SIGHTSEEINGS

APARECIDA (SAO PAULO)

Your first visit in this pilgrimage to South America is the Basilica of the National Shrine of Our Lady Aparecida. It is a prominent Roman Rite Catholic basilica located in Aparecida, a small town within the state of Sao Paulo in Brazil. It is dedicated to Our Lady Aparecida, (a variant of the Immaculate Conception) as the principal Patroness of Brazil. Its official title in Portuguese is Nossa Senhora da Conceição Aparecida, roughly translated as Our Lady of Conception Who Appeared.

History

The present basilica was constructed nearby an earlier chapel which housed the statue found by three fishermen in the town of Guaratinguetá. According to local tradition, the group was attempting to catch a large amount of fish in the Paraíba River for a banquet honoring the visit of São Paulo Governor, Pedro de Almeida in 1717. Despite their prayers, their attempts were fruitless until late in the day, one of the fishermen cast his net and pulled it back to find the statue of the Virgin Mary. Upon his next cast, he found the head. The group cleaned the statue, wrapped it in cloth, and returned to their task to find their fortunes had changed and they were able to obtain all the fish they needed. The statue is believed to be the work of Frei Agostino de Jesus, a monk residing in São Paulo.

The old wooden chapel was originally built in 1745. The old shrine is a modest church in the colonial style built between 1834 to 1888. Since that time, pious worshippers have termed it as a basilica. Due to the following conflicting accounts on dates, places throughout the years: the Vatican enumerates the following recorded Papal decrees:

- Pope Leo XIII mentioned the Brazilian devotion to this image called "Fossa Berihora Gonceiaoa Aparecida" prior to his death in 1903
- Pope Saint Pius X granted a canonical coronation to this same image on 8 December 1904.
- Pope Pius XI declared that same Marian title as the Patroness of Brazil through a papal bull signed on 16 July 1930, also witnessed and signed by Cardinal Eugenio Pacelli.
- Pope Paul VI granted its first Golden rose on 12 August 1967
- Pope John Paul II elevated and consecrated formally as a Basilica on 4 July 1980.
- Pope Benedict XVI granted its second Golden rose on 12 May 2007
New Basilica

In 1955, Benedito Calixto began the construction on the new basilica. The structure is in the Romanesque style and takes the form of a Greek Cross with arms 188 m (617 ft) in length and 183 m (600 ft) in width. The dome is 70 m (230 ft) high and the tower reaches a height of 102 m (335 ft). The basilica contains 18,000 m² (190,000 sq ft) of space that can accommodate 45,000 worshipers. During celebrations on the feast day of the patroness, up to 70,000 can be accommodated in ancillary areas. The grounds contain a shopping mall, medical clinic, restaurants and a 272,000 m² (2,930,000 sq ft) parking lot that can hold 4,000 buses and 6,000 cars.

On July 4, 1980, Pope John Paul II consecrated the sanctuary under the name Our Lady of Aparecida while the building was still under construction. The feast day for Our Lady of Aparecida is October 12.

Pope Benedict XVI visited the Basilica of the Shrine of Aparecida on May 12, 2007, during his Apostolic Journey to Brazil on the occasion of the Fifth General Conference of the Bishops of Latin America and the Caribbean. During his visit, the Pope awarded the Shrine a Golden Rose.

On the occasion of World Youth Day, Pope Francis visited the basilica on July 24, 2013, venerating the image of Our Lady of Aparecida and celebrating mass there.

RIO DE JANEIRO

On Day 3, you will arrive in Rio de Janeiro, the most visited city in the southern hemisphere.

- **Area:** 486 sq miles (1,260 km²)
- **Founded:** 1565
- **Local time:** Sunday 11:00 PM
- **Weather:** 79°F (26°C), Wind NW at 8 mph (13 km/h), 74% Humidity
- **Population:** 6.32 million (2010)
- **Colleges and Universities:** Federal University of Rio de Janeiro

Rio de Janeiro, or simply Rio, is the capital city of the State of Rio de Janeiro, the second largest city of Brazil, and the third largest metropolitan area and agglomeration in South America. There are approximately 6.3 million people living within the city properly making it the 6th largest in the Americas and 26th in the world. Part of the city has been designated as a World Heritage Site, named "Rio de Janeiro: Carioca Landscapes between the Mountain and the Sea", identified by UNESCO on 1 July 2012 in the category Cultural Landscape.

