



LATAM Airlines is the largest airline group in Latin America, and operates three flights a week between São Paulo and Johannesburg.

## *Flair, Fun & Fine Dining* IN LATIN AMERICA

*Glamour, passion, beauty and luxury converge in Latin America, making it a stunning touring alternative to Europe.*

From the world's driest desert in the North, to the only growing ice fields in the world in the South; the most remote spot on the planet to the West and the verdant scenery of the East, Latin America offers a world of experiences in one region – on a continent largely unexplored by South African visitors.

There is as much about Latin America that is similar to South Africa, as there is that is different. Northern Brazil's beaches are reminiscent of the sub-tropical East coast of South Africa, while browsers would be hard-pressed to tell Franschoek and Argentina's foremost wine region, Mendoza, apart.

Food lovers will be inspired by the epicurean experiences on offer in a region, with a growing number of Michelin-starred restaurants.

Lima's Central is recognized as the region's finest restaurant – and the fourth best in the world. Central takes guests on a culinary expedition through Peru's ecosystem, from the Amazon to Pacific coast. Chef Virgilio Martínez has designed a tasting menu that starts by taking diners 20 metres below sea level and travels up to 4,100 metres, highlighting the Peruvian ingredients that grow at various elevations.

Brazil is home to no fewer than 17 Michelin-starred restaurants, with Alex Atala's D.O.M. in São Paulo claiming two stars. Like Central, D.O.M. is famous for the indigenous bounty of the Amazon and Atala's native Brazil. The restaurant uses ingredients like canjiquinha, a type of Brazilian white corn, tucupi, which must be boiled for at least 20 minutes to evaporate the cyanide in the roots, and jambu, known to deliver an electrical sensation throughout the body, when chewed. The region offers excellent alternative travel options to European

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standards – luxury skiing in Argentina easily rivals the Alpine experience, Colombia offers beaches to match the Mediterranean's finest, and those in search of history and culture would be hard-pressed to top the experience on offer at Macchu Pichu or Easter Island, or the rare wilds of the Galapagos Islands.

### TORRES DEL PAINE NATIONAL PARK, PATAGONIA

There are few places in the world as diverse as Patagonia. Situated at the southern end of South America and shared by Argentina and Chile, the region comprises the southern section of the Andes, desert, steppes, grasslands and glaciers. The Torres del Paine National Park in Chilean Patagonia boasts some of the most spectacular scenery on earth, with mountains, glaciers, lakes and rivers. At its centre is Cordillera del Paine, which peaks just under 3,000m above sea level. The Southern Patagonian Ice Field takes up the entire western side of the national park, feeding four main glaciers. The largest, Glacier Grey, comprises two arms that stretch out 1.2km and 3.6km and stretches 15km into the park.

The Explora Patagonia Hotel sits on the shores of Lake Pehoe, in the centre of the Torres del Paine National Park – the only hotel to offer such an experience. The luxury lodge is accessed via a flight to Punta Arenas and road transfer to Puerto Natales. The 49-room property offers an ideal base for exploring Patagonia, combining

cossetting luxury with opportunities to explore one of the most diverse landscapes on earth. Designed to fit into the surrounds of the UNESCO Biosphere reserve, rather than stand out from it, Explora Patagonia's construction is based around essential luxuries, with wood playing a fundamental role in its design. The property offers over 50 different types of tours and adventures to allow visitors to explore the national park, whether on foot or on horseback. Take a boat excursion to Grey Glacier, and sip a drink chilled with ice carved from the 10 000 year-old glacier.





## SANTIAGO, CHILE

Chile stretches 6,000km down the west coast of South America, squeezed between the Andes and the Pacific. Near its centre sits the country's capital, Santiago, surrounded by the snow-capped Andes and the Chilean Coast Range. The city founded in 1541, and amid much tumult, has grown to become one of Latin America's most refined cities in the 21st century, offering surprises, energy, organisation and sophistication, all in equal measure.

Santiago is situated in the Maipo Valley, the country's oldest wine-growing area, home to some of Chile's largest and most traditional wineries. Santa Rita and Concha y Toro are just an hour's drive of the city, with the Casablanca Valley only slightly further afield. Cabernet Sauvignon, Carmenera and Sauvignon Blanc are popular, with family-owned winery Bodegas Re in the Casablanca Valley drawing on ancient techniques of winemaking in clay amphoras and Matetic Vineyards focussing on producing organic and biodynamic wines.

The 138-room San Cristobal Tower boasts stunning views out over the financial district to the mountains which ring the city. After just a 12-minute transfer from the airport, personal butlers trained by Lady Iris Spencer, who shapes up butlers for the British Royal Family, will unpack and press your clothing and deliver you morning silver-service tea. The 350m<sup>2</sup> Presidential Suite dominates the 22nd floor and is filled with antiques from Buenos Aires. The stylish marbled bathroom, separate living room, dining room, work studio and fully-equipped kitchen were good enough for Barack Obama when he visited the capital.

## BRAZIL

With a land area of more than 8.5 million square kilometres, Brazil is almost 7 times larger than South Africa, and its sheer diversity is

stunning. Brazil is more than golden beaches and Carnival. It's the Amazon, mountains, plains, and scrublands, it's the Iguazu Falls (which make the Niagra Falls look like a dripping tap).

The 2016 Olympics put a spotlight on Rio de Janeiro, but the rest of the country begs exploration. São Paulo is the financial hub of Brazil, and the most populous city in the Southern Hemisphere. Home to large expat populations – it boasts the largest Japanese community in the world, outside Japan, and one of the world's largest urban Jewish populations. It is also extremely cosmopolitan, though it retains a strong Brazilian cultural heritage. Its parks, museums and memorials are must-see itinerary items, and it's a global events destination, thanks to international drawcards like the São Paulo Art Biennial, the Brazilian Grand Prix, São Paulo Fashion Week and the ATP Brazil Open.

The Fasano Hotel e Restaurantes is owned by the Italian family of the same name, who have been involved in the hospitality industry for over a century. One of São Paulo's most charming properties, the location between Paulista and Faria Lima Avenues is a calm space in the city's most glamorous district. English brick and Italian travertine marble retain the old world glamour, but a recent refurbishment adds a contemporary twist. The Baretto bar plays host to international jazz greats on a regular basis, and was named the most beautiful bar in the world by wallpaper magazine.

LATAM Airlines is the largest airline group in Latin America, and operates three flights a week between São Paulo and Johannesburg, with connections into over 115 destinations in Latin America. Their Premium Business offering features spacious full lie-flat seats, 15.4-inch screens, a menu highlighting the rising stock of South American cuisine and a wine list curated by Master Sommelier, Héctor Vergara. Premium Business passengers have access to LATAM Airlines' award-winning VIP Lounges across Latin America – and more than 650 other ones, as well as over 1,000 global destinations via airline partners in the oneworld alliance. Visit [www.latam.com](http://www.latam.com) for more.-

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