

South America Motorcycle Itinerary

By Jerry Romine

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Facts:

~ Distance: Approximately 15,000 kilometers (one way)

- Motorcycle purchased in Colombia
- All travel done with tourist visas
- Valid insurance is necessary in the event of an accident. Just because officials do not request proof of insurance does not mean it is not required by law. Insurance is simple liability not comprehensive, is inexpensive and easily purchased at each border or nearby.
- Insurance - Use IOverlander to find when you enter the country
- SOAT or Mandatory Traffic Accident Insurance is required in all SA countries and basically covers the personal injuries caused to people in a traffic accident.



Note: This map shows the overall path of the trip. Definitely more stops than shown.

Colombia

Map: <https://goo.gl/maps/Yn8T6WvEGX42>

Medellin to Rio La Miel - 57 km 2 hrs

Be ready for some more twisties, some technical off road sections, ferry ride, old bridges and drastic elevation changes, we will go from 4100 mts above sea level to almost 200, so have your bathing suit handy!

Rio La Miel to Termales del Ruiz - 225 km

4000 by the time we reach our destination. We will ride twisties and mixed terrain all day. A nice hotel stands near the top of the Ruiz Volcano with a beautiful view down to Manizales, and top this off, an amazing natural hot spring pool will make you want to stay an extra day!

Termales del Ruiz To El Cairo - 180 Km

El Cairo, a hidden jewel of a town completely untouched by tourism and modern life. Only hostel available in town, taste the best coffee in the world and enjoy the town's 360 degree views to the Andes.

El Cairo To Cali - 247 km - 4 hrs 31 minutes ([wikitravel](#) & [Wikivoyage](#) - Jet)

We might want to visit Cali's oldest quarter with its neoclassical San Pedro Cathedral or the nearby 18th and 19th century San Francisco Religious Complex. While salsa can be heard pretty much anywhere and at any time of the day the most popular clubs are to be found in the Menga district (North of Cali) and Juanchito (East).

La Loma De A Cruz - PART OF CALI

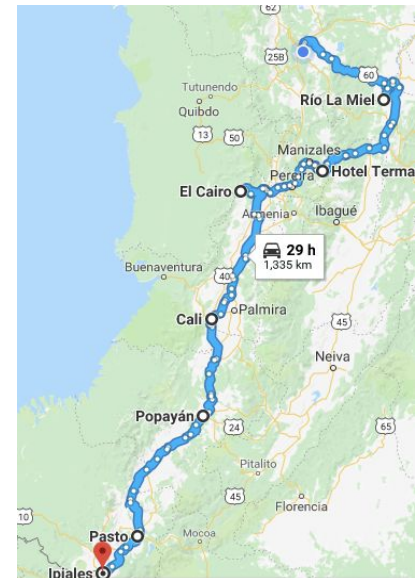
This is a very beautiful and tourist place in Cali located in a small village called Los Libertadores. The small village is seen through the entire city because it has a huge bright cross standing on the peak of a mountain. There are many things to do here from attending church buying hand made jewelry from locals. There also many small music festivals with tons of dancing. Many mini food shops so you could pick at food while you walk around.

Pance is a small town near Cali, is a nice place to visit, waterfalls, rivers, where you can practice hiking trails, birdwatching, camping, there are some hostels, restaurants etc.

Cali To Popayan - 138 km - 2h 28min

Relatively easy drive heading south, with the Cordillera Central mountain range as the backdrop. The Cordillera Central is the highest of the 3 branches of the Colombian Andes with volcanoes extending up to 19,000 feet. Destination Popayán, the capital of the Cauca Department with a population of 440,000. An early arrival gives time to walk around one of the most picturesque cities in South America, known for its whitewashed colonial buildings as well as its many architecturally-impressive churches and cathedrals.

Popayan To Pasto - 247 km - 5h 10min



A few lakes (**La Cocha Lake, Laguna Verde, Galeras, Las Lajas Sanctuary**) and churches to visit. Pasto is a very religious city, with beautiful temples that certainly represent the architectural wealth of the city. Some are very ancient and have been mixed with the modern and colonial styles simultaneously.

Pasto To Ipiales for border crossing to Ecuador - 82.9 km - 1h 41min

The colorful Saturday Market at the "Plaza Los Mártires", 10 minutes walk from the town center. In case we're stuck for the night - **Hotel San Juan** (New Hotel next to the bus terminal. Nice facilities and perfect location.) and **Hotel Belmonte** (Carrera 4a No. 12-111 (*almost 700 meters (straight line distance) from the Bus Terminal. Its a 10 minute walk.*), a family run hotel with clean rooms with television. A two minute walk from Plaza La Pola (Inglesia de la Felina))

Ecuador

Required Paperwork (Should be no cost)

- Passport of registered owner (original and one copy)
- Vehicle registration (original and one copy)
- Drivers license (original and one copy)
- Copy of Ecuador entry stamp
- The fine if your vehicle is in the country after the temp permit expires is \$350.00 USD PER DAY.

Process at border

- Owner of the vehicle gains entry at Immigration (Migración), usually with a tourist card, including a stamp in their Passport.
- The owner must show the new passport stamp, original vehicle registration and original Drivers license to Customs (Aduana) (plus one colour copy of each).
- The owner is issued a temporary import permit for the vehicle. (90 days). At Tulcan they made some photographs of our car to add to the computer file.
- As opposed to the sign at the aduana window - you don't need a SOAT (insurance) to get the temporary import.
- **CONFIRM:** In Ecuador the vehicle insurance comes with the TVIP upon entering

Exiting with a vehicle

- The registered owner presents the temporary import paper to customs.
- The registered owner is stamped out of Ecuador at immigration.

Ecuador - you still dont need insurance as a foreigner but that is about to be changed I read somewhere...

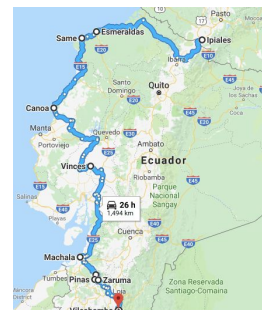
Possible - Cotopaxi Volcan Road – Ecuador - Return Trip

Cotopaxi is one of the highest active volcanoes in the world and the 25 mile Cotopaxi Volcan Road takes you right up to it. Make no mistake this is one of the most dangerous roads branching off the Pan-American Highway.

