



**Guidepost**  
SPECIAL INTEREST TRAVEL



# Rail Journeys Of The Andes

*Departs Fridays – from May 2017*

*Escorted Small group tour departing 23 June & 27 Oct 2017*

A sublime rail journey aboard the most luxurious train exploring Ecuador and the first luxury sleeper train crossing the Altiplano of Peru.

This is a journey of extreme contrast, from the Pacific coast to the majestic Andes, exploring ancient Inca kingdoms, indigenous villages, colourful markets and savouring the best Andean-inspired cuisine. Outside your window the ever-changing scenery reveals fertile valleys, golden fields, impressive snow-capped mountains and lush tropical forests on a journey like no other in South America.

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## **Day 1: AUSTRALIA - GUAYAQUIL**

On arrival you will be met and transferred to your hotel.

## **Day 2: GUAYAQUIL - YAGUACHI - BUCAY (B, L, D)**

Today begins your fantastic rail journey aboard TREN CRUCERO. Starting at sea level the train climbs 3,600 metres into the imposing Andes mountain range and its ever-present snow-capped volcanos, revealing one of the most dramatic changes in scenery imaginable. Board your train at Duran station and travel to Bucay, crossing through fertile plains and plantations of rice, sugar, banana and pineapple. Enjoy lunch at a traditional Hacienda (farm) where you will learn about the cacao bean and taste home-made chocolate. Overnight in Bucay.

## **Day 3: BUCAY - THE DEVIL'S NOSE - RIOBAMBA (B, L, D)**

Travel along the Chanchán river canyon. You will experience a dramatic change in the vegetation and temperature as the train starts the 450 metre ascent of the dramatic Devil's Nose pass. Journey through golden quinoa fields and visit the indigenous community of Palacio Real. Overnight in Riobamba.

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**Day 4: RIOBAMBA - URBINA - QUITO (B, L, D)**

Journey to Urbina, the highest point on our route, where the last glacier-ice merchant awaits to tell the tale of his ancestral trade. Ride along the 'Avenue of the Volcanos' and explore an Andean forest trail at the foot of the imposing Cotopaxi volcano. Overnight in Quito.

**Day 5: QUITO - OTAVALO - QUITO (B, L)**

Travel to the Northern Andes and board your train in Otavalo, home to the biggest indigenous market in South America. Experience the culture, traditions, music, gastronomy and the antique skill of woodcarving of the Andean indigenous people.

**Day 6: QUITO - LIMA (B)**

Half day tour of the stunning old colonial city and the Middle of the World monument. Evening flight to Lima. On arrival make your own way to your hotel located across the road.



**Day 7: LIMA - AREQUIPA (B)**

Fly to Arequipa. On arrival transfer to your hotel. Afternoon tour of the city known as the 'White City'. Visit the main square, the Cathedral, La Compañía church and Santa Catalina convent, a beautifully preserved convent built in the 17th century that opened to the public in 1970

**Day 8: AREQUIPA - COLCA CANYON (B, L, D)**

Scenic ride to the breathtaking Colca Canyon, one of the deepest in the world and home of the Condor.



**Day 9: COLCA CANYON - PUNO - LAKE TITICACA (B, L, D)**

Travel through spectacular mountain scenery to observe the Condor in full flight at the dramatic Cruz del Condor lookout. Continue to Chivay Andean town for lunch, before returning to Arequipa. This evening embark on a luxury rail journey aboard the ANDEAN EXPLORER, one of the highest train journeys on earth, exploring ancient kingdoms and natural wonders.

Depart as the sun sets on the baroque architecture of Arequipa to travel overnight towards Lake Titicaca, through deep valleys and high mountains where South American camelids graze on the wide open plains and 'big sky' country of the Peruvian Altiplano.

**Day 10: LAKE TITICACA - SICUAN (B, L, D)**

Wake up to the stunning sunrise at Lake Titicaca. Boat trip to the unique Uros reed floating islands. Learn about how the lives of the Uros people are closely tied to the totora reeds. Also visit the Taquile island, where you will have a traditional Andean lunch and see some of the local artisan work. Depart in the evening for Cuzco.



**Day 11: RACQUI TEMPLE - CUZCO (B)**

After breakfast your journey continues on to the Inca archaeological site of Racqui. Explore the Temple of Wiracocha, before heading to Cuzco where your rail journey ends. On arrival, transfer to your hotel located in the Sacred Valley.



