

March 2024

*Dreaming of*  
Latin America with Akorn



  
Akorn

AKORN DESTINATION MANAGEMENT



# RECOMMENDED BY AKORN

Our ‘Dreaming of’ is back! February was the month of Carnival in Latin America and I had the chance to experience the Winners Parade in Rio de Janeiro, in Akorn style! More details to follow!  
While in Rio, I took the time to visit our philanthropy project in the Vidigal Favela and share quality time with Adam, Messias and Isis to understand better how to support their projects and keep bringing positive impact to our communities. And of course, I spent time at the office with our fantastic team in Rio de Janeiro!  
Keep on reading to learn more about all the amazing things going on in the region, and the many experiences that your clients can enjoy here, with us.

Thank you!

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## Our Recommendation of the Month

### Vidigal Favela in Rio de Janeiro

At Akorn we believe in meaningful travel, and making authenticity a part of your clients’ program, after all that’s what actual travel experiences are all about.  
In Rio de Janeiro, our guests will have the option of visiting the Vidigal Favela, one of the projects that we support in the region. Here they will be able to see up and close how music, education and love can make a difference in lives. Get to meet the project managers and stroll around to the rhythm of the drums, as you see the children dancing their coreographies, performing capoeira shows and sharing a bit of their background and how this project has changed their lives with your clients. Without a doubt, this is an experience that they will cherish and remember for a lifetime.



## Our Recommendation of the Month

### Explore Costa Rica on Board the Kontiki

Thanks to the creativity, indulgence, great accommodation and many active and relaxed options to enjoy your cruise, the M/Y Kontiki quickly became one of our favorite products to explore the Ecuadorian coast. And after their announcement of starting their operation in Costa Rica seasonally, we immediately knew we had to recommend them to you here as well. And just like we do for every property, our Costa Rica team recently visited the yacht and were truly fascinated with the options on offer and the creative itineraries they’ve designed to navigate the Tico seas, forests and cultures in style. And you will love to hear that currently they are offering discounts of up to 20% off selected 5-day departures, when booking with Akorn. Contact us to learn more and book your experience on board the Kontiki for a thrilling cruise to remember.  
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# WHAT'S NEW IN LATIN AMERICA



## Brazil E-Visa Requirement Postponed

We are happy to announce that the requirement of e-visas for citizens of the US, Canada and Australia is postponed until April 10th. This, as a result of important meetings that we have been having with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Tourism, where we presented our views and position, and from which they agreed a postponement to ensure a smoother traveler experience.

For the time being, if you..

### **\*Are traveling before April 10th, 2024:**

You're in the clear! You do not need an e-visa for your upcoming trip.

### **\*Already initiated the visa application process, but haven't paid yet:**

We suggest cancelling the process, as it won't be required for your immediate travel.

### **\*A started the application and paid:**

We recommend continuing the process to obtain a 10-year visa.

## Casa Lucía Opens in Argentina

Casa Lucía Hotel has recently opened its doors in January, 2024. Located on the stylish Calle Arroyo, a charming curved road famed for its elegant French architecture and renowned for hosting Buenos Aires's top fashion houses and art galleries. All of which contributes to a special stay in one of their 142 suites and rooms that range from 25m<sup>2</sup> (269 sq. ft.) to 120 (1292 sq. ft.) m<sup>2</sup>.

The hotel is housed in the Edificio Miranovich. Once the tallest building in Latin America, it was designed to offer spectacular views of the Río de la Plata, resembling a lighthouse meant to welcome those arriving in Buenos Aires for the first time. The hotel will stay true to its roots and serve as a welcoming beacon for all travelers.



## Galapagos National Park to Raise Entrance Fees

Please note that effective August 1st 2024, the Ecuadorian government will be raising the entrance fees to the Galapagos National Park as follows. The announcement was made as an effort to keep the archipelago a sanctuary of nature.

**\*Entrance fee for non-Ecuadorians under 12:** USD 100, per person.

**\*Entrance fee for non-Ecuadorians over 12:** USD 200, per person.

## Magellan Discoverer New Ship to Join the Antarctica Fleet

We are thrilled to announce the unveiling of the Magellan Discoverer, a boutique small-expedition ship to set sail to the White Continent in the 2026-27 Antarctic season. The Magellan Discoverer will accommodate up to 76 guests in 40 cabins, distributed in Grand Veranda Suite, Family Suite, Triple Veranda Cabin, Deluxe Veranda Cabin, and Single Veranda Cabins categories, offering the choice of either a king-size bed or two twin beds, comfortable sitting areas, and private balconies.





