TRANS ANDEAN EXPLORER *with* ENCOUNTER OVERLAND

SANTIAGO to QUITO
(or vice versa)
9 weeks 4,500 miles
(7,500kms)
CHILE, BOLIVIA, PERU, ECUADOR

ITINERARY GUIDELINE SANTIAGO–QUITO

Week 1: Santiago to Pacific beaches of central Chile, Atacama desert to Bolivia.

Week 2: The Altiplano to Potosi & Sucre: salt lakes & volcanoes, silver mines & old Spanish towns.

Week 3: La Paz. Peru & Lake Titicaca, Indians & reed islands.

Week 4: Urubamba valley & Cuzco, Inca heartland. Hike Inca Trail to Machu Picchu.

Week 5: Inca Trail. Then dry eastern Andes, condors of the Colca canyon. To Arequipa.

Week 6: Stone plains of northern Atacama, mysteries of the Nazca lines. Ballestas Islands—Pacific seabirds & seals. Lima.

Week 7: Chan Chan & desert ruins of Chimu civilisation. Trujillo into Ecuador.

Week 8: Tropical coastal plain to Cuenca & across Andes to the upper Amazon.

Week 9: By jungle longboat & on foot into forest tributaries of Amazonas. To Papallacta, Quito, and snow capped peaks astride the equator.

QUITO–SANTIAGO

Week 1: Quito, across Andes to Papallacta, & into upper Amazon at Baeza. By jungle longboat & on foot into forest tributaries of Amazonas.

Week 2: Across Andes again to Cuenca & tropical coastal plain of Pacific Ecuador.

Week 3: Peru. Trujillo into northern Atacama. Chan Chan & desert ruins of Chimu civilisation.

Week 4: Lima, Ballestas Islands—Pacific seabirds & seals. Stone plains, to mysteries of the Nazca lines.

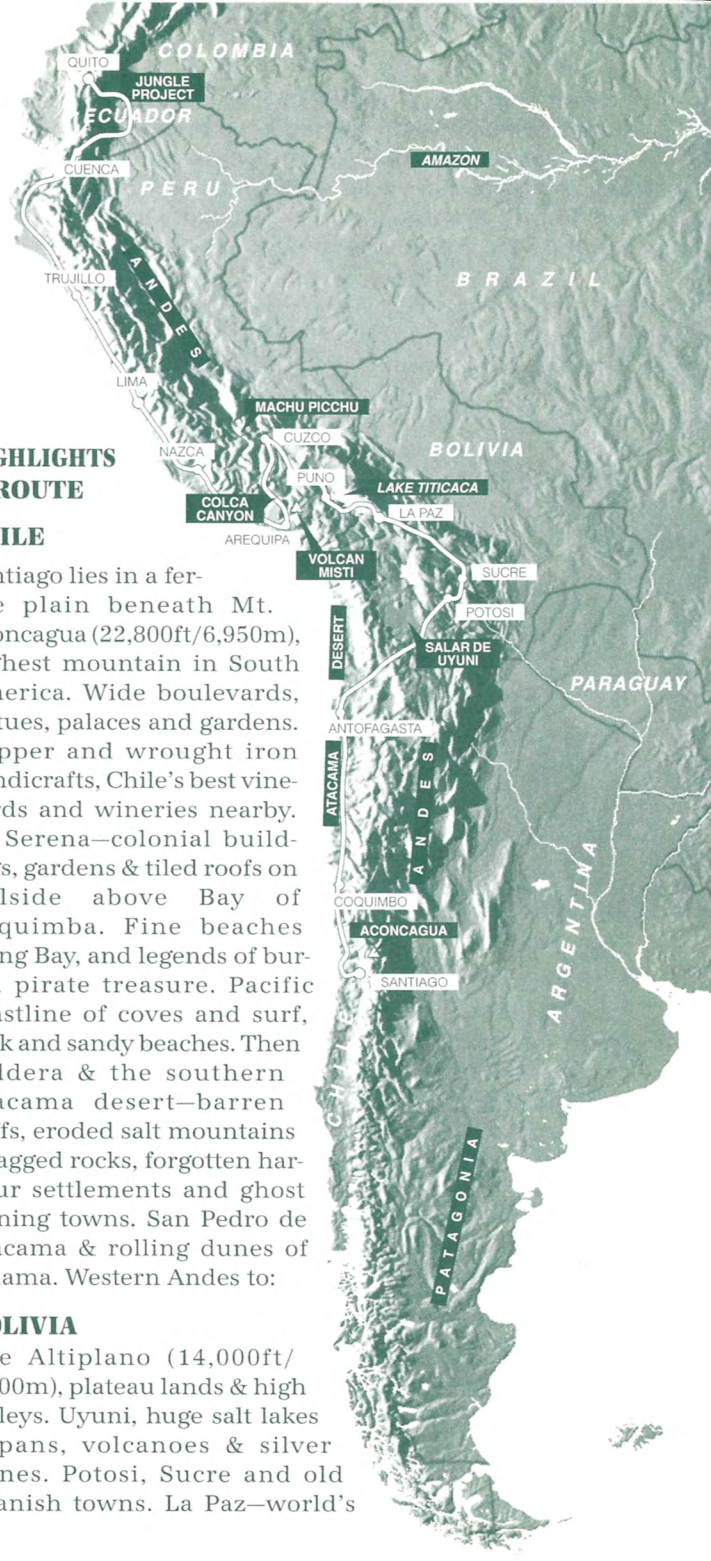
Week 5: Arequipa and into the dry eastern Andes of Peru. Condors of the Colca canyon to the Altiplano and Cuzco.