Ecuador Map Part 1 - <https://goo.gl/maps/B4cp8U8hryj>

Ipiales To Esmeralda - Same - 426 km - 6h 37min

Head off the beaten path, on a sinuous, recently paved highway that gradually descends from the Andean mountains, through farms of papaya, mango and other exotic fruits to arrive at the lovely Pacific province of Esmeraldas. Pass through miles of giant coastal mangroves and witness more incredible biodiversity. You will get a glimpse at the lively city of Esmeraldas, northern Ecuador's major port and coastal city. Stop for lunch to try out some of the creole cuisine, unique to this part of Ecuador.



Keeping along the coast, end the day's ride at the El Acantilado Lodge. This lodge has comfortable cabins and a private stretch of beach of unspoiled natural beauty. You will be able to go for a swim in the warm Pacific Ocean and explore the natural caves that surround the beach. The location is stunning.

Same To Tonchigúe - Pedernales - Jama - Canoa - 226 Km / 180 miles - 3h 25min

Start the day riding along miles of the Ecuadorian coast and past many shrimp farms and then through rolling hills of the tropical grasslands of the coastal lowlands. You will see that the preferred form of transport here is horseback. A good stop for lunch is in the somewhat chaotic little city of Pedernales. Known as the capital city for shrimp harvesting and trade in Ecuador (the country's third most important export) here you can enjoy some of the great restaurants serving the freshest shrimp you will have ever tasted in your life!

You will continue your ride down the unspoiled coastline of empty, sandy beaches and into the warm, friendly fishing village of Jama. We'll take a short jaunt off the main road to ride a causeway through the shrimp farms to really take in the beauty of this region. Then, you will head inland a little for a ride on some of the serene, undisturbed countryside of Manabi, passing cattle farms. Then we'll head towards the sunset, and onto the warm, sandy beach of Canoa.

Canoa is home to a mixed population of native fishermen, transient surfers and expatriate retirees who are seeking sun and relaxation. You will settle into the comfortable [Canoa Beach Hotel](#) and get ready for your day off from riding...

Canoa has one of the best beaches on the Ecuadorian coast and is a very popular place for surfing. You can rent a sea-kayak and explore the coastal caves. Other available activities include paragliding, whale watching, horseback riding, fishing or a boat tour of Corazon Island and the mangrove areas which is fascinating

Canoa to Bahia de Caraquez - "Vinces, San Francisco de Milagro, Ecuador" - 381 km / 237 miles ~5hrs - CHOOSE ROUTE ask locals

You will head south, crossing Ecuador's newest and longest bridge that spans the Bahia de Caraquez and brings you into the new and modern city of the same name. We'll ride through a dry forest with the strange looking Ceibo trees. Ceibo trees look like they were uprooted and turned upside down so that their roots are into the sky. They are called the "trees of life" and it is fabled that these trees, which only grow near the Equator, are what connect the Earth with the spiritual world. They flower only once every five years and produce a waterproof cotton that is used to build life preservers and outdoor pillows.

Ride through some of the most beautiful farmlands and countryside in rural Ecuador. With rolling hills, grand plains and friendly people we'll get to know this rarely visited hidden gem of Ecuador. We'll cross the Guayas river and enter a region that has become known as the producer of the world's best chocolate.

You'll end the ride outside the town of Vinces. Vinces was settled by French chocolatiers in the 19th century and still retains its French architectural heritage. The region is famous for producing the world's best chocolate, known as "arriba" chocolate. The chocolate is called "arriba" because when the first European chocolate makers came here, they noticed the locals were carrying some of the best smelling and delicious chocolate in their canoes. When asked where the chocolate came from, the locals replied "arriba" which meant up-river, where Vinces is located today. We'll spend the night on a chocolate and banana plantation. in the unique Señor de los Caballos Resort. We'll get a chance to learn how teakwood, chocolate and bananas are grown and cultivated from the manager of the plantation.

Vinces, San Francisco de Milagro, to Ecuador to Machala - Paccha - Zaruma - 345 Km / 214 miles (Might be 696 km - 12h)

More adventures ahead! You will head across the great plains with plenty of fishing birds and rice paddies. We'll cross through the Churute mangrove national wildlife area - known for its beautiful mangroves and alligators.

You'll see the agriculture and landscape change as you enter El Oro Province. The smell of ripening bananas and cacao plantations will fill your senses. This area is known for being the "Banana Capital of the World" - where a large portion of Ecuador's banana trade and market activities occur.

Onward, you will then head back inland, through mangroves and farmlands and into the hills that were once one of the wealthiest regions of the Spanish Empire. The Canari Indians died here, deep in the gold tunnels of Ecuador's Andes. First the Incas, then the Conquistadores, working the Indians till they dropped. It is a rugged yet strikingly beautiful region of Ecuador, known as the gold province.

You'll spend the night in the gold mining town of Zaruma. Zaruma was founded in 1549 and still boasts some of the finest examples of early colonial Spanish architecture in all of South America. Zaruma is also known for having the most beautiful women in Ecuador. You will find a nice, cozy room at the Roland Hotel.

Zaruma to Portovelo - Piñas - Vilcabamba - 242 km / 150 miles

Heading out from Zaruma, stop in Portovelo to visit the gold mines there, some of the world's biggest and most productive. You may visit the mine by riding one of the carts used to transport the raw ore.

Then, as you head back on your bike, ride changing landscapes on rural, mountainous backroads through dense forest. You will pass through the town of Piñas, known for its beautiful orchids.

You will climb in elevation once again, riding through the picturesque Spanish colonial towns of El Cisne, with its magnificent cathedral and the charming town of Catamayo. This road has non-stop curves. We have tried to count them but each time we try we lose count. It must be in the thousands! This is where you'll want to make sure you don't scrape off the ends of your footpegs.

