	£1998	20		28				25			17	
Argentina & Brazil	16	Heritage	15	£3072		15						9		29	
Mexico	17	Senderos	17	£2228											
Peru	18	Inca	16	£2796				4			25			3	26
Guatemala & Belize	19	Tikal	16	£3096			27								8
Bolivia & Peru	20-21	Moneda	20	£3494				10			24			2	
Argentina & Chile	22-23	Patagonia	21	£4194	18										1

HOME TO HOME CHAUFFEUR SERVICE



For your comfort and peace of mind we can arrange transport from home to the airport and back as well as an airport hotel.

web veloso.com/chauffeur

We aim to provide you with peace of mind and comfort from the moment you leave home, to the day you return. A chauffeur driven transfer is the most convenient and comfortable way for you to travel with your luggage between your home and the airport.

We are pleased to offer a chauffeur driven car for the journey from any address in the UK to the airport and back on your return, for £2.00 per mile for a saloon car. The mileage is calculated using the AA Route Finder service at www.theaa.com. Fares for large vehicles are available on request. Please contact us or your travel agent for further information and reservations.



THE NATURAL WORLD

Costa Rica is renowned for its National Parks with protected forest, character lodges and excellent birdwatching with Naturalist Guides. The Pacific and Caribbean coasts have very distinct geology and, together with the central mountain range, create a wide range of habitats with diverse vegetation, landscapes and wildlife.

Days 1-2 Depart the UK on a daytime flight to San José, where we are met by our tour leader, and transfer to the hotel staying for two nights. The next day we visit the fuming crater of Poas Volcano to learn about Costa Rica's active volcanic systems. We continue to Doka Coffee Plantation, with a tour to see the coffee growing in the grounds, the roasting process, followed by a coffee tasting. (B)

Days 3-4 We set off early on the drive to Tortuguero National Park, passing banana plantations and then boarding a boat to reach the lodge through the picturesque Tortuguero Canals. In the afternoon we take an excursion to see the local town and visit the beach, where thousands of Leatherback Turtles come to nest every year. The next day we take a morning tour to see nature at its most active. (B,L,D)

Days 5-6 We drive to Arenal staying for two nights at a hotel with a pool and hot springs from the active volcano. The rainforest provides a habitat for monkeys, macaws and butterflies to flourish. We take a walking tour of the National Park around the base of the volcano, following trails in the forest to see lava formations at a vantage point below the volcano. (B)

Days 7-8 We cross Lake Arenal and drive up windy mountain roads to the pre-montane cloud forest reserve at Monteverde, staying for two nights. Here the humidity and higher altitude (1400 metres) provide a habitat for many species of mammals, birds and orchids. We walk the numerous trails through the lush forest to learn about the wildlife, birds and diverse ecosystem. (B)

Days 9-10 Transfer to Manuel Antonio, with a visit en route to Carara National Park. Stay for two nights at a hotel overlooking the Pacific Ocean. The final day is at leisure, with the option to relax on the beach, or take an excursion to the easy walking trails of the National Park, spotting wildlife with your guide. (B)

Day 11 Transfer back to San José to catch the evening overnight flight, arriving in London on Day 12. (B)



Scarlet Macaws



Rainforest Waterfalls



Hummingbird

Stay on longer to visit Corcovado National Park on the Osa Peninsula, or Rincon de la Vieja. Alternatively, enjoy one of the beach resorts on the Pacific. Please contact us and refer to pages 172 to 179 for more extensions to your trip.



Beach at Manuel Antonio

The Canopy Group Tour: Costa Rica

10 night Itinerary

San José - 2 nights

Tortuguero - 2 nights

Arenal - 2 nights

Monteverde - 2 nights

Manuel Antonio - 2 night



Full day by day detailed description on:

web veloso.com/canopy



Randall Zúñiga is our main guide for this tour

GROUP TOUR DATES & PRICES

	Depart Wed or Sat	Return Sun or Tues	Prices
2016	12 Nov	23 Nov	£1945
2017	21 Jan	01 Feb	£1998
	12 Apr	23 Apr	£1998
	26 July	06 Aug	£2383
	28 Oct	08 Nov	£1998
2018	20 Jan	31 Jan	£2096
	28 Mar	08 Apr	£2096
	25 July	05 Aug	£2434
	17 Oct	28 Oct	£2096

Own room supplement £696

Includes: Prices per person sharing a twin bedded room. Price includes direct, non-stop, flights in Economy on British Airways, subject to availability at time of booking. World Traveller Plus cabin seats upgrade on British Airways add £532 Departures in July / Aug add £698 Further details of what is included on page 190-193 **Hotels used,** descriptions and photographs can be obtained from us or on our website: veloso.com/groups