Rio de Janeiro is one of the most visited cities in the southern hemisphere and is known for its natural settings, carnival celebrations, samba, Bossa Nova, balneario beaches such as Barra da Tijuca, Copacabana, Ipanema, and Leblon. Some of the most famous landmarks in addition to the beaches include the giant statue of Christ the Redeemer ("Cristo Redentor")
Corcovado Mountain, named one of the New Seven Wonders of the World. Sugarloaf Mountain (Pão de Açúcar) with its cable car; the Sambódromo, a permanent grandstand-lined parade avenue which is used during Carnival; and Maracanã Stadium, one of the world's largest football stadiums.

Rio de Janeiro will host 2016 Summer Olympics and the 2016 Summer Paralympics for first time a South American and Portuguese-speaking nation hosts the event. It will be the third time the Olympics will be held in a Southern Hemisphere city. Rio's Maracanã Stadium, which held the final of the 1950 FIFA World Cup and 2013 FIFA Confederations Cup, will host the final match of the 2014 FIFA World Cup. Rio de Janeiro also hosted the World Youth Day in 2013.

TRAVEL TIPS

Although the climate is basically tropical, the summer season is the warmest and lasts from December to February. This is the Brazilian holiday season and temperatures range from about 77 F (25 C) to 95 F (35 C). June, July and August are the winter months and the temperatures range between 55 F (13 C) and 64 F (18 C). The average temperature in April/May is 74 – 76 F (or 23 – 24 C). The average temperature in October is similarly 74 – 76 F (or 23 – 24 C). Average rainfall in May is 85.6 mm (or 3.37 inches), in October is 88.2 mm (or 3.47 inches).

The official language in Brazil is Portuguese, although anyone dealing directly with tourists understands and tries (hard) to speak English, Spanish, and maybe even a little Italian or French. Renting a car, even a compact, is quite expensive. Parking is not easy, sometimes not even safe.

Enjoy a draft beer or have a pizza standing in the street or at a table outdoors. Talk to people around you and make new acquaintances. Don't be shy! You do not need a formal introduction. Brazilians are usually very easy to talk to, and they are comfortable with having a conversation with a perfect stranger (that is a perfectly friendly one.) People will gladly talk about almost anything, give you tips, and be very warm.

Rio de Janeiro has two airports, the International Airport of Rio de Janeiro and Santos Dumont. The international airport handles all international flights. Santos Dumont takes only domestic flights to a small number of cities. The Rio airport is 9 mi/15 km north of the Centro (about a 20-minute drive under normal traffic conditions). Santos Dumont, in the heart of Rio, is half a mile/1 km east of the Centro, about a 5-minute drive, depending on traffic conditions.

COPACABANA BEACH

Copacabana Beach, often referred to as the world's most famous beach, runs for 3 miles in front the densely populated residential area of Rio de Janeiro. From the beach, you can view the granite slabs that surround the entrance to the bay. A short walk will take you to one of the best shopping centers in Rio, as well as to many movie and
play theatres, fashion and jewelry shops, and restaurants and nightclubs.

**CHRIST, THE REDEEMER (RIO DE JANEIRO)**

Situated on the mouth of Guanabara Bay, Rio de Janeiro is home to some of the most famous beaches in the world like **Copacabana** and **Ipanema**. Aside from its beautiful shores, Rio is also a cultural hub containing a variety of museums, theaters, botanical gardens, parks and squares. By night, partake in Rio’s famous barbeque and bustling nightlife. Your tour today begins with a panoramic drive through the Laranjeiras residential district and the quaint Cosme Velho.

