

Five Less Traveled Destinations and Tips for First Time Visitors to South America





Welcome

- South America is all too often skipped by travelers, but shouldn't be.
- This vast land offers stunning options ready to explore.
- While Rio, Machu Picchu, Cartagena, or Carnaval are often the first stops, there is so much more to experience.
- Read on for 5 other destinations for first-time visitors to discover!

AVID NOMAD TRAVEL, LLC researches and plans unforgettable travel experiences for curious travelers.

Each client and every travel experience has a different purpose behind it. Avid Nomad Travel, LLC works with each client to discover their “why” and how to ensure an unforgettable experience.

I take on the time-consuming research of the many options and experiences available and will offer those which best fit your travel style.

With over 25 years of personal travel experiences and periods residing abroad, I draw upon firsthand experiences while planning for you.

Travel is an investment. In addition to firsthand expertise in planning, I also serve as an advocate in protecting your investment before, during, and after your journey.

Avid Nomad Travel crafts unforgettable custom itineraries for seasoned travelers and aspiring nomads alike.

*Are you ready to explore more of this fascinating continent Contact
Avid Nomad Travel, LLC to get started!
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Click Here to Schedule a consultation today!

Five tips for a first time visitor

THINK SMALL ABOUT A BIG PLACE

1

South America and many of its countries are quite large and the distances are vast. Even those countries that are not as large have terrain and landscapes that turn short distances into long and arduous journeys.

Avid Nomad Travel will help select a more condensed itinerary that is suited for a first-time visitor.

GOING UP! WAY UP!

2

The sky is almost literally the limit in South America. When planning a visit anywhere in the Andes, carefully plan and pack accordingly. Cold nights and intense UV rays catch many first-time visitors off guard.

Allowing a day to adjust to the altitude in many cities is advisable. Quito and Bogotá are around 9,000 ft. Cuzco is at 11,100 ft. while La Paz, Bolivia is at nearly 12,000 ft.

BE AN URBAN EXPLORER

3

A star attraction of the continent is the cities, many are among the largest and most cosmopolitan in the world. One of them will almost inevitably be your point of arrival or departure, making an ideal addition to your itinerary.

There are a variety of different ways in which they have developed forming into what we see today. Colorful colonial towns, regional market hubs, port cities, modern metropolises, you name it, the continent has a city to match your travel style.



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DISCONNECT IN THE GREAT OUTDOORS

4

The natural environment and biodiversity are perhaps the biggest draws to the continent. Patagonia and the Amazon may be the most well-known, but the Atacama is the world's driest desert; thousands of miles of coastlines offer famous beaches and expansive dunes; the Pantanal in the center of the continent offers the best wildlife viewing.

Visitors wishing to experience this spectacular diversity firsthand have several accessible options to experience nature, including some on the following list.

EXPERIENCE CULTURAL IMMERSION

5

Artistic expressions are found everywhere. Samba and salsa, golden altars in baroque churches, modern art in botanical gardens, pre-Colombian ruins, and indigenous communities carrying on their traditions amidst the modern world. A more recent trend is the urban lanes as a canvas and their vivid murals. Did someone say, Carnaval?

African influences are unmistakable in the music, food, and religion while Germans, Italians, Arabs, Lebanese and Japanese enclaves left have left imprints. These are layered on top of or mixed into the rich Portuguese, Spanish and indigenous traditions.



Quick Facts:

Population: 422 million

Brazil: 211 million

Suriname: 539,000

São Paulo: 22 million

Buenos Aires: 15 million

There are 8 peaks taller than Denali in the Andes.

Africa's cultural influence often surrounds you. From 1492 to 1820, an estimated 2.6 million Europeans migrated to this hemisphere while 8.8 million Africans were brought here, half of which arrived in Brazil alone. Art, music, food and religious practices feature heavily throughout South America.

FIVE LESS DISCOVERED DESTINATIONS FOR A FIRST TIME VISITOR



Buenos Aires, Argentina



The fourth-largest metropolitan area in the Americas, though not exactly less visited, is perhaps the best place for a first-time visitor to South America. Familiar so as not to overwhelm yet new, exciting, and culturally distinctive.

Recoleta Cemetery and Caminito are two star attractions. The tombs at Recoleta are works of art in their own right, in a city already filled with art.

Caminito, meaning "the little walk", is in the colorful La Boca neighborhood. Façades are a vivid patchwork of signs, balconies, and lanes set amidst market stalls and cafés. It features heavily with two of the other Buenos Aires claims to fame, Boca Juniors soccer club, and tango!



There is a full range of experiences throughout the city. Bookstalls in parks, waterfront gelato shops, local florists, boutiques, and street fairs. For some, no trip to Argentina could be complete without sampling the many national wines or another of the countries main exports: beef.

Extend your trip to Uruguay. A ferry ride across the Rio de la Plata docks colonial gem Colonia del Sacramento or head further east to Montevideo.