# OUR TEAM IN LATIN AMERICA

## Meet Marco Thomas, Deputy Manager at Akorn Costa Rica

A few months have passed since the opening of Akorn Costa Rica. Since then, we have gone from South America to Akorn Latin America, we have learned to love and embrace life by greeting our friends “pura vida” and, most of all, we have been able to show the natural wonders of this slice of paradise with that special Akorn touch, by turning just great trips into memorable experiences! And none of this would’ve been possible without Marco Thomas, the person in charge of the DMC here and the professional who strategically spearheads our operation in Costa Rica, and someone we are very happy to have as part of the team.

### About Marco:

Born and raised between the colors of San Jose and the Caribbean coast of Costa Rica, Marco is the personification of a true Tico, whose 35 years of experience in luxury travel made him the right fit to lead the Akorn Costa Rica team. With a degree in business administration and wide experience as sales, marketing and operations manager for luxury travel companies and hotels, Marco joins the Akorn team with the burning desire to show the natural, cultural and magical beauty of Costa Rica, in luxury and style, and the comfort that an Akorn traveler seeks for.



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# CARNIVAL | IN BRAZIL



## Cheers to a Memorable FAM trip, Akorn Brazil!

Most of us dream of going to Rio de Janeiro for Carnival to embrace the colors, music and vibrant ambiance that inundates the streets of the Cidade Maravilhosa. But, did you know that there is an event that takes place just after Carnival, and is just as exciting? We are talking about Winners’ Parade, where all winning samba schools parade the sambodromo, showing the skills that put them in the first places, and reviving all the frenzy, colors and dancing that this celebration is all about.

Our local team recently hosted a FAM trip for many of our best-selling agents to embrace the magic of this celebration first hand. And, yes this was a success, as agents didn’t just fall deeper in love with Brazil, but with the emotions and traditions of this country and, of course, with the Akorn touch! From designing their own t-shirts for the event with an expert to enjoying the parade privately in the VIP booth with drinks and a pedicurist, this experience surely provided another view of Carnival, a more stylish one. But don’t just take our word for this, keep on scrolling to see guests’ impressions, and then you will be ready to contact us, and get your tickets for next year!

BC

“I just had the chance to look through the content you sent over and OMG it’s totally making me miss Brazil and the Akorn fam too much!!! You guys really treated us to such a special and memorable trip -- I cannot thank you guys enough!! Thank you guys so much for capturing this special weekend on film -- it’s so cool to have these to look back on to reminisce about my first trip to your special country!!”

AL

“I cannot thank you all enough for this once in a lifetime experience. I have been very blessed to work in the industry. I love and explore our world, but this trip was above and beyond. Truly due to the people most of all. Thank you for including me and for your warm hospitality. Hope to see you all again soon”

DK

“Thank you Akorn team, for putting together such an incredible weekend in Rio. It’s a weekend I’ll remember forever, thanks to you.” 🍷

GA

“What an utterly incredible few days! We have been working with Akorn for over 25 years and your generosity and hospitality never ceases to amaze me!” Thank you for including me on this most glorious trip, which will take a lot of beating. Your team are just wonderful!!”

MM

“Thank you so much to the whole Akorn team!! It was so great to meet and spend time with everyone! Rio is always amazing, but this weekend was extra special. We had so much fun experiencing a taste of carnival and can’t wait to get” 🍷🍷🍷

MS

“You all know how to throw a party!!! 🍷 What a fantastic journey we have had! Truly remarkable... with many thanks and working closely together in the future. Today we say Adeus Amigos” 🍷🍷🍷



# OUR EXPERT ADVICE ON THE AVENUE OF VOLCANOES

## About the Ave. of Volcanoes

**Extension:** 3 provinces  
**Weather:** 16°C (61°F) average  
**Good for:** outdoors, nature and culture



Cristina Romero

*"My name is Cristina Romero, Tour Consultant at Akorn Ecuador. I have been in the travel industry for 12 years! I majored in Tourism, because it was the door for me to learn more about the kaleidoscope of cultures and landscapes that bring to life this piece of paradise that we know as Ecuador."*

*"Of course, I love traveling and I have had the opportunity to visit many interesting places in my life. However, I must say that there is nothing like traveling Ecuador! It isn't just easy to visit and move around, but it has been blessed with contrasting natural regions that can be visited with short transfers. From golden beaches to the lush Amazon, the Cloud Forest and the mighty Andes, everything can be seen just within hours or even minutes, depending on the place."*

# OUR EXPERT ADVICE ON THE AVENUE OF VOLCANOES



### My Favorite Local Thing to Do in the Avenue of Volcanoes:

Of course my favorite thing to do is enjoying the Andean landscapes: volcanoes, moorlands, lagoons, cascades and grasslands. And, of course, there are many ways to do so, be it horseback riding, trekking your way across the mountain ranges or visiting a workshop where locals paint pictures and craft masks.

