

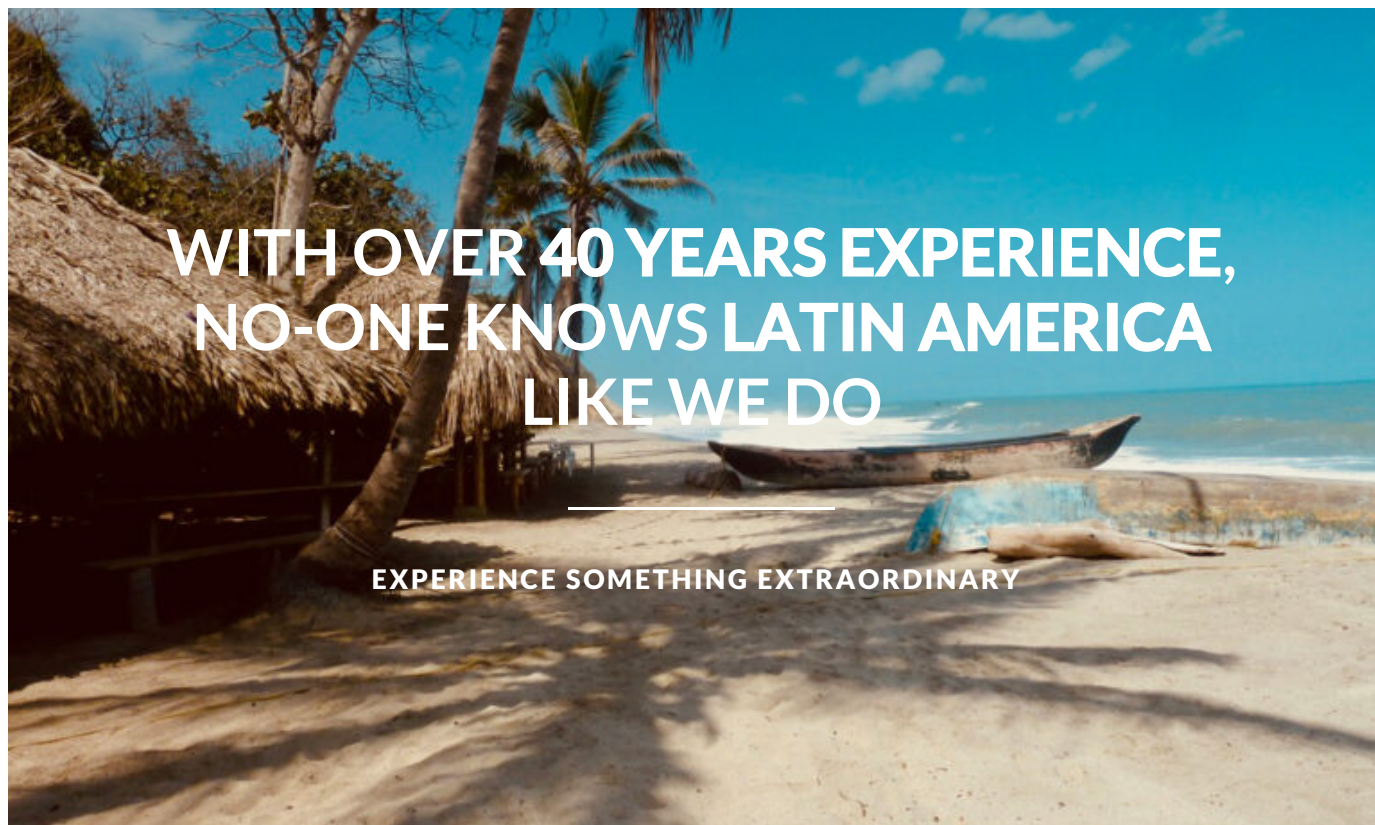


CLASSIC GROUP TOURS

GALAPAGOS HAWK: PERU AND GALAPAGOS

15 days from **£7,009pp**

PERU / LIMA / CUSCO / SACRED VALLEY OF THE INCAS / MACHU PICCHU / LAKE TITICACA / LAKE TITICACA - PERUVIAN SIDE / ECUADOR & GALAPAGOS ISLANDS / GUAYAQUIL / GALAPAGOS ISLANDS



WHY US

We are the UK's No.1 specialist in travel to Latin America and have been creating award-winning holidays to every corner of the region for over four decades; we pride ourselves on being the most knowledgeable people there are when it comes to travel to Central and South America and passionate about it too.