Week 6: Urubamba valley & Cuzco, Inca heartland. Hike Inca Trail to Machu Picchu.

Week 7: Inca Trail. To Lake Titicaca, Indians & reed islands. Across lake to Bolivia, and La Paz.

Week 8: Across the Altiplano to Potosi & Sucre: salt lakes &volcanoes, silver mines & old Spanish towns.

Week 9: Descend to Atacama of central Chile, & Pacific beaches to Santiago.



HIGHLIGHTS & ROUTE

CHILE

Santiago lies in a fertile plain beneath Mt. Aconcagua (22,800ft/6,950m), highest mountain in South America. Wide boulevards, statues, palaces and gardens. Copper and wrought iron handicrafts, Chile's best vineyards and wineries nearby. To Serena—colonial buildings, gardens & tiled roofs on hillside above Bay of Coquimba. Fine beaches along Bay, and legends of buried pirate treasure. Pacific coastline of coves and surf, rock and sandy beaches. Then Caldera & the southern Atacama desert—barren cliffs, eroded salt mountains & jagged rocks, forgotten harbour settlements and ghost mining towns. San Pedro de Atacama & rolling dunes of Calama. Western Andes to:

BOLIVIA

The Altiplano (14,000ft/4,200m), plateau lands & high valleys. Uyuni, huge salt lakes & pans, volcanoes & silver mines. Potosi, Sucre and old Spanish towns. La Paz—world's

highest capital at 11,700ft/3,550m, sheltered in canyon slopes beneath Mt Illimani. Commercial and shopping areas along the Choqueyapu river. Above, in steep winding streets, vendors sell hot foods and fresh contraband; woodcarvings, alpaca rugs, herbal potions and witchcraft's recipes. Lake Titicaca, birth-place of the Sun God.

PERU

By motorboat onto the lake, to the floating reed islands of the Uros and Aymara Indians (overnight Amantani Island). Cuzco—ancient centre of the Inca Empire. Population is still mostly Indian. The streets are lined with perfect Inca stonework—arches, entryways and walls of such solid construction that they were incorporated into both colonial & modern architecture. The Inca sites, Pisac and the colossal stoneworks of Sacsayhuaman, Ollantaytambo in the Sacred Valley of the Incas. (Optional half-day white water rafting on Urubamba river, approx US$30).

Hike the Inca Trail to Machu Picchu.

Day 1: Drive to Chilca, meet porters. 4 hrs walking to ruins of Llactapata.

Day 2: Approx 6 hours walking. Easy hike to Huayllabamba, steep trail through hill forest to 13,700ft/4,200m pass. Spectacular views. Descend to Pacamayo.

Day 3: Approx 6 hours walking. Easier ascent to ruins of Runkuracay and Sayacmarca. Then through patches of light jungle, shrub & wildflowers to Winay-Wayna, well preserved ruins of Inca village.