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**Day 12: SACRED VALLEY (B, L)**

Explore the Sacred Valley and learn about the traditional customs and ancestral weaving techniques in the indigenous town of Chinchero. Continue to Moray, an impressive Inca agricultural research facility and finish at the Ollantaytambo fortress.

**Day 13: SACRED VALLEY - MACHU PICCHU (B, L, D)**

Start your two day trip to the unforgettable ruins of Machu Picchu with a wonderful train journey, followed by a comprehensive tour through the beautiful forgotten citadel. Overnight at Aguas Calientes, the charming town at the base of the ruins.

**Day 14: MACHU PICCHU – CUZCO (B, D)**

Morning free to explore the ruins at your own pace. Afternoon board the luxury HIRAM BINGHAM TRAIN to Cuzco and be treated to a four-course, Andean inspired dinner, and great live entertainment.



**Day 15: CUZCO (B)**

Half day tour of the ancient Inca capital of Cuzco, exploring temples, ruins and museums that showcase this wondrous civilisation

**Day 16: CUZCO - LIMA (B)**

Transfer to the airport for your flight to Lima. On arrival, you will be met and transferred to your hotel.

**Day 17: LIMA (B, D)**

Sightseeing tour visiting the best sites of colonial and modern Lima. Continue to the Larco Herrera museum, housed in a 18th century mansion. Be amazed by a captivating collection showcasing more than 5,000 years of Pre-Columbian history, followed by a gourmet Peruvian dinner at the museum's restaurant.

**Day 18: LIMA -SANTIAGO (B)**

Transfer to the airport for your flight to Santiago. On arrival you will be met and transferred to your hotel.

**Day 19: SANTIAGO (B)**

Half day walking tour of Santiago. A unique experience learning about Chile's culture and history, while exploring the town centre with stops at the Museum of Fine Arts, Santa Lucia Hill, the Central seafood market, Plaza de Armas square and the Presidential Palace. Evening transfer to the airport for your flight back to Australia.

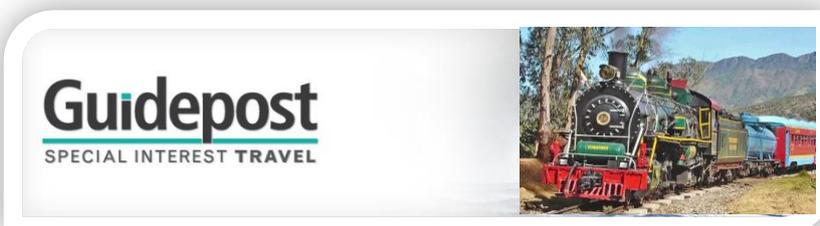
**Day 20: In flight**

In flight

**Day 21: ARRIVE IN AUSTRALIA**

Arrive in Australia





## Includes

- Flights ex SYD in economy class (Prices ex MEL/BNE add \$150pp)
- All internal flights based on LATAM air-pass which requires arrival into South America with LATAM. If using another carrier, price will differ
- Accommodation at selected hotels with private facilities
- Meals as indicated (18 breakfasts, 7 lunches, 8 dinners)
- 4D/3N Tren Crucero, train Ecuador – full board
- 2D/2N Andean Explorer, train Peru – full board
- One way economy Vistadome train to Machu Picchu
- One way luxury Hiram Bigham train to Cuzco with gourmet dinner
- Transport by air conditioned vehicles
- Comprehensive sightseeing with English speaking local guides
- Tour escort on escorted departures (minimum 10 people booked)
- Meeting service and airport transfers
- Upgrade to Business Class (long haul) for additional \$4999 pp.



## Excludes

- Airport taxes and fuel surcharges
- Tips or portage charges

### PRICE SCHEDULE

*Prices can change on more than one factor such as accommodation, availability, etc.*

<b>RAIL JOURNEYS OF THE ANDES - LOW SEASON</b>	<b>Single</b>	<b>Twin / Double</b>	
Rail Journeys Of The Andes - Low Season - Departs Fridays - from May 2017 & Escorted Small group tour departing 23 June & 27 Oct 2017	\$16,316.00	\$11,941.00 / person	
<b>RAIL JOURNEYS OF THE ANDES - HIGH SEASON</b>	<b>Single</b>	<b>Twin / Double</b>	
Rail Journeys Of The Andes - High Season - Departs Fridays - from May 2017 & Escorted Small group tour departing 23 June & 27 Oct 2017	\$17,036.00	\$12,661.00 / person	