You will finish today's ride in the peaceful, hippy-mecca town of Vilcabamba in what is known as the "Valley of Longevity" because the population here is known to live very long lives. With lush green scenery, a mild year-round climate, and fresh mountain air, it is no wonder that Vilcabamba has been a popular vacation spot for hundreds of years. Once a retreat for Inca royalty, foreigners discovered Vilcabamba in the 1970s after a series of articles were published including one in "National Geographic" that highlighted the long lives of the locals.

Since then the area has been known as the Valley of Longevity and has turned into one of the most popular destinations in Ecuador. Because most people come to Vilcabamba to relax, the town has managed to keep its small town appeal with only a cluster of small restaurants and internet cafes surrounding the sleepy town square. The tranquil atmosphere, perfect weather, and an endless array of outdoor activities has combined to create a place where people often come for a weekend and end up staying a month.

Check into the comfortable award-winning (Best Hotel and Spa in Ecuador) Madre Tierra Eco Resort- a very well-managed, American owned and operated hotel and spa with beautiful grounds and spectacular pool. The rooms are very comfortable and the swimming pool is beautiful. They also offer great massages and spa treatments if you would like to un-do some of the effects of riding.

Peru

Required Paperwork

- Passport of registered owner (original and 1 copy).
- Drivers license of registered owner (original and 1 copy).
- Vehicle registration (original and 1 copy).

Process at border

- The owner of the vehicle gains entry at immigration (migración), by getting a tourist card, getting it stamped by the police and finally a stamp in their Passport.
- The owner must show the new passport stamp, drivers license and the original vehicle registration to customs (aduana).
- The owner is issued a temporary import permit for the vehicle.
- If you cross at Tumbes, Ecuador and Peru are working together at their borderpost. Exiting the country happens some kilometers over the border along an empty stretch of highway. For leaving Ecuador you go on over the border (5K) until you see the CEBAF borderpost (a big walled compound) at the right (with a big peruvian flag). The ecuador immigration and aduana are next to their peruvian "friends" in the very same office. The Tumbes border was safe and we saw no corruption.
- Exiting Peru into Ecuador you use the other CEBAF borderpost some K into Ecuador.

Exiting Peru with a vehicle

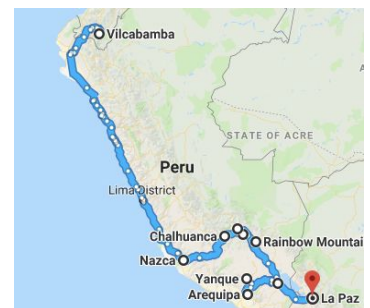
- The registered owner must get the Police at the border to stamp their tourist card, clearing them to leave Peru.
- The registered owner can then be stamped out of Peru at immigration.
- The registered owner presents the temporary import paper to customs.

SOAT: Yes needed. \$33-35 for 30 days. Usually available at majors borders.

Peru Map - <https://goo.gl/maps/ZuiwtoqQBhn>

Vilcabamba to Piura, Peru - 357 km / 6h 28m

We can stop here if we want. One of the largest cities in Peru. Hotels start at \$17. Piura is the capital city of Peru's northwestern Piura region. It's known for its colonial buildings, such as the Piura Cathedral with its ornate gilded altarpiece. The cathedral faces Plaza de Armas, a trim square dotted with tamarind trees. The Admiral Miguel Grau Museum and House contains the 19th-century war hero's photos and mementos. San Francisco Church is where Piura declared independence from Spain in 1821.



Piura to Trujillo - 428 km / 7h

-Chan Chan Ruins - the largest city of the pre-Columbian era in South America, is now an archaeological site in La Libertad Region 5 kilometres (3.1 mi) west of Trujillo, Peru.



Trujillo to Paron Lake - 271 km / 5h 41m

If you would like to follow the adventure: <https://www.instagram.com/jerryromine/>

Lago Paron is a high mountain lake at an elevation of 4.200m (13,779ft) above the sea level, located on the Peruvian Andes.

Also known as Laguna Paron, is considered one of the biggest lakes in the Cordillera Blanca. It's located in the Huascarán National Park, 32 far from the city Caraz. The high concentrations of dissolved lime give the water of Paron a turquoise color.



Paron Lake, Caraz, Huaraz, Peru ...

The road to the lake is especially challenging. It has more than 100 hairpin turns. The drive to the lake is through a spectacular canyon with 1000m high granite walls. It's a gravel road impressive because of the high and very steep, often vertical slopes of this narrow U-shaped valley. Through a large series of hairpins one climbs to the lake, all the time having clear and sometimes rather frightening outlooks on the rock faces.

The drive is definitely worth it. There are many excellent photo opportunities here. Don't forget your camera! You can take incredible shots of the lake and peaks of the Cordillera Blanca. Dramatic mountain views of the [Artesonraju, also known as the Paramount logo film](#), Chacaraju, Pisco and Huandoy mountains.

Paron Lake To Huascaran National Park - 89 km / 2h 50m

Huascaran is a [Peruvian](#) national park that comprises most of the mountain range known as [Cordillera Blanca](#) (the world's highest tropical mountain range) which is part of the central [Andes](#), in the region of [Ancash](#).



One of the Llanganuco Lakes, inside the park.



Taulliraju mountain

Huascaran Natl Park To Ayacucho - 465 km / 10h 50m

Nearly **four hours from the city of Ayacucho** in the community of Circamarca, you can discover these must-see rare and beautiful crystal clear natural pools. Can do on our own. 30 minute walk after driving there.

Ayacucho to Aguas Turquesas (Millpu Lagoon) - 124 km / ~4h

From Ayacucho leave around 6 AM. Google Map Aguas Turquesas for directions or take tourist bus from Ayacucho. Pictures are stunning.



