

News and Savings from Southwind Adventures

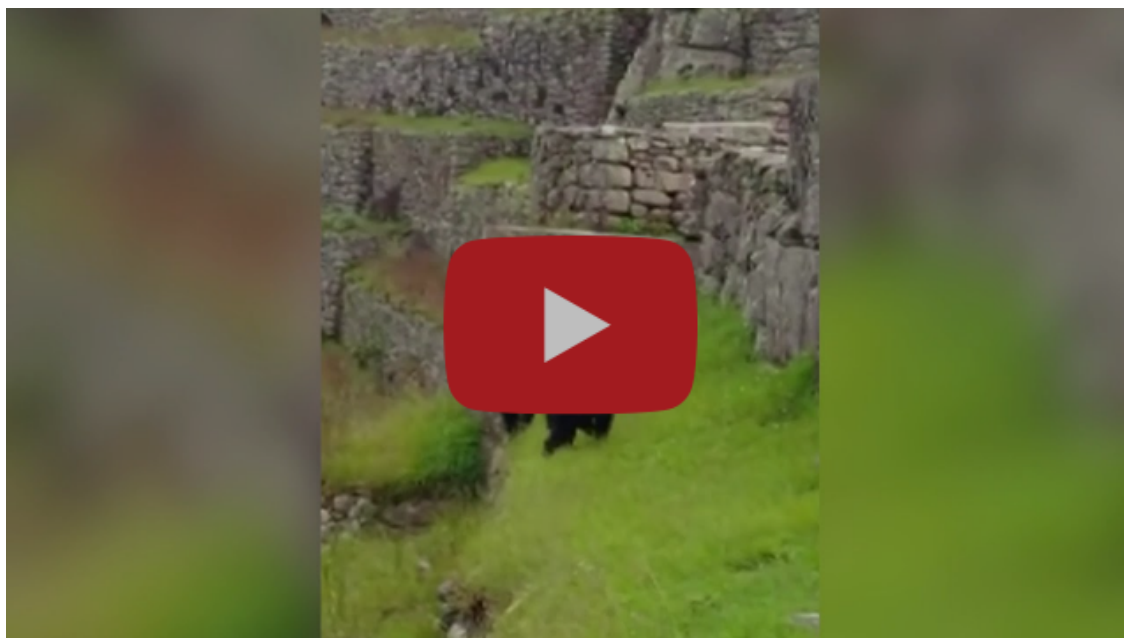
[View this email in your browser](#)

## Andean bears spotted inside Machu Picchu!

This astonishing recent video clip of a female spectacled bear and her cub strolling among the Incan walls of the UNESCO Historic Sanctuary of Machu Picchu, is testimony to the wonders travelers may encounter while a limited number of people are allowed to enter the site. Fewer visitors have led to wildlife being more active in nature destinations around the world. The Lost City of the Incas is no exception evidenced by this fortuitous video filmed by a Peruvian visitor to the citadel.

Machu Picchu, tucked away in the cloud forest of Peru at 7,973 ft is the habitat of the Andean spectacled bears. Southwind's President Tom Damon was lucky enough to spot one while on a trek along the Inca Trail. Once prolific throughout mountain regions of South America, these bears are considered threatened due to habitat loss and hunting. Inkaterra has a Spectacled Bear Conservation Project located on their hotel grounds in the village of Machu Picchu with the goal of rescuing injured bears and reintroducing them into their natural habitat. Guests can see bears up close and learn about the challenges they face to survive in today's changing world. Their spectacled name derives from the yellowish white patches around their eyes. These elusive bears are more docile than their North American cousins, they are not a threat to humans and famously served as inspiration for the beloved Paddington Bear children's book character!

[Contact us](#) to discuss ways to customize our signature [World of the Incas Tour](#) by adding the Km 104 dayhike on the famed Inca Trail that passes through prime spectacled bear habitat.



