

June 2022

Dreaming of South America with Akorn




Akorn

AKORN DESTINATION MANAGEMENT

RECOMMENDED BY AKORN

It is always exciting to bring good news your way!
We are thrilled to announce that the opening of our Colombia DMC office has reached its final stages and that it will be fully operational as of September 2022. With exciting new opportunities and leads that this opening will bring to our region, we look forward to WOW and serve our clients the Akorn way. We are already working on product developments that we will soon share with you as well as fantastic new experiences we have carefully put together here in Colombia.
Finally, don't forget that we are now in the best season to spot jaguars in the Pantanal and that Easter Island is once again open for travel! We still have travel opportunities for 2022 and our teams are working full time to reply to your queries. We hope to welcome more travelers to our region soon. Therefore, we invite you to read on and click through the links below to learn more about what's new and hot in South America.

¡Vamos!

Dalia Gibu
Regional Sales & Marketing Director - Akorn South America
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Our Recommendation of the Month

The Pantanal

Being the world's largest wetland, the Pantanal is magic as it is immense. There are so many things we could say about that we could spend hours! But, did you know that...

- It is the best place to see jaguars in the wild?
- It is so large that it extends through Brazil, Paraguay and Bolivia?
- It is home to 3,500 plant species, 656 bird species, 325 fish species, 159 mammal species, 53 amphibian species and 98 reptile species
- It is larger than 29 US states and at least 9 European countries?
- During the rainy season 80% of it floods
- 13,000-20,000 years ago it was only a desert. Now it is the world's largest wetland?
- Personally, my favorite way to enjoy it is by combining it with Iguazu and, of course, Rio de Janeiro!



Our Recommendation of the Month

Cooking by the River, with Chef Quique Sempere in Guayaquil, Ecuador

Be it in Santiago or the Lake District, Chile will always be an excellent option, when it comes to Winter activities. Thanks to world class ski resorts and mesmerizing backdrops, winter can be enjoyed to its fullest here. Pair this with Akorn's expertise and your snow filled escape can be taken the extra mile!
Remember that you can always contact us, we will be happy to arrange and/or personalize your winter adventure in the Land of Fire and Ice. From heli-skiing the Andes or making your way through the snow blanketed Lake District to combining your experiences with our iconic gastronomic and cultural tours, we can create pioneering itineraries for your clients to be the first ones to enjoy. If anything is certain, it's that this Southern Winter experience will leave your clients wishing they could do it every year!



WHAT'S NEW IN SOUTH AMERICA

Start Planning your Trip to Chile

With varied natural backdrops, a wide array of activities to enjoy, world-class accommodation and the seductive flavors of fine wine across the country, visiting Chile is not only an option but a must! Now that the Government has eased the COVID-19 requirements to enter the country, this is the perfect opportunity to plan a Chilean adventure.

Contact our team, and let them tell you about the options that we have for your clients wishing to visit Chile, and how to combine them with the wonders of Argentina. We would like to bring special attention to Patagonia for Spring (October and November), as spaces are going quickly and Festive Season is almost fully booked!

Entering Chile

The Government has lifted and improved some of the entry requirements for Chile:

- 1) No proof of vaccination is required to enter. However, the Mobility Pass is required to enter enclosed spaces such as restaurants, public transport, or museums. We highly recommend that our guests validate their vaccines **here**. The approval process now only takes 48 business hours. A comprehensive instruction video is available **here**.
- 2) Fill in **this online form** up to 48 hours before boarding, providing contact information and health and travel records. This form will display a QR code as a means of verification.
- 3) COVID-19 tests will be done randomly on arrival. Confirmed cases will be isolated.

Easter Island Opens for Travel!

On August 1st, 2022, Easter Island will be again fully open for travel! The island has remained closed for over 2 years, as an attempt to stay COVID-19 free. Now thanks to the locals' commitment and the effective Chilean vaccination plan, our clients will be able to once again travel to this emblematic wonder. There will be 2-3 weekly flights to and from the island operated by LATAM Airlines. We will keep you updated on the ever-changing entry and exit protocols for travelers venturing to Easter Island.

Ecuador: Oro Verde Hotel Opens in Loja

Ecuadorian hotel chain, Oro Verde, has recently announced the opening of a new property in Ecuador's southernmost province -Loja. For decades, Oro Verde has been a household name for world-class hospitality. With their growing vision and expansion through out the country, your clients can now enjoy more of Ecuador in style. The property showcases international cuisine, a prime location in the city and six room categories - including a Presidential suite. Loja is well known for being the cradle of outstanding poets and musicians and its convenient proximity to natural reserves and sites of interest such as the Puyango Petrified Forest, the Podocarpus National Park and the Jipiro Recreational Park.