Aguas Turquesas To Huacachina - 327 km / 7h 28m

(Huacachina is located just outside the city of Ica, about 4.5 hours south of Lima and 10 hours from Arequipa (by tourist class bus). The desert village is built around a small natural lake with towering sand dunes surrounding it from all sides. This desert oasis has become an increasingly popular tourist attraction for adventurers drawn to sandboarding and high speed dune buggy rides (we highly recommend you visit)



Huacachina to Nazca. - 146 km / 2h 30m

The town of Nazca is famous for the mysterious Nazca Lines, which are geoglyphs and formations drawn out across the pampas (open grassy plains) just outside of the town. Riders can either take a local flight over the area to get the best views of animal and other figure-formations drawn in the dirt and sand below, or a nearby tower can be climbed for those who prefer to stand or RIDE instead of fly

Nazca to Chalhuanca, Peru - 463 km / 8h 16m - Altitude: to 4500m

Today marks the climb into the Andes mountains! More twisties and vast scenery accompany the gradual ascent to this town high in the Andes, with minimal effort thanks to the "twist of your wrist." Lunch could be in the town of Puquio before heading up further to Chalhuanca, a very remote spot that will cause one to stop and ponder the amazing place in the world they've just arrived to. You're below the equator, on a motorcycle, riding in Peru, and with so much great riding yet ahead!

Chalhuanca to Sacred Valley of the Incas - 202 km / 4h 21m

Sacred Valley of the Incas (Geographically, the Sacred Valley stretches along the Urubamba River from Pisac to Ollantaytambo. Aside from the ruins and archaeological sites, the region is well known for its remarkable landscapes and lush agriculture. The Sacred Valley is a region in Peru's Andean highlands. Along with the nearby town of Cusco and the ancient city of Machu Picchu, it formed the heart of the Inca Empire. Stretching roughly 60 kilometers, it's an area of fertile farmland and Spanish colonial villages like Pisac and Ollantaytambo. Pisac is known for its Sunday handicraft market and hilltop Incan citadel.)



The Sacred Valley of the Incas, Peru ...

Sacred Valley of the Incas to Ollantaytambo, Peru - 24 km / 38m - Altitude: to 2800m

Today's brief ride through the beautiful Sacred Valley of the Incas makes Rider very glad they're on a motorcycle instead of being trapped inside a bus. Lunch can be enjoyed there in Ollantaytambo with ancient ruins all around. Notice the hole-covered valley walls in some spots? Grave diggers long ago discovered that ancient Incas were buried with all their gold and jewelry possessions, and the deceased have since been "relieved" of their belongings. This location sets you up for even more highlights ahead.

Ollantaytambo - The TRAIN RIDE to Machu Picchu, Peru - 30km- Altitude: to 2360

Finally, the approach to Machu Picchu! Arguably the most famous site in all of South America, the story of Hiram Bingham's 1911 journey to find the "Lost City of the Incas" is one you can now appreciate better, having passed through the thick and lush terrain of Peruvian rainforest. Due to the non-existent road to Aguas Calientes (the base village below Machu Picchu), the only other way to arrive would be by hiking the Inca Trail for about 3-5 days. The early 2 hour train ride to Aguas Calientes glides along the Urubamba River to this small town, just before a brief bus ride up to the gates of Machu Picchu. With plenty of time to adore the grandeur of this magnificent discovery, the train ride back to Ollantaytambo at the end of the day will undoubtedly be one with a smile on your face.

MACHU PICCHU INSTRUCTIONS - 3-5 Days

Motorcycle directions to Machu Picchu - GOLD: [HERE](#)

Step 1 - Ollantaytambo to Central Hidroelectrica - 176 km / 4h 8m

About 2 minutes before you reach the end of the road, you can turn left over a bridge to reach the home of Señores Eliseo y Wilfredo Escobar where you can securely park your bikes and store your gear for the night. We chatted for a while with Eliseo and learned that his family has built quite the business storing motorcycles for tourists. Kris and I paid 10 soles (about \$3.50) each to keep our bikes there for the night. Eliseo was even helpful in getting mine to start the next day when I had issues. Here's a flier he gave me with directions to his place.



Step 2 - Hike from Hydroelectrica to Agua Calientes or Train (if space Available).

There's a train station at Hydroelectrica but it's not for tourists. It's a local line for Peruvians to come and go from Hydroelectrica. However, if they have enough room on the train after all the locals have gotten their significantly cheaper tickets, they will sell the remaining tickets to tourists for \$33.

At this point it was almost 5pm and we were losing sunlight fast. It was a little late to get started on a 2 1/2 hour hike, but we were so close to the finish line so we pushed onward. The final 45 minute stretch of our hike was in complete darkness but we both had flashlights and it's a relatively flat and easy hike alongside train tracks, so the darkness wasn't a problem.

All along the route there were houses, hostels, restaurants, and people selling food and drinks along the side of the tracks. And we must've passed several hundred people along the way walking in the opposite direction and returning to Hydroelectrica

Step 3 - Spend the night in Aguas Calientes

there are plenty of tickets available just to Machu Picchu (\$70), even the night beforehand. The tickets that sell out weeks or months in advance are to Machu Picchu + Huayna Picchu (\$86), Machu Picchu + Mountain (\$86), and Machu Picchu + Manuel Chávez Ballón Museum (\$77). We chose not to buy our tickets ahead of time because they were already sold out of Huayna Picchu tickets online and we thought there was a small chance we could still obtain two in person – but we were wrong.

So the night we arrived in Aguas Calientes, we found the local office and bought our tickets to Machu Picchu for the next day. It's located at the [Ministry of Culture at Ave Pachacutec, Aguas Calientes, Peru](#).

NOTE: You can buy your tickets online at their [official website](#) but the website isn't very mobile friendly and still uses Flash because it's like a million years old, so you'll want to do so from a desktop browser.

Machu Picchu tourism operates in two shifts from 6am to 12pm and from 12pm to 5:30pm, and you choose which shift you want to visit when you buy your ticket. You can show up anytime you want during that window and your entrance fee entitles you to the ruins for 4 hours. We chose the early shift because we also had to hike back to Hydroelectrica and ride our moto bikes to Santa Teresa that same day. Plus everything I read about Machu Picchu said that the early shift was better and that it was best to arrive as early as possible to avoid the crowds – which now that I've been I fully agree with. We were SO happy that we arrived early and got some great photo opportunities before the mad rush of tourists arrived.