OUR JOURNEY

As our name suggests, we are single-minded about Latin America. This is what sets us apart from other travel companies – and what allows us to offer you not just a holiday but the opportunity to experience something extraordinary on inspiring journeys throughout Mexico, Central and South America.

WE LOVE LATIN AMERICA

A passion for the region runs through all we do

All our Consultants have lived or travelled extensively in Latin America

Up-to-the-minute knowledge underpinned by 40 years' experience

TRAVEL WITH CONFIDENCE

Fully bonded and licensed

ATOL-protected

On your side when it matters

Book with confidence, knowing every penny is secure

THE REAL LATIN AMERICA

Our insider knowledge helps you go beyond the guidebooks

We hand-pick hotels with character and the most rewarding excursions

Let us show you the Latin America we know and love



OVERVIEW & OUTLINE ITINERARY

This escorted group tour takes you to Machu Picchu, the Lost City of the Incas, and Lake Titicaca in Peru, before flying to the Galapagos Islands to swim with sea lions and cruise with expert guides.

	UK clients depart arriving Lima, Peru, the same day.
DAY 1	Overnight in the capital.
DAY 2	Fly to the Inca capital of Cusco.
DAY 3	Tour of Cusco and nearby archaeological sites.
DAY 4	Excursion to the Sacred Valley of the Incas; overnight.
DAY 5	By rail to Machu Picchu.
DAY 6	Optional re-entry to ruins; return to Cusco by rail and road.
DAY 7	Private road journey to Lake Titicaca.
DAY 8	Boat trip to the Uros Islands and tour of Sillustani.
DAY 9	Fly back to Lima.
DAY 10	Fly to Guayaquil; guided city tour.
DAY 11	Fly to the Galápagos Islands
DAYS 12-14	Cruise through the archipelago.
DAY 15	Fly to Guayaquil and continue to your international flight or extension. UK clients arrive home the following day.

ITINERARY

Combine Peru and the Galapagos in the same holiday on this inspirational group tour of some of South America's most breathtaking highlights. The welcoming smiles of the Peruvian people, combined with the country's rich human culture, past and present, alongside the diverse and hauntingly beautiful landscapes make it an easy place to fall in love with. Explore the Inca temples of Machu Picchu, colonial Cusco, the splendour of Sacred Valley and Lake Titicaca's vast expanse of shimmering waters.

The grand finale of this unforgettable trip is a cruise around the greatest wildlife show on earth, the Galápagos Islands. On a similar trip 200 years ago, Charles Darwin returned from the archipelago to write the seminal book 'The Origin of the Species'. Step into his shoes and explore the aptly named Enchanted Islands.

One of the joys of holidays in the Galápagos Islands is that each island is unique, with varying landscapes from scorched lava to white-sand coves and forest-shrouded mountains, and each has its own array of wildlife. You can also make the most of the boat and your time at sea; relaxing on deck with a cocktail at sunset, snorkelling with angel fish or swimming with dolphins.

UK clients depart arriving Lima, Peru, the same day.

DAY 1

Overnight in the capital.

Those passengers arriving on an international flight will be met at the airport by the tour leader or a local representative who will escort you to the hotel. The scenes from your window on the half-hour drive to the hotel through Lima encapsulate the invigorating bustle of a modern-day Latin American capital.

Lima, the City of Kings, was once the capital of Spanish America, and the vestiges of its glorious past can still be seen in the faded grandeur of the colonial churches and traditional wooden balconies in the city centre. The explosive growth of the last 50 years, so typical of capital cities in the developing world, has transformed Lima into a dynamic and chaotic low-rise city of over 10 million people. In crowded streets, throngs of traffic race out towards Miraflores, a modern middle-class suburb on the coast, where your hotel is located. You'll have time to explore in more depth on the final day of the Peruvian leg of your trip.

DAY 2

Fly to the Inca capital of Cusco.

A flight of just an hour takes you to Cusco. The name Cusco derives from the Quechua word for navel, indicating its location at the centre of the Inca Empire, which reached its zenith at the same time as England was fighting the War of the Roses. Today its many impressive original Inca walls display extraordinary craftsmanship, while the bustling squares are dotted with ornate baroque colonial churches. It's a vivacious city, where shoeshine boys and postcard sellers jostle for your attention in cobbled streets lined with handicraft shops and cafés. In the evening, the town centre fills with people flocking to the many restaurants, bars and cafés.