Peru Updates Entry Requirements

We are thrilled to announce the update of entry requirements to Peru, put in place as of June 11th 2022. This will make it even easier to visit and enjoy the Land of the Incas, and make the trip of your dreams come true! Contact our team for further information on the updates and how to best benefit from them.

- Travelers under 12 need neither a PCR test, nor proof of vaccination. They may enter Peru, as long as no COVID-19-related symptoms are present on arrival.
- 12-year-old travelers and older must present full vaccination cards. Please note that the last dose must have been taken at least 14 days before traveling.
- Non-vaccinated travelers or those with an incomplete COVID-19 vaccination card, must present a negative PCR test result, no more than 48 hours before arrival.
- For domestic flights, travelers must present a full vaccination card or a negative PCR test result (no older than 48 hours prior to travel).

More Connectivity Between Argentina and Brazil

Aerolineas Argentinas has recently announced the opening of new routes that will be connecting three places of interest in Argentina and Brazil. As of July 2022, Aerolineas Argentinas will be unveiling their Sao Paulo-Cordoba-El Calafate route, which will be operating twice a week, on Mondays and Fridays. The frequency was entirely conceived with the idea of promoting tourism between both countries, and makes an excellent opportunity for those looking to combine the vibrant sophistication of Sao Paulo with the quaint estancia life of Cordoba and Argentina's wild Patagonia.

Peru: Juliaca Airport Resumes Operations

We are happy to share that the Juliaca Airport has officially announced the resumption of their operations, thus facilitating travel to/from Puno, in Southern Peru. The airport had been closed since April 29th due to works on the landing strip, which have now finished, making the airport fully operative once again.

OUR NEW DMC OFFICE IN COLOMBIA

At Akorn South America, we are incredibly happy to share that our Colombia DMC office will officially start operations in September 2022. This a project that we have had in mind for a while now, we are very excited about the new opportunities and business that this opening will bring to the region. We look forward to becoming the main reference in luxury travel in Colombia and being able to WOW and serve our clients the Akorn way. To lead this amazing project, we have hired former Latin America Product Manager at Akorn UK and now our new Country Manager at Akorn Colombia, Mr. Graeme Bull. Please join us in wishing Graeme a great start and success. We count on you to help us drive sales into this incredible destination and we will be updating you and providing training on the fantastic experiences we are already developing in Colombia. See you in Bogota!

Dalia

Graeme Bull



A traveler at heart, who understands the industry, Graeme joins the Akorn South America team backed on an outstanding career and the advantage of having spent the last eleven years of it at Akorn, most recently being Product Manager for Indian Subcontinent, Latin America, and Antarctica. Having been “fortunate to live on various continents and regions, including South and Central America”, Graeme has always seen South America as a place that he would always return to, a place that he can call home. Based on his experience and knowledge, it was not a tough decision to trust him with leading one of our most important projects in recent years.

“My main goal is to make certain we build the right foundations to create a successful DMC and highlight how great a country Colombia is globally. I expect that there will be many challenges along the way, but anyone who visits will leave being impressed by the depth and variety that Colombia has to offer”.

Graeme Bull
Country Manager - Akorn Colombia
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OUR TEAM

IN SOUTH AMERICA

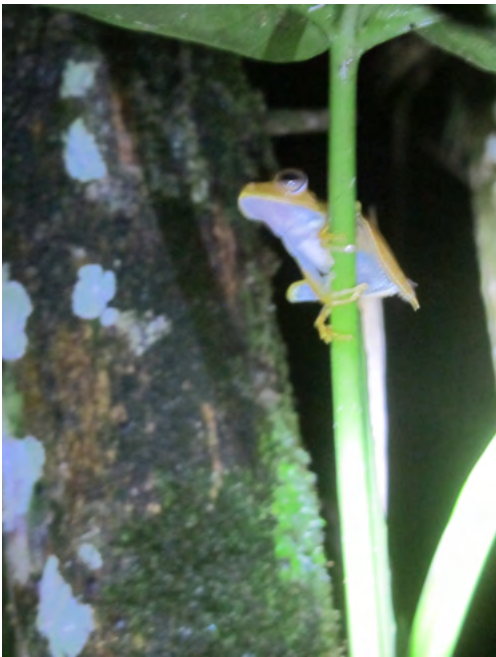
Veronica Curtis and Diana Wilson Visit Explora El Chalten

