Attractions of South America
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*Attractions of South America* is a book which highlights some of the most mesmerizing places of our planet. The attractions all present links to websites where you can continue to marvel at the wonders of this amazing continent. From ancient ruins to intriguing mysteries, *Attractions of South America* shares the places where your adventure starts.

I hope you have as much fun reading this e-Book as I had writing it.

Best wishes,
Mark Van Overmeire

Travel Amazing South America
www.travel-amazing-southamerica.com

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For more travel information do visit the following sections on our website: [Argentina], [Bolivia], [Brazil], [Chile], [Colombia], [Ecuador], [Peru] and [Venezuela]
A. 6 Must See Animals of South America

The 6 Must See Animals of South America have been the inspiration of both writers and directors to produce books and movies telling tales of epic adventures or sheer horror. Meet the protagonists and make up your mind for yourself.

1. Andean Condor

The king of the sky, the Andean Condor (Vultur gryphus) is an absolute stunning sight when spotted. It is the largest flying bird on our planet, with a wingspan up to 310 cm (122 inches).

Condors are the national bird of Bolivia, Colombia, Chile and Peru and play important roles in the folklore and mythology of South America.

Its diet consists mainly of carrion and occasionally sick or young animals. The Andean Condor feeds on dead deer, squirrels, mice, rabbits and other small mammals.

The place to view the majestic Andean Condor is from the Cruz del Condor at the Colca Canyon in Southern Peru. The condors start taking to the sky from below the lookout area. Watching a condor soar through the sky takes your breath away.

Read more about the Andean Condor

2. Piranha

The Piranha (Pygocentrus Piraya) is a carnivorous sweet water fish that lives mainly in the Amazon Basin of South America.

They are about 15 to 25 cm (6 to 10 inches) long. The feature that made them the protagonists of many horror tales is their razor sharp teeth.

The fish are harmless to humans (I've swum in rivers with piranhas while traveling in the Amazon Basin). Their diet exists mainly of small fish.

Read more about the Piranha
3. Capybara

The capybara is a semi-aquatic herbivorous animal and the largest of living rodents. It is native to most of the tropical and temperate parts of South America east of the Andes.

They live in big herds and grow between 105 and 135 cm (40-55 inch) in length, and weigh 35 to 65 kg (75-140 lbs).

The capybara spends most of its time on the banks of rivers, feeding in the mornings and evenings. Its diet consists of vegetation such as river plants and bark.

Read more about the Capybara

4. Southern Right Whale

This magnificent animal comes to the waters of Argentina's Peninsula Valdés (Patagonia) to breed. It is a breathtaking sight and you can almost touch them when you set out on a boat from Puerto Pyramids.

Adults may be between 11-18 meters (36-59 feet) in length and up to 80 metric tons (88 short tons) in weight. Southern Right Whales (*Eubaleana Australis*) spend the summer months in the Southern Ocean feeding, probably close to Antarctica.

Southern Right Whales migrate north in winter for breeding and can be seen around the coasts of Chile, Argentina, Brazil, South Africa, Australia and New Zealand. The total population is estimated to be 7,000 to 8,000.

Its diet consists mainly of plankton and tiny crustaceans like copepods, krill, and pteropods.

Read more about the Southern Right Whale
5. Anaconda

The Anaconda is one of the biggest and heaviest snakes of the world. There have been sightings of anacondas at over 10 meters (32.8 feet) in length (although most are considerably smaller) and can weigh up to 250 kg (551 pounds) and have a girth of more than 30 cm (11.8 inches) in diameter.

The best two known species are the Green Anaconda (Eunectes murinus) and the Yellow Anaconda (Eunectes notaeus). Their habitat are the swamps and rivers of the dense forests from the Amazon Basin.

Anacondas are carnivorous. Their diet exists of capybaras and other large rodents, tapirs, deer, peccaries, fish, turtles, birds, sheep, dogs and aquatic reptiles. Anacondas occasionally prey on jaguars.