Day 4: 2 hrs hike over steep paths & narrow bridges to stairway of the sungate and Machu Picchu—lost city of the Incas. Descend to Urubamba river, hot springs and the lodge at Aguas Calientes.

Day 5: By train along river to Cuzco).

Altiplano to Colca Canyon—wild and remote, the deepest in the Americas, its protective walls are sanctuary to the great condor. Arequipa—city of white volcanic stone, in a beautiful valley beneath Volcan Misti.

The Peruvian desert, & Nazca—huge lines, geometric shapes and representations etched into the stone plain. Nazca civilisation began around 200 BC and flourished for 800 years. Little is known, theories abound. (Optional small plane flight over lines, approx US$50). By boat onto the Bay of Paracas & the Ballestas islands—world's highest concentration of marine birds. Cormorant, gannet, flamingo, pelican & penguin; sea-lion colonies on the islands.

Lima—seat of viceroys & colonial power. Gilded cathedrals and palaces, skyscrapers and chic. Museum of the Inquisition & the Gold Museum show the plunder of the Incas. Trujillo—founded by Pizarro in 1536, graceful city of colonial mansions, Spanish churches and plazas. Nearby are the pre-Inca ruins of Chan Chan, imperial citadel of the Chimu kings. 28 square kilometre site, & largest adobe city in the world. City taken in 1450 by the Incas, who copied much of its architecture in Cuzco. Here also the Humboldt current creates the driest of all climates, and the shifting sands of the Sechura desert. Rainfall is unknown. To Tumbes and:

ECUADOR

Desert's sudden change to Ecuador's tropical lowlands—flat mosquito coasts and banana plantations from where a million tons of the fruit are exported each year. Inca ruins of Ingapirca—fortress complex or massive solar observatory? Inland, and across the northern Andes, views of Chimborazo's smoking cone (20,500ft/6,300m). The hot springs & waterfalls of Banos, and the emerald green forests of the Amazon. Sugar cane and yucca plantations to Puya, the Pastaza river & Lago Agrio. By longboat, for 5 days, through the endless waterways and tributaries of the Rio Aguarico, to distant & isolated jungle villages, and the wildlife of the Amazon. Lago Agrio to Papallacta, and the streets of Quito

PLEASE NOTE

The above is intended as a guide only and to indicate a typical itinerary and its highlights. While our intention is to adhere to this, it should be understood that group interests and wishes together with the constraints of weather, road conditions and local restrictions can alter our exact route, its activities and timings.

DELAYS OR FORCED ALTERNATIVE ROUTES

The possibility of some delay en route is planned into this project and we usually arrive on time. But, by the very nature of the journey, it should be recognised that longer delays outside our control can still happen. Although these are rare in South America, it is still suggested that you do not make any firm commitments within 5 days of the scheduled end date of the expedition. If we are delayed en route, no additional payments to Encounter Overland will be asked of you. Major forced changes to our expeditions are also rare in South America. When they do happen it is usually because of border closures, natural disasters or civil insurrection making it impossible or imprudent to enter an affected country or region. In the worst of cases this could involve an overflight or sea passage. If this were to happen, Encounter Overland would meet the first US$300 per person of the fare. Should more than this be needed, a contribution from you of up to (but not exceeding) US$300 would be required. Any further amount beyond this would again be met by Encounter Overland.

GROUP SIZE & STAFF

24 max including EO staff. Plus local guides on Lake Titicaca, Inca Trail, Ballestas Islands, and Rio Aguarico.

PHYSICAL DEMANDS

Approx 4 weeks spent at altitudes of 11-15,000ft/3,400–4,500m. Some effects of oxygen deprivation will be felt by all. The Hike of the Inca trail involves 4 days of moderately difficult walking at 10-13,000ft/3-4,000m through humid & forested mountain terrain. A wide range of temperatures is to be expected throughout South America.

INCLUDED IN EXPEDITION COST

Transport, food (except as noted under Meals Cooking & Food below), camping equipment & supplies. Hotels in Potosi/Sucre, La Paz, Cuzco & Lima (3 nights each). Local guides, communal porters on Inca Trail, entrance fees & activities as detailed from published starting date of expedition until arrival in Quito or Santiago. There are no kitties or similar en route payment funds.