Recently, our Argentina Country Manager and Deputy Manager, Veronica and Diana, paid a visit to the south, and made of the beautiful Explora Chalten their home in Patagonia. Without a doubt, a trip to this corner of vast Argentine land is always an opportunity to set the heart and spirit free. Gear up and embrace the beauty of nature. However, what made this visit special was that they also had the opportunity to sit back, relax and get pampered at the exclusive Explora El Chalten, a property that day after day affirms their spot among our favorite places to stay. From their minimalist yet cozy decoration, to the savvy guides available in the evenings to discuss the activities and explorations for the following day, Explora El Chalten sets itself as one of the best hotels in the Argentine Patagonia. In fewer words -do contact our team and let them tell you all about the options to enjoy a memorable stay in El Chalten, whether you are looking for a classy option at Explora El Chalten or a more adventurous alternative, where glamping and domes right before the Fitz Roy, bring the experience to life.



Akorn Ecuador Visits Minga Lodge

Recently, our Akorn Ecuador team paid a visit to Minga Lodge. This property is nestled in the Ecuadorian Amazonia and focuses greatly on social development and conservation projects that have importantly contributed to the local communities' social and economic growth. . Our team split into three groups to visit the property. They all returned very inspired by Minga Lodge´s hard work and were amazed by the creativity and mesmerizing flavors of their chef. We are now moving towards soon including Minga Lodge as part of our accommodation portfolio. This lodge is another option for families wishing to enjoy and embrace Amazonia. Stay tuned for news or contact us for further feedback and information.



HAPPY TRAVELERS IN SOUTH AMERICA


"I wanted to take the time to let you know how fabulous our guide, Andrea, was in Buenos Aires. She was so very knowledgeable, thoughtful and a real pleasure to be with. She was aware of our every need and anticipated our every idea. She really brought Buenos Aires to life for us with her stories and insights.

I am accustomed to Akorn guides being excellent and caring --- Andrea took it to a new level! Please let your team in Buenos Aires know that they have a very special person working with them!

Most Sincerely,"

- MR
May, 2022

Akorn
ARGENTINA



"The rooms of our Amazon cruise were nice, the food good, and the service was excellent. The boats for outings were perfect (like metal zodiacs but bigger and more comfortable). The handicapped situation for us, though, worked perfectly. The staff couldn't have been better--helpful, thoughtful, excellent. They helped get us on board the small boats for everything he wanted to do."

- JN
March, 2022


Akorn
BRAZIL



"We just got back from an all day hike. Our last hike in beautiful Patagonia. This has been an amazing vacation! Thank you for all your help all along the way. Oh! I almost forgot to tell you: we saw 2 pumas on yesterday's hike!"

- IB
February, 2022

Akorn
CHILE



"I have been meaning to send you a note about our adventures in Quito! We had the very best guide of any trips- Amparo. She went above and beyond in every way and I want to make sure that Akorn is aware of how special she made our time. Whether it was the market, or the mime on the roof of the church- it was top notch. Also, her knowledge of what we were seeing and where we were going was excellent. I think of all the things Akorn has arranged for us over the years, she is the top guide we have had. Our driver, Diego was excellent as well. Both of them were great with us and it really made our trips.

Love,"

- MH
May, 2022

Akorn
ECUADOR



"I especially enjoyed dohali Gaonour tour guide. She exceeded my expectations. Peter is an amazing driver. I felt safe with him at the wheel- Humbir is very special. He stayed in touch with me during the entire trip, and is overseeing our trip so that all goes as planned. Thank you for checking up on us. So far our trip is Akorn quality and has actually exceeded my expectations. Thanks again!"

- RH
May, 2022

Akorn
PERU



OUR EXPERT ADVICE ON IBERA

About Ibera

Population: 5,000
Weather: Min: -2°C (28°F) Max: 44°C (111°F)
Good for: nature, culture and outdoors



Diana Wilson

"I'm Diana Wilson, Deputy Manager at Akorn Argentina. I grew up on an estancia in the Pampas, so wide open spaces and animals are a very important part of my life. I love the feeling of freedom without limits and have developed a good eye at spotting animals and plants at what can be considered quite a distance! In fact, it is this feeling of freedom and love for open areas what makes me feel so comfortable and at home, every time I visit the Iberá Wetlands, a land so vast that covers 1.500.000 hectares (3.706.580 acres) being the second largest wetland in the world, only after the Pantanal. This area is scarcely inhabited by a few families that have live there for generations, tending to their livestock on the islands. Iberá is the ideal destination for those seeking for nature."

