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Summer Time - Travel Time

In this month's newsletter, we inform you about our exploration trip to the **Aysen Region in Chile** where we could experience real tourism off the beaten path. We also want to present our new **Chocolate Tour in Ecuador**, which works together with a sustainable project in the Santa Rita Community in the Amazon. Then we are following the trace of fame on Instagram of the **Rainbow Mountain in Peru**. Also, we are happy to introduce you to **new team members** in Ecuador and Peru!

Enjoy reading!



Chile - Off The Beaten Track

Last month our colleagues in Argentina explored the **Aysen Region in Chile** – a secluded area with a great diversity of landscapes and climates that reaches from veld of the Patagonian Pampa to the evergreen forests, laced with lakes, rivers, fjords and glaciers.

We started our exploration trip in Cayhaique. The highlight along the Carretera Sur was two boat trips on the **Lago General Carrera**, including a visit to the famous Capillas de Marmol and the **Cathedral de Marmol** in the Puerto Tranquilo sector. Also, particularly interesting was a visit to the little known sector of Puerto Sanchez with a short detour to a labyrinth of caves.

On our way North to **Puyuhuapi** we had a great stop at the enchanted forest, “**Bosque Encantado**”, where we went on a hike through this fairytale like forest and climbed up to the beautiful **Laguna Turquesa**. Up there, we were rewarded with a spectacular panorama of the lagoon and the snow caped mountain ranges!

Towards the end of our exploration trip, we visited the **Queulat National Park**. Here we went on a hike to see the **Ventisquero Colgante** and explored the area on a boat trip. Then, on the way back to our Lodge in Puyuhuapi, we were welcomed by dolphins and seals in the bay!

Overall, we had a great trip through the Aysen region in Chile and do see a great potential for tourism in this area due to its diversity of landscapes in a relatively small region. For everyone who wants to travel **OFF THE BEATEN TRACK** this area suits perfect!

For information please get in contact with us via e-mail.

We look forward to hearing from you!



Hakuna Matata - All you need is chocolate!

Today we want to present you an interesting new travel package: the chocolate tour! The cacao and chocolate tour is a joint initiative between **Hakuna Matata Amazon** lodge and **Pacari Chocolate**. A world renowned chocolate brand, Pacari has become famous due to its constant innovation in creating fusion flavours, blending organic chocolate with the different natural flavours of Ecuador. This cooperation with Hakuna Matata creates an unforgettable travel experience in the Ecuadorian Amazon.

From Quito, you arrive at the small community Santa Rita where you are welcomed by a refreshing Guayusa drink and a local fruit platter. With this healthy snack, you will have the energy to enjoy this full day tour. The beauty of the Project is that it also promotes **fair trade and sustainable agricultural practices**, and the use of organic ingredients helps maintain the ecosystem ensuring the use of soil for future generations.

The women of the community will teach you how to prepare your own traditional lunch. You will learn to make **“Maito de Pescado”** - Bijao Leaf baked fish, a delicious local delicacy that is also very healthy. While your lunch is in the works, you will enjoy a guided tour of the cacao plantation and will learn the **entire process from planting, harvesting and the treatment** given to the cocoa seed in order to turn it into the world-class chocolate you love.

In the afternoon, you will continue on to our Amazon lodge, Hakuna Matata. Here you will be able to **relax away from noise and amidst a natural paradise**. At nightfall, you will enjoy a delicious 3 course gourmet dinner in an exclusive atmosphere surrounded by the sounds of the jungle. And, to close the day... the perfect dessert a **chocolate tasting session** where you will be treated to different varieties of chocolate based on origin, altitude and, other factors that have taken place from the cocoa bean to elaborating the different varieties of chocolate bars. You will learn to distinguish between flavours, smell, textures and be able to understand fine chocolate.

The next day you have time to **enjoy the lodge facilities**, dip into the spring water pool, wade into the refreshing Inchillaqui River at our private beach, or take over a hammock with a good book. Additionally, you can decide on an optional activity to

explore the property by horse or a guided hike through our protected nature trails. Then you drive back to Quito or you can extend your stay at our beautiful lodge, adding on some more activities.

For more information on our lodge, visit: www.hakunamatata-ecuador.com

We look forward to hearing from you!



Excursion to the rainbow mountain

The popularity of the so called “**Rainbow Mountain**” or, using its real name, **Vinicunca** has been continuously rising for the past 2 years and attracts more and more tourists. This beautiful colorful mountain close to Cusco became famous on social media channels, such as Instagram, and has inspired our colleague to visit the site in order to give you a report at first hand.

The day tour to Rainbow Mountain starts very early in the morning, at 03:00 a, from Cusco. After an approximately 3,5 hours ride by car, you make a stop for having breakfast at a local community in order to fuel up for the hike and to receive some further explanation about the upcoming hike. After another 30 minutes driving, you arrive at the parking lot where the hike starts.

Please take into account that this hike leads up to an **elevation of nearly 5200m**. Your clients, therefore, need a good acclimatization and a good fitness level in order to reach the top which take about **3-4 hours** of walking and another 2 hours to return to your vehicle. However, there is a possibility to rent a horse that will bring you up most of the way in case you are struggling with the altitude.

It is also important to be prepared for **changing weather conditions**, as the mountains can be quite unpredictable – it may happen that you start the hike with a cloudless sky and reach the top with bad weather conditions or vice versa – everything is possible in the mountains.

We also recommend doing this hike to Rainbow Mountain only **during the dry season**, which is approx. from **May to September**. This is because the trail gets quite muddy after heavy rains and as it is a steep path that you are following. It can

get very slippery on the way up and down. We want your clients to be safe!

Taking all this in mind, this day hike can be a **beautiful experience** for your clients! It leads through **lush valleys with llamas and alpacas gazing on the mountainsides**, little lagoons, and a beautiful sight of the mountain range that make the hike well worth it. Moreover, of course, the view from the top over the rainbow colored mountains and the valley is beautiful!

In summary, this day tour to Rainbow Mountain is ideal for active people, offers beautiful landscapes and is well worth a visit!

For information please get in contact with us via e-mail.

We look forward to hearing from you!



Latventure is growing

We would like to present you today, two **new co-workers of Latventure!** We happily welcome **Joshua from the United States** who will be your new contact person for the **English speaking market in Ecuador**. Joshua has been living in Ecuador for more than a year already and has experienced the country by intense travelling. For this reason, he is well prepared for being your local expert and contact person concerning travels in Ecuador. Welcome to our team!

In addition, we welcome **Neviana from Bulgaria**, who will be your new contact person in **Peru for the German speaking market**. Neviana has a lot of experience in the travel industry, as she has worked several years for a tour operator specialized in South America in Germany. In addition, she lived for 3 years in Nicaragua working in an incoming agency. This gives her the best qualification, as she knows how to deal with the South American lifestyle and, at the same time, is familiar with the high demands in Germany. Welcome to our team!

Finally, yet importantly, we are happy to welcome a new **“Latventure Baby”** into our Team! Our colleague Andrea in Ecuador gave birth to a beautiful little girl this month and is enjoying some free time with her new little family now. We are wishing

you all the best and are looking forward to meeting her in person soon.

Latventure Incoming Av. Colón E8-57 y Gral. José Urbina, Edif. El Cisne Pichincha Quito Ecuador

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