MAGNIFICENT CITIES & WATERFALLS

The Heritage Group Tour: Argentina & Brazil

12 night Itinerary

Buenos Aires - 3 nights

Iguazú Falls - 2 nights

Rio de Janeiro - 4 nights

Salvador - 3 nights

Enjoy the European feel of Buenos Aires and tango music. Admire one of Nature's breath taking creations at Iguassu Falls. Experience the unique seaside setting of Rio and the historic Salvador da Bahia



Iguazú Falls, Days 5-6



Salvador da Bahia, Days 11-14



Rio de Janeiro, Days 7-10

Days 1-4 Departure flight overnight to Buenos Aires staying for three nights. Meet your Tour Leader and the group. The hotel has spacious rooms with private facilities and is centrally located in Barrio Norte, an elegant residential district. Tour the city's famous sights as well as explore "behind the scenes", the local way of life. (B)

Flight to the spectacular **Iguazú Falls**, one of South America's most extraordinary sights. Vast torrents of water thunder over the various cascades, a truly awe-inspiring spectacle. We walk the myriad of trails and walkways on the Argentinian side affording a view from above the Falls and stay for two nights. (B)

Day 7 In the morning we cross the border to Brazil for a magnificent panoramic display of the Iguassu Falls. Appreciate the diverse wildlife and surrounding rainforest. We have time to walk the trail, take pictures and have a light lunch. Afternoon flight to **Rio de Janeiro** staying for four nights close to Copacabana beach, and the vibrant residential district of Ipanema. (B)

Days 7-10 Rio de Janeiro is a sophisticated cosmopolitan city with a stunning setting of enormous granite peaks, a huge lagoon, and wide sandy

beaches. We spend three days of visits to Santa Teresa, a Tram ride and walk in the Centre, Christ the Redeemer at Corcovado, the Botanical Gardens, the Lagoon and Sugar Loaf Mountain. (B)

Days 11-14 Flight to Salvador staying for three nights. Salvador is the heart of Brazilian identity with roots in Portuguese colonial history, blending with African culture, music, Candomblé, Capoeira and the Orixá deities. This European and African blend has produced an explosion of creativity in the arts, music, dance and literature. The old town centre, the Pelourinho, was restored and became a UNESCO World Heritage Site with cobbled streets, colonial architecture and churches including the magnificent Igreja de Sao Francisco and Nossa Senhora do Bonfim. There are art galleries with the local naïve paintings and restaurants, some overlooking the sea, serving the local cuisine with tropical ingredients, fruits and seasonings. (B) Evening departure on overnight flight home, arriving Day 15,

Stay on at Praia do Forte Beach, Page 61
Full day by day detailed description on:

[web veloso.com/heritage](http://web.veloso.com/heritage)

TOUR LEADERS: Our main guides on this tour are specialists in each destination. They will be with you all day, everyday, including meals, from the moment you arrive to departure at the airport: **Emiliano Carrascal**, Buenos Aires, Iguazu **Paulo Giffoni** in Rio de Janeiro **Carlos Barbosa** in Salvador. Please refer to pages 12 and 13 for details of the tour leaders and their photographs.

GROUP TOUR DATES & PRICES

	Depart Thursday	Return Thursday	Prices
2016	13 Oct	27 Oct	£3128
2017	09 Feb 03 Aug 19 Oct	23 Feb 17 Aug 02 Nov	£3072 £3398 £3196
2018	15 Feb 09 Aug 29 Oct	01 Mar 23 Aug 12 Nov	£3182 £3438 £3298

Single room supplement £696

Includes: Prices per person sharing a twin bedded room. Price includes flights in Economy to/from UK - subject to availability at time of booking. Business Class upgrade on Air Europa add £1532. Departures in July / Aug add £1350. Further details of what is included on page 190-193. Hotels used, descriptions and photographs can be obtained from us or on veloso.com/groups

MEXICAN LANDSCAPES

Journey overland from Mexico City to the Caribbean coast to peel back the layers of Mexico's ancient civilisations and colonial heritage, from the Toltecs and Aztecs of Central Mexico, the Zapotecs and Mixtecs of Oaxaca, to the Mayan pyramids of the Yucatán Peninsula and the more recent influences of the Conquistadores.