If you would like to follow the adventure: <https://www.instagram.com/jerryromine/>

Step 4 - Buy bus tickets to Machu Picchu

From Aguas Calientes, you can either take a 25 minute bus up the mountain to Machu Picchu or you can hike straight up the mountain for 90 minutes. Some people choose to take the bus up and hike down but we opted to take the bus in both directions because we were on a timeframe. The bus tickets are about \$25 each for round trip and leave every 15 minutes. You don't buy tickets for a particular time, you just buy your tickets and arrive at the station the next morning and leave on the next available bus.

You buy your bus tickets at the tiny stand located at [here](#). There's not really an address for it so I just linked to the exact spot on Google Maps.

Step 5 - Take the bus from Aguas Calientes to Machu Picchu

We were anticipating a long line at the bus station the next morning, but they've got this down pat at this point. We didn't even wait 60 seconds to board the bus and there was another one right behind it ready to go for the next set of tourists after us. The ride took about 25 minutes.

We left our bookbags behind at the hotel so that we didn't have to carry our stuff around the whole day, and it was a smart decision. I recommend you do the same. Every hotel / hostel in that town offers the service to store your stuff for the day, even though checkout time is early in that town.

Step 6 - Visit Machu Picchu!

We made it! All our hard work paid off and we earned the prize at the end of the journey. If you haven't already booked a tour by the time you get there, there are lots of tour guides waiting outside Machu Picchu who you can hire for about \$20-30 for a group tour. If you're there solo or in a couple, team up with another group and you can split the cost of the tour amongst everyone.

Step 7 Hike back to Hydroelectrica

When we had our fair share of Machu Picchu and it was starting to get late, we took a bus back down to Aguas Caliente, grabbed our bags from the hotel, and began our hike back to Hydroelectrica. This time it was the middle of the day so we got to see the part of the hike that we couldn't see the night before because it was so dark. It was then that we realized you can see part of the ruins from the hike.

Step 8 - Ride Mottos to Santa Teresa and spend the night - 11 km / 28m

From there we rode the 45 minutes to Santa Teresa to spend the night. We considered continuing onward and cutting out part of the journey for the next morning, but since we weren't about to tackle that horrible mountain at night, we decided to just rest up in Santa Teresa since it was the best place to stay in between Hydroelectrica and the mountain. I forgot the name of the hotel we stayed at in Santa Teresa, or maybe I never knew, but it doesn't really matter. It was nothing to write home about. There is plenty of available cheap accommodation in Santa Teresa to get you by for a night. We thought about going to the thermal baths, but ended up having a great big dinner instead and passing out early.

<END MACHU PICCHU>

OPTIONAL NOT LIKELY - Sacred Valley to Puerto Maldonado (Amazon Rainforest) - OPTIONAL

Street arts, plaza de armas, markets, monkey island, The Obelisk (the 8-storey lookout tower), Lima's Plaza de Armas (The main square sits in the heart of the city's historic district and is a UNESCO World Heritage Site that dates back to the 18th century. Some of the highlights here include an ornate cathedral, Government Palace, Archbishop's Palace and the Casa del Oidor. Afterwards, meander through the shops and restaurants along Jiron de la Union.)

Santa Teresa to Cuzco, Peru - - 214 km / 4h 43m - Altitude: to 3400m

Continuing east on the way to Cuzco, the ancient capital of the Inca Empire awaits you but not before a long series of fun twists and Andean hairpin turns. Valley and cliff settings atop tiny small towns all show the way to Cuzco where accommodations await you near the Plaza de Armas in the town center, and a perfect location for exploring the nightlife, arts, and crafts offered here. Norton Rat's Tavern right there on the plaza has a Guest Book and beverages to enjoy while meeting travelers from every corner of our world.

Take a break in this charming city, and enjoy the architectural and cultural surroundings. Walking tours of Cuzco focusing on the historical highlights can be enjoyed, or many of the ancient Inca ruins found just outside of the city can be easily reached by motorcycle.

Cuzco To Rainbow Mountain - 139 km / 3h 23m

Rainbow Mountain is a 3 hour hike. See Alex Chacon IG for info. Between 2 -4 pm few people and great pictures.



Rainbow Mountain to Yanque - 339 km / 7h 38m

Views of volcanoes, vicuñas, llamas, and alpacas lead you to the edge of the Colca Canyon, and stunning views of one of the world's deepest canyons. The riding in the Colca Canyon remains the only portion of the trip which is off-pavement, but the simple hard-packed gravel found within the Canyon walls is a surface most motorcycle riders find quite easy to navigate, while adding some thrill to the overall trip.

Yanque to Arequipa (Jet gets Visas) - 168 km / 3h 9m

With more time for riding the Colca Canyon, early morning is the best time to see the Andean Condors in flight as they feed along the road you ride. Valley walls covered with agricultural interests that support the region all melt into one twisting and turning ride marking the Colca Canyon yet another highlight of this trip. Then rising up from the canyon to make your way back to Arequipa, congratulations to all riders who have now completed this incredible journey through southern Peru!

Arequipa to Puno, Peru - 294 km / 5h 23m - Altitude: to 3800m

Another fun riding day Arequipa to Puno to the shores of Lake Titicaca. Enjoy this lively and highly-elevated town, and the great walking and shopping opportunities within. A boat cruise on Lake Titicaca is recommended, granting an opportunity to visit the famous "Floating Island of the Uros" people. See up-close how the locals live and work their lives, based on bundles of dried totora leaves formed such that everything "floats."

The Floating Islands of the Uros people and a fascinating Peruvian setting on the border of Bolivia are definitely worth a day's rest, and the charming town of Puno will be perfect for a rest day or some local exploration. With a charming city center and plenty of shopping and dining options, you're of course welcome to do some more local motorcycle exploration today.

Puno To La Paz, Bolivia - 264 km / 4h 43m

Riding the scenic shores of Lake Titicaca.

Bolivia

Required Paperwork

- Passport of registered owner (original and one copy)
- Vehicle registration (original and one copy)
- Insurance (it appears some people are asked for this, most are not)

Process at border

- The owner of the vehicle gains entry at Immigration (Migración), usually with a tourist card, including a stamp in their Passport.
- The owner must show the new passport stamp and original vehicle registration to Customs (Aduana).
- The owner is issued a temporary import permit for the vehicle.
- The police might record the information from your new temporary import permit before you leave the border and stamp the other side of the permit. They might also ask you if you have all the required items in your car (including wheel chocks and insurance). If you say you don't, they will ask for a "voluntary contribution" = bribe. Say politely you don't understand, take the stamped permit and leave.

