### ARGENTINA

- **Buenos Aires**  57
- Rosario  79
- Santa Fe  86
- Paraná  88
- Reserva Provincial Esteros del Iberá  90
- Resistencia  93
- Posadas  95
- San Ignacio Miní  97
- Puerto Iguazú  98
- Parque Nacional Iguazú  100
- Córdoba  101
- La Rioja  108
- Santiago del Estero  109
- Tucumán  110
- Tafi del Valle  111
- Cafayate  113
- Salta  116
- San Salvador de Jujuy  120
- Quebrada de Humahuaca  122

### Atlantic Coast

- Mar del Plata  125
- Villa Gesell  127
- Pinamar  128
- Bahía Blanca  129
- Sierra de la Ventana  130
- San Luis  131
- Mendoza  133
- Uspallata  138
- San Juan  139
- Malargüe  141

### The Lake District

- Neuquén  142
- Junín De Los Andes  144
- San Martín De Los Andes  145
- Villa La Angostura  146
- Bariloche  147
- Parque Nacional Nahuel Huapi  151

### Patagonia

- El Bolsón  152
- Esquel  154
- Parque Nacional Los Alerces  155
- Puerto Madryn  157
- Reserva Faunística Peninsula Valdés  159
- Trelew  160
- Comodoro Rivadavia  161
- El Chaltén  162
- El Calafate  164
- Río Gallegos  168

### Tierra del Fuego

- Ushuaia  169
- Parque Nacional Tierra Del Fuego  174

### BOLIVIA

- La Paz  192
- Tiwanaku  207
- Lake Titicaca  208
- Copacabana  208
- Isla del Sol  213
- The Cordilleras & the Yungas  216
- Coroico  216
- Chulumani  218
- Sorata  219

### Southern Altiplano

- Oruro  222
- Uyuni  225
- Southwest Circuit  230
- Tupiza  231
- Tarija  234

### Central Highlands

- Cochabamba  236
- Sucre  241
- Potosí  246
- Santa Cruz  251
- The Amazon Basin  256

- Rurrenabaque  257
- Trinidad  262
## BRAZIL 281
- Rio de Janeiro 283
- Búzios 307
- Ilha Grande 308
- Paraty 309
- São Paulo 311
- Belo Horizonte 320
- Ouro Preto 322
- Tiradentes 325
- Curitiba 326
- Ilha do Mel 329
- Ilha de Santa Catarina 330
- Porto Alegre 333
- Foz do Iguaçu 336
- Brasília 339
- The Pantanal 343
- Cuiabá 346
- Campo Grande 348
- Bonito 350
- Salvador 352
- Lençóis 360
- Morro de São Paulo 361
- Itacaré 362
- Ilhéus 363
- Porto Seguro 364
- Arraial d’Ajuda 365
- Trancoso 366
- Maceió 367
- Recife 368
- Olinda 371
- Praia da Pipa 374
- Natal 375
- Fortaleza 377
- Jericoacoara 381
- São Luís 384
- Parque Nacional dos Lençóis Maranhenses 386
- Belém 389
- Algodonal 392
- Ilha de Marajó 393
- Santarém 394
- Manaus 396

## CHILE 422
- Santiago 424
- Valle de Maipo 439
- Valparaíso 441
- Vía del Mar 448
- La Serena 450
- Valle del Elqui 454
- Copiapó 457
- Parque Nacional Pan de Azúcar 458
- Antofagasta 459
- Chuquicamata 460
- San Pedro de Atacama 462
- Iquique 467
- Arica 471
- Parque Nacional Lauca 474
- Colchagua Valley 475
- Pichilemu 476
- Chillán 478
- Concepción 479

## THE LAKES DISTRICT 481
- Temuco 481
- Parque Nacional Conguillío 484
- Villarrica 485
- Pucón 486
- Parque Nacional Huéquehue 489
- Valdivia 490
- Osorno 493
- Puerto Varas 494
- Parque Nacional Vicente Pérez Rosales 498
- Puerto Montt. 499

## CHILÉ 502
- Ancud 502
- Castro 504
- Dalcahue & Isla Quinchao 506
- Parque Nacional Chiloé 506

## COLOMBIA 540
- Bogotá 544
- Zipaquirá 554
- Suesca 554
- Villa de Leyva 555
- Parque Nacional Natural El Cocuy 558
- San Gil 559
- Barichara 561
- Parque Nacional del Chicamocha 562
- Bucaramanga 563