DAY 3

Tour of Cusco and nearby archaeological sites.

Today an experienced guide gives you a half day tour of the city. You visit Q'oricancha, once the principal Inca Sun Temple, with extraordinarily intricate stonework, and then explore the colossal zigzag walls of Sacsayhuamán, brooding on a hillside above Cusco. In 1536 a desperate and defining three-day battle was fought between the Spaniards and the Incas around this fortress. The first conquistadors to see it were awestruck, and centuries later it is still an extraordinary and imposing sight.

There is also free time to explore Cusco; to wander through its cobbled streets bracketed by impressive Inca walls, to explore its colourful, bustling markets and splendid churches, and to stop at some of the many excellent cafés.

DAY 4**Excursion to the Sacred Valley of the Incas; overnight.**

Today, head out from Cusco over the high plains and descend to explore the fertile Sacred Valley of the Incas. Once the bread-basket of the Inca Empire, it was heavily populated in imperial times and scores of archaeological sites remain, where well-preserved ruins bear witness to the highly developed society that the Incas created. The drive passes through or close to several of the villages and temple fortresses which pepper the valley.

The Pisac complex, set high above and visible from the eponymous colonial village you will visit, is built on terraces carved into the steep hillsides. The engineering and preservation are unrivalled. From the flat valley floor this intricate hillside rises up like a green staircase to the heavens.

Continue along this picturesque, patchwork valley to the temple of Ollantaytambo. The snow-frosted Andean cordillera forms a stunning backdrop. Ollantaytambo, sitting strategically at the gateway to the Amazon basin, was never captured by the Spanish conquistadors, but the inhabitants decided that the settlement was too vulnerable and would eventually fail, and so they abandoned it. The fortress, the colonial grid plan and the Inca foundations are still intact and there are wonderful views down over the sloping hillsides and into the fertile valley. Spend the night in the tranquil valley.

DAY 5

By rail to Machu Picchu.

Travelling for just 2hrs by train from Ollantaytambo, you reach the ruins of Machu Picchu. As the river Urubamba enters its narrow gorge between thickly-forested granite hills, there is room only for a single track, which hugs the right bank and passes through hamlets that are no more than a collection of shacks beside the railway. Close to the foot of the mountain on a saddle of which the citadel was built is the bustling village of Machu Picchu (formerly known as Aguas Calientes), dedicated to serving the many visitors with artisan markets, bars and restaurants.

The majestic ruined city, reclaimed from tropical cloud forest, is reached by minibus up a sinuous road, or on foot up a near vertical rocky path. The American explorer Hiram Bingham discovered it in 1911, by which time it was completely buried beneath jungle vegetation. It is perhaps the ruins' location, on a ridge spur amid forested peaks and above a roaring river canyon, that most ignites the imagination. You will have a guided tour of the ruins.

Fancy hiking some of the Inca Trail without interrupting your tour? We can organise for you to walk the mini Inca Trail on this day, but still, have a guided tour of the ruins and stay with the group in the evening. Please ask us for more details.

DAY 6

Optional re-entry to ruins; return to Cusco by rail and road.

There is the option to return to the ruins with time to walk one of the many trails within the site itself, such as the hike to the vertiginous Inca Bridge, carved into a cliff edge. You can climb the tortuously steep Huayna Picchu mountain on the other side of the valley (*please enquire with the office, as spaces are limited and it's necessary to pre-book*). Your tour leader will be on hand to talk through the various walking options. In the afternoon return to Cusco, arriving in the early evening.

DAY 7**Private road journey to Lake Titicaca.**

Travel by coach from Cusco to Puno, on Lake Titicaca, a spectacular 8 hr journey (including stops) which climbs to over 4,300m. Flanked by snow-capped peaks, the lonely road cuts its way through fields worked by men and oxen; an Andean landscape of adobe huts, and crops of corn and potato. After reaching the highest point of the journey, the bus crosses the altiplano, a large, windswept plain punctuated by occasional market towns, where bowler-hatted women tend their herds of llamas and alpacas.