Cost of entry

- Free for the vehicle.
- USA Citizens \$160.00 USD as of June 2015, you get the visa at the border immediately, no extended wait, no need to apply ahead of time. Clean, crisp US Dollars only

Exiting with a vehicle

- The registered owner presents the temporary import paper to customs.
- The registered owner is stamped out of Bolivia at immigration.

Must have extra gas cans for bike.

Note: I found insurance policies that covered several countries for a low cost. The last I had I bought in Tarija - Bolivia. It costed 50 USD for 6 months coverage and it covered 5-6 different countries. I also had a similar multi-country insurance that I bought in southern Chile (Puerto Varas).

Bolivia Map 1 - <https://goo.gl/maps/BPzyPDFYcFJ2>

La Paz to Oruro - 227 km - 3 hrs 36 min

Oruro is famous for two things: it's incredible markets and fantastic barbecue restaurants.

Oruro to Cochabamba - 220 km

Get ready for some curvy roads! Climb again high into the mountains at 4,500 meters before descending into the valley of Cochabamba home to one of Bolivia largest markets. The city is off the typical tourist path and is a great place to see authentic Bolivian culture.



Bonus fact: it is also considered the “culinary capital” of the country so get ready for a real treat!

Cochabamba to Totora - 145 km

In the morning, we will visit the largest “Cristo” sculpture in South America. At nearly 40 meters in height, it is quite a bit taller than the world famous “Cristo de Rio de Janeiro” in Brazil. After we leave the city, you will have the opportunity for a fresh fish lunch and passing through the beautiful countryside, we will finally arrive in Totora, a small colonial town in the mountains.

Totora to Samaipata - 265 km

Our Bolivia motorcycle adventures are drawing to end on our last day of riding as we return to Samaipata via a marvelous motorcycle road that curves through the mountains and we toast our achievements.

Samaipata to La Higuera - 175 km

Now our Bolivia motorcycle tours really begins as we go towards the tiny mountain village of La Higuera. This place has become legendary as the place where Cuban revolutionary hero Che Guevara was captured and executed. We will stop for lunch in Vallegrande and visit the Che Guevara museum and see some of the other historic sites in the village. Then we will end the day as we arrive in La Higuera where you might be lucky enough to meet some of the locals who were eyewitnesses to the capture of the famed hero.

La Higuera to Villa Serrano - 120 km

After visiting some truly historic sights of the village including the famed school-house where Guevara had his final confrontation with the armies, we will head to Villa Serrano. Crossing through the beautiful mountains, we will stop for lunch on a suspension bridge over the Rio Grande and if the conditions are right you can even stop here for a swim. After our break, we will arrive in Villa Serrano in the afternoon where you might be lucky enough to see the world largest Charango, a 6 meter tall type of Bolivian guitar, that was built to commemorate don Mauro, a local charango hero.

Villa Serrano to Sucre - 190 km

Get ready to start early on our Bolivia motorcycle adventures as we leave Villa Serrano to visit Tarabuco, the “Sunday-Market.” It is a rare place to really meet the indigenous people of Bolivia and get to experience authentic and ancient culture of the region. After lunch, we continue our drive to Sucre, Bolivia’s capital. The rest of the afternoon is yours to explore this incredible city. The entire city-centre is a UNESCO World Heritage Site!

Sucre to Potosi - 155 km

Get ready to climb up to 4000 meters above sea level! Smooth tarmac drive will be all gliding as we cruise up the altiplano (high plains) until we reach Potosi which is the highest city above sea level in the world!

The Historic Silver Mines - How to get there? In Potosi?

Today, we will spend less time on the bikes and more time exploring the historic city where will begin by exploring the “miner’s market” where you can buy anything from coca leaves to dynamite! If you enjoy a little bit of fireworks, then don’t worry, we have a special treat for you ! Afterward, we will continue to mountains where you will be “geared up” to descend deep into Pajcha Mama or the belly of mother earth. Here you will see a 500 year old and still operating silver mine. Just be ready for some small spaces! After lunch, we will **head over to the “Casa de Moneda”** or the mint. At one point, every single coin used in the western world was made here.

Uyuni to 205 km

Awesome ride enjoying incredible scenery and through tiny villages and thousands of llamas. We are headed to Uyuni where to visit a “train graveyard,” an incredible collection of old steam locomotives and historical artifacts dating back to the 19th century. Hotel Avenida is a possible place to stay.

Possible [things to do](#). [Link 2](#).

Bolivia Map 2 - <https://goo.gl/maps/tNsHCrYbZw72> (MAP IS NOT CORRECT!!!)

Uyuni to Salar de Uyuni - 230 km - MAP SEPARATELY - Not on Google maps

This is what you have been waiting for— Bolivia salar de uyuni tour. The Salar de Uyuni are the largest flats on earth. It’s actually a dried up lake the size of a small country at roughly 11,000 square kilometers. It is a completely unique experience with nothing, but blue sky and white salt creating a truly once in a lifetime opportunity. Your eyes will play all kinds of tricks on you and it’s a great place for some unbelievable photography. During this excitement, we will make our way to the world famous Dakar Monument, one of the most spectacular pieces of Inca history.



There should be a hotel/hostel/primitive campsite at Salar de Uyuni - Research more. Alex Cochon

Uyuni to Uturuncu - 260 km - MAP SEPARATELY - Not on Google maps

Get ready to enter the desert. This is a true desert where nothing grows, but the road twists and turns through the incredible valleys. Soon the roads turn to sand and dirt as we journey hard into the desert. After this journey, we will settle at the base of the Uturuncu volcano for the night.

Uturuncu to Polques - 120 km - MAP SEPARATELY - Not on Google maps

Get ready to scale Uturuncu via the highest road in the world (at a staggering 19,000 feet) before we continue our expedition into Laguna Calvin and its thermal waters. We will spend the night next to a hot-spring where you can sit in steaming-hot water, gazing at a zillion stars.