EXPEDITION COST DOES NOT COVER

Flights to/from Santiago/Quito, transfers to/from airports & airport taxes, meals in Potosi/Sucre, La Paz, Cuzco & Lima (see Meals, Cooking & Food below), vaccinations, visas, personal insurance, laundry, snacks, drinks, personal clothing/equipment & items of a personal nature. Porters for personal gear on Inca Trail. Some entry fees to museums and sights (minimal cost), and any individual options as noted in Highlights and Route (cost as noted).

EQUIPMENT SUPPLIED

Standard EO truck equipment including 2 person tents, campbeds, kitchen/dining tent, tables & stools, light, cooking equipment & utensils, mosquito nets, first aid kit etc. Lightweight tents & cooking equipment on Inca Trail & on Ecuador jungle project.

WHAT YOU NEED TO BRING

A sleeping bag (4 seasons), a medium sized bag or backpack and a daypack. Personal clothing and strong footwear.

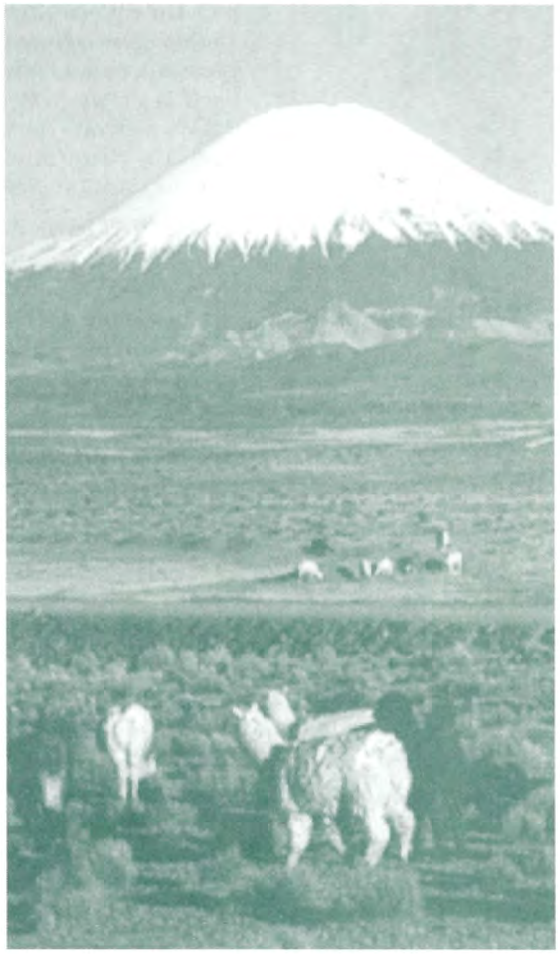
Apart from cold weather gear, no specialised clothing or equipment is necessary. You probably already have most of what is needed. A complete suggested clothing list is included in our pre-departure information. A backpack or large daypack is needed for the hike of the Inca Trail.

TRANSPORT

EO expedition truck, motorboat on Lake Titicaca, Inca Trail on foot, motorboat to Ballestas Islands, longboat and on foot Rio Aguarico jungle project.

ACCOMMODATION

Traveller's hotels in Potosi/Sucre, La Paz, Cuzco & Lima (3 nights each) on multi-share basis. As guests in homes of Indian families on Amantani Island—Lake Titicaca (1 night). Otherwise camping throughout. Occasional campground facilities in Chile. Otherwise open "bush" camping with no facilities other than standard EO truck equipment. Basic camping on Inca Trail (3 nights, lodge at Aguas Calientes 4th night) & on Rio Aguarico jungle project (4 nights).



MEALS, COOKING & FOOD

Camp cooked breakfast & evening meals, picnic lunches. Expedition members involved in daily fresh food shopping & cooking. (Fresh vegetables, fruit, meat, eggs, bread, cereals, cheese, preserves, canned & dried goods). Meals on Inca Trail prepared by porters.

Meals in major centres—Potosi/Sucre, La Paz, Cuzco & Lima (3 nights each).

Days spent in these cities relaxing or in individual sightseeing cannot easily revolve around group meals so meals here are at your own expense. We suggest you allow US$12 per day in these cities, or a total of US$145. (If we are delayed in any of these cities, Encounter Overland will arrange and meet meal costs extending beyond the initial three nights).

