



Christmas is just around the corner and the Americas Partners are busy preparing for the Christmas / New Year season. We hope you are also enjoying your preparations for the festivities!

Below is a taster from Latin America of what's new, updated or which we think will be of interest.

As ever, please do [get in touch](#) if you would like more information about our partners and destinations.

Amelia & Jude



NEWS FROM AMERICAS - GOODBYE AND HELLO!

As some of you will already know, after almost three years Amelia is leaving Americas this week for pastures new. We are sorry to see her leave, her understanding of business management, IT and her sense of humour will be particularly missed in our office! We are currently recruiting for a part-time sales and marketing executive – Please see our [website](#) for details. Good luck in your new role Amelia!

Americas is delighted to welcome a new partner into the Americas family - [Native Trails](#), Mexico. We look forward to introducing you to Olaf and his friendly, expert team in the coming months.

ARGENTINA: FAMILY FUN WITH ATP

Why is Argentina such a popular destination for families with children?

Argentines love children, and they are welcome everywhere except nightclubs. Even the most sophisticated restaurants have high chairs making it an ideal country for families to enjoy some quality time and have fun together.

Buenos Aires is cosmopolitan and lively, with many cultural attractions and museums popular with children (such as the "Please Touch" Science museum, and the Natural Science museum with its massive dinosaurs). There are also fun activities such as biking in the Ecological Reserve, city tours in vintage cars (where you can poke your head out of the roof), soccer matches and visits to stadiums, and an i-Phone photography competition whilst seeing the sights.



A little farther afield, you can take a day trip to the Tigre delta (including a boat ride and lunch on an island), or

enjoy a day at an Estancia with horseback riding, hiking, swimming, watching local dances and gaucho performances, or learning the basics of polo.

There are also endless options throughout Argentina; Bariloche has lots of soft-adventure activities (kayak, riding, rappel, trekking), and Patagonia offers close-ups with whales, penguins & other fauna, boat rides at the end of the world, an ice museum or a thrilling walk on the glacier... and don't miss Iguazu Falls (boat ride under the Falls, anyone?).

Contact [ATP](#) for more information and to discuss the myriad itineraries available.

BOLIVIA: AN EYE ON THE PAST, VISION FOR THE FUTURE



Hoping that the Southern winds embrace you with deserving happiness for Christmas and New Year, we wish to share with you our successful little story. In 2018 **Crillon Tours** celebrated 60 years as pioneers of tourism to Bolivia and decided to make a qualitative leap, adding to our interesting variety of visits, whilst improving and consolidating our classic line and remodeling our traditional infrastructure.

We have had great success preparing our new Luxury Bespoke Line, paying attention to every detail, to inspire guests who desire freedom with comfort. We took our time; setting our Deluxe Airstream Campers – Caravans – in the right place, protected against cold, wind and any disturbance; but surrounded by the huge Salt Flats & the incredible sound of silence. We appreciate the sincere friendship and assistance of the Salt Flats Community with this, and in return are working with them to provide water wells and facilitate small co-operatives.

Within the true spirit of Andes adventure, we have also created a new Deluxe Hydrofoil, ready to set sail wherever you want to go on Lake Titicaca. For both of our deluxe "jewels" we provide personal staff, chefs, guides, drivers, and 24/7 support to enhance these unique experiences.

There is also a special focus around the meals on our Luxury Bespoke programme. Special menus are created by our chefs, accompanied by award winning wines and served with our affection. This is a real source of life, and is our Gastronomic Magical Realism - since we believe that *lack of flavour is a lack of love*.

CRILLON TOURS Christmas present will be returning you a happy client! For more information on any of our itineraries please contact [Crillon](#).

BRAZIL: RIO CELEBRATES THE RETURN OF ITS CHRISTMAS TREE!

After 2 years, Rio de Janeiro will have its iconic Christmas tree once again.

It has been a tradition for many years to go to the Rodrigo de Freitas Lagoon with family and friends to see the Christmas tree that is always there this time of the year. Two years ago, the government decided not to build it and it caused uproar among the cariocas (residents of Rio de Janeiro). Now this Christmas tradition is back and the tree will be celebrated! The opening ceremony includes fireworks and lots of happy people around the lagoon to watch the lights being switched on. The tree will be 70m tall, and will have 8 different light effects that operate daily between 8pm and 1 am.



For more information on our year round itineraries please contact [Walpax](#).