### Top 5 Things to Do in the Avenue of Volcanoes:

1. Trekking the mountains and around the lakes.
2. Horseback riding with a "Chagra" (Andean cowboy).
3. Visiting an indigenous market.
4. Trying your hand at cooking classes with local ingredients.
5. Visiting Mount Chimborazo (considered by many the world's highest elevation).

### My Favorite Akorn Experience?

A private, scenic helicopter flight over the Avenue of Volcanoes. Enjoy the bird's eye view of the impressive landscapes and take enviable pictures from this perspective that remains a privilege of few.

### My Favorite Hotels to Stay at?

Hacienda La Andaluza. With more than 500 years old, this Hacienda has welcomed thousands of important guests since 1555, including Alexander Von Humbolt, Simon Bolivar, among others. Enjoy the magic experience to be at the foothills of the Chimborazo while you enjoy the comfort and relax of this place.

### My Favorite Restaurant in the Avenue of Volcanoes?

Hacienda San Agustin de Callo: a former Inca fortress taken by the Agustino monks to build a monastery, and later purchased by a prominent landlord. This hacienda doesn't just offer the feeling of living history and actual Inca walls, but has developed a gastronomic option for the guests, with local products from their own produce.

### What to Bring on Your Trip:

Sunglasses, sunblock, a waterproof windbreaker, trekking footwear, your camera and water.

### My Local Advice:

Drink lots of water, as it helps ease altitude sickness and never complain about waking up early to enjoy the views and make most of your day!

### Visit the Avenue of Volcanoes

For a memorable experience here, I'd suggest checking out [this itinerary](#).



# FLAVORS OF LATIN AMERICA

## Peruvian Picarones

Picarones, also known as Peruvian donuts are classic Peruvian street food. These delicious treats are super easy to make. There are a few ways to make them, including butternut squash and pumpkin, and sweet potato. This recipe uses the butternut squash.

### What you will Need

#### For the dough:

- Cinnamon sticks
- 2 tsp whole anise seeds
- 1 lb butternut squash
- 1 lb sweet potato
- 1 lb pumpkin
- 1 tbsp instant yeast
- 1 tsp. cloves
- 1 tbsp sugar
- 2 eggs
- 1 tsp salt
- 1/4 cup Pisco (can be substituted with any brandy)
- 3 cups flour
- 1 orange
- 2 limes
- 1/4 cup molasses
- 1 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 4 cups of vegetable oil

### Instructions

1. Fill a large pot with water and bring to a boil.
2. Add 2 cinnamon sticks, 2 tsp. anise seed, and 1 tsp. cloves.
3. Peel sweet potato and cut into large chunks. Cut the pumpkin into large chunks.
4. Add sweet potato and pumpkin to the boiling water. Cook until soft.
5. Strain and reserve 1/2 cup of the cooking water. Set aside.
6. When the pumpkin and potato have cooled, mash them up.
7. In the bowl of a stand mixer dissolve the yeast and sugar in the cooking water.
8. Add eggs, salt, sweet potato, and pumpkin puree along with the Pisco. Mix on medium using a dough hook.
9. Add the flour gradually and continue mixing with the dough hook until smooth.
10. Cover the mixture and let rise in a warm location. It should double in size in about 2 hours.
11. Once the dough has risen, heat oil in a pot to 350 degrees Fahrenheit.
12. Dip your fingers in the salted water and form the donuts by grabbing a handful of dough and stretching it into a ring around two fingers. Place the dough quickly into the oil, and fry for approx. 20 seconds.
13. Allow the donuts to reach a golden brown color, then remove, place on a paper towel and serve warm, drizzled with syrup.



*Our Ecuador Cruise Team recently visited our philanthropy project in Galapagos, and brought gifts for the children to wear, when exploring the Enchanted Islands.*

*This project seeks for local children to learn and understand the archipelago by visiting every site, so one day they can show us the way to keep the islands a sustainable Natural Wonder of the World.*

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