

Ski Beach Chile Brazil



ski the Andes – explore Rio – relax in Buzios - Portillo ski resort - laid back Buzios – beautiful Rio - relaxed atmosphere – first rate hospitality – beautiful mountains

A wonderful and unusual combination of summer ski and winter sunshine.

Enjoy great snow, beautiful scenery, a friendly, informal atmosphere and no crowds on the slopes of Portillo.

Relax in Brazil as you visit first Rio and then the small town of Buzios where you soak up the sun.

Tailor made to suit you, from the ski resort to the beach, we can adjust this holiday for you.

This is a Pura *handpicked* holiday with an activity level of *medium* and a comfort rating of *premium*.



Relaxing in the pool at Buzios.



"Thank you for making our honeymoon so memorable and awesome! It was perfect – from the snow to the sun was so magical!" Emma C

Holiday Itinerary

Day 01 | flight | **travel to Chile**

Fly overnight to Chile – this will usually be a Friday.

Please note: international flights are quoted separately for this holiday.

Day 02 | Portillo | **arrive on the slopes**

Today must be a Saturday.

Arrive in Chile. Portillo is a two and a half hour drive to the north of Santiago.

The following description is of a complete ski week in the four star Grand Hotel Portillo.



Skiing Roca Jack slope with the distinctive Grand Hotel Portillo behind.

Whilst this is the only accommodation at Portillo, there are various room grades available within the hotel.

You should arrive at the resort before lunch.

Since check-in is later this afternoon, we recommend that you pack your ski kit near the top of your bags in order to get out onto the slopes straight after lunch.

There is no better way to get over a long journey than a few bracing descents. (l,d)

Day 03 | Portillo | **ski in the Andes**

The setting of Portillo is exquisite: a high Andean valley with the Laguna del Inca reflecting the surrounding 5,000m peaks.

This despite the fact that people's general reaction, on arrival, is that Portillo is very small.

The actual slope infrastructure is 14 lifts serving 23 slopes. Of these 10% are for beginners, 70% for intermediate-advanced and 20% for experts.

In truth you could ski the entire resort comfortably in a day although there is a lot of very challenging off-piste.

However, Portillo has a magic to it which gets to most people, lots of whom come back year after year.

Because there are only ever 450 guests on the slopes you get to know everyone very quickly and you feel as if you are at a large private ski party.

Portillo really is quite beguiling. (b,l,d)

Questions? Ready to book? Call us on **01273 676 712**

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Near empty slopes in the highest stretch of the Andes



Deep fluffy powder



Small but comfortable rooms



The pool and hot tub with a five star view.

Day 04 | Portillo | *ski in the Andes*

The nature of the terrain makes Portillo particularly well suited to skiers though there are some great fun accessible powder fields for boarders.

It is not uncommon to share the slopes with one of the Olympic ski teams as they come here for their summer training.

For most mere mortals, the sight of an Olympic standard skier thundering down the impressive 'kilometro lanzado' slope is enough to make us stop and watch for a while.

Portillo has four superb 'va et vient' lifts – essentially four person drag lifts which take you up the steepest of slopes at something like 30km an hour.

In truth it is more like a rollercoaster than a ski lift.

The purpose of these lifts is to get you high onto the valley walls from where you can access the large powder fields running down towards the lake.

The latest addition to the va et vient family gives you easy access to the 'kilometro lanzado' slope.

This is basically a wide open 1km steep, clear downhill run where the world ski speed record has been set many times in the past. (b,l,d)

Day 05 | Portillo | *ski in the Andes*

The Grand Hotel has been here since the 1940s and that's the feel of the place.

Rooms are generally fairly small, comfortable but not spacious. Windows are relatively small. There are no TVs in rooms.

Portillo does have spectacular communal areas - the living room is the hub of the hotel and really does feel like a large family living room.

The restaurant is on the same level with large picture windows to the Laguna del Inca and mountains.

There is a small exercise room/gym and a large sports hall with indoor football, table tennis, etc.

There is a small cinema where films are periodically screened.

There is a fantastic outdoor pool and hot tub which is very popular after the slopes are closed.

There is live music in the bar every evening and a disco in the basement.

Down the road in the village is the local bar - think village hall with a small bar.

If not staying in the main hotel building, you have two other options: the Octagon lodge and the Inca Lodge.

The Octagon lodge has comfortable rooms with four single beds (built in bunks) and private bathroom. It is a couple of paces from the door of the hotel.

If staying here you eat in the main dining room and have full access to all facilities of the hotel.

The Inca Lodge is a good deal more basic with dorm style bunk rooms and communal bathroom facilities.

Meals are taken in the self-service cafeteria but otherwise you have full access to the resort and hotel facilities.

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Stay in a stylish boutique hotel.



Christ the Redeemer on top of Corcovado mountain



Late afternoon light on Sugarloaf Mountain

Day 06 | Portillo | **ski in the Andes**

It is impossible to talk about Portillo without talking about the service.