Read more about the Anaconda

6. Giant Tortoise

The Giant Tortoise is an animal that can only be found on the Galapagos Islands (Ecuador). It is an impressive sight; a giant tortoise can weigh over 225 kg (500 pounds) and measure up to 1.8 meters (6 feet) from head to tail.

There are 15 recognized species of tortoises, all generally considered to be members of the single species Geochelone Elephantopus.

The 15 species of tortoises can be divided into two general morphotypes: domed and saddle-backed. In the domed tortoises, the front edge of the shell forms a low line over the neck while in saddle-backed tortoises, the front edge arches high over the neck. Four species are extinct. The Charles Darwin Research Station in Puerto Ayora (Santa Cruz Island) on the Galapagos Islands has a breeding program running.

Read more about the Giant Tortoise
B. 4 Must See Beaches of South America

South America has some of the most beautiful beaches of the world. Some are remote with cabanas and hammocks, other are in big metropolises, but rest assured... white sand, palm trees, a tropic breeze and emerald blue water are there to enjoy.

1. Ipanema Beach (Brazil)

*Ipanema Beach* is without doubt one of the most beautiful beaches of the world. It lies in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil and was immortalized by Tom Jobim and Vinícius de Moraes in the song 'Garota de Ipanema' (The Girl from Ipanema).

The Atlantic touches Ipanema Beach with emerald blue water and the surrounding is just breathtaking with glimpses of Corcovado and Sugarloaf Mountain.

Ipanema Beach is packed with 'cariocas', citizens from Rio de Janeiro, and besides satisfying many sun aficionados the beach doubles as sports grounds for volleyball and football/soccer teams.

[Read more about Ipanema Beach](#)

2. Tayrona (Colombia)

With some of the most beautiful beaches of South America *Parque Nacional Tayrona* is paradise on earth.

It lies near Santa Marta, Colombia and covers 285 sq km (115 sq miles) of sea in the Caribbean and 1.191 sq km (460 sq miles) of land area, extending from sea level to an altitude of 975 meters (3,200 feet).

There are plenty of hiking and swimming opportunities. You can spend the night in cabañas (you have to bring your own food and water). It is a very popular spot with travelers.

[Read more about Tayrona](#)
3. El Agua (Venezuela)

El Agua beach belongs to the absolute top beaches of South America and is very popular.

It lies on the north coast of Isla Margarita, Venezuela, about 23 km (14 miles) from the city of Polomar, and is absolutely stunning.

White sand beaches lined with palm trees and cosy restaurants and bars will make this your favorite destination to relax and to have a great time.

Read more about El Aqua

4. Praia do Forte (Brazil)

Brazil has the most beautiful beaches of South America and Praia do Forte is just one of the many awesome beaches the country has to offer.

Praia do Forte lies a few miles North of Salvador da Bahía and has long, long stretches of white sand with palm trees. It is ideal to spend a few days after the frenzy of Salvador's Carnaval. You can rent lovely bungalows just next to the beach.

If you're longing to relax and enjoy a wonderful tropical beach with stunning surroundings in solitude then Praia do Forte is for you.

Read more about Praia do Forte
C. 6 Must See Cities of South America

The Cities of South America are vibrant and exotic, colonial and imperial and they all have one thing in common... they welcome you with open arms. It is time to get out your backpack and experience these wonderful cities for yourself.

Some are blessed with the most famous beaches of the world; others are cradled by the majestic Andes. Explore them as you've never done before and return to your friends and family with amazing tales full of life and passion.

1. Rio de Janeiro (Brazil)

Rio de Janeiro is called the wonderful city (a cidade maravilhosa) and is an absolute highlight if you travel in South America.

The city is commonly divided into the historic downtown (Centro); the tourist-friendly South Zone, with world-famous beaches; the industrial North Zone; the West Zone; and the newer Barra da Tijuca region.