Board a mini-bus for a 15-minutes ride through the Tijuca rainforest, the largest urban forest in the world, on your way to Corcovado Mountain. View the most famous landmark of Rio de Janeiro, the statue of **Christ the Redeemer**, which was named one of the **New Seven Wonders of the World in 2007**. Take advantage of the tour to Sugar Loaf Island where the cable car will take you to the top of Sugar Loaf where you will find a splendid view of Copacabana beach and the Santa Cruz fortress.
IGUASSU FALLS

On day 5 & 6, you will visit one of the greatest natural wonders of the world, Iguassu Falls in Brazil & Argentina (both sides). Blessed by mother nature with 275 waterfalls embedded into the rocks, Iguassu Falls are the largest in the world and are surrounded by a luscious rainforest. Your tour will take you to both the Brazilian and Argentinian sides of these magnificent waterfalls. You will get an incredible up-close views of the cascading water and beautiful rainbows that rise into the mist. After a full day of touring, you will return to your hotel for the balance of the evening with a wonderful dinner and leisure time.

BUENOS AIRES (ARGENTINA)

Buenos Aires is the capital and largest city of Argentina, and the second-largest metropolitan area in South America, after Greater São Paulo.
- **Area:** 78.5 sq miles (203.3 km²)
- **Weather:** 62°F (17°C), Wind SE at 3 mph (5 km/h), 81% Humidity
- **Local time:** Sunday 10:53 PM
- **Population:** 2.965 million (1991)
- **Province:** Buenos Aires Province
- **Colleges and Universities:** University of Buenos Aires

Buenos Aires is one of the most important metropolitan areas in the world and is also known as the center of the political, economic and intellectual life of Argentina. This cosmopolitan city of 13 million people is a place where the locals showcase its refined cuisine, architecture and elegance of its European influence inhabitants. Though Buenos Aires is very modern and dynamic, the city has always managed to preserve its old traditions and charm. There are plenty of activities await you so the Plaza del Mayo, the historic and political center of the city is a good start. You'll see the Casa Rosada, the presidential palace from which Juan and Eva Peron spoke to throngs of adoring Argentinians. Continue to the Obelisk landmark on the Avenue 9 de Julio, the widest avenue in the
world, then to the crowded Florida Street, a true shopper's paradise. Pass through the colorful neighborhood of La Boca and the charming San Telmo area. Take your time and admire the French architecture in the exquisite Recoleta neighborhood. Once you’ve set foot in Buenos Aires, you are guaranteed to enjoy the city nightlife by visiting “tango” bars, cabarets, discotheques, and restaurants.

Visiting a **Tango Show** is an option in Buenos Aires. In Argentina, the word Tango seems to have first been used in the 1890s. In 1902 the Teatro Opera started to include tango in their balls. Initially, tango was just one of the many available local dances but it soon became popular throughout society. Theatres and street barrel organs were the main force that introduced tango music from the suburbs to the working-class where hundreds of thousands of European immigrants were the main audience. The development of the Tango had influences from the cultures of several peoples that came together in these melting pots of ethnicities. For this reason, Tango is often referred to as the music of the immigrants of Argentina. In the beginning, Tango music was accompanied by flutes, violins, and guitars. The flutes were later replaced by the "bandoneón" (a type of accordion), which gave the Tango its distinctive sound and flavor.

### OUR LADY OF LUJAN

**Our Lady of Luján** (in Spanish: *Nuestra Señora de Luján*) is a celebrated 16th-century icon of the Virgin Mary, mother of Jesus Christ. The image, also known as the **Virgin of Luján** (in Spanish: *Virgen de Luján*) represents a famous **Marian apparition**. The image still exists; it is on display in the **Basilica of Luján** in Argentina. The feast day of Our Lady of Luján is **May 8**.

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<th>History</th>
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<td><strong>Miracle of Our Lady of Lujan, in Zelaya</strong></td>
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The Luján image was made in Brazil and sent to Argentina. Tradition holds that a settler ordered the image of Mary Immaculate in 1630 because he intended to create a shrine in her honor to help reinvigorate the Catholic faith in Santiago del Estero, his region. After embarking from the port of Buenos Aires, the caravan carrying the image stopped at the residence of Don Rosendo Oramas, located in the present town of Zelaya.

When the caravan wanted to resume the journey, the oxen refused to move. Once the crate containing the image were removed, the animals started to move again. Given the evidence of a miracle, people believed the Virgin wished to remain there. The image was venerated in a primitive chapel for 40 years. Then the image was acquired by Ana de Matos and carried to Luján, where it currently resides.