CHILE: DISCOVER ESTANCIA LA PENINSULA WITH ADSMUNDO/SPORTSTOUR



ADSMundo/Sportstour pride themselves on the continuous improvement ethos, delivering new and innovative experiences to the modern travel industry. We have just launched our new brochure and the new portfolio includes an immersion in the life of a real Estancia in Patagonia.

La Peninsula is one of the most beautiful ranches in Patagonia thanks to its incredible surrounding nature. It is only accessible by boat from Puerto Natales, which makes the ranch a peaceful place for visitors and animals. By having both the sea and the land, the Estancia offers a diversity of flora and fauna rarely found elsewhere. We invite you to join this unique and authentic experience to live and learn how life is on a Patagonian ranch, sharing its vision of sustainable

farming.

For further information about new product or bespoke itineraries please contact [Claude](#).

COLOMBIA: COLOMBIAN JOURNEYS CONNECT WITH NATURE

Colombian Journeys offer exciting new accommodation:

CASA MANQUÉ - EL ROSAL

This is a private refuge exclusively for guests staying at the Casa Legado hotel in Bogotá. Experience authentic life on a Colombian dairy farm, surrounded by animals and colourful landscapes. It is located outside the city, 10 minutes from El Rosal town and 1½ hours from El Dorado International Airport (BOG). It has two rooms and is ideal for couples and small families. Its maximum capacity is 6 people. It offers milking activities, kayaking, ATVs, bicycles, Wifi in all areas of the house and hammocks.



COROCORA CAMP

Corocora is an exclusive camp in a private reserve in the Orinoquía region, known as Los Llanos Orientales. It is home to diverse wildlife and more than 200 species of birds and is a 2-hour drive from Yopal Airport (EYP). It offers 4 tents adorned with fabrics and crafts from different regions of Colombia, equipped with a private terrace with hammock, 1 king bed or 2 single beds, en-suite bathroom, desk, closet space, radio communication system and portable USB batteries packs. Bear in mind that coverage is extremely limited and there is no WiFi at the camp. Guests have access to electricity during the night to charge phones, cameras and other electrical devices.



In addition, it has a social tent with a comfortable sitting area and main dining space, board games, yoga mats, bar, hammocks, bonfire area, collection of books and a chef who prepares breakfasts, lunches, dinners and snacks. In the reserve there are a multitude of activities including horseriding, bird watching, flying safaris and cooking classes. Colombian Journeys offer a package 4 days / 3 nights. Find out [more](#).

COSTA RICA: ENJOY COSTA RICA IN SUMMER WITH CAMINO TRAVEL



The end of the rainy season in Costa Rica can be somewhat hard to predict, but it seems like the El Niño weather phenomenon might have the dry season here a little earlier than usual this year.

November is a transitional month for weather across the country with a mixture of warm sunny days and heavy rains up

until the end of the month. With the arrival of the northern Pacific trade winds in December, temperatures begin to drop, the days are brighter and sunnier and there are fewer and fewer afternoon showers throughout most of the country. This change in weather also brings about new life. Between early November and late February, Leatherback sea turtles come ashore to nest in northern Guanacaste, and northern humpback whales, migrating from the Arctic, usually arrive in Costa Rica in December to breed, live and give birth to their young. While the Pacific side of the country begins its transition to the dry season, the Arenal region and the Caribbean starts to see more rain and less sun. December marks the return of the rainy season, along the Atlantic, giving way to the somewhat short, but renowned, Caribbean surfing season. Contact [Camino Travel](#) for more information on exciting seasonal itineraries.

ECUADOR: EXPLORE LLANGANATES NATIONAL PARK WITH ANDANDO TOURS

Largely neglected by international tourism, the Llanganates National Park can be described as the truly hidden treasure of Ecuador. In addition to its eventful, pre-Columbian history, countless legends entwine this mysterious place.

Probably the most imposing and famous one is that of the Treasure of Atahualpa - many wagons full of gold that were requested as ransom by the Spanish conquistadors in exchange for the release of the captured Incan ruler. According to myth, General Rumiñahui is said to have hidden the treasure after the execution of Atahualpa and before the imminent conquest of Quito by the Spaniards in the remote Llanganates. Even today, ambitious treasure hunters venture into this seemingly deserted region. But the rugged terrain and rapidly changing weather conditions turned the Llanganates into a desperate maze for most adventurers. This protected area, situated in the Cotopaxi, Napo, Pastaza and Tungurahua Provinces of Ecuador, boasts a tremendous biodiversity due to its privileged location between the Andes and the Amazonian rainforest.



Would you like to try your luck? Contact [Andando Tours](#) for more information.