Rio de Janeiro is famous for its beaches Copacabana and Ipanema, for the giant Jesus statue known as Christ the Redeemer (O Cristo Redentor) on the Corcovado mountain, for the Sugar Loaf Mountain (Pão de Açúcar) and... for its unequaled nightlife.

Read more about Rio de Janeiro

2. La Paz (Bolivia)

La Paz, the capital of Bolivia, lies on an altitude of 3,600 meters (11,800 feet) and is the highest capital of the world. The city lies in an impressive valley with the snow-capped mountain Illimany watching in the horizon.

It's a very pleasant city that displays a kaleidoscope of traditional and modern life.

La Paz is famous for its Witch Market, Gold Museum, for being the highest capital of the world and for its gentile people.

Read more about La Paz
3. Cuzco (Peru)

Cuzco, The Imperial City of the Incas, lies in the heart of the Sacred Valley at an altitude of 3,399 meters (11,000 feet) in Southeastern Peru. The city was built in the shape of a puma (a sacred animal for the incas).

It was the capital of the Inca empire and hosts one of the most astonishing juxtapositions of Inca and colonial architecture in South America.

Cuzco is famous for its ruins Saqsaywaman and Kenko, the Stone of 12 Angles, the Sun Temple and the nearby Lost City of the Incas: Machu Picchu.

Read more about Cuzco

4. Quito (Ecuador)

Quito is the capital of Ecuador. The name means, in the language of the Tsáchila or Colored Indians, center (Quitsa) of the world (To).

It has not only the biggest historical center in South America but also one of the most beautiful historical centers of the Americas.

Its cultural heritage was so important that it was the first city in the world to be declared World Heritage Cultural Site by UNESCO in 1978. Quito is famous for its historical center, Parque Metropolitano (biggest urban park in South America), Spanish schools and El Panecillo (Virgin monument).

Read more about Quito

5. Cartagena (Colombia)

Cartagena is the most beautiful city of Colombia with very well preserved colonial buildings in the Old City.

St. Peter Claver, patron saint of the slaves, worked in and from the Jesuit college. Just outside the city walls, you can see the "India Catalina" statue, a local Indian hero.

Cartagena is famous for its Palace of the Inquisition, the cathedral, the Convent of Santa Clara (now a hotel), the Jesuit college and the San Felipe de Barajas Castle.

Read more about Cartagena
6. Ushuaia (Argentina)

Ushuaia, which in the yámana language means “bay overlooking the West”, is the Southernmost city of the world (that title earns it the right to be in our list) and is enchanting and mesmerizing.

It is all the way down in Tierra del Fuego (Land of Fire), Patagonia (Argentina), and is the perfect place to embark on wonderful sightseeing trips on the Beagle Channel and to explore the waters that reach Antarctica not too far away.

Ushuaia is famous for its prison, lighthouse, boat excursions and a never ceasing tranquility.

Read more about Ushuaia

South America On A Shoestring Travel Guide
Brazil Travel Guide
Peru Travel Guide
D. 6 Must See Hiking Trails of South America

It is time to get out your backpack and experience the Hiking Trails of South America for yourself. Some are easy; others will demand a lot of effort from your part. Explore as you have never done before and you will have some amazing stories to tell when you get back home.

1. Inca Trail (Peru)

The Inca Trail takes you on an unforgettable journey through the Peruvian Andes. The trail was made by the Incas and starts not too far away from Cuzco.

It's a 3/4 day hiking tour, the level is moderate/difficult. The highest pass takes you to 4,200 meters (13,800 feet).

The scenery is awesome and to know that you are walking in the footsteps of the Incas is just so exciting.

During the hike you'll encounter some excellent ruins but the big reward is, of course, arriving at *The Lost City of the Incas: Machu Picchu*.

Read more about the Inca Trail

2. Cotopaxi National Park (Ecuador)

Cotopaxi National Park is a few hours away from Quito, the capital of Ecuador, and is one of the most beautiful parks of South America. Its treasure is *Cotopaxi*, one of the highest active volcanoes of the world, with a height of 5,897 meters (19,347 feet).