Courtesy: Reuters

## Ecuador & Peru are available this summer and fall

### ECUADOR MAINLAND, GALAPAGOS ISLANDS & AMAZON

Ecuador & Galapagos are open to vaccinated travelers without the need for a Covid test. Unvaccinated travelers can also visit by showing a negative PCR or Antigen test issued 72 hours prior to arrival. The US Travel Advisory recently downgraded Ecuador, and most of our Latin America destinations, to a Level 3 and the Government of Ecuador aims to vaccinate the entire adult population of the country by end of August. In Galapagos, close to 100% of the eligible population is already fully vaccinated including cruise ship and hotel crew and guides. You can choose from 5-8 day cruises on ships ranging in size from 16 to 100 passengers or a more private hotel based stay in the islands. For family groups, we can arrange a charter of a 16 passenger luxury catamaran or a private villa on Santa Cruz Island.

Learn more on the recent Southwind blog post: [Sustainable Tourism in Galapagos](#) - Helping Preserve the Islands while Supporting their Population.

**Special:** 10% savings on Galapagos cruises aboard the 16 passenger luxurious M/C Endemic, M/C Elite and M/C Ocean Spray in 2021. For 2022 bookings, save 5% by joining 12 months or more in advance and benefit from 2021 rates. These promotions are valid for bookings until July 31, 2021 and exclude departures during Easter, Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's.

Before or after the Galapagos, consider adding a stay at an historic [highland hacienda](#) or a secluded lodge in the [Andean cloud forest](#) or [lowland Amazon rainforest](#).

With Ecuador's year round spring-like climate, visit anytime of the year, flying to Quito or Guayaquil within 4 hours of Miami.



## PERU

The world renowned [Inca Trail](#) re-opens **July 15, 2021** with permits on sale starting June 25. The trekking season runs April through November. Currently Machu Picchu is open with a limited capacity of 667 visitors per day (down from the normal 2,500 per day). However, in reality only about 100 people are actually entering a day, so this summer and fall offers a once-in-a lifetime opportunity to experience Cusco, the Sacred Valley and the Lost City of the Incas without the typically crowds. Be one of the first to trek the Inca Trail and witness the vibrant plant life, birds and animal species who have enjoyed the site to themselves during the Covid shut-down. A family who recently returned from Peru with Southwind only saw about 30 other hikers on their Inca Trail dayhike. This shorter route leads directly to the citadel from Km104 providing a short cut to the 4 day trek that normally sees 500 hikers a day.

Peru is a year-around destination with a dry season April-November. Lima is a 5½ hour flight from Miami. Before or after visiting Machu Picchu, consider adding [Lake Titicaca](#) or a [luxury riverboat cruise on the Amazon](#) or staying in a [rainforest lodge](#) with an optional night spent in a secluded treehouse.

**Special:** 25% savings on select Amazon cruises aboard [M/V Aria Amazon](#) or [M/V Aqua Nera](#) for families or groups of 3 or more friends when booking interconnecting suites. Bookings must be made at the same time and no later than Dec 31, 2021.

We look forward to welcoming you on a personalized trip with Southwind. Learn more about all our Latin America Destinations and ways we can create your next nature, cultural and adventure vacation full of exciting memories that last a lifetime!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom".

Tom Damon,  
President & Adventure Travel Specialist  
Southwind Adventures



## LEARN MORE



## Flight assistance

Southwind can help coordinate all your air travel needs with our ticketing partner who has access to low contract fares to many of our destinations. For added convenience, private jet charters are possible for families and groups (for international and/or in-country flights). You also have the option of making your own flight arrangements or redeeming award travel for any of our trips. Ask us for details.

## PRIVATE TRIP REQUEST



Share



Tweet



Forward



Share



Pin



*Distinctive, Personalized Journeys to Latin America*



You are receiving this email because of your interest in Southwind Adventures and travel to Latin America, or because you've traveled with us in the past.

**Our mailing address is:**

Southwind Adventures  
PO BOX 20755, Bradenton, FL 34204 USA

[Add us to your address book](#)

[unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)