The vast, indigo Lake Titicaca – almost an inland sea – sits on the Peruvian-Bolivian border, and the fish-laden waters and surrounding fertile soil are the lifeblood of the subsistence farming communities clustered in scores of adobe villages along the water's edge. Legend has it that this mystical spot is the birthplace of Inca civilisation: the progeny of the Sun God emerged from its depths to found the empire in Cusco.

DAY 8**Boat trip to the Uros Islands and tour of Sillustani.**

Today you set out on the lake aboard a motor boat to visit the Uros Islands: gliding over the deep glacial waters on a sunny day is a definite highlight. You alight on the floating islands, constructed entirely from the lake's tortora reeds – the same material used to build their canoes – and the ground moves almost imperceptibly beneath your feet. During severe storms, the islands may break up into smaller islets. Once devoted to fishing, the inhabitants now earn their living mainly through selling handicrafts to tourists and, while this is a unique experience, it has the air of a living museum.

In the afternoon, there's a guided excursion to the Chullpas at Sillustani, towering stone tombs said to be the burial site of the ancient Hatun Colla chiefs. The towers are on the treeless shores of a lonely highland lake; the landscape, while unrelentingly bleak, is spellbinding.

DAY 9

Fly back to Lima.

Take the morning flight to Lima (2 hours) where there is an optional tour of the colonial centre of the city, including the central Plaza de Armas, which is surrounded by beautiful colonial and republican buildings. There may be time to visit one of the world famous museums. That evening, from Miraflores, you can sit with a pisco sour cocktail and watch the sun set over the Pacific, and contemplate the next phase of your adventure.

DAY 10

Fly to Guayaquil; guided city tour.

You say goodbye to your Journey Latin America tour leader, who will take you to the airport for a morning flight to Guayaquil (2 hours). Ecuador's largest city is situated on the banks of the Río Guayas, and has gone through something of a transition in the last few years. The expanse of waterfront has been made into an outdoor architectural showpiece, and restoration work has taken place along the city's main thoroughfare and in the historical neighbourhood of Las Peñas.

A city tour will take you from the frenetic open-air market at La Bahia, and past the colonial naval shipyard to the Malecón (the waterfront promenade), Guayaquil's crowning jewel. Stroll past tropical gardens, bustling markets and cafés, and head to Santa Ana Hill and Las Peñas, a district of brightly-coloured wooden houses and ramshackle streets dating back to the 16th century. The local guide will accompany you to dinner (not included) before dropping you back at the hotel.

DAY 11

Fly to the Galápagos Islands

Transfer to the airport for your flight to the Galápagos Islands (2 hrs) where you will embark on the motor yacht for your 5 day cruise around the archipelago. Once you've paid your national park entrance fee (currently \$200USD), your naturalist guide will be waiting to take you to the quayside.

The Galápagos Islands emerged in the Pacific Ocean six million years ago following a spate of volcanic activity and, isolated from the continental mainland, have become home to unique animal and plant species. The islands were the inspiration for Charles Darwin's theory of evolution, which formed the basis for his revolutionary book 'The Origin of the Species', published in 1859. Without fear of humans, they are sufficiently trusting to allow you to approach them and observe them up close.

Although geologically constantly on the move, these islands remain suspended in time, with a wealth of rare fauna and flora all thriving there. For many, the fascinating and unique wildlife and natural beauty of the islands are matched by the thrill of being at sea. Find a spot on deck as you make your way through the ocean, often trailed by flocks of birds and playful dolphins.

The boats are relatively small, creating an informal atmosphere. The service is of high quality; the crew are attentive and the food delicious. Cabins with en suite facilities are compact but comfortable for your 4 nights on board. There is a common bar/lounge area as well as a sun deck. Beach towels are provided, and basic snorkelling equipment is available and wetsuits can be hired.

DAYS 12-14

Cruise through the archipelago.

The itinerary for your cruise is subject to change due to National Park rules. There are normally two landings a day to seek out the different wildlife that inhabits the islands. Below is a summary of the animals and birds that can be found on each of the islands that you visit on this journey. There will also be the opportunity to snorkel both from the islands and the boat itself, and 2 kayaks are also available for use by passengers.

San Cristobal is an old island, it has eroded volcanic peaks in the north and rich vegetation in the south. The Interpretation Centre, an excellent place to learn about the natural and human history of the islands, is in Puerto Baquerizo Moreno, the capital of the Galápagos. There's excellent snorkelling just off the beaches at Cerro Brujo. Isla Lobos is a dramatic basalt island outcrop which lives up to its name "sea lion island".