I can highly recommend doing the 3 day hike from the entrance of the park to the refuge cabin at 4,800 meters (15,700 feet) at the foot of the volcano Cotopaxi. The level is moderate if you are in good shape. The scenery is amazing.

If you are really up for an adventure of a lifetime then you have to climb Cotopaxi. It takes about 7 hours to reach the crater from the refuge cabin.

Read more about the Cotopaxi National Park
3. Lost City (Colombia)

The Lost City (La Ciudad Perdida) was my first adventurous hiking tour in South America and it was fantastic! You leave from the city of Santa Marta (Colombia) with a small group (up to 6 people) for a great adventure.

Although the Lost City can't match some of the other treasures found in South America the hike to the city is just awesome. The path takes you through coca plantations (and yes, people got kidnapped a few years ago so inform yourself before going) and through lowland jungle.

After hiking for 3 days you reach the 1,200 stairs (you read that right) that take you into the city.

Read more about the Lost City

4. Santa Cruz Hiking Tour (Peru)

From the city of Huaraz in Peru you can set out for the Santa Cruz Hiking Tour. It takes you on a great journey through the majestic Andes with some of the highest peaks of the country surrounding you.

Although the highest pass reaches 4,750 meters (15,583 feet) the level of the hiking tour is moderate if you are acclimatized to high altitudes. Before reaching the highest pass you'll have encountered wonderful valleys and lakes. It is a popular trek so you'll meet some people on the hike.

At the end of the 3/4 day trek you'll be exhausted but completely fulfilled of a splendid journey through the clouds.

Read more about Huaraz

5. Torres del Paine (Chile)

Torres Del Paine is a wonder of nature. Declared Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO in 1978, the Torres del Paine National Park, (located in the Chilean Patagonia) is one of the most mesmerizing places on the planet.

The park is located in the South of Chile and can be visited from the nearby cities Punta Arenas and Puerto Natales. For those of you seeking an unmatched travel adventure Torres del Paine will challenge your wildest dreams.
The major attraction of the park is the *Paine Massif* composed mostly of granite and has been around for about 12 million years. The Torres del Paine are *three sheer granite towers* (see picture), that make a challenging and much wanted prize for experienced climbers.

Read more about Torres del Paine

6. **Salar de Uyuni** (Bolivia)

The big secret of South America is the breathtaking *Salar de Uyuni* in Southern Bolivia. It is the biggest salt flat lake in the world with a staggering 10,500 sq km (4,045 sq miles).

Your senses will be provoked mercilessly. I can highly recommend the tours available in Uyuni when you travel in Bolivia.

A 3 day tour takes you on the salt flat lake and into the desert all the way to the border of Chile. On the trip you'll see, besides the *salt flat lake*, the *green and the red lake*, *geysers*, *Isla Pescada* (Fish Island) and *hot spring baths*. A gorgeous never ceasing *tranquility* awaits you.

Read more about Salar de Uyuni
E. 6 Must See Mysteries of South America

The 6 Must See Mysteries of South America touch the heavens of the universe. Their beauty is astonishing and their shroud of mystery works like a magnet to all who craves for spiritual enlightenment. Let you take away on an enigmatic journey and open your heart to the messengers of the past.

1. Easter Island (Chile)

Mysterious and exciting, Easter Island (also known as Rapa Nui and Isla de Pascua) is the most isolated inhabited island of our planet. It lies in the South Pacific, 3,600 km (2,037 miles) west from continental Chile.

Easter Island is covered with 887 huge monolithic stone statues, called moai. The largest moai weigh about 84 tons - that's as much as a herd of 12 seven-ton elephants! The oldest known traditional name of the island is Te Pito or Te Henua, meaning *The Center (or Navel) of the World*.

It is unclear why the islanders erected the moai and what their function was. A mystery to cherish all the way.

Read more about Easter Island

2. Nazca Lines (Peru)

The Nazca Lines are huge drawings of animals and people found in the desert of Nazca (Southern Peru). They evoke such an enigma on "how, who and why" that they keep theories of extraterrestrial existence alive.

