

If you have trouble reading this,
please click: http://www.southwindadventures.com/newsletter/Chaski_News.htm



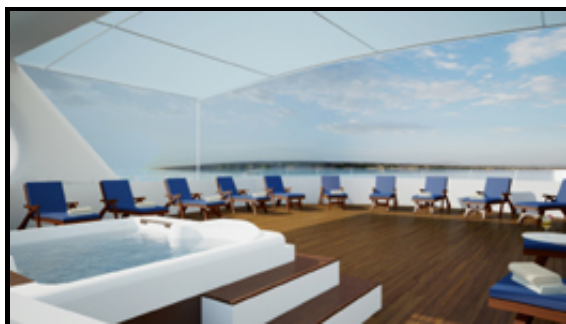
Family Adventures on the Rise

Families looking for a good travel value will find it among Ecuador's [Andean haciendas](#), Mindo cloud forest reserves and biodiverse Amazon rainforest. In Peru, kids love our classic [World of the Incas tour](#) with an emphasis on active learning experiences, quality time as a family and fun for all ages. Machu Picchu's history and alluring natural location will generate lifelong memories. Chile and Argentina have long captivated families with the alpine charm of the [Lake District](#), pristine wilderness of Patagonia and vibrant capitals. If the best beaches in South America are your fancy, Brazil is the place for sun and R&R with fantastic side trips to [Rio de Janeiro and historic Salvador!](#) . Southwind ("SWA") will be adding more family friendly itineraries in 2012/13 and our experienced Travel Consultants are ready and eager to design custom [Family Adventures](#) on request.



Travel Fact: Those traveling with either children or grandchildren make up 30% of U.S. adult leisure travelers. Family or multigenerational travel is the fastest growing rate of all sectors of leisure travel.

M/C Athala debuts in Galápagos



interior and exterior ceilings and new flooring. Engines and generators were completely overhauled and a state-of-the-art sewage treatment plant helps to maintain Athala's conservation commitment. Four new double kayaks add to your enjoyment while cruising the islands.

Recently refurbished, a high-end look and now under Ocean Adventures ownership! Among the onboard improvements, all 8 staterooms feature new picture windows, a fully stocked mini-bar (complementary for initial use), improved baths and interconnecting doors for families in 4 cabins. Guests enjoy a new larger jacuzzi on the sun deck and a retractable awning. Public areas received new furnishings,

Travel Fact: Take advantage of lower introductory prices for the rest of 2011 and an early bird discount when booking a cruise for September 2012.



Southwind expanding to Central America in 2012

Costa Rica and Panama will soon become available to travelers who have come to know Southwind's exceptional quality, value and personalized service. SWA President Tom Damon lived for 2 years in Costa Rica while working on ecotourism and sustainable development projects in the early 90's. Our Director of Operations, Luis Felipa, spent 3 weeks traveling throughout Costa Rica in February this year. He observed capuchin monkeys, sloths and other wildlife in Tortuguero NP on the Caribbean coast and at Manuel Antonio NP on the Pacific coast. Luis also visited Poás Volcano crater, tried a zip line and searched for quetzals in the Monteverde cloud forest. White-water rafting on the Reventazón River, horseback riding the slopes of the Arenal Volcano, exploring the Nicoya Peninsula by boat near Tamarindo beach and hiking to the secluded falls of Rio Celeste in the heart of Tenorio Volcano NP were all on his itinerary. Most importantly, he discussed custom trip design and professional insight with boutique hotel owners, resort managers and local guides. This winter Luis will continue his logistical scouting in Panama.



Travel Fact: Costa Rica is a model for worldwide conservation, this small megadiverse country (about 1/5 the size of Colorado), boasts 186 protected areas, among them are 32 National Parks, 8 biological reserves and 51 wildlife refuges. Almost 27% of the national territory is set aside for some form of preservation. Costa Rica is one of the safest and friendliest countries for travel in the world.