## THE CARIBBEAN COAST 564
- Santa Marta 565
- Taganga 568
- Parque Nacional Natural Tayrona 570
- Ciudad Perdida 572
- La Guajira Peninsula 573
- Cartagena 575
- Mompox 583
- Golfo de Urabá 584
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>San Andrés &amp; Providencia</strong></td>
<td>587</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Andrés</td>
<td>587</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medellín</td>
<td>588</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Santa Fe de Antioquia</td>
<td>595</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guatapé</td>
<td>596</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manizales</td>
<td>597</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parque Nacional Natural Los Nevados</td>
<td>599</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pereira</td>
<td>600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salento</td>
<td>601</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Valle de Cocora</td>
<td>602</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cali</td>
<td>603</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Popayán</td>
<td>608</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Agustín</td>
<td>612</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tierradentro</td>
<td>615</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Amazon Basin</strong></td>
<td>617</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leticia</td>
<td>618</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Puerto Nariño</td>
<td>622</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ecuador</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quito</td>
<td>634</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mitad del Mundo &amp; Around</td>
<td>660</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Northern Highlands</strong></td>
<td>661</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mindo</td>
<td>661</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Otavalo</td>
<td>663</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ibarra</td>
<td>666</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Central Highlands</strong></td>
<td>667</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parque Nacional Cotopaxi</td>
<td>667</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latacunga</td>
<td>668</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Quilotoa Loop</td>
<td>669</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baños</td>
<td>670</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salinas</td>
<td>673</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Riobamba</td>
<td>674</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volcán Chimborazo</td>
<td>676</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Southern Highlands</strong></td>
<td>677</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cuenca</td>
<td>677</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loja</td>
<td>684</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vilcabamba</td>
<td>685</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>The Oriente</strong></td>
<td>687</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lago Agrio</td>
<td>687</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reserva de Producción</td>
<td>687</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faunística Cuyabeno</td>
<td>687</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coca</td>
<td>688</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parque Nacional Yasuní</td>
<td>689</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tena</td>
<td>689</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Misahuallí</td>
<td>692</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Puyoallí</td>
<td>693</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Macas</td>
<td>694</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pacific Coast &amp; Lowlands</strong></td>
<td>695</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Súa</td>
<td>696</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canoa</td>
<td>696</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bahía de Caráquez</td>
<td>697</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manta</td>
<td>698</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Puerto López</td>
<td>699</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montañita</td>
<td>701</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guayquil</td>
<td>703</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Machala</td>
<td>709</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Galápagos Islands</strong></td>
<td>710</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isla Santa Cruz</td>
<td>714</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isla San Cristóbal</td>
<td>717</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isla Isabela</td>
<td>718</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Floreana</td>
<td>719</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>French Guiana</strong></td>
<td>733</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cayenne</td>
<td>736</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rémire-Montjoly</td>
<td>740</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trésor &amp; Kaw Nature Reserves</td>
<td>741</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kourou</td>
<td>741</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Îles du Salut</td>
<td>742</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St Laurent du Maroni</td>
<td>743</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mana &amp; Awala-Yalimopo</td>
<td>746</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Guyana</strong></td>
<td>750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georgetown</td>
<td>753</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Berbice</td>
<td>758</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northwest Coast</td>
<td>759</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kaieteur National Park</td>
<td>759</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iwokrama Rainforest</td>
<td>760</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Rupununi</td>
<td>761</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Rupununi</td>
<td>762</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Paraguay</strong></td>
<td>768</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asunción</td>
<td>771</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Circuito Central</td>
<td>777</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Bernardino</td>
<td>778</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Encarnación</td>
<td>779</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Jesuit Missions</td>
<td>783</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parque Nacional San Rafael</td>
<td>784</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ciudad del Este</td>
<td>784</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mbacay Biosphere Reserve</td>
<td>786</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concepción</td>
<td>787</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bahía Negra &amp; the Paraguan Pantanal</td>
<td>788</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>The Chaco</strong></td>
<td>789</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Mennonite Colonies</td>
<td>789</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northwestern National Parks</td>
<td>791</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Peru</strong></td>
<td>801</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lima</td>
<td>803</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Coast</td>
<td>820</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pisco</td>
<td>820</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ica</td>
<td>822</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Huacachina</td>
<td>823</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nazca</td>
<td>824</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tacna</td>
<td>827</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arequipa &amp; Canyon Country</td>
<td>829</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arequipa</td>
<td>829</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cañón del Colca</td>
<td>835</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lake Titicaca</strong></td>
<td>837</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Juliaca</td>
<td>837</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Puno</td>
<td>838</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Titicaca Islands</td>
<td>843</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cuzco &amp; the Sacred Valley</strong></td>
<td>844</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cuzco</td>
<td>844</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Sacred Valley</td>
<td>855</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aguas Calientes</td>
<td>858</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Machu Picchu</td>
<td>860</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Inca Trail</td>
<td>862</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Central Highlands</strong></td>
<td>866</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Big Loop

This classic South American journey takes in some of the continent’s most famous sites, including Andean peaks, Amazonian rainforest, Machu Picchu, Iguazú Falls and the Galápagos Islands.