MEXICO: DISCOVER BAJA CALIFORNIA NORTE WITH AMERICAS NEW PARTNER NATIVE TRAILS



The landscape of Baja California Norte spans mountains and beaches on the Pacific Ocean and Gulf of California. Experience the little known border region between Tijuana, Tecate und Mexicali: home to one of the best Spas of the World - Rancho la Puerta. The desert of Baja, with its unique cactus family, mysterious oasis and hot springs entice you to an unforgettable experience..

The wine region of **Valle de Guadalupe** lies in the north, also known as the Valley of Calafia, Its wineries and vineyards will give great joy to every wine lover. The port of **Ensenada** - locally known as the "Cinderella of the Pacific" - boasts a waterfront area from which you can observe the migrating grey whales between January and March, and visit the

cultural centre and the Museum of History. The waters of Bahía Todos Los Santos make for great fishing and surfing the whole year round.

On a half-day hike through the Boulder Field of **Cataviña**, you can admire the giant cardón cacti and other desert plants such as the bizarre Cirio plant. Huge, golden yellow granite rocks and the ruins of an abandoned hacienda complete the picture and are perfect subjects for photographers. **Mexicali** is an old border town with a deep rooted Chinese connection. Quite close by are huge and unspoiled dunes which are ideal for sand boarding.

There is so much to explore and enjoy. Contact [Native Trails](#) for more information.

PANAMA: DISCOVER OFF-THE-BEATEN TRACK PANAMA WITH PANAMA JOURNEYS



BEST TRAVEL 2019

Welcome to Panama

From clear turquoise seas to the coffee farms and cloud forests of Chiriquí, Panama can be as chilled out or as thrilling as you wish.

Panama was deservedly recognised in Lonely Planet's recently published article: '10 Countries primed to catch travellers' imaginations in 2019'. This remarkable country is the isthmus connecting Central and South America and is most famous for its canal – the incredible engineering feat known as the Panama Canal. However Panama also boasts an amazing

diversity of both its flora and fauna (including over 900 bird species, in wonderful national parks, tropical forests and on unspoiled tropical islands); and its population where distinct semi-autonomous indigenous communities and descendants of the many nationalities involved in the canal construction are well represented. To learn more about this amazing country please contact [Panama Journeys](#).

PARAGUAY: VISIT YAGUARÓN WITH MARTIN TRAVEL

Yaguarón is located 48 km from Asunción in the department of Paraguari. This city is known for the artistic and cultural value of its Franciscan style temple whose construction began in 1755 and ended in 1772. The simple design of the exterior with its separate wooden bell tower belies the extraordinary beauty of the painted and carved interior, a masterpiece of religious art and one of the most ornate churches in South America. From the top of Cerro Yaguarón, you can see the cities of Pirayú, Itá, Paraguari and Carapeguá.



To find out more, contact [Gabriela](#) at **Martin Travel**.

PERU: LIMATOURS FOUNDATION DRIVES SUSTAINABLE TOURISM



Peru is a country of great natural and historical diversity, and preserving this impressive legacy is to keep it alive. The latest edition of our *Ultimate Journeys magazine: Sustainable Peru* showcases our social responsibility etiquette focusing on sustainable development, and the protection of cultural heritage and the environment.

Connect with the Andean communities and read about the importance and magnificence of their legacy. If you are looking to create a trip with positive impact, you will find eco-friendly activities, which strive to be agents of change within the area. Also, get to know more about the LimaTours Foundation, our NGO, which develops social responsibility projects. Contact [LimaTours](#) for details if you don't already have access to their Ultimate Journeys Magazines.

URUGUAY: WINE TOURS WITH VIAJES BUEMES'

When you think of Uruguay, you think of the country's beautiful wide open spaces, from lovely beaches to enjoying farm life on an Estancia. Now also growing in popularity are Uruguay's wine and food tours.

Enjoy wine tasting, cooking classes or even the making of your own blend of wines!

If you are a wine lover, you should definitely look at the boutique wineries in Uruguay where you can stay overnight and wake up surrounded by outstanding vineyard views.



For more information on tours like this please contact [Buemes](#).

Argentina: Argentina Travel Partners | **Bolivia:** Crillon Tours | **Brazil:** Walpax
Chile: ADSMundo/Sportstour | **Colombia:** Colombian Journeys | **Costa Rica:** Camino Travel
Ecuador: Andando Tours | **Mexico:** Native Trails | **Panama:** Panama Journeys | **Paraguay:** Martin Travel
Peru: Lima Tours | **Uruguay:** 'Viajes Buemes' | **Venezuela:** Delfino Tours