Pico de Orizaba

Days 1-4 Depart on Friday, on the direct flight to Mexico City, arriving in the evening. Next day is at leisure to relax and meet the rest of the group. On Day 3 we tour the city, visiting the Museum of Anthropology where we learn Mexico's rich history, then walk through the Centro Histórico with its ornate churches. Next day we travel to the outskirts of the city for the magnificent Aztec pyramids of Teotihuacán, a UNESCO World Heritage site, continue to the Shrine of Guadalupe, a major centre for pilgrimage. (B,L)

Days 5-7 Full day drive to Oaxaca, with a stop in Puebla where buildings have façades embellished with coloured tiles imported from Spain. Next day visit the city of Oaxaca, the ruins of Monte Albán and the magnificent church of Santo Domingo plus the buzzing Mercado Juárez. The following day we journey to nearby Mitla, a unique example of pre-Columbian architecture. Stop at Santa María del Tule, which boasts a tree that is reputedly over 2000 years old. (B)

Day 8 Journey to Tehuantepec. The longest drive of the tour leads through the dusty isthmus before climbing into the lush mountains of Chiapas state. On arrival we take an early evening stroll to admire the colonial architecture. (B)

Day 9 Start the day with a scenic boat ride in Sumidero Canyon, where the sheer-sided gorge carved out by the Río Grijalva rises over 1,000 metres. Then we drive up to San Cristóbal de las Casas, the attractive mountain capital of Chiapas, where we spend the night. (B)

Days 10-11 Morning tour around the town of San Cristóbal followed by a visit to the colourful village of Chamula. Next day we drive to the lowlands, pausing at the waterfalls of Agua Azul and Misol-Há where blue waters tumble into limestone pools. Local villages offer views of everyday life before we arrive in Palenque. (B)

Day 12 Visit Palenque archaeological site in dense jungle. The city was founded around 300 BC, reaching its zenith in the 7-8th centuries AD. Originally a small place of worship, it was transformed by Pacal in 615 AD, and whose story is told in hieroglyphics. Watch the landscape go by on a

long drive along the Gulf of Mexico to Campeche, a thriving port with a rich history. Afternoon walk through the atmospheric centre of the walled city. (B)

Day 13 Drive to Uxmal, an extensive Mayan site with buildings from different periods. The finest decoration - in honour of Chac, the Mayan god of rain - dates from the late classical period. Continue to Mérida, which is still the Yucatán's economic and cultural capital, owing its wealth to the production of sisal. (B)

Days 14-16 Drive to Chichén Itzá to admire the magnificent Mayan pyramids, temple and celestial observatory. The most impressive, El Castillo, offers views from a height of 30 metres, while the sacrificial well hid treasures of jade, copper and gold. Continue to the coast for two nights to unwind, swim or explore. Depart on the direct return flight, arriving on Day 17. (B)

Alternatively stay on the Beach:

Days 14-19 Continue to the coast for 5 (or more) nights to enjoy the beaches of the Yucatan and crystal clear water from underground rivers at Xel-Ha and Xcaret where you can snorkel and swim with dolphins or visit of archaeological site of Tulum. (B) Transfer to the airport for your direct flight home, arriving on Day 20.



Chichén Itzá, Day 13



The Senderos Group Tour: Mexico

15 night Itinerary

Mexico City - 4 nights

Oaxaca - 3 nights

Tehuantepec - 1 night

San Cristóbal de las Casas - 2 nights

Palenque - 1 night

Campeche - 1 night

Mérida - 1 night

Playa del Carmen - 2 nights (or more)

Full day by day detailed description on:

web veloso.com/senderos



Carlos Villanueva is our main guide for this tour

GROUP TOUR DATES & PRICES

	Depart Friday	Return Sunday	Prices
2016	05 Aug	21 Aug	£2496
	11 Nov	27 Nov	£2228
2017	27 Jan	12 Feb	£2286
	10 Feb	26 Feb	£2286
	24 Feb	12 Mar	£2286
	17 Mar	02 Apr	£2228
	07 Apr	23 Apr	£2382
	05 May	21 May	£2228
	04 Aug	20 Aug	£2496
	15 Sept	01 Oct	£2286
	29 Sept	15 Oct	£2286
	27 Oct	12 Nov	£2286
	10 Nov	26 Nov	£2342
	24 Nov	10 Dec	£2228

Similar dates in 2018 - Please enquire.

Own room supplement £368

Includes: Prices per person sharing a twin bedded room. Price includes flights in Economy to/from UK - subject to availability at time of booking. World Traveller Plus upgrade on British Airways add £548. Departures in July / Aug add £286. Further details of what is included on page 190-193. **Hotels** used, descriptions and photographs can be obtained from us or on veloso.com/groups.