Start off in **Buenos Aires**. Spend several days exploring the mesmerizing Argentine capital. Go west to **Bariloche** for spectacular scenery then head to Chile’s verdant Lakes District at **Puerto Varas**. Continue north to **Santiago**, then cross back into Argentina to **Córdoba** and gorgeous **Salta** before re-entering Chile at the desert oasis of **San Pedro de Atacama**. Head into Bolivia to experience the surreal **Salar de Uyuni**. Continue to **La Paz** and on to Peru via **Lake Titicaca**. Linger at ancient **Cuzco** and **Machu Picchu** before going to **Lima** and on to Ecuador.

From **Guayaquil**, fly to the **Galápagos Islands**. Back on the mainland, visit colonial **Cuenca** and historic **Quito**. Pass into Colombia to the lush **Zona Cafetera** and bustling **Medellín**, then go to **Cartagena** for Caribbean allure. See beautiful **Parque Nacional Natural Tayrona** and relax in **Mérida**, Venezuela, before visiting **Salto Ángel**. Cross into Brazil and onto **Manaus** for a jungle trip. Afterwards fly down to **Rio de Janeiro** for beaches and nightlife. Visit thundering **Iguazú Falls** and return to Buenos Aires.
For rugged adventure, unparalleled alpine vistas, rich indigenous cultures and colorful market towns journey down the Andes from Colombia to Argentina. Along the way, you'll pass through colonial towns, cloud forests and surreal desert landscapes.

Fly into Bogotá, taking in the old historic center and the lively nightlife. Continue south to San Agustín to explore pre-Columbian ruins, and on to Parque Nacional Puracé, for Andean treks. Then go to Pasto and on to the beautifully set Laguna de la Cocha.

Cross into Ecuador and visit Otavalo, for markets and day trips to alpine lakes. Head west to Mindo for misty cloud-forest adventures. Continue south through Quito and on to Volcán Cotopaxi, for hikes and majestic scenery.

Visit colonial Cuenca, relax in laid-back Vilcabamba, then continue into Peru and down to Huaraz for trekking in the Cordillera Blanca.

Spend a few days in Cuzco, then hike the Inca Trail to Machu Picchu. Head across shimmering Lake Titicaca into Bolivia for more hiking in the Cordillera Real. Continue south to the Salar de Uyuni, before crossing to Argentina by way of the spectacular Quebrada de Humahuaca.

Continue into Argentina toward enchanting Mendoza, near massive Cerro Aconcagua, the western hemisphere's highest peak.
Deep South

Mysterious, windswept, glacier-riddled Patagonia is one of South America’s most magical destinations. Patagonia – and the archipelago of Tierra del Fuego – is best visited November through March, and you can see more for cheaper if you camp.

Start in the outdoors-loving town of Bariloche. Take in the stunning Parque Nacional Nahuel Huapi and Parque Nacional Lanín. Head south to Esquel, for a taste of the Old Patagonian Express.

Travel west into Chile to the Andean hamlet of Futaleufú for outstanding rafting. Take the scenic Carretera Austral to Coyhaique and on to Lago General Carrera, and visit the caves of Capilla de Mármol. Head to windswept Chile Chico, then cross into Argentina to Los Antiguos.

Bounce down to El Chaltén in spectacular Parque Nacional Los Glaciares, and on to the wondrous Glaciar Perito Moreno near El Calafate.

Cross back into Chile at Puerto Natales to hike beneath the granite spires of Torres del Paine. Head to Punta Arenas, then south into Argentina’s Tierra del Fuego and bottom out at edge-of-the-earth Ushuaia.

Travel north along the Atlantic, stopping for penguins in Reserva Provincial Punta Tombo and whales in Reserva Faunística Península Valdés. End the trip in Buenos Aires.
This tough but rewarding journey travels the length of the fabled Amazon, taking in wildlife-watching, historic cities and beautiful river beaches.