The fantastic drawings can only be appreciated from the sky where about 300 figures such as a colibri, a monkey, a flower and a spider appear before your eyes.

The Nazca Lines are many kilometers (miles) long and can be observed by taking an airplane in the town of Nazca. Fascinating indeed... aliens.

Read more about the Nazca Lines
3. **The Incas** (Chile, Ecuador & Peru)

The Inca Empire is the most enigmatic civilization of South America. Although the Incas only ruled for 100 years they had a huge territory, from Santiago (Chile) to Quito (Ecuador), under their control.

They were extremely well organized, everyone understood his or her position in the social pyramid. At the top of the pyramid were the Sapan Inca and his wife who was his sister. Next were the high priest and the army chief, The four Apus followed and were the chief officers of the four quarters.

The Incas have left us ruins and cities of dazzling beauty, their craftsmanship and perfectionism still leaves us in silence. Cuzco and Machu Picchu are absolute treasures of human heritage depicting a people living in harmony with nature and the gods they worship.

4. **El Chupacabra** (Central & South America)

The chupacabra or chupacabras is a creature said to inhabit parts of the Americas. The name which translates literally from Spanish as "goat-sucker", comes from its reported habit of attacking and drinking the blood of livestock.

Physical descriptions of the creature vary. Sightings began in Puerto Rico in the early 1990s, and have since been reported as far north as the Carolinas and as far south as Chile.

The legend of El Chupacabra began in about 1992, when Puerto Rican newspapers El Vocero and El Nuevo Dia began reporting the killings of many different types of animals, such as birds, horses, and as its name implies, goats. At the time it was known as *El Vampiro de Moca* since some of the first killings occurred in the small town of Moca.

[Read more about El Chupacabra](#)

5. **Machu Picchu** (Peru)

Machu Picchu, *The Lost city of the Incas*, is a mystical, sacred place. Touched by the clouds, the ruins are one of the most enigmatic and beautiful ancient ruins in the world.

Rediscovered on July 24, 1911 by Yale archaeologist Hiram Bingham, Machu Picchu (meaning ‘Old Peak’ in Quechua, the language spoken by the Incas) was thought to be a sanctuary for the preparation of priestesses and brides for the Inca nobility.
The dramatic setting in a remote area of the Peruvian Andes enhances the shroud of mystery even more. The ruins lie near the city Cuzco in Southeastern Peru. An absolute wonder of human heritage, Machu Picchu will touch your heart and soul in many ways. Highly recommended!

Read more about Machu Picchu

6. El Dorado (Colombia)

El Dorado is not really a mystery but a myth. The myth began in the late 1530s in the Andes of present-day Colombia, where conquistador Gonzalo Jimenez de Quesada first found the Muisca (1537), a nation in the modern day Cundinamarca and Boyacá highlands of Colombia.

The story of the Muisca rituals was brought to Quito by Sebastian de Belalcazar’s men; mixed with other rumors, there arose the legend of El Dorado, The Golden Man - el indio dorado, the golden Indian, and El Rey Dorado, the Golden King. Imagined as a place, El Dorado became a kingdom, an empire, the city of this legendary golden king.

In search of this legendary kingdom, Francisco Orellana and Gonzalo Pizarro would depart from Quito in 1541 to the Amazon in the most fateful and famous expedition to find El Dorado.

Read more about El Dorado

New Colombia Travel Guide – 6th Edition

Bolivia Travel Guide

Venezuela Travel Guide
F. 6 Must See National Parks of South America

It is time to get out your hiking backpack and experience the National Parks of South America for yourself. Some are easy, others will demand every effort from your part. Explore as you have never done before and meet your friends and family with amazing tales full of life and passion.

1. Galapagos National Park (Ecuador)

The Galapagos National Park is an absolute must when you travel in Ecuador. The archipelago has been isolated for many years and nature has created astonishing endemic creatures.