PASSPORTS & VISAS

You will need a passport that is valid for not less than 6 months after the end of the expedition, and which contains not less than 8 blank pages. Visa requirements and costs vary according to your nationality, and even then are subject to sudden change. Some visas need to be obtained before departure, others en route. EO or your agent can advise you of all the up to date visa requirements applicable to you, and their costs. We can also help you in obtaining any visas you may require before departure. Visas en route are applied for as a group with the assistance of your leader/driver. When considering the overall financial cost to you of joining this expedition, we suggest you use the Other Costs/Expenses column at the end of this dossier to note your visa & other expenses.

INSURANCE & MEDICAL

Everyone must have individual personal travel insurance. Various policies are available, but they must include a minimum of £15,000 or US$30,000 for medical, hospital and additional expenses including emergency repatriation. Insurance should also cover 'cancellation and curtailment', and personal effects. You will need to obtain vaccination against Yellow Fever. Several other vaccinations are strongly recommended though not required by law for travel in South America. Their up to date details are given in our pre-departure information. Malaria pills are supplied on the expedition.

PERSONAL SPENDING MONEY

To cover personal day to day expenditure en route—drinks, snacks, laundry, occasional souvenirs, optional activities, some museum entry fees etc.

Interesting collectibles and ethnic crafts are extremely tempting in South America. Their cost and posting them

home may not be. Apart from this, and your en route visas, EO has no hidden expenses, funds or kitties to surprise your spending money in South America.

(When you're in Quito it's a perfect opportunity to fly to the Galapagos Islands for a few days. But the cost of a week's trip including flights & a boat around the islands is going to be approx £800/US$1200, purchasable locally in Quito. Most credit cards are accepted, but the bill might get home quicker than you).

ARRIVING AND LEAVING

We recommend that you arrive in Santiago or Quito at least 3 days before expedition departure date to allow yourself time to acclimatise and get over intercontinental flights. Santiago & Quito are each fascinating, as well as pleasant, capital cities. It is safe to say that even a week in each is never time lost or wasted. Even though serious delays en route are unlikely, we would prefer that you not have any firm commitments for up to 5 days after scheduled expedition completion date.

COMBINATIONS & CONNECTING PROJECTS

The 'Trans Andean Explorer' is neither part of, nor a section of, any other EO project. However, in some cases it can be joined with the "Amazon & Andes" through Ecuador, Colombia, Venezuela and Brazil.

INTERESTING READING

100 Years of Solitude (Gabriel Garcia Marquez), House of the Spirits (Isabelle Allende), Streets With No Names (Atlantic Press). A full list of recommended reading in history, guidebooks and fiction is given in our pre-departure information.

AGENT'S STAMP

OTHER COSTS/EXPENSES

Return flights .....

Visas .....

Vaccinations .....

Insurance .....

Personal Spending Money .....

TOTAL_____

CLIMATE:

ANDES — **Andes in Chile, Bolivia & Peru**

		JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
CELSIUS	High	20	21	21	22	21	21	21	21	22	22	23	22
Daily Average	Low	7	7	7	4	2	1	-1	1	4	6	6	7
FAHRENHEIT	High	68	69	70	71	70	69	70	70	71	72	73	71
Daily Average	Low	45	45	44	40	35	33	31	34	40	43	43	44
Relative Humidity		40%	37%	31%	33%	29%	23%	23%	24%	26%	27%	26%	33%
Rainfall in mm		163	150	109	51	15	5	5	10	25	66	76	137

Table for Central Andes at 10,500ft/3,200m. Much colder at higher altitude. Slightly warmer in N. Andes.

AMAZONIAN — **Amazon (in Ecuador)**

		JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
CELSIUS	High	31	31	31	31	31	31	32	33	33	33	33	32
Daily Average	Low	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24
FAHRENHEIT	High	88	88	88	87	88	88	89	91	92	92	91	90
Daily Average	Low	75	75	57	57	57	57	57	57	57	76	76	75
Relative Humidity		70%	71%	72%	73%	72%	68%	64%	59%	57%	59%	63%	68%
Rainfall in mm		249	231	262	221	170	84	58	38	46	107	142	203