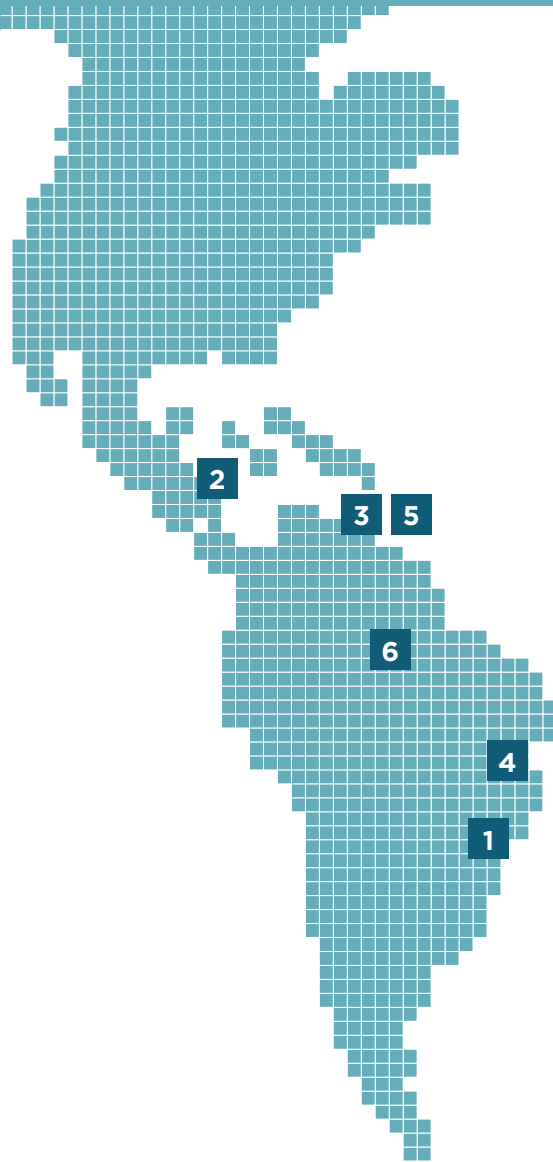


ENSEMBLE[®] HOT LIST

Chris Robinson

Top Picks in Latin America and the Caribbean

No oceans to cross, no massive time zone dislocations...just a continent and a half of cultures and landscapes to explore. Here are our recommendations for experiencing some of the best and most exciting experiences that Latin America and the Caribbean have to offer.



1 BRAZIL, ARGENTINA & CHILE - SOUTH AMERICAN ODYSSEY

Three spectacular South American countries in one, stress-free journey. Spend time in the incomparable cities of Rio de Janeiro and Buenos Aires. Experience the might and grandeur of Iguassu Falls, the most awesome waterfall on the planet, set amidst tropical rainforest. Chill in Bariloche, a resort town in the Argentinian Lake District set in pristine mountain country. Then sail across an Andean lake into Chile to visit Chilean Patagonia before ending your journey in Santiago.

2 HONDURAS: ROATAN - REEF MADNESS

Roatan is two worlds in one. Above the waves it's a beautiful Caribbean island in the Bay Islands, 80 kms off the coast of Honduras. It sits atop an underwater mountain range that forms part of the Meso American Barrier Reef, second only in size to the Great Barrier Reef. Below the waves a whole new world opens up to divers: vibrant coral, rainbow hued tropical fish, sponges as big as cars, manta rays, sea turtles and whale sharks.

3 CURACAO: DUTCH COURAGE

Flavoured with Dutch cheese and Caribbean spices, this small southern Caribbean island is a concentrated melting pot of more than fifty nationalities. And yet it is authentically its own creation. So when the locals decide to party for Carnival, be prepared to leave your inhibitions in your suitcase and join in the fun! It's one of the most all-embracing and longest-lasting Carnival spectacles in the Caribbean — starting in early January and ending in March.

4 BRAZIL: SALVADOR - EXOTIC CLUB MED

I arrived here with my wife after an exhausting but exhilarating tour of Brazil – it is the perfect place to relax and recuperate. Enjoy all the usual all-inclusive Club Med activities at this village from flying trapeze to horseback rides in the beachside coconut groves. And just an hour's boat ride across the bay is the resoundingly Brazilian city of Salvador, a great melange of beliefs, cultures and history, a chance to connect with the people of this unique Brazilian colonial city

5 GRENADA: SPICE IT UP

Tucked away in the southern most arc of the Caribbean islands, Grenada is a perfect little gem of an island: lush, scenic and friendly. Never did a place better justify its nickname than Grenada – The Spice Island. It seems that you can grow just about anything on this island. A combination of rich volcanic soil, plentiful rainfall and varying altitudes has meant that Grenada has always been a cornucopia. And the pick of the crop are that fragrant spice we call nutmeg and its cousin, derived from the same plant, mace.

6 THE AMAZON: A CIVILIZED TROPICAL ADVENTURE

If you are thrilled with nature films featuring the jungle heart of South America, but never believed you could venture there yourself, think again. Oceania Cruise's 24 day Amazon Allure sailing takes you to Manaus in the very heart of Amazonia – in some considerable style. You know that there is forest for thousands of kilometers in every direction. And you sail on the mightiest river in the world through an ecosystem that is home to a staggering diversity of wildlife, including pink dolphins.



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