

Dear Colleague,

Greetings again from Buenos Aires! Even though we're in the countdown to fall, summer vibes are still here and staying for longer...amazing sunny days are lighting up my life in South America.

Next week (**February 23rd & 24th** to be exact) we're hosting the **Re•think South America Travel Show** powered by Latam Airlines. This virtual event is **free of charge** for travel buyers like you and we've already confirmed qualified exhibitors from Ecuador, Colombia, Chile, Argentina, Peru and Brazil. If you're interested in attending - and scheduling virtual meetings with the suppliers of your choice - there's still time to register. Please do it <a href="here">here</a>!

Some of our clients in the Americas - like **Enchanted Expeditions** in Ecuador and **Las Torres Reserve** in Chile - are offering last minute specials for the rest of February, March and April.

Meanwhile, our friends in Argentina (**Grand Hotels Lux**), Colombia (**Colombian Journeys**), Costa Rica (**Travel Pioneers**) and Chile (**Chile Concept**) are already working on proposals for the 2022-2023 season. It might sound crazy, but they're already taking bookings for...Christmas!

We highly recommend that you take a look below for the latest news and interesting blogs from our portfolio of cool companies in cool places! Let's start planning a trip to South or Central America!

Best regards,





# News at a Glance

#### **Travel Pioneers**

- Important update regarding COVID-19 regulations in Costa Rica! As of January 21st and until March 7th, commercial establishments and mass activities can choose to voluntarily request the Covid-19 vaccination QR code from their customers in order to expand their capacity. Further information as well as current safety protocols and entry requirements to the country can be found at the Costa Rica Tourism Board's website here.
- Panama welcomes visitors from all countries, either if they are fully vaccinated or not. However, non vaccinated travelers will have to present a negative Covid-19 test for entry. Furthermore, non vaccinated travelers arriving from or that have transited through High Risk Countries in the last 15 days will be required to quarantine for 72 hours in a hotel, at their own cost. Safety protocols for the country require masks in public and some towns have mandated a curfew. You can read complete guidelines at the Panama Official Site here or contact us and we will advise on specifics.

### **Las Torres Reserve**

- There's still time to plan a trip to Torres del Paine National Park, the 8th Wonder of the World. You can either book any of the All Inclusive Programs and stay at Hotel
   Las Torres Patagonia or take advantage of Las Torres Reserve's trekking
   facilities, which include campsites, mountain hostels and refugios, and do the W or
   the O circuit, an unforgettable adventure for hikers! Access to the Trade Pack
   (digital brochures, maps, rates, photos & videos, etc) here.
- Las Torres Reserve has a US dedicated phone number + 1 323 982 3761. You can also contact them (even on weekends) via WhatsApp + 56 9 8357 9064.
- Are you attending the **Re•think South America Virtual Travel Show** on February 23rd and 24th? Please make sure to visit Las Torres Reserve's virtual booth and/or schedule a meeting with Executive Director Mauricio Kusanovic Olate.

#### **Grand Hotels Lux**

- Missed our last webinar "Sports and adventures in Uruguay Holidays and active tourism in Punta del Este"? Don't worry! You can watch it here.
- The Grand Hotel Punta del Este is investing nearly \$25 million destined to the construction of 60 rooms, a modern events' and convention center, and a rooftop bar. More info and renders <a href="here">here</a>.
- Recoleta Grand Hotel, located in one of the most beautiful neighborhoods of Buenos Aires, is offering an Executive Stay Package valid for stays until December 31st, 2022. The daily rate of \$150 US dollars for 2 people in a Deluxe Studio includes daily breakfast, complimnetary office/private work station during the stay, access to the outdorr swimming pool and Fitness Center, early check and late check out. More info & booking requests <a href="here">here</a>.
- Planning a trip to the Iguazu Falls? If you are travelling before April, you can take advantage of any of the specials offered by our hotels there. Option 1: Iguazu Grand Resort is offering a daily rate of \$300 US dollars for 2 people in a Junior Suite and includes daily breakfast, a dinner for 2 with non alcoholic beverages, access to the Wellness Center, 3 outdoor swimming pools, tennis courts, casino and kids club, wifi. More info & booking requests here. Option 2: Panoramic Grand Hotel is offering a great deal for people staying at their property overlooking the Iguazu River, a daily rate of \$220 US dollars for 2 people in a River View Room and includes daily breakfast, gym access, swimming pool and roman bath, a dinner for 2 with non alcoholic beverages and wifi. More info & booking requests here.

## **Enchanted Expeditions**

- **Updated entry requirements to Ecuador!** As of February 11th, all travelers will be required to fill out and sign a *Personal Health Statement* before disembarking from the plane. This document should be handed into the Ministry of Health representatives at the immigraion lounge before clearing customs. In addition to this, all travelers older than 3 years must present a negative PCR test taken up to 3 days before their flight to Ecuador **OR** proof of having received the complete schedule of Covid-19 vaccine 14 days or more prior to their arrival in the country.
- For your trip to the Galapagos Islands, we strongly recommend that all
  passengers get tested for Covid-19 (PCR test of Antigen test) up to 72 hours before
  getting on board our boats M/Y Beluga and M/Y Cachalote Explorer in spite of their
  vaccination status.
- Enchanted Expeditions is offering special cruise pricing for selected departures in 2022! Take advantage of those incredible deals and explore the Galapagos
   Islands either on M/Y Beluga or on M/Y Cachalote Explorer. The specials are ranging from \$2,090 to \$3,100 US dollars (6-day and 8-day cruise) and there are more than 20 departure dates available during February and March 2022. More info <a href="here">here</a>.
- Are you attending the **Re•think South America Virtual Travel Show** on February 23rd and 24th? Please make sure to visit Enchanted Expeditions' virtual booth and/or schedule a meeting with founder and CEO Judy Carvalhal.