Floreana has an eventful human history involving pirates, whalers, convicts and colonists. You'll almost certainly want to see Post Office Bay, where a barrel served as mailbox to send letters home, and snorkel around the Devil's Crown, a part-submerged crater. There's a golden beach, a nesting site for green turtles and a salt lagoon where you may spot and identify wading birds.

Espanola is remote and relatively flat, the island has a huge variety of birds and reptiles to see, nesting or just visiting its coves and cliffs. Some species such as the waved albatross are not found elsewhere. There's a spectacular blowhole: spray shoots 30m high. A highlight for visitors is Urbina Bay with a long white beach hosting a sea-lion colony.

Santa Cruz Island is home to the settlement of Puerto Ayora and has the largest human population of the five inhabited islands. Some 4,000 residents are distributed between the cattle farming communities in the lush highlands and the coastal town, which is mainly dominated by tourism. Stops here take in Dragon Hill on the northwestern tip of the island, frequented by a new colony of land iguanas, the lush and verdant highlands a natural habitat for the giant tortoise and Black Turtle Cove, where rays and sharks can be spotted from the comfort of a panga or kayak.

DAY 15

Fly to Guayaquil and continue to your international flight or extension.

After disembarking you fly back to Guayaquil (1.5 hours) and continue to your international flight or extension.

If you would like to break your return journey back to the UK a night in Guayaquil after your cruise can easily be arranged. Please speak to one of our consultants for the extra cost involved).

UK clients arrive home the following day.

WHAT'S INCLUDED IN THE PRICE

Services of our team of experts in our London office

Services of Journey Latin America local representatives and guides

All land and air transport within Latin America

Accommodation as specified

Meals as specified

Excursions as specified, including entrance fees

INCLUDED EXCURSIONS

Cusco: city tour and Sacsayhuamán

Sacred Valley: tour of ruins and villages

Machu Picchu: guided tour of the ruins

Lake Titicaca: Uros Islands and Sillustani

Guayaquil: city tour

Galápagos Islands: guided island visits and snorkeling

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED IN THE PRICE

Tips and gratuities

Meals other than specified

International flights to Latin America

Airport taxes, when not included in the ticket

Optional excursions

ESSENTIALS

ABOUT OUR GROUP TOURS

To find out more about how our group tours including group sizes, solo travellers and why to choose us. Please click [here](#).

TOUR LEADER

On this tour, you'll be accompanied throughout the Peru portion of the tour by one of **our exceptional Journey Latin America tour leaders**. From the moment you land in Latin America until the day the tour leaves Lima, they will deal with all the practicalities, expertly adapting to the circumstances and individual needs of the group. Rather than different guides in different cities, your leader will get to know the group and keep you informed and entertained as you go. In Guayaquil, you will be looked after by an expert local guide, before being handed over to the crew and naturalist guides onboard the cruise around the Galapagos.

SUMMARY OF NIGHTS

15 days, 14 nights: Lima 1; Cusco 2; Sacred Valley 1; Machu Picchu 1; Cusco 1; Puno 2; Lima 1; Guayaquil 1; Galápagos cruise 4.

ACCOMMODATION

We use the following mid-range and upper mid-range hotels/haciendas on this tour. You will cruise the Galápagos Islands on a 16 person motor yacht.

- Lima: Antigua Miraflores
- Cusco: Casa Andina Premium
- Sacred Valley: Hotel Pakaritampu
- Machu Picchu: El Mapi
- Lake Titicaca: Posada del Inca
- Guayaquil: Hotel Wyndham
- Galápagos Islands: M/Y Galápagos Seaman Journey

On board the cruise all cabins have lower berth beds, panoramic windows, air conditioning, safes and hairdryers.

On very rare occasions these hotels can change, however please speak to one of our consultants who can provide full details for each departure if you have any doubts. Address and contact details will be sent out with your final documents.

TRANSPORT

5 flights (longest 2.5 hours); 2 train journeys; 1 private road journey (8 hours, including stops); 4 nights on board the Galápagos M/Y Seaman Journey.

MEALS

Breakfast daily; lunch day 4; full board cruise days 11-14.