Taking a tour in the Galapagos National Park is not cheap but it is worth every cent. It is absolutely fantastic! Unforgettable, a highlight when you travel in South America.

The giant tortoise is the most famous creature on the islands followed by the sea iguana (both can only be found on the Galapagos). Besides marveling at all the beautiful land animals you can also swim with dolphins, snorkel between sharks or dive with manta-rays.

Read more about the Galapagos National Park

2. Cotopaxi National Park (Ecuador)

Cotopaxi National Park is a few hours away from Quito, the capital of Ecuador, and is one of the most beautiful parks of South America. Its treasure is Cotopaxi, the highest active volcano of the world with a height of 5,897 meters (19,347 feet).

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The major attraction of the park is the *Paine Massif* composed mostly of granite and has been around for about 12 million years. The *Torres del Paine* are *three sheer granite towers*, that make a challenging and much wanted prize for experienced climbers.

[Read more about the Torres del Paine National Park](#)

4. **Manu National Park** (Peru)

The Manu National Park in Southwestern Peru is a huge biosphere park and a haven for biologists and nature researchers. The park protects over 2 million hectares (4.5 million acres) of territory rich in fauna and flora species.

You can reach the park either by taking a bus from Cuzco or by flying over the mountain peaks of the Andes in a one motor plane.

Manu hosts many protected animals; 800 species of birds, 200 species of mammals (there are more than 100 species of bats), 120 species of fish and reptiles. If lady luck travels with you then you'll be accompanied by the giant otter, black caiman, the majestic jaguar, the spectacled bear, the tapir, the ocelot, a bunch of primates and ... my favorites... capybaras.

[Read more about the Manu National Park](#)
5. Pantanal Matogrossense National Park (Brazil)

The Pantanal is one of the most immense, pristine and biologically rich environments on the planet. It extends through millions of hectares of central-western Brazil, eastern Bolivia and eastern Paraguay and is often referred to as the world's largest freshwater wetland system.

With its extraordinarily concentrated and diverse flora and fauna, and a landscape spanning a variety of ecological sub-regions, the Pantanal stands as one of the world's great natural wonders.

The Pantanal Matogrossense National Park hosts 263 species of fish, 95 species of mammals, 162 species of reptiles and is the best place in South America to spot a jaguar. You know you have to see this for yourself.

Read more about the Pantanal Matogrossense National Park

6. Iguazú National Park (Argentina)

Iguazú National Park lies on the border of Argentina and Brazil, near the point where 3 countries meet - Brazil, Argentina and Paraguay. The park measures 550 sq km (341 sq miles), hosts more than 2,000 plant species, 400 species of birds and many mammals and reptiles.

The main attraction of Iguazú National Park is Iguazú Falls (Cataratas del Iguazú in Spanish, Cataratas do Iguaçu in Portuguese). It is here that the river Iguassu tumbles down to the Paraná river in a staggering 275 mesmerizing waterfalls. They stretch out over a distance of 3 kilometers (1.860 miles) following the borders of Argentina and Paraguay.

The Iguazú Falls are 80 meters high (they're higher than Niagara Falls and wider than Victoria Falls) and they are without doubt the most beautiful waterfalls on our planet.

It is quite a spectacle, enchanting and exciting at the same time and is obviously one of the most visited attractions of South America.

Read more about Iguazú Falls
G. 6 Must See Ruins of South America

They are sacred and mystical, they sparkle the imagination of civilizations long gone. In touch with the elements of the sky and the earth the Ruins of South America will touch your soul in many ways. It is time to get out your hiking backpack and experience the 6 Must See Ruins of South America for yourself. Some are easy to reach, others will demand some effort on your part.

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[Read more about Machu Picchu](#)

2. **Kuelap** (Peru)

The pre-inca ruin Kuelap lies in Northwestern Peru and the road to get there is as adventurous as exploring the sacred ruins themselves. The fortress has outer walls reaching 14 meters (46 feet) high and is overgrown with vegetation enhancing its sacred function even more.