Start in Pucallpa, Peru (a flight or bus ride from Lima). Before hitting the river, visit nearby Lago Yarinacocha, a lovely oxbow lake ringed by tribal villages. From Pucallpa, begin the classic slow riverboat journey north along the Río Ucayali to Lagunas, where you can continue on to reach the wildlife-rich Reserva Nacional Pacaya-Samiria.

Afterwards, spend a day exploring the bustling city of Iquitos. From here, get a boat to the triborder region of Peru, Colombia and Brazil, and take a break in Colombia’s Leticia.

From Leticia, it’s three more arduous days to the bustling city of Manaus, which is famed for its 19th-century opera house and buzzing markets. This is also a great base for jungle excursions.

Chug east to Santarém, where you can visit the white-sand beaches of Alter do Chão. Another 3½ days further, and you’ll reach culturally rich Belém, a good spot for sampling traditional Amazonian cuisine.

From here, cross over to Ilha de Marajó, a massive river island dotted with friendly towns, wandering buffaloes and pleasant beaches.
Colonial towns, Afro-Brazilian culture, gorgeous beaches and buzzing nightlife set the stage for an epic 7400km ramble up the Atlantic coast. Surfing, snorkeling, forest treks and urban exploring are all essential experiences along the way.

Start off in Argentina, spending a few days taking in the charms of Buenos Aires before ferrying over to historic Montevideo. Follow Uruguay’s coastline north through glitzy Punta del Este, dune-fringed Cabo Polonio and the laid-back beach town of Punta del Diablo.

Make your way to Florianópolis, gateway to secluded beaches and stunning scenery, then head up to the scenic colonial town of Paraty, and rainforest-covered Ilha Grande.

Continue to Rio de Janeiro for pretty beaches, lush scenery and samba-fueled nightlife. Fly to Porto Seguro and continue to Trancoso and Arraial d’Ajuda – both enticing, laid-back towns near cliff-backed beaches.

Spend a few days in Salvador, Brazil’s mesmerizing Afro-Brazilian gem. Further up the coast, visit pretty Olinda, then catch a flight from Recife to the spectacular Fernando de Noronha.

Back on the mainland, travel north, stopping at the backpackers’ paradise of Jericoacoara and the surreal dunes of Parque Nacional dos Lençóis Maranhenses. The final stops are reggae-charged São Luís and colonial Alcântara.
The rainforest comes right to the edge of the sea on this magnificent, little-explored peninsula on the Caribbean coast. Among its other charms are Venezuela’s prettiest beaches. (p999)

In a little-visited wilderness in Bolivia’s north, you’ll find a series of striking natural lakes amid rainforest. Come here by bus July to November, and charter a plane at other times. (p262)

The rainforest comes right to the edge of the sea on this magnificent, little-explored peninsula on the Caribbean coast. Among its other charms are Venezuela’s prettiest beaches. (p999)

Get into the wilds of Guyana at this hilltop lodge high up above the Rupununi River. You can go horseback riding on the savanna, with spectacular opportunities for wildlife-watching. (p763)

This lively university town has lovely colonial architecture, grand museums and a celebrated (but affordable) food scene. It’s also near the indigenous market town of Silvia. (p608)

Stay overnight in a simple guesthouse at this remote island in the Galápagos. You can take scenic walks, swim with sea turtles and lounge on pretty beaches guarded by sea lions. (p719)

In a little-visited wilderness in Bolivia’s north, you’ll find a series of striking natural lakes amid rainforest. Come here by bus July to November, and charter a plane at other times. (p262)

Get into the wilds of Guyana at this hilltop lodge high up above the Rupununi River. You can go horseback riding on the savanna, with spectacular opportunities for wildlife-watching. (p763)
This gem of restored grasslands, rushing rivers and snowbound peaks is home to guanacos, flamingos, foxes and pumas, and has great infrastructure for camping and hiking. (p512)

**THE CHACO**
Paraguay’s wild, dusty west teems with animal life. You can camp out under star-filled skies and spend your days spying macaws, otters, tapirs and countless other creatures. (p789)

**PUERTO MADRYN**
Come between March and September to see this landscape at its most dramatic, when crystal-clear freshwater lagoons fill the hollows between high, undulating dunes. (p386)

**KUÉLAP**
Escape the Machu Picchu crowds at this stunning pre-Columbian citadel in the north of Peru. You can make the most of the experience by overnighting at one of the basic guesthouses here. (p890)
Map Legend