OPTIONAL EXCURSIONS

On this tour the price includes excursions in all the places you visit as per the itinerary. There will however likely be some free time when you may choose to take part in an optional excursion. These are booked locally through your tour leader once you are in Latin America, however we are more than happy to advise you of what is on offer in advance of your holiday so you can best plan the excursions that suit you.

On all tours that visit Cusco we offer the chance to hike the mini Inca Trail as well as revisit Machu Picchu on the morning after the first visit. Time permitting, we may also be able to offer the climb up Huayna Picchu. If you are interested in any of these optional excursions, please speak to your travel expert in advance to arrange.

TRIP SUITABILITY

There are some very early mornings and a couple of long days of travel on this trip. All walks are optional, and you can discuss with your tour leader which are suitable for you around Machu Picchu. The streets in Cusco are cobbled and steep and you must be cautious at altitude. Whilst on the Cruise, to visit the islands you will have to transfer onto smaller 'Zodiac' crafts. The crew will be there to assist.

ALTITUDE

Your stays in Cusco, the Sacred Valley and Lake Titicaca is at high altitude (2,800-4,000m). A small minority of visitors may suffer temporarily from altitude sickness. Symptoms vary; most common are mild headaches, slight nausea and breathlessness. If you don't recover in a day or two speak to your tour leader; in very rare instances it is necessary to descend to lower altitudes. Most people are unaffected and if you drink plenty of water and allow your body to acclimatise (don't exert yourself or drink alcohol) in the first couple of days after arrival, you will minimise your chances of suffering any symptoms.

Please refer to our Briefing Dossier for further information.

CLIMATE

Given the proximity to the equator the climate is pretty steady and this tour can operate all year. Altitude in Peru is the determining factor with regard to temperature (cooler with height) with the wetter season on the mainland being from November to April. The warmest period in the Galapagos Islands falls between January and April but the archipelago can be visited throughout the year and the animals are non-migratory. A comprehensive overview of the weather in all the regions you are visiting can be found in our Destination pages. Our Travel Experts can answer your questions on climate and further details will be sent with your confirmation documents.

CLOTHING, EQUIPMENT AND LUGGAGE

A daypack is essential for carrying rainwear, snacks, books/tablet and a water bottle. For day-to-day wear you should take loose-fitting, breathable clothes. Comfortable shoes are important and sandals are useful. A sun hat, sun block and sunglasses are necessary, and you should take warmer layers for the cooler evenings, as well as swimwear and insect repellent. Binoculars are useful for wildlife spotting in the Galápagos.

Aqua-socks or rubber sandals are useful for embarking and disembarking on wet landings.

The flights to and from the Galápagos Islands allow a checked luggage allowance of 23kg.

Due to luggage restrictions on the train to Machu Picchu, you will leave the bulk of your baggage in the Cusco hotel, which will be waiting for you on your return. You can take up to 5kgs per person on the train. An overnight holdall/rucksack is recommended to separate your luggage for the time spent away.

MONEY

Please see the Country Info tab on this holiday for our latest currency information and advice about how to take your spending money. Tipping in Latin America is almost always done using cash. It is customary to tip tour leaders, local guides, drivers, boat crews and other service providers such as restaurant staff and porters. Full tipping guidelines are sent with your confirmation documents as is advice on local costs.

HEALTH, ENTRY REQUIREMENTS AND INSURANCE

For health information on travelling to Peru and Ecuador including recommended vaccinations, please see <https://travelhealthpro.org.uk/>

All Latin American countries have specific entry regulations related to Covid 19. Please also check our Travel Hub for further information.

Holders of a full British passport do not require a visa, although passports should be valid for at least 6 months after the trip begins. Other nationalities should enquire with us or check with the consulates.

Travel insurance is essential. Details of our recommended policy can be found on the Travel insurance website.

Our full briefing dossier contains more information on vaccinations, visas and insurance and will be provided with your final travel documents or can be requested from your travel consultant at any time.

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GET IN TOUCH WITH US...

Our friendly, knowledgeable team of travel experts are always happy to chat about holiday ideas and share helpful advice. Give us a call today and begin planning your perfect trip to Latin America.

GIVE US A CALL

We'd love to chat

0208 747 8315

OPENING HOURS

Monday – Friday: 9am – 6pm

Saturday & Sunday: Closed

SEND US AN EMAIL

tours@journeylatinamerica.com