

# Be swept away in a South American Adventure

*Arcadia's 2013 South America and Pacific Adventure is big on cities and big on scenery. And on board the experiences are equally extravagant. A giddy sense of adventure is how you might describe the feeling as you set sail. This is it. The experience of a lifetime.*

Its far-reaching itinerary, stretching from South America to the Pacific, Australasia and the USA, is both big on cities and big on scenery. And Arcadia makes the ideal travelling companion. Spacious, stylish and indulgent, you can watch panoramas unfold as you relax on heated loungers in her first-class spa, or see cities disappear on the horizon as you dine in Marco Pierre White's Ocean Grill.

### *Hot cities & icy fjords*

South America is for the true traveller. Gritty yet beautiful; soulful in parts, soul-stirring in others. One minute you could find yourself soaking in the vibe of a frenetic beach-fronted metropolis, the next watching whales break and fall across the surface of breathtaking mountain-backed waters. And it's vast. Yet Arcadia will make it surprisingly accessible, as well as languid.

Brazil radiates the spirit of carnival. Big cities stand proud here and Arcadia will introduce you to two of its best; Recife – known for its coral reefs, and its capital, Rio de Janeiro. They have much in common – urban beaches (most notably Bio Viagem and Ipanema), high-rise skylines and vibrant cultural scenes.

On a two-tier cable ride up Sugarloaf Mountain (site of the iconic statue of Christ the Redeemer) the views are simply awesome. You can really appreciate the city's spectacular location from this height. After all, mountains and rainforests aren't your everyday urban backdrop. At sunset, the mood of Rio shifts. As Arcadia spends a whole day and evening here, thankfully you'll be there to experience it; the buzz, bright lights and the samba beat.





Patagonia

Uruguay used to be one of South America's best kept secrets. Today it's discovered but not overrun. The capital Montevideo, where Arcadia docks, is eclectic and vibrant. Head to Ciudad Vieja, where restored old buildings, painted cafés and galleries rub shoulders with elegant old theatres and tango bars.

The following morning you'll wake for your two days, including overnight, in Buenos Aires. Alongside the designer boutiques, stately parks, bars and restaurants, you'll find old-world languor in back street cafés, dusty antique shops and fun outdoor markets; its slightly dishevelled appearance giving it a real edge. After dark it's food and tango time.

Towards South America's furthest tip, vibrant cities give way to more remote ones, surrounded by a wealth of natural attractions and awe-inspiring landscapes.

Located south of the Peninsula Valdes, the biggest on the Atlantic coast, Puerto Madryn in Chile is primed for whale watching. Bustling Port Stanley, in the Falklands, is surrounded by a wild and beautiful natural environment – its rugged mountains and coastal areas home to varied flora and fauna, penguins and other birdlife. En route to Ushuaia, you'll experience the intense physical environment of Cape Horn. When you arrive a pretty boat-filled harbour, backed by colourful rooftops, dark green hills and snow speckled mountains awaits. This is your gateway to Argentina's only coastal national park, home to beavers, condors and albatross.

Through the Beagle Channel is the small port of Punta Arenas, set against the rugged mountains of Patagonia. Its nearby penguin colonies are fascinating. Sailing onwards through the Chilean Fjords, you will be witness to two rugged, blue tidewater glaciers, the Amalia Glacier and the larger PIO X Glacier. Impressive and eerily silent.

Chacabuco, next, is close to yet more beautiful fjord scenery followed by Puerto Montt, capital of the ancient and stunning Lakes District at the foot of the Andes.

Arcadia's final Chilean destination is another of its big, vibrant cities – Santiago. It's sprawling but quirky, and full of culture, if you know where to look. Barrio Basil, its lively bohemian quarter, is a good start. Amongst its mansions, cobbled streets, restaurants and cafés, it retains a flavour of its opulent past.

### *Panoramas of the Pacific*

The Pacific Ocean is immense, covering about one third of the Earth's surface – something you'll really be able to appreciate as Arcadia sails across it. And some of the world's most remote and idyllic islands can



San Francisco



Falkland Islands

*“Sailing out of the city at night, the Golden Gate Bridge lit up above, is an experience that is utterly unique, as well as breathtaking.”*

be found here. You'll sail by Easter Island, steeped in legend, centered around the moai (enormous statues erected by the islands ancient Neolithic inhabitants), as well as lush, green Pitcairn Island.