EMPIRE OF THE SUN

The Inca Group Tour: Peru

14 night Itinerary

Lima - 2 nights

Arequipa - 1 night

Colca Canyon - 2 nights

Lake Titicaca / Puno - 2 nights

Sacred Valley - 3 nights

Machu Picchu - 1 night

Cusco - 3 nights



Days 1-2 Depart on British Airways flight, direct, non-stop to Lima. On arrival we are met by our Tour Leader and check into our hotel, where we stay for two nights and meet our travel companions. Next day we have a tour of Lima including the colonial history and the Larco Herrera Museum. (B)

Day 3 This morning we take a flight from Lima to Arequipa, the "White City" where we stay overnight. We take a tour of the colonial centre, admiring the Spanish style architecture, before a visit to the Santa Catalina Convent. Established in 1579 and famed for its brightly coloured interiors, there are still some 20 nuns living there today. (B)

Days 4-5 We make an early start today to travel by road to the Colca Canyon, where we stay for 2 nights. Carved out of the landscape by the Colca river it is the world's deepest canyon, and is still inhabited by traditional communities who farm on pre-Inca terraces either side of



Colca Canyon, Days 4-6

Visit small communities preserving ancient traditions in the Andean Mountains, from the reed islands of Lake Titicaca, to the terraces of the Colca Canyon and Quinoa fields of the "Sacred Valley of the Incas", culminating in Inca and colonial splendour.

the valley. Excursions over the two days will include visits to the local villages as well as to the Cruz del Condor, where you will have a chance to see the Andean Condor in its natural habitat. (B)

Days 6-7 Continue by road, up the mountains, across the open landscape of the altiplano to Puno, on the shore of Lake Titicaca, where we stay for 2 nights. Full day visit to Uros and Taquile Islands to discover the local indigenous culture and see their colourful costumes. (B)

Days 8-10 Board the Andean Explorer Train for a fascinating journey through the mountains, crossing a landscape of snow covered peaks, valleys and isolated villages. Arriving Cusco in the evening and transfer to Urubamba, where we stay for three nights. We explore the Sacred Valley on Day 10, where we visit local

communities, markets and the ancient ruins of Ollantaytambo. (B,L)

Days 11-12 In the morning we set off by train towards Machu Picchu, the Citadel of the Incas. We have a guided tour of the site in the afternoon, and are able to explore until evening when we stay overnight in Aguas Calientes. The next day we have free time to return to the archaeological site, and then take the train and bus back to Cusco. (B,L)

Days 13-14 Afternoon tour of Cusco, centre of the Inca empire, and discover incredible Inca masonry as foundations of colonial buildings and impressive ruins such as Qenko and Sacsayhuaman. (B)

Day 15 After a morning at leisure, we board our flight back to Lima, and from there fly home arriving on Day 16.

Colca Canyon, Days 4-6



Full day by day detailed description on:

web veloso.com/inca



Ursula Leonardo is our main guide for this tour

GROUP TOUR DATES & PRICES

	Depart Wed	Return Thur	Prices
2016	27 Jul 05 Oct 28 Dec	11 Aug 20 Oct 12 Jan17	£3138 £2778 £2982
2017	05 Apr 26 Jul 04 Oct 27 Dec	23 Mar 10 Aug 19 Oct 11 Jan	£2796 £3164 £2796 £3050
2018	04 Apr 25 Jul 03 Oct 26 Dec	19 Apr 09 Aug 18 Oct 10 Jan	£2920 £3288 £2920 £3156

Single room supplement £396

Includes: Prices per person sharing a twin bedded room including flights direct, non-stop on British Airways in Economy - subject to availability at time of booking. World Traveller Plus Cabin upgrade on British Airways: £2181. Departures in July / Aug add £1782.

Further details of what is included on page 190-193.

Hotels used, descriptions and photographs can be obtained from us or on veloso.com/groups

MAYAN ACROPOLIS

The Tikal Group Tour: Guatemala & Belize



Antigua, Days 2 and 7



Tikal, Days 9-10

The Mayan Civilisation declined before the arrival of the Conquistadores. Today, we visit their legacy, massive pyramids and jungle strongholds, colourful markets and colonial heritage; with the option of staying on the beach at the Belize Barrier Reef.