**Pope John Paul II** visited the shrine during an apostolic journey.
Papal honors

Among the Popes who have honored Our Lady of Luján are Clement XI, Clement XIV, Pius VI, Pius IX, Leo XIII, Pius XI, Pius XII, and John Paul II. In 1824, Fr. John Mastai Ferretti visited the shrine on his way to Chile. He later became Pope Pius IX and defined the dogma of the Immaculate Conception on December 8, 1854.

Because of the reputation of the shrine, Pope Leo XIII decided in 1886 to honor the miraculous statue with a papal coronation. On September 30 of that year, he blessed the crown, which was made of pure gold and set with 365 diamonds, rubies, emeralds and sapphires, 132 pearls and a number of enamels depicting the emblems of the Archbishop and the Argentine Republic. The papal coronation of Our Lady of Luján took place on May 8, 1887. The celebrant chosen by the Pope for this event was Archbishop Aueiros, who at that time made a pilgrimage in thanksgiving to Our Lady for sparing his archdiocese from the scourge of cholera.

In 1930 Pope Pius XI declared Our Lady of Luján as the Patroness of Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay.

Cardinal Eugenio Pacelli served as the Papal Legate to the XXXII International Eucharistic Congress held in Buenos Aires in October 1934, and visited the Basilica on October 15. When he became Pope Pius XII, he made a radio address to the pilgrims in Luján on the occasion of the First Marian Congress in Argentina in 1947.

In 1982, during the Falklands War, John Paul II became the first pope to visit Our Lady of Luján. During this visit the Pope celebrated an outdoor Mass in the square of the Basilica of Our Lady of Luján and bestowed upon her the Golden Rose. Both in his homily of June 11 and his Angelus back in Rome reflecting on the trip, he commented on Our Lady's never failing maternal solicitude for the faithful in times of distress. Sixteen years later in Rome, John Paul II gave a replica of the image to the Argentine National Parish during his pastoral visit there.

The Golden Rose

The Golden Rose is a gift granted by the Pope to nations, cities, basilicas, sanctuaries, or images. It is personally blessed by him on the fourth Sunday of Lent, anointed with the Holy Chrism, and dusted with incense. This Rose consists of a golden rose stem with flowers, buds and leaves, placed in a silver vase lined on the inside with a bronze case bearing the Papal shield. Pope Leo IX is considered as the originator of this tradition in the year 1049.
In the Americas, the Rose has been given to Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico, to Our Lady of Aparecida in Brazil, to St. Joseph's Oratory in Canada, to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in the United States, to the Cathedral Basilica of Nuestra Señora del Valle in Argentina and to the Basilica Santuario Nacional de Nuestra Señora de la Caridad del Cobre in Cuba. On June 11, 1982, John Paul II personally bestowed a Golden Rose on Our Lady of Luján.

**PERU**

Your exciting expedition to Peru begins with Lima, the city of kings and the capital of Peru. Located in the middle of Peru's coastline, Lima is a vibrant city with friendly people, striking architecture, and rich culture. Enjoy a guided tour of both colonial and modern Lima. See the historical center and the San Francisco church, Plaza de Armas, Government Palace, San Isidro, and the Love Park in Miraflores district facing the ocean.

In the first morning, you will board a short flight to Cusco (Cuzco), capital to the Inca Empire, located 11,000 feet above sea level. Cusco is also an important agricultural region with natural reserve of native Peruvian species, including 2,000 varieties of potato cultivated by the local people. You'll see the Plaza de Armas, center of the Inca Empire, where Francisco Pizarro proclaimed the conquest of Cusco. Here, you'll find Cusco's beautiful 16th century cathedral, built on the ruins of the Koricancha, an important Inca temple to the Sun God. During the Inca period, this temple was literally covered with gold but within months of the arrival of the first conquistadors, this incredible wealth was all taken as treasure for Spain. In the recent years, many fusion and neo-Andean restaurants have developed and their cuisine is prepared with a blend of traditional Andean and international ingredients. Next, a journey to the Sacred Valley of the Incas (Urubamba Valley) in the Andes of Peru is a must. According to a few colonial documents, the Sacred Valley is referred to as the "Valley of Yucay", which encompasses the heartland of the Inca Empire. However, the valley generally includes all the towns that are formed along the Urubamba River such as Calca, Lamay, Písac, and Ollantaytambo. The Sacred River is fed by numerous rivers, which descend through adjoining valleys that contains numerous archaeological remains and villages. This special geography and climate was once the Inca Empire's main region of natural wealth and corn production in Peru.