Tahiti, in French Polynesia, boasts picturesque coves, black sand, untouched mountainous landscapes, waterfalls and coastal blow holes. The waterfront esplanade in Papeete offers a nice walk and, away from the shoreline, you can visit the Paul Gauguin museum set in pretty botanical gardens. 140 miles northwest lies decadent Bora Bora. Surrounded by an emerald green and blue lagoon, its location is stunning and perfect for watersports.

The atmosphere in Suva, Fiji, is bustling with a mix of modern and traditional influences. The Grand (pink) Presidential Palace is worth a look. Whilst Noumea, capital of Caledonia, is classy and uncomplicated and centres around the restaurants and shops of Anse Vata. Both offer numerous picturesque bays and beaches.

### *Half a world away*

When Arcadia reaches Australia it is sure to be a memorable occasion. This is a country which is known for its welcoming cities and impressive natural scenery.

On this cruise you can enjoy both Brisbane and Sydney – two of its biggest and best cities. Brisbane is sleek and down to Earth. You can soak up the cultural scene alongside its meandering river – or perhaps head for the famous Gold Coast with its many attractions, including Palazzo Versace, Q1 Resort and the renowned Surfers Paradise.

Cruising into Sydney is spectacular, past the heads into the heart of this world-class city. Great shopping, a classy harbour area, a notable history and an open-minded culture, it has it all. Around the Opera House is a real buzz point, its steps teeming with people and the impressive Harbour Bridge looms overhead. Your two full days here, with the opportunity to enjoy a night in Sydney, will certainly be appreciated.

Arcadia's passage to neighbouring New Zealand includes a cruise through Milford Sound – a stunning fjord of glassy waters and snow-topped mountains.



Bora Bora

South Island itself offers a rich arts and cultural scene. Museums, cafés, restaurants, galleries and shops, you'll find them all here in abundance. Dunedin lies close to the Otago Peninsula, home to albatross, penguins and sea lion, whilst Christchurch boasts distinctly English charms.

Wellington, the capital, is hemmed by hills on a magnificent harbour, with terraced Victorian houses lining the steep valleys from the waterfront. If you have an interest in history, the story of New Zealand is well told in the city's Te Papa Museum.

Your first look at North Island will be Napier, located in Hawke's Bay on the Eastern Coast. Known as the 'Art Deco City', it's also home to the oldest wineries in the country, including Mission Estate and Bay View. Your last look will be multicultural Auckland, the 'City of Sails', home to the Sky Tower and some 48 volcanic cones.

### *The other side of the Americas*

Back across the Pacific, you can enjoy more beautiful island scenery, from the stunning deep water harbour and cliffs of Pago Pago to the pure white sands of Waikiki, in Hawaii's most glittering and famous resort, Honolulu.

You'll be welcomed to North America by its most arty and outlandish city, San Francisco. It seems improbable that trams can rattle up and down such steep streets; that prisoners managed to escape from Alcatraz, or that you might find yourself dining next to sun-worshipping sea lions. Make the most of two full days here, including an overnight stay. Sailing out of the city at night, the Golden Gate Bridge lit up above, is an experience that is utterly unique, as well as breathtaking.

And from the outlandish to the exciting, Acapulco, Mexico's jet-setting resort will dazzle you with its bars, beaches, restaurants and spectacular sweeping bay. It all happens in and around the water. Snorkellers, jet skiers and scuba divers revel in its sparkling ocean, whilst the famed cliff divers at La Quebrada use it as their landing pad. Further down the coast, Huatulco offers you a sweeping coastline and ancient Mayan ruins to explore.

### *The final stretch*

Transiting the Panama Canal with Arcadia, en route to the Caribbean and those long forgotten British shores, will be a significant moment. As she navigates the mighty locks you'll certainly be standing out on deck, watching this mean feat with your fellow travellers. Its untouched panoramas, including lakes and far-reaching rainforest, offering yet another exhilarating backdrop on this scenic, city-rich world adventure.

All too soon you round the Isle of Wight, into the Solent and arrive back 99 nights later in Southampton, with a head full of memories.