Days 1-2 Departure flight to Guatemala City arriving in the evening and meet your tour guide. Transfer to the old city of **Antigua** with colonial architecture, courtyards and cobbled streets. Walking tour of the city visiting the market with colourful weavings, coffee museum and Mayan Museum. (B)

Days 3-4 Journey to **Chichicastenango** known for its traditional K'iche' Maya culture. Explore the Sunday market, a riotous cacophony of colourful textiles, and visit the 400-year old church of **Santo Tomas**, which Pagan Shamans still use for rituals. Drive to **Lake Atitlan**. (B)

Day 5 Full day excursion across **Lake Atitlan** to the magnificent indigenous village of **Santiago Atitlan** to find the

home of the Maya God **Maximon**. We walk the streets, visit the market and church, and learn about local history, their distinctive textiles and primitive art. Continue to the village of **Palopo**. (B)

Days 6-7 Time to explore the shore of **Lake Atitlan**, then drive to **Antigua** staying for two nights. One day to enjoy **Antigua** and visit a family of local weavers to learn about the textiles and traditions of their villages. (B)

Day 8 We drive to **Guatemala City** and explore the town centre in the afternoon.

Days 9-10 Flight to **Flores** in the rainforest, and on to the magnificent Mayan archaeological site at **Tikal** staying for two nights. Full day to

explore the site with pyramids that extend high above the tree canopy and the numerous Mayan ruins spreadout within the forest. At sunrise, troops of monkeys are active in the tree canopy, together with many birds and wildlife finding refuge within the park. (B)

Days 11-12 Today we travel to **San Ignacio** in **Belize**. We stay for two nights in comfortable palm-thatched cottages offering a spectacular panorama of the **Macal River Valley**. There are also many Maya ceremonial caves. Full day trip to **Mountain Pine Ridge**, a pine forest with an exuberant undergrowth of ferns next to a contrasting tropical rainforest, also stopping at **Rio Hondo** waterfalls. (B)

Days 13-14 Drive to **Orange Walk** where jaguars are a possible sighting as are toucans, iguanas and Baird's tapir. It is ideal for birdwatching, with over 400 species of birds recorded in swamps, lagoons and waterways, and adjacent to the Maya ruins of **Lamanai**. One full day to explore **Lamanai** Mayan ruins. (B)

Day 15 Short visit **Belize City** and transfer to the airport for your overnight flight back home, arriving on **Day 16**.

Stay on in Belize at a beach resorts on the coast or islands; ideal to unwind, swim, and snorkel in the Marine Reserve of second largest **Barrier Reef** in the world.

14 night Itinerary

Antigua - 2 nights

Chichicastenango - 1 night

Lake Atitlan - 2 nights

Antigua - 2 nights

Guatemala City - 1 night

Tikal - 2 nights

San Ignacio, Belize - 2 nights

Lamanai, Belize - 2 nights

Optional Extension:

Belize Barrier Reef



Full day by day detailed description on:

web veloso.com/tikal



Gary Ortiz is our main guide for this tour

GROUP TOUR DATES & PRICES

	Depart	Return	Prices
2016	10 Nov	25 Nov	£2998
2017	11 Apr Includes Easter Processions in Antigua 09 Nov	28 Apr 24 Nov	£3096 £3182
2018	27 Mar Includes Easter Processions in Antigua 08 Nov	11 Apr 23 Nov	£3178 £3236

Single room supplement £488

Includes: Prices per person sharing a twin bedded room. Price includes flights in Economy to/from UK - subject to availability at time of booking.

Business Class upgrade on IBERIA add £2181.

Further details of what is included on page 190-193.

Hotels used, descriptions and photographs can be obtained from us or on veloso.com/groups.



SOUTH AMERICAN HEARTLAND

The Moneda Group Tour: Bolivia & Peru

17 night Itinerary

Santa Cruz - 2 nights

Sucre - 3 nights

Potosi - Day trip

La Paz - 3 night

Puno, Lake Titicaca - 2 nights

Sacred Valley - 2 nights

Machu Picchu - 1 night

Cusco - 3 nights

Lima - 1 night

Landlocked and steeped in history, Bolivia is the heartland of a unique culture, where people proudly maintain and value their traditions. Major Inca stone archaeological sites and heritage are surrounded by imposing mountain peaks and ancient cities.



Copacabana church, Day 10



Machu Picchu, Days 14 - 15



Sucre main square, Days 4-6

Days 1-3 Depart London on an overnight flight to **Santa Cruz** in Bolivia, a wealthy town in the lowlands. We stay for two nights in a hotel with gardens and a pool. Next day we tour the city. (B)

Days 4-6 Flight to **Sucre**, Bolivia's official capital and UNESCO Cultural Heritage site, with buildings in their original colonial white colour and numerous historic museums of Bolivia's formation and independence, colonial churches and convent. We stay for three nights. In the afternoon we explore the city with its white architecture and historic museums. (B)