Iguaçu/Iguazú Falls

Straddling the border of two countries, it doesn't matter if you can't say it in Portuguese or Spanish; this wonder of nature and the thunderous roar, will leave you speechless!

On the Argentine side, you feel the forces of nature as you hike in the mist or pass under the falls in a small boat. On the Brazilian side view the panoramic grandeur of nature.

Hike the trails atop the falls through a thick subtropical rainforest full of birdlife and butterflies. Comprised of over 250 falls, many of which shoot out of the greenery atop the escarpment, they are double the height of Niagara Falls.

The destination can be reached from other first-time destinations in Brazil and Argentina, making it an easy 2-3 day experience. Extend your visit into Argentina's Misiones Province and the Jesuit Missions lying in ruin.



San Pedro de Atacama, Chile

Distant Patagonia and Easter Island are usually bucket list trips in Chile. But the Atacama region combined with Santiago and UNESCO listed Valparaiso make for a great first-time experience.

Part of the Atacama region hasn't received rain in decades, making it the driest place on Earth. Set on a high desert plateau at the foot of the Andes, leaving town in any direction you encounter spectacular landscapes.

Stark desert-scapes, flamingos in salt flats, colorful mineral-rich lakes in tree-less valleys, lunar rock formations, towering snowcapped volcanoes, and the field of geysers at El Tatio. All towered over by the Andes and the bluest skies you will ever, ever, see!

Four days here will give you enough time to explore in a different direction each day while exploring the charming mud adobe brick town of San Pedro in the evening. On clear nights, you will feel like you can reach out and touch the millions of stars above you!

Want to extend your trip? Let Avid Nomad connect an add-on to the blinding white salt flats at Salar Uyuni, Bolivia.



Tayrona & Santa Marta, Colombia

The Caribbean Coast of Colombia has a star attraction, Cartagena. While it is bucket-list worthy, up the coast is a region great for first-time visitors.

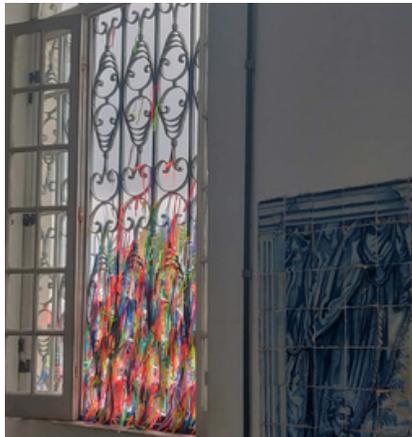
Santa Marta's small core is older than its neighbor. But the famous neighbor doesn't have great beaches, a bohemian alpine town called Minca or Tayrona Natural Parque.

Tayrona's many coves, bays, and beaches are reached by small longboats or hikes through lush tropical forests. The blue Caribbean on one side and the towering, misty enshrouded Sierra Nevada on the other.

Spend a couple of days hiking and checking out the many beaches then while away your afternoons, swaying in a hammock. Extend your stay with a trek to Ciudad Perdida or visit La Guajira's humid Caribbean deserts.



Salvador, Brazil



Unique art, more history than is fair, a style of music all its own, beaches, colorful architecture, and a Carnival that is second to none. Salvador is unique in not only Brazil but also South America.

Visiting museums. Walking cobblestone streets and plazas lined by colorful buildings spanning the spectrum. Exploring fabulously ornate baroque churches or Portuguese azulejo clad cloisters. A typical day spent here transports you to the 16th and 17th centuries.

Today, it is momentarily easy to forget that founded in 1549, this was the first capital of Brazil. It was also and the epicenter of the slave trade with African culture having left a mark unlike anywhere else.

Largo do Pelourinho, the central plaza in the colonial neighborhood that bears its name, means "little pillory" for the post that stood here. Overlooking it is the iconic Our Lady of the Rosary of the Black People.

Nossa Senhor do Bonfim, the most famous church in Brazil merges African religious traditions with catholic beliefs. Music in Salvador features heavy drumbeats. Food is frequently cooked in dende oil and served beachfront or streetside by vendors adorned in traditional garb known as Baianas.

Carnaval is a primary draw, however it isn't for the faint of heart. Visiting outside of this massive party is just as rewarding for visitors. Extend your trip by ferry to car free Morro de São Paulo or visit Projeto TAMAR, a marine turtle sanctuary project north of the city at Praia do Forte.

As a Travel Advisor my goal is to help you get the most of your travel experiences. While I specialize in crafting unique, experience oriented "bucket list" trips I offer planning services for a full range of travel styles and destinations.

We'll start with a consultation to discover what you hope to experience and what you have enjoyed on previous travels and how I may fit into your travel planning style. If you decide Avid Nomad will be a match for your travel planning needs and payment of a planning fee I will put my expertise and available resources to work. I'll reduce the stress, guesswork, and uncertainty that accompanies travel planning. Letting you eagerly anticipate your upcoming travel.

Are you ready to put a memorable experience on your 2021 or 2022 calendar?



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