Polques to Agua de Perdiz - 182 km - MAP SEPARATELY - Not on Google maps

Heading south we pass through painted desert landscapes, endless valleys littered with massive rock-pillars until we arrive at the “green-lagoon”. We turn north passing volcanic vents that blast their gasses into the cold sky, bubbling boiling colored mud-pools and the “red lagoon” with islands made of crystal-white borax where thousands of flamingos come to breed. Passing the famous “stone tree” (arbol de piedra) we end the day at Agua de Perdiz, an amazing sandy valley where the “road” is 5 km wide.

Polques to Calama, Chile - 425 km (6 hrs) FROM Uyuni (BUT NOT FROM Polques)

Not sure of route from Polques

POSSIBLE PLACES TO VISIT:

- [Valle de las Animas – La Paz, Bolivia \(Valley of the souls - Bolivia's needle-like rock formations.\)](#)

Chile & Argentina (Patagonia)

Chile Required Paperwork

- Passport of registered owner (original)
- Vehicle registration (original)

Chile Process at border

- The owner of the vehicle gains entry at Immigration (Migración), including a stamp in their Passport.
- The owner must show the new passport stamp and original vehicle registration to Customs (Aduana).
- The owner is issued a temporary import permit for vehicle. Título de Importación Temporal de Vehículos

Chile Exiting with a vehicle

- The registered owner presents the temporary import paper to customs.
- The registered owner is stamped out of Chile at immigration.

Argentina Required Paperwork

- Passport of registered owner.
- Drivers license of registered owner.
- Original vehicle registration.
- Proof of vehicle insurance.
- Typically valid for 30 or 90 days, however the amount of time is at the discretion of the customs officer. The maximum length of stay for the vehicle, is up to 8 months, however a vehicle import permit of this length may require some persuasion. (2016-2018: we got the 8 months already at 4 different entry points, without asking - we stored our van 3 times for more than 6 months)

Argentina Process at border

- Owner of the vehicle gains entry at immigration (migración), including a stamp in their Passport.
- The owner must show new passport stamp, drivers license the original vehicle registration to customs (aduana)
- The owner is issued a temporary import permit for the vehicle.

Note: Customs may ask for proof of vehicle insurance before entry is granted.

WARNING!!!! *If you are not named on the customs form as the driver of the vehicle who entered the country the Argentine customs agents will seize the vehicle when you try and leave. They will put a fine which is so high you will never pay it and it takes months or years to resolve. DO NOT risk having vehicles change hands in Argentina. Checks in patagonia are lax, but not in the rest of the country.*

Argentina Exiting with a vehicle

- The registered owner presents the temporary import paper to customs.
- The registered owner is stamped out of Argentina at immigration.

[Chile Bucket List](#)

Patagonia Map 1 - <https://goo.gl/maps/TdTR4fHYtkA2>

(Jet Gets Argentinian Visa in Santiago - not sure which one should go to but I think it's the one at [Miraflores](#))

Argentina Embassy Santiago - Vicuña Mackenna 41, Providencia, Santiago, Región Metropolitana, Chile (opens at 10am)

Embassy of Argentina - Miraflores 285, Santiago, Región Metropolitana, Chile (opens at 8am-6pm)



Calama to Santiago

Calama to Osorno - 2460 km (26 hrs) - Haulin Ass through Chile

- [There's Osorno volcano, Lakes District, Chile](#)

Osorno/Pucón, Chile to Bariloche, Argentina – 239 km

It's time to start riding into the heart of Patagonia!

Due to the wild series of inlets and land formations that make up the coast of southern Chile, this trip heads east up into the Andes Mountains before going further south into Patagonia. Starting from Osorno & passing through Parque Nacional Puyuhue and later Nahuel Huapi, for a fantastic first day's ride. Riders starting in Pucón will have a few more hours of riding today, but get to start with the famous "7 Lakes Route" (Ruta de 7 Lagos) going through San Martin de Los Andes. Settling down into the ski-resort town of Bariloche for the night and perhaps your first Argentine asado (barbeque) in this lively town sets you up for even greater riding ahead.

Bariloche to Trevelin, Chile – 308 km

Before leaving Bariloche, be sure to ride the "Circuito Chico" through Llao Llao just to the west! Then, as most of the trucks and traffic will take the obvious Route 40 south, but you might want to follow the Road Book and enjoy a detour through Parque Nacional Los Alerces just to the west. Sweeping sandy turns through the "Fitzroy" trees (cousin to the Redwoods found in California and the tallest trees in all of South America,) beautiful lakes and mountains guide us through the national park. Positioned to cross back into Chile the next day, how did you do in the gravel? We hope well, because there's more ahead.

Trevelin to Puyuhuapi, Chile – 246 km

Today marks the start of the ride down the Carretera Austral (Highway to the South) and what many folks will agree is some of the best riding in the world! First crossing the Futaleufú River, you'll also be passing near Parque Nacional Corcovado, one of very few privately owned land preserves in the world (owned by Doug Tompkins, founder of The North Face clothing company.)

Heading further south on the Carretera, rain is likely before arriving in the town of Puyuhuapi, and this area is an absolute highlight for riders experiencing Patagonia for the first time. Glaciers to the left, waterfalls all around, and the rainforest riding for the Patagonia riders.

Puyuhuapi to Coihaique, Chile - 224 km

If you're going to get rain on this trip, it'll likely be here in the Queulat Rainforest in this stunning valley full of switchbacks and unforgettable scenery. Even the most "reserved" personalities tend to burst a bit in this section, as every turn reveals a new view of the precious Patagonia we've grown to love. Waterfalls that cascade down from a few hundred meters high and all the bright green forestry of Patagonia await you.

Coyhaique to Puerto Tranquilo area of Chile – 225 km

Patagonia riding, this is it! Just because the scenery got better these past couple of days, that doesn't mean it can't get even better still... The enormous Nalca plants will line your ride through Parque Nacional Queulat, and likely some rain today. The plant life and rain makes for an amazing atmosphere though with snow-capped mountains, rivers and waterfalls, and in the right season, salmon spawning in the River Cisnes.