Day 5 Very early departure for the best light on the road climbing through mountains and valleys to the famous mining town of **Potosi**. We visit the Cerro Rico, the "Rich Mountain" that dominates the town and has been mined since the Spanish Conquest, for silver and precious metals. Local miners chew coca leaves and make offerings to their image of the devil, their personal "Tio", in a unique appeal for protection from evil through appeasement. We also visit the old Spanish Mint, a fascinating insight into life as it was 300-400 years ago. (B)

Day 6 We explore **Tarabuco Sunday market**, where local Quechua people still wear traditional costume and helmet-like headgear and often barter potatoes for coca leaves, showing a vibrant representation of Bolivian life. (B)

Days 7-9 Flight to **La Paz**, surrounded by the high altiplano and towering triple-peaked Illimani mountain. There is a strong Aymara Indian identity with widespread use of the Inca language, Quechua and women wearing bowler hats and traditional skirts. We stay for three nights. Next day we tour the city, plazas, churches and the witches' market, where charismatic ladies sell a range of herbs, bottled potions and amulets to ward away evil and help you in all of life's troubles, from money to love, or aid in passing an exam. Continue to the **Valle de la Luna**, with its dramatic and bizarre rock formations. Day free to visit Tiahuanaco or absorb local life. (B)

Day 10 Travel by road to **Lake Titicaca** with fantastic views of the snow covered peaks of the Cordillera Real mountain range, reaching the village of Copacabana where we take a boat to visit the **Island of the Sun**. Cross the border to Peru, and on to Puno on the lake shore, passing the small towns of Chucuito, Juli and Pomata with their impressive churches. We stay in Puno for 2 nights. (B)

Day 11 Explore **Lake Titicaca** and visit the Uros floating islands made of totora reeds (B)

Day 12 Magnificent full day train journey, on the Andean Explorer across Andes mountains and valleys to **Cusco**. This is an unforgettable journey with dramatic landscapes dotted with small fields and farms with grazing alpacas and



On the shores of Lake Titicaca, Days 10 - 11

llamas. We have breakfast and lunch on the train as the mountain scenery unfolds. On arrival we are taken to the Urubamba Valley, known as the “Sacred Valley of the Incas”, with archaeological sites, small villages and fertile terraces producing quinoa, cereals and numerous varieties of potatoes. (B,L)

Day 13 Full day tour to the Sacred Valley of the Incas stopping at **Chinchero market** where local people congregate to trade and barter their goods. We then drive to the **Moray** ruins, used by the Incas as a type of open-air crop laboratory. Our next stop is **Maras** pre-Inca salt pans, where we will walk down to the **Urubamba River**. We cross a small rope and wood bridge and have lunch before visiting the huge fortress of **Ollantaytambo**, the archaeological complex believed to have been a gigantic agricultural, administrative, social, religious and military centre for the Incas. Continue on to **Pisac** a small colonial village built on the ruins of an Inca citadel, and reach Pisac ruins above the town, affording superb views of the valley at sunset. (B,L)

Day 14 Transfer to the railway station for the “Vistadome” train along the

Urubamba river shore to Aguas Calientes where we take a bus winding up to **Machu Picchu**. Guided tour of the archaeological site, lunch and afternoon free to explore. We take the bus down and stay the night in a hotel in the valley. (B,L)

Day 15 Next day free to explore Machu Picchu, perhaps try the steep climb up **Huayna Picchu**, trek to the Gate of the Sun, on the Inca Trail or just admire the magnificent site. Afternoon we take the **Vistadome train** and bus back to Cusco for three nights, in the centre of the Inca Empire until the Conquistadores arrived in 1532. Many of the city streets are lined with **Inca-built** stone walls and crowded with the Quechua-speaking descendants of the Incas. Absorb local life on the main square and garden and walk the narrow streets. (B)

Days 16-17 We visit the Cathedral on the main square and Qoricancha, the Spanish church built on Inca stone foundations. Then drive to the mountains above Cusco to visit the archaeological sites of **Sacsayhuaman**, a mighty fortress, built using massive stones some of which weigh over 100 tons, and somehow fitted together so neatly that even now, one cannot slip a knife blade between the pieces of this huge jigsaw puzzle. We also

visit **Kenko** and stop at a vantage point for a superb view of Cusco and the surrounding mountains. Following day free to explore the city. (B)

Days 18-19 Flight to Lima, the commercial and administrative centre of the Spanish empire in South America. Today's wide streets, huge plazas and old houses with ornately carved balconies are a legacy of this period. We stay for one night. In the afternoon we visit the city and the Larco Herrera museum with the finest gold and silver collection from Ancient Peru. (B) Morning to explore and overnight flight home arriving on Day 20.