OUR EXPERT ADVICE ON IBERA



My Favorite Local Thing to Do in Ibera:

This is a destination that is all about nature so I would probably say that my favourite thing is to let nature do what it has to and silently observe and listen to it. Obviously whilst in this area another important thing is their local food, which although not sophisticated is well worth trying. Good chipa (mandioca and cheese bun) with mate and of course a typical asado (BBQ) with singing and dancing Chamamé, the local folklore music.

What to See or Read before your Trip to Ibera?

"Esteros del Iberá: The Great Wetlands of Argentina" a photo book of this paradise.

Top 5 Things to Do in Ibera:

1. Boat rides into the wetlands to discover the wildlife in it's natural habitat.
2. Meet with local marsh community and learn about their way of life.
3. Horseback riding in the wetlands.
4. Relax and enjoy the sunsets as the wildlife sets in for the night and identify the sounds of the different birds and animals as they turn in for the day.
5. Horse-back swimming the wetlands.

My Favorite Hotel to Stay at?

There are 3 hotels that I highly recommend as they all are very different:

1. Puerto Valle on the northern edge of the wetlands.
2. El Tránsito to the west with activities with locals.
3. Rincón del Socorro owned by The Conservation Land Trust where one can learn about the Rewilding work they are doing.

My Favorite Restaurant to Eat at?

All three hotels I suggest, are also a great alternative to enjoy delicious food and top-notch service.

What to Bring on Your Trip:

The first thing to pack when going to the Esteros is a camera and a good set of binoculars if you have them. The climate will generally be warm although a jacket for the evenings will also be needed. Comfortable footwear for hiking, a hat, sunglasses and insect repellent.

My Local Advice:

Keep a keen eye ready to spot animals grazing in the distance, others that blend in with their surroundings as they laze in the sun or cool off in the shallow waters. Animal life is everywhere, just waiting for you to spot it and not disturb it.life in the local town (El Chaco). If you are a wine lover, there are wineries in Ica, not far from Paracas, wine and pisco tasting experience will make your visit even more memorable.

FLAVORS OF SOUTH AMERICA

Brazilian Coxinha

Coxinha is an authentic Brazilian recipe. Not only is it popular in Brazil, but it is also regarded as one of the best appetizers in the world. Of course, you should never miss it, shouldn't you? It was first made in São Paulo in the 19th century, and there is an exciting story behind it. There was a son of a royal family in Limeira who only ate chicken thigh. But since there was not enough chicken for him, the chef made another dish by shredding the chicken, shaping it, then frying it to perfection.

The result was surprising. The whole family fell for that dish and introduced it to the other part of the country. Eventually, it is now a crucial part of Brazilian cuisine.

Coxinha will be one of your best culinary experiences in Brazil.

What you will need for the dough

- 1 tablespoon unsalted butter
- 2 cups whole milk(470 mL)
- ¼ cup chicken broth(60 mL)
- 2 cups all-purpose flour(250 g)
- 1 egg
- 2 cups of breadcrumbs (100 g)
- Frying oil

What you will need for the filling

- 1 tablespoon of olive oil
- 4 cloves of garlic, minced
- 1 white onion, diced
- 2 cups of cooked and shredded chicken(250 g)
- ½ teaspoon of paprika, or cayenne pepper
- Salt, to taste
- 4 oz of cream cheese (110 g)
- 3 tablespoons of fresh parsley, chopped

Instructions

1. In a medium pot, heat olive oil, then sauté garlic and onions until soft and brown. Add shredded chicken, salt, and paprika (or cayenne pepper). Stir to incorporate.
2. Transfer mixture into a bowl, add cream cheese and parsley. Mix well.
3. In the same pot, add butter, chicken broth, and milk. Bring to a boil. Stir in flour until dough is formed.
4. Transfer dough to a flat surface. Knead the dough while it is warm, but not hot.
5. Pinch a piece of dough, about the size of a large egg, and roll into a ball. Using your hands, flatten the dough and spoon filling into the center. Wrap the dough into a pear shape and make sure there aren't any holes.
6. While heating a pot of oil to 350°F/180°C, dredge the dough in egg and panko, then deep-fry till golden brown and cooked through.
7. Drain on a towel, or wire rack and serve immediately.
8. Enjoy!



The Akorn Argentina team recently visited the Alvear Palace in Buenos Aires. Here, they were able to stroll around the facilities, enjoy delicious breakfast and see how the hotel is up and ready to welcome Akorn guests and make of their stay in Buenos Aires something to remember.

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