Kuelap is the only ruin with circle shapes in Peru and was strategically built to hold off attacks (the back side ends on a cliff, an abyss hundreds of meters deep).

I walked in the ruins alone on a moonlit night. It was all quiet, a mysterious play of light and shadow surrounded me, the mood beautiful and inviting. I visited breathtaking ruins all around the world but I've never felt like on that night again. In touch with the elements of the universe.

[Read more about Kuelap](#)
3. **Tiwanaku** (Bolivia)

The site of Tiwanaku, also spelled Tiahuanacu, lies near the city of La Paz, Bolivia. It is very different to other ruins found in South America. The site is characterized by large stones, weighing up to 100 tons, and cutting, squaring, dressing, and notching exceeding even the Inca in artisanship. What fascinates me are the many faces that seem to come out of the walls.

At its maximum extent, the city covered approximately 6 sq kilometers (2,316 sq miles), and had as many as 40,000 inhabitants.

Tiwanaku collapsed around 1100 CE and the city was abandoned adding itself to the list of wonderful mysteries in South America.

[Read more about Tiwanaku](#)

4. **Chan Chan** (Peru)

The Chimu Kingdom built Chan Chan, in and around the city of Trujillo in Northern Peru, as its capital some 15 centuries ago.

The planning of this huge city, the largest in pre-Columbian America, reflects a strict political and social strategy, marked by the city's division into nine 'citadels' or 'palaces' forming autonomous units.

Some ruins lie in the center of a busy neighborhood of Trujillo (quite bizarre). Others, such as Huaca del Sol and Huaca de la Luna, require public transport to be reached.

[Read more about Chan Chan](#)

5. **Lost City** (Colombia)

The Lost City (La Ciudad Perdida) can be reached after a 3 day adventurous hike from the city of Santa Marta in Colombia.

It was discovered in 1976 when an airplane spotted it through the vegetation of the jungle that had taken the city. It exists of an entangled net of tiled roads, terraces and small circular plazas supported by walls.
on the sharper mountains.

Although the Lost City can't match some of the other treasures found in South America the hike to the city is just awesome. The path takes you through coca plantations (and yes, people got kidnapped a few years ago so inform yourself before going) and through lowland jungle. After 3 days you reach the 1,200! stairs that take you into the city.

Read more about the Lost City

6. San Agustín (Colombia)

There are some 35 statues to be found in San Agustín's Archaeological Park in Southern Colombia (yes, I hear you, that's not a ruin, it is just too beautiful to ignore). San Augustin is actually a collection of ceremonial and burial sites scattered over an area of 645 sq km. (250 sq miles).

The size of these magnificent guardians of stone, which depict humans and animals, vary from twenty centimeters (8 inches) to seven meters (23 feet). In the area around San Agustín there are four hundred statues evoking a wonderful mystical mood.

The statues are very beautifully carved and emit a power that touches on many levels. Fascinating indeed.

Read more about San Agustín
Conclusion

I would like to thank you for downloading and reading this e-Book. It has been a joy to write *Attractions of South America* as a gift for you to enjoy and share with friends and family.

Best wishes,

Mark Van Overmeire  
Founder Travel Amazing South America  
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About the Author

Mark Van Overmeire is a passionate musician, photographer and traveler. He has traveled extensively in South America and Southeast Asia and has released the CD’s “Impresiones” and “Angkor” with music inspired by his journeys.

Mark founded Travel Amazing South America, a South America travel website at [www.travel-amazing-southamerica.com](http://www.travel-amazing-southamerica.com), on June 2005.

Please visit the following websites for more information:

[www.Travel–Amazing-SouthAmerica.com](http://www.Travel–Amazing-SouthAmerica.com)

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* Photographs "Condor Flying" by Mike Evans, "Torres del Paine" by Loic Bernard, "Easter Island" by Michal Wozniak, "Playtime for Wild Monkeys" by Christina Craft and "Iguazu Falls" by Patrick Roherty

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