Sights
- Beach
- Bird Sanctuary
- Buddhist Castle
- Christian Church
- Confucian Temple
- Hindu Shrine
- Jain Temple
- Jewish Synagogue
- Buddhist Monastery
- Museum
- Ruin
- Shinto Shrine
- Sikh Gurdwara
- Taoist Temple
- Winery
- Zoo

Activities, Courses & Tours
- Bodysurfing
- Diving
- Canoeing
- Skiing
- Snorkeling
- Surfing
- Swimming
- Walking
- Windsurfing
- Other Activity

Sleeping
- Sleeping
- Camping

Eating
- Eating

Drinking & Nightlife
- Drinking
- Cafe

Entertainment
- Entertainment

Shopping
- Shopping

Information
- Bank
- Embassy
- Hospital
- Post Office
- Police
- Toilet
- Tourist Information

Geographic
- Beach
- Gate
- Hut/Shelter
- Lighthouse
- Mountain
- Oasis
- Park
- Picnic Area
- Waterfall

Population
- Capital (National)
- Capital (State)
- City
- Town

Transport
- Airport
- Border crossing
- Bus
- Cable car
- Cycling
- Ferry
- Metro
- Monorail
- Parking
- Petrol station
- Subway
- Taxi
- Train station
- Tram
- Underground station
- Other Transport

Routes
- Tollway
- Freeway
- Primary
- Secondary
- Tertiary
- Lane
- Unsealed road
- Road under construction
- Plaza/Mall
- Steps
- Tunnel
- Pedestrian overpass
- Walking Tour
- Walking Tour detour
- Path/Walking Trail

Boundaries
- International
- State/Province
- Disputed
- Regional/Suburb
- Marine Park
- Wall

Hydrography
- River
- Creek
- Intermittent River
- Canal
- Water
- Dry/Salt/Intermittent Lake
- Reef

Areas
- Airport
- Beach
- Cemetery
- Glacier
- Mudflat
- Park
- Swamp

Note: Not all symbols displayed above appear on the maps in this book
Lucas Vidgen
Argentina (Northeast Argentina, Northwest Argentina, Atlantic Coast, Central Argentina, The Lake District) Lucas first visited Argentina in 2001 and was captivated by the country’s wide open spaces and cosmopolitan cities. The huge amount of quality beef and wine didn’t go unnoticed, either. Lucas has contributed to a variety of Latin American Lonely Planet titles, including various editions of the *Argentina* and *South America* books. He currently divides his time between his hometown of Melbourne, Australia, and his adopted mountain home in Quetzaltenango, Guatemala.
Alex Egerton
Colombia  A journalist by trade, Alex has worked in Latin America for more than a decade, regularly wandering the back roads from Mexico to Argentina. He is currently based in southern Colombia where he travels extensively and writes about the country for a variety of media. When not on the road researching guidebooks, you’ll find him hiking around the remote landscapes of the upper Amazon, Chocó and southern mountains or working on his tejo technique closer to home.

Brian Kluepfel
Bolivia  Brian lived in La Paz at the cusp of the 21st century, working for the late, great Bolivian Times. He’s since returned to interview musicians for a proposed book, The Charango Road, and contributed cultural materials to Lonely Planet’s 2006 Bolivia guide. His favorite tasks this time were being compelled to watch gorgeous birds in the Amazon, being force-fed delicious sonsos against his will, walking down the Prado at rush hour and running off the side of a mountain in La Paz (with a paraglider attached).

Tom Masters
Venezuela  Tom has traveled widely in Venezuela since first visiting as a backpacker and was one of the authors on the last Lonely Planet Venezuela guide in 2010. Returning for South America on a shoestring to update the Venezuela content, Tom found the country as friendly, fun and staggeringly beautiful as ever, despite its poor safety record and myriad economic problems. Tom lives in Berlin and can be found online at www.tommasters.net.

Carolyn McCarthy
Argentina (Esquel, Patagonia, Tierra del Fuego), Chile  Author Carolyn McCarthy has spent over a decade exploring Patagonia, which amounts to many rounds of mate, cracked windshields and altered plans. She specializes in Latin America and the US West, and has contributed to more than 30 titles for Lonely Planet, including Chile, Panama, Trekking in the Patagonian Andes, Argentina, Peru, Colorado, The Southwest and US national parks guides. She has written for Outside, BBC Magazine, National Geographic and others. Follow her travels on Instagram @masmerquen and Twitter @RoamingMcC.