Full day by day detailed description on:

web veloso.com/moneda



Nicholas Goodchild is our main guide for this tour

GROUP TOUR DATES & PRICES

	Depart Tuesday	Return Sunday	Prices
2016	04 Oct	23 Oct	£3634
2017	11 Apr 25 Jul 03 Oct	30 Apr 13 Aug 22 Oct	£3494 £3942 £3666
2018	10 Apr 24 Jul 02 Oct	29 Apr 12 Aug 21 Oct	£3584 £4132 £3726

Single room supplement £796

Includes: Prices per person sharing a twin bedded room. Price includes flights in Economy to/from UK - subject to availability at time of booking. Business Class upgrade on Air Europa add £2434. Departures in July / Aug add £2240. Further details of what is included on page 190-193. Hotels used, descriptions and photographs can be obtained from us or on veloso.com/groups.

ANDEAN LANDSCAPES,

The Patagonia Group Tour: Argentina & Chile

18 night Itinerary

Buenos Aires - 2 nights

Mendoza - 2 nights

Santiago - 2 nights

Santa Cruz - 1 night

Pucón - 3 nights

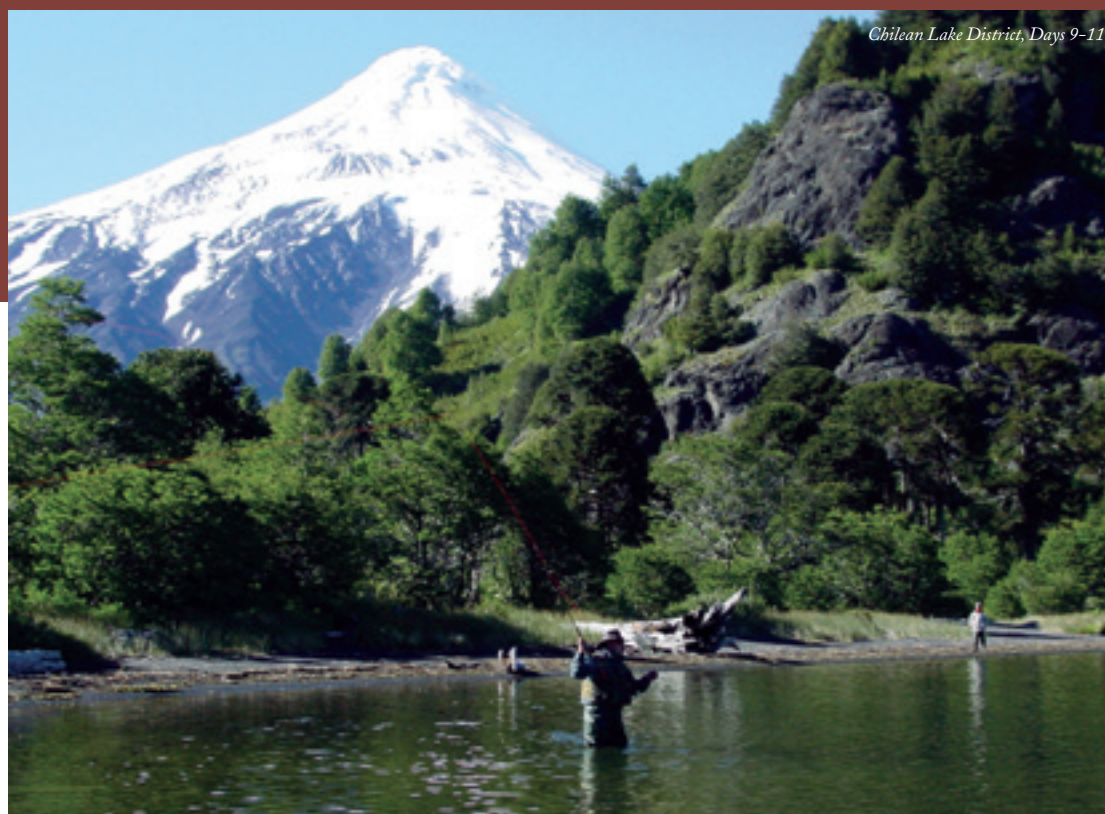
Punta Arenas - 1 night

Torres del Paine - 3 nights

Calafate - 3 nights

Buenos Aires - 1 night

Journey south to discover the natural flavours of Argentina's wine capital, and continue to the verdant forests and crisp waters of the Chilean Lake District, before travelling to the heart of southern Patagonia – dominated by granite peaks and magnificent glaciers.