The train at the Ollanta railroad station that will take you through the lush Urubamba Valley, passing through stunning scenery before arriving to Machu Picchu, one of the most spectacular and enigmatic archeological sites in the world.
Machu Picchu though was unknown to the outside world until archeologist Hiram Bingham rediscovered it in 1911, is now the most recognizable symbol of the Inca Empire. It is believed to have served as a country retreat town for the Inca nobility. The complex consists of giant walls, terraces and ramps constructed from precisely cut rock formations. The combination of impressive architectural feat and breathtaking natural setting covered by the green mountains above the rushing Urubamba River makes it mystically and visually stunning. Since the site was never known to the Spanish during their conquest, the cultural site is relatively intact and was declared a Peruvian Historical Sanctuary in 1981 and a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1983.

LIMA

Lima is the capital and the largest city of Peru. It is located in the valleys of the Chillón, Rímac and Lurín rivers, in the central coastal part of the country, overlooking the Pacific Ocean.

- **Area:** 1,032 sq miles (2,672 km²)
- **Founded:** January 18, 1535
- **Weather:** 68°F (20°C), Wind SW at 3 mph (5 km/h), 87% Humidity
- **Local time:** Sunday 4:09 PM
- **Population:** 8.473 million (2007) UNdata
- **Colleges and Universities:** Pontifical Catholic University of Peru
- **Points of interest:** Municipal Palace of Lima, Historic Center of Lima, Cathedral of Lima

The Church of Saint Rosa was built at the place where Santa Rosa of Lima (the patron saint of Lima and the Philippines) was born. The Dominican sister established in her parents' home a hospital for the poor. Here she nursed and healed these forgotten people in a remarkable dedicated and sacrificing way.

Some of her relics and the "Little Doctor", an image of the Jesus Child that performed miraculous healings through Santa Rosas prayers, are kept in the church. Santa Rosa de Lima is celebrated on the 30th of
August every year. This feast is one of the most important religious celebrations in Lima.

**Birth House of San Martín de Porres**

Casa donde nació San Martín de Porres

St. Martín de Porres was born illegitimate in 1579 in this beautiful preserved building in Lima that belonged to his mother a colored freed-woman from Panama. His father was a Spanish gentleman. With fifteen, he became a lay brother at the Dominican Friary in Lima and spent his whole life there as a barber, farm labourer, almoner, and infirmarian. Today the Birthhouse of San Martin de Porres houses a social institution for seniors and women.

San Martin de Porres devoted himself to ceaseless and severe penances. In return God endowed him with many graces and wondrous gifts. St. Martin’s love was all-embracing; devoted equally to humans and to animals (many statues show him with a dog, a cat and a mouse). He was a very close friend of St. Rose of Lima. He died on November 3, 1639 and was canonized on May 6, 1962. His shrine is located within the Convent of Santo Domingo in Lima, alongside with Saint Rose and Alonso Abad.

**Church and Monastery where St Martin de Porres lived and died**

St Martin de Porres’s Church and Monastery date back to the end of the 16th century. The church is famous in Lima for being the only one with a "real" steeple, which in consequence of the construction over several stages has a very peculiar style. Inside the church are the oldest choir stalls of Lima, the famous statue of the Virgen del Rosario and the silver urns that contain the relics of Santa Rosa (the patron saint of Lima) and the grave of San Martín de Porres.

The monastery is one of the best preserved ones in whole Lima. Take your time and enjoy being guided through the monastery with its amazing patios (Spanish: meaning "back garden" or "backyard"). Admire the beautifully decorated walls with Spanish tiles from the 17th century and relax in the silence this place radiates. The stately library holds 25,000 antiquarian books. If you visit between 1pm and 3pm, you can ascend the bell tower for a view of the old city.