Kevin Raub
Brazil (Rio de Janeiro, The Southeast, The South, The Central West)  Kevin Raub grew up in Atlanta and started his career as a music journalist in New York, working for Men’s Journal and Rolling Stone magazines. He ditched the rock ‘n’ roll lifestyle for travel writing and moved to Brazil, where he has now traversed 21 of 26 Brazilian states in pursuit of caipirinha bliss. He was also LP’s man on the ground for the 2014 FIFA World Cup in Brazil. This is Kevin’s 36th Lonely Planet guide. Follow him on Twitter (@RaubOnTheRoad).

Paul Smith
Paraguay  Paraguay is South America’s forgotten corner, and after 12 years living here, working as a biologist/travel writer, Paul has a good case for claiming that he knows the ins and outs of the country better than most. Paul has been working for Lonely Planet since 2006, working on numerous guidebooks, especially in South America, a region that he is fascinated by. He lives in Encarnación with his wife, Carol, and son, Shawn, Paraguay’s future Lionel Messi.

Phillip Tang
Peru  A degree in Latin America studies brought Phillip Tang to these shores, and over a decade later he still finds himself feeling breathless (only slightly literally) pondering a canyon in Colca or the ocean in Miraflores. He writes about travel on his two loves, Asia and Latin America, and has contributed to Lonely Planet’s guides to China, Japan and Mexico, and on Peru elsewhere. Find his Peru Insta-photos from this visit through philliptang.co.uk.
OUR STORY

A beat-up old car, a few dollars in the pocket and a sense of adventure. In 1972 that’s all Tony and Maureen Wheeler needed for the trip of a lifetime – across Europe and Asia overland to Australia. It took several months, and at the end – broke but inspired – they sat at their kitchen table writing and stapling together their first travel guide, *Across Asia on the Cheap*. Within a week they’d sold 1500 copies. Lonely Planet was born. Today, Lonely Planet has offices in Dublin, Franklin, London, Melbourne, Oakland, Beijing and Delhi, with more than 600 staff and writers. We share Tony’s belief that ‘a great guidebook should do three things: inform, educate and amuse’.

OUR WRITERS

Regis St Louis

Coordinating Author, Ecuador, Plan, Understand, Survival Guide

After Regis’ first journey to the Andes in 1999, he returned home, sold all his belongings and set off on a classic journey across South America. Since then, he’s returned numerous times, traveling dodgy roads by truck, horse and bicycle; scaling Andean peaks (small ones) and flailing away at Spanish and Portuguese. On his most recent trip he enjoyed biking, kayaking and boating around the Galápagos; he made friends with local storytellers on enchanting Floreana; and he developed a newfound admiration for the tropically infused city of Guayaquil. Regis is also the coordinating author of Lonely Planet’s *Ecuador* and *Brazil* guidebooks, and he has contributed to more than 50 Lonely Planet titles. When not on the road, he lives in New Orleans.

Sandra Bao

Argentina (Buenos Aires)

Sandra is a Chinese-American who was born in Argentina and lived there until she was nine. She’s traveled to around 60 countries and now lives in the USA’s gorgeous Pacific Northwest. She’s proud to be a porteña and regularly returns to Argentina to investigate what the wildly fluctuating peso is doing, as well as catch up on her steak-eating quota. Over the last 15 years Sandra has contributed to a few dozen Lonely Planet titles.

Read more about Sandra at: http://auth.lonelyplanet.com/profiles/sandrabao

Celeste Brash

Guyana, French Guiana, Suriname

Celeste Brash has written over 50 Lonely Planet guidebooks. Although she specializes in the South Pacific and Southeast Asia titles, these trail-blazing and utterly adventurous Guianas chapters have become some of her all-time favorites to research. When not on the road she’s in Portland, Oregon hiking, foraging, dancing and trying to write a book about her five years on a remote coral atoll. Find more about her writing at www.celestebrash.com.

Gregor Clark

Brazil (The Northeast, The North), Uruguay

Over the past 25 years, Gregor has traveled South America from tip to tail, developing a special fondness for Brazil and Uruguay while researching the last three editions of this book. Favorite memories from this trip include spotting wildlife and climbing mountains in Brazil with his two teenage daughters and herding cattle on horseback in Uruguay’s vast interior. He has contributed to two dozen other Lonely Planet titles, including *Brazil, Argentina, France and Italy*. He lives in Vermont (USA).

Read more about Gregor at: http://auth.lonelyplanet.com/profiles/gregorclark