After Reserva Nacional Cerro Castillo and its sharp mountain peaks, you'll get your first glimpses of Lago General Carrera, and if the sun is out, another site never to be forgotten. Glacier fed waters reflect blue light, and combined with more snow-capped mountains in the background, this is one fantastic ride into Puerto Tranquilo. If you arrived early enough, opportunities for fishing, boat tours of the nearby Marble Caves, and canopy tours are possible.

REST DAY - Puerto Tranquilo

The rest day in Puerto Tranquilo is chosen for a couple of reasons. First, Patagonia makes for some tough riding and everyone has a need to rest up, and second, because you probably won't want to leave the Puerto Tranquilo area! We will be far off "the beaten path" at this point and varying emotions about seclusion and our normal lives are bound to set in. With activities like boat tours, fly-fishing, horseback riding, canopy tours, and river rafting on the Rio Baker, this is barely a relaxing rest day. On the other hand, if you really feel you want to ride a little this day, the fabulous "Patagonia Park," one of the late Doug Tompkin's conservation efforts is right nearby with plenty of guanacos bouncing around the lodge Valle Chacabuco.

Puerto Tranquilo to Los Antiguos, Argentina – 175 km

Leaving this spot about only about 50m/80km from the Pacific Ocean, the RIDE takes you along the shores of Lago General Carrera with its blue beauty guiding us along rock walls and fantastic scenery on the way back into Argentina. Now get ready for the wind! As Pacific air rolls across the Andes, it typically rushes down the eastern side of the mountains in quite a hurry, so this can be a challenging day of riding.

Los Antiguos to near Gobernador Gregores, Argentina – 414 km

Just grip down and get through what could definitely be more pounding winds today, as this is part of why Ruta 40 is so famous! Extremely remote territories, very few fueling points, and the wide-open "pampas" region of Argentina again add to the variety in this adventure. Guanacos (like a small llama, indigenous to South America and this region in particular) will be dancing around the road before us, so we take extra caution on rides like this.

Gobernador Gregores to El Calafate, Argentina - 330 km

Still out in the Argentine wild, just tilt back to the west with the Andes in site today. Passing Lago Cardiel and Lago Viedma, the piercing peaks of Mount Fitz Roy and the town of El Chaltén can be seen in the distance. Passing Lago Argentino and nearing the town of El Calafate, a fun town with great shopping, dining, and relaxation potential sets riders up for one of the greatest highlights in all of Patagonia the next day.

REST DAY in El Calafate (optional visit to Glacier: 160km)

It's important to rest once again, and there might be no better town to do so in. Just a short ride morning starts with a visit to yet another incredible site in Patagonia: [The Perito Moreno Glacier!](#) One of only 3 known glaciers in the world that is still actually growing, huge chunks of ice will fall off before your eyes, crashing into the bay before you. As if this awesome sight isn't enough, the rumbling sounds of ice cracking throughout the ice field will remain a definite part of your Patagonia memories. Enjoy the remainder of the day around the town of El Calafate where shopping, crafts, culture and restaurants all await you.

[Possible Things to do in Chile](#)

<https://www.smartertravel.com/chile-bucket-list-outdoor-experiences/>

<https://passionpassport.com/7-things-add-chile-bucket-list/>

<https://www.cascada.travel/en/News/Chile-Travel-31-Adventures-Your-Bucket-List>

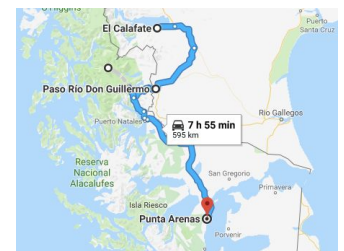
- Ahu Tongariki in the Rapa Nui National Park (monolithic stone sculpture)
- Rano Kau Volcano (also in Rapa Nui Natl Park)
- Lago Grey (Grey Glacier) With its cool blue-colored ice and massive, jagged exterior, [Grey Glacier in Torres del Paine National Park](#) offers once-in-a-lifetime views. It's quite a sight to behold, and thanks to a nunatak (a piece of land dividing the glacier in two) you can actually step into the middle of the glacier on an island of sorts. This is your Instagrammable moment, so be sure your camera is charged and ready to shoot.
- Kayak thru caves in Puerto Rio Tranquillo
- Valle del elqui (really beautiful valley)
- Monte **Fitz Roy** is a mountain in **Patagonia, Argentina**. It is located in the Southern Patagonian Ice Field, near El **Chaltén** village (glaciers and waterfalls)

[15 Best Things to Do in El Calafate \(Argentina\)](#)

El Calafate to Torres del Paine National Park – 379 km

Patagonia Map 2 - <https://goo.gl/maps/d3BoyMPuk4n>

Circling back through the wide-open “pampas” of Argentina one more time, the goal is yet another stunning site on the Chilean side. Crossing the border at Paso Rio Don Guillermo, it might not appear that there's anything in site; however, when approaching the middle of Torres del Paine National Park, riders will understand why this is a special place in Patagonia.



The famous Torres (towers) and Cuernos (horns) of Torres del Paine National Park beg you to take a rest day and either hike or ride around the area to enjoy the beauty. From the south side of “Los Cuernos”(The Horns,) travelers can be found waiting to photograph that perfect sunrise where orange and pink hues radiate across this unforgettable mountain formation. Designated a World Biosphere Reserve in 1978 by UNESCO, photos might not even be necessary as the images will remain clear in traveler's minds forever.



Torres del Paine N.P. to Punta Arenas, Chile – 320 km

(also inquire about possible Puerto Natales finish, perfect for those wanting to hike in Torres del Paine)

Finally, the Province and Island of Tierra del Fuego! Originally given that name by Ferdinand Magellan (meaning “Land of Fire”) because of the Indian's fires he saw blazing before him, he might have better named it “Land of Wind,” because you're likely be inundated by it most of the day. Although you might not actually

If you would like to follow the adventure: <https://www.instagram.com/jerryromine/>

touch Tierra del Fuego, you'll be just about 1 kilometer from it across the Strait of Magellan, and definitely have the sensation of what it's like to be out there.