Chilean Lake District, Days 9-11



Torres del Paine, Days 14-15

Days 1-3 Evening departure on the overnight flight to **Buenos Aires**, the Paris of the South, arriving in the morning. We meet our Tour Leader and have a group briefing before taking the afternoon to rest or explore the city. Staying for 2 nights we take a full day tour of Buenos Aires, including the colourful neighbourhoods of La Boca and Recoleta, an area filled with beautiful European-style buildings and visit sites of historical interest. (B)

Days 4-5 We depart from Buenos Aires on a morning flight to **Mendoza**, in the heart of Argentina's most renowned wine growing region, where we stay for two nights. In the afternoon we take a walking tour of the city with its beautiful leafy squares, and visit the Cathedral and the monument to the Argentine liberator San Martin. The following day we go on

a full day excursion into the countryside to visit a winery, where we take a tour of the vineyards and cellars, as well as having lunch at the beautiful country house. (B,L)

Days 6-7 Today we make an early start on the public bus across the Andes to **Santiago de Chile**. The bus crosses the border at a high pass over the mountains, and on a clear day you will have fabulous views for miles in every direction. Arrival in Santiago in the afternoon where we stay for two nights. The following day we take a full day tour to the coastal cities of Valparaiso and Viña del Mar, where we will explore the artistic brightly coloured neighbourhoods overlooking the port and the beautifully kept municipal gardens. (B)

Day 8 We depart from Santiago on the public bus southwards to the small town

LAKEs & PATAGONIAN GLACIERS



Perito Moreno Glacier, Day 17

of Santa Cruz, passing through Chile's central wine valleys with the imposing Andes mountains always visible to the east. We stroll around the picturesque town in the afternoon or visit one of the famous local wineries. (B)

Days 9-11 We continue south for a full day on the bus to the picturesque town of Pucón, where we stay for three nights to relax and enjoy the Chilean Lake District. Pucón is situated on the shore of lake Villarica, at the foot of a snow-capped volcano and surrounded by temperate



Mendoza & Santa Cruz, Days 4-5, 8

forest, making it the ideal destination to relax for a few days or enjoy the many outdoor activities on offer. On Day 10 our Tour Leader will take us on a scenic walk along a the shore of the lake, stopping for a picnic lunch on the way. (B,L)

Day 12 We leave Pucón behind and continue south to Puerto Montt, where we board our plane and fly south to Punta Arenas, arriving in the evening, staying for one night. Punta Arenas is located on the shore of the Magellan Strait and is the last Chilean town before the island of Tierra del Fuego. (B)

Days 13-15 We rise early to travel north into the Torres del Paine National Park, one of Chile's most recognisable natural sites, where we stay at the Lago Grey Hosteria for 3 nights. The park's towering granite peaks are permanently covered in snow, and glaciers melt to form rivers which run through the park and feed the picturesque lakes. Our Tour Leader will take us on a full day walk on Day 14, during which we will enjoy breathtaking views and breathe the fresh Patagonian air. Day 15 will be free to trek, ride horses in the park, or take a boat trip across the lake to see the magnificent Grey glacier. (B)

Days 16-17 Departing early, we cross the border into Argentina, enjoying views over the Patagonian Steppe until we reach the town of El Calafate where we stay for three nights. Time to explore the small town or walk by the lake. Next morning we have a full day tour to the Perito Moreno Glacier, a memorable site where the rugged ice descends the opposite slope, giving us an ideal vantage point to observe the glacier at close range. Walking on the wooden walkways and platforms we will have an excellent view of the glacier on its course down the mountain, as well as hearing the thunderous sound of large chunks of ice breaking off and falling into the lake (a process known as 'calving'). (B)

Day 18 We take a scenic and sedate boat trip on the lake including the Upsala and Onelli glaciers, as well as disembark to walk through pristine Patagonian forest. (B)

Days 19-20 We depart El Calafate on the flight back to Buenos Aires, where we stay for 1 night. (B) Next day free to explore and possibly do some shopping, before taking the overnight flight home and arriving on Day 21.

Full day by day detailed description on:

web veloso.com/patagonia



María Gabriela Segura is our main guide for this tour

GROUP TOUR DATES & PRICES

	Depart Thu	Return Wed/Fri	Prices
2016	10 Nov	30 Nov	£4196
2017	12 Jan 02 Nov	01 Feb 22 Nov	£4282 £4194
2018	18 Jan 01 Nov	07 Feb 21 Nov	£4382 £4260

Single room supplement £998

Includes: Prices per person sharing a twin bedded room. Price includes flights in Economy to/from UK - subject to availability at time of booking. World Traveller Plus seat upgrade on British Airways add £1298. Departures in July / Aug add £1298. Further details of what is included on page 190-193. **Hotels** used, descriptions and photographs can be obtained from us or on veloso.com/groups.