Chile's Explora Patagonia Re-opens

Salto Chico Hotel re-opens after mid-August renovations.

Here are some facelift highlights:

- spa redesigned with new flooring and ceilings
- pool improvements including massage area, outdoor jacuzzi, deck and soon-to-be steam bath
- new "Explorer's Bar" with superb wine offerings
- downstairs dining room transformed into a lush lounge, wine bar and wine cellar
- new furniture in all common areas



In addition to the classic Explora transfer service from Punta Arenas, the hotel will offer a new Argentina transfer service from El Calafate's airport and main city hotels to Paine Park beginning September 1st. (approx. 232 miles covered in 4.5 to 5 hours driving). Call SWA to customize your itinerary to include Explora together with Santiago and the nearby wine

country or the Argentinian side of Patagonia, Ushuaia and Buenos Aires.

Travel Fact: Explora is active in environmental and social responsibility. About 80% of the Explora team was born and raised in nearby Puerto Natales and Punta Arenas. The hotel supports local groups helping at risk elderly and disabled children. Every year on Children's Day, guides take children from the "Madre Teresa de Calcuta" children's home to explore Torres del Paine National Park.



Peruvian senior guide Romulo Lizarraga



Romulo is one of the most knowledgeable, experienced and professional guides in the Andes. This University of Cusco graduate was born in Intihuatana at the foot of Machu Picchu. His grandparents grew up exploring the region making Romulo a descendent of the local discoverers of Machu Picchu! Romulo has 24 years of experience in the Peruvian Andes and has co-authored two guide books. He is married with two daughters and is fluent in Quechua, Spanish and English. In the year 1875, Romulo's grandfather, Agustín Lizarraga, arrived in the foothills of Machu Picchu from Mollepata looking for new lands for agriculture. They

established present-day Mandor and began cultivating fruits, sugar cane, yucca and coffee. In 1902, at age 47, Agustín expanded his farming lands and cleared vegetation below the Incarakay ruins at the base of Huayna Picchu (the famous backdrop peak in Machu Picchu photos). There he found an ancient trail up the mountain which he ascended to the current Machu Picchu citadel where Agustín made a small inscription below the temple of the 3 windows that read "Agustín Lizarraga 1902." Agustín and his family utilized the current terraces of Machu Picchu and the main plaza for cultivation of maize among other crops. In 1904, Agustín escorted friends up to the ruins and later in 1911 he and other locals guided Hiram Bingham to the citadel where they were hired by Bingham to help with the clean up and conservation efforts.

Want to travel with Romulo? If you are interested in having Romulo guide a personalized Southwind Adventure for you and your party, please contact us.



Travel Opportunities

Small-group departures with openings for 2012:

May 26-June 3: [World of the Incas](#): A classic tour of Peru's heart of the Inca empire, the flavorful Cusco and enigmatic Machu Picchu. Early Signup Discount is available (6% if signing up by Nov. 26).

Ways to Save!

Southwind offers several ways to save on our adventures, including discounts for Early Signup, Groups and Children. Also inquire about Galápagos cruise specials.

Please visit our [Travel Discounts](#) page for further details.

What's a Chaski?

"Chaski" refers to the messengers of the Inca who would run along the kingdom's vast network of trails delivering vital information. News, intricate communication, quipus - knotted strings conveying regional statistics or perhaps exotic foods were relayed between Chaskis as they made their way towards the Incan capital of Cusco.

[Email a friend](#) this issue
of the Chaski News

[Subscribe](#) to receive
Southwind's Chaski News



PO Box 621057 Littleton, CO. USA 80162 Tel: 303.972.0701 Fax: 303.972.0708
Toll Free: 800.377.9463 info@southwindadventures.com
Monday - Friday 9:00am to 5:00pm, Mountain Time

You received this email because of your interest in adventure travel to South America.
Southwind respects your privacy. We will not share, rent, or sell your information to any individual or company.
If you prefer not to receive future newsletters from Southwind, simply click on the
"remove" link in the box below.