- Updated entry requirements to Chile! (as of February 1st, 2022). To have completed a vaccination program (2 doses), which must be validated at mevacuno.gob.cl before entering Chile. All persons over the age of 2, need to present a negative PCR test taken up to 72 hours before boarding. And then, must undergo a second mandatory PCR test performed upon arrival to Chile. Have a health insurance with a minimum coverage of \$30,000 US dollars that includes coverage for any expenses arising from Covid-19. Complete the "Traveler's Affidavit" form online up to 48 hours before boarding. More info can be found at Chile's Official Site here.
- As of **February 3rd, 2022**, **Easter Island** will be open to tourists again. Visitors to the island will need to be fully vaccinated, and provide a negative PCR test 48 hours before arrival, without the need of quarantine requirement on the island.
- Contact us as we can tailor the perfect itinerary to discover the best of Chile.

## **Colombian Journeys**

- Updated entry requirements to Colombia! Effective December 14th, 2021, new entry requirements apply for all travelers 18 years old and older arriving to Colombia by air: vaccinated non-resident foreign travelers need to present proof of vaccination. Unvaccinated people will not be allowed to enter Colombia. For those who do not have the fully vaccination series or who do not comply 14 days after having finished the schedule, they will be able to enter the country presenting a negative PCR test, issued no more than 72 hours before the boarding date and time. This entry requirement is in addition, and do not replace, the existing Check-Mig form that need to be filled in between 72 hours and 1 hour prior to arrival in, or departure from, Colombia. The Check-Mig form can be found here. More info here.
- On January 9th, Disney's movie "Encanto" (inspired by Colombia), won the Golden Globe Award for the best animated film and has been nominated for the 2022 Oscars. Additionally, the movie's soundtrack keeps getting recognition and will go down in history as one of the most listened recordings from the animated studios in the world. "Encanto" soundtrack reached No. 1 in the Billboard Charts and the catchy song "We don't talk about Bruno" is the first recording single from a Disney film to have reached fourth place on the Billboard hot 100 charts in more than 26 years. If you missed our webinar "Colombia, an enchanted land", you can watch it here.
- In response to the indigenous community request (to aid in its ecological, environmental and spiritual recovery and healing), the **Tayrona National Park** will be closed from June 1st to 15th and from October 19th to November 2nd.
- The Iguaque Flora and Fauna Sanctuary, located about 25 minutes from Villa de Leyva, is temporarily closed due to renovation works in the tourisme infraestructure surrounding the protected area in order to improve the visitor's experience. The Sanctuary may reopen again in April, but exact dates weren't confirmed yet.
- Are you attending the **Re•think South America Virtual Travel Show** on February 23rd and 24th? Please make sure to visit Colombian Journey's virtual booth and/or schedule a meeting with Managing Director Guillermo Villoria.

### **Canyon Madness Ranch**

• Looking for private travel? Please <u>contact us</u> for information, availability and rates on property buyouts.

#### Recoleta's Culinary Oasis



A fusion of Argentine and global cuisine created by executive chef Luciano Grimaldi, Club 31 Bar & Resto at the **Recoleta Grand Hotel** offers an oasis of peace and quiet and incredible flavors in the heart of Buenos Aires. Read more here.

## "Pura Vida" - Living the Life in Costa Rica

You're like to hear the term "Pura Vida" the minute you land in Costa Rica. It's used a lot like "Aloha", a way that locals say hello and goodbye. But it also sums up the country's appeal -breathtaking nature, fascinating wildlife, pristine beaches and endless adventure. Continue reading here.



Chile's Colorful Riviera Coast

Just a two-hour drive from Santiago, Chile's Central Coast boasts landscapes and activities reminiscent of the French or



Italian rivieras - the colorful waterfront of Valparaiso and the sun-splashed beaches of Viña del Mar, complemented by some of the country's best restaurants, a coastal wine region and endless views. *Read more here*.

#### Colombia's Peaceful Pacific Coast

The Caribbean coast has a bigger party scene and lots more human history. But Colombia's under-explored Pacific coast is the place to head for wildlife, empty beaches and total tranquility.

The region offers scuba diving, birdwatching and hikes along indescribably beautiful trails. *More here*.



Ecuador: How Far Are You Willing to Go?



Like the Ecuadorian road trip comedy "Qué tan lejos?" (How Much Further?), a journey from Quito to Cuenca is the perfect way to discover the awesome landscapes and incredible culture of the country's highlands.

Let **Enchanted Expeditions** pland your route through the heart of the Andes, a trip that blends colonial and indigenous cultures via colorful markets, charming town and villages, impressive architecture, pre-Columbian artifacts and ruins, a myriad of arts and crafts. *Continue reading here*.

#### Pumas, Condors, Guanacos...and Now Dinosaurs?

A team of paleontologists from the University of Chile researchers recently discovered 74-millionyear-old dinosaur fossils in Torres del Paine. Uncovered in an inhospitale area just outisde the national park, the nearly complete skeleton was identified as a new species of armored dinosaur called Stegouros elengassen. More <u>here</u>.



#### A Rare Breed of Madness



Canyon Madness Ranch is ideally suited for a special type of adventure seeker. If you harbor a healthy passion for, or even a mild obsession with, aquestrian and/or firearmrelated activities, and other outdoor activities, this could be your version of paradise. *Continue reading here*.

Surfing Costa Rica

Discover the endless summer along Costa Rica's Pacific shore.









































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Ana Kammerer at 1 (404) 496-5099 | ana@emergingdestinations.com Jane Behrend at +1 (404) 993-6116 | jane@emergingdestinations.com

More Info: <u>info@emergingdestinations.com</u> www.emergingdestinations.com

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