There are over 500 staff looking after the 450 guests. Several of the staff have been at the hotel for over 40 years.

You will find that each day has a rather lovely settled routine to it.

Your table is allocated at the restaurant – you will always eat in the same spot and are served by the same, invariably excellent, waiter.

After a fresh and delicious breakfast, head downstairs to collect your gear and ski out for the morning.

Return for coffee and snacks at any time or stay out until lunch.

Lunch and dinner are always three courses with various choices, the standard of cooking is a highlight.

After the lifts close at around 5pm people congregate either out in the heated pools or in the living room.

After dinner people generally drift into the bar to listen to music before turning in for the night.

Hardier souls will carry on into the 'nightclub' downstairs for a dance. (b,l,d)

Day 07 | Portillo | **ski in the Andes**

Enjoy another full day of skiing.

If you want lessons, the instructors at Portillo come from the finest northern hemisphere resorts such as Whistler, Vail and Chamonix. (b,l,d)

Day 08 | Portillo | **ski in the Andes**

Enjoy your last full day of skiing. (b,l,d)

Day 09 | Rio | **travel to Brazil**

Check out of your hotel for your shuttle transfer back to the airport from where you catch a flight over to Rio, via Santiago.

Your guide will be waiting for you at the airport to take you to your hotel. (b)

Day 10 | Rio | **explore Rio with a guide**

Spend this morning on a guided tour of the city.

Really what makes Rio special is the setting – it is a city spread across bays and valleys wedged between forested hills and sandy beaches.

Today's tour will be almost entirely outside.

Start high above the city centre with a walk in the Tijuca forest, on the slopes beneath the statue of Christ which sits on top of Corcovado mountain.

Tijuca is actually the world's largest urban reserve and it is quite impossible to imagine that you are near such a major city while you are in there.

Carry on to the top of the hill and the foot of Christ the Redeemer, so emblematic of both Rio and Brazil.

Despite being such a commonly seen image, it is one of those places which can still have a profound impact.

This is partly due to the sheer scale of the sculpture and partly due to its beautiful setting with the whole of Rio spread out beneath your feet.

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The town of Buzios.



Looking down onto one of our pousadas.

This afternoon you might like to stroll through the charming old cobbled streets of the Santa Teresa neighbourhood, complete with its slightly rickety tram network.

Later this afternoon you should take the opportunity to explore a little on your own.

Ipanema really is the nicest area of the city for shopping and restaurants. Each day there is an art and handicraft market in the central square.

You will probably also want to stroll along the beach to watch the world. Ipanema beach is divided into informal sections numbered according to their lifeguard station or *posto*.

Posto nine is where the beautiful people gather.

Buy a fresh coconut to drink from, settle down in a chair and tire yourself out watching a game of *futvolei*, a hybrid of football and volleyball.

As the sun sets you could head towards the famous Sugar Loaf Mountain. Take the cable car up to the top of the hill to watch. (b)

Day 11 | Buzios | explore and travel

You are picked up this morning for the two-hour drive to Buzios.

Once the preserve of pirates and slave traders, since Bardot came here in the 1960s this pretty fishing village has been popular with a more elite set, particularly of Cariocas (natives of Rio).

Buzios nowadays has a relaxed and friendly air.

Relax in your lovely pousada overlooking the bay. (b)

Day 12 | Buzios | relax and explore

Daytimes are generally spent on one of the 20 or more beaches, evenings are spent eating well or enjoying a little of that legendary Brazilian nightlife.

Each of the beaches or bays has a different feel.

The west coast beaches offer calm, clear waters while the east coast ones, facing the open sea, are a little wilder and draw surfers and water sports enthusiasts.

Olho de Boi beach is surrounded by absolutely untouched Atlantic Forest vegetation.

For beautiful views at sunset, head to Brava, Forno or Tartaruga beaches.

Azeda beach is probably the most beautiful.

If you want to cross from Ossos to Azeda beach you can either hike a trail or take a water taxi around the headland.

Joao Fernandinho Beach has several bars and restaurants known for great seafood.

Ferradura and Geriba are most popular for surfing.

Rua das Pedras is the main drag. It winds through the town centre for shopping, restaurants, bars and nightlife. For nightlife, arrive at around 11pm for several bars with live music. (b)

Day 13 | Buzios | relax and explore

More time around Buzios to enjoy the beaches, scenery, activities and nightlife. (b)

Day 14 | Buzios | relax and explore

More time around Buzios to enjoy the beaches, scenery, activities and nightlife. (b)

Day 15 | Buzios | relax and explore

More time around Buzios to enjoy the beaches, scenery, activities and nightlife. (b)

Day 16 | travel | fly home

Enjoy more time around Buzios this morning before your afternoon transfer back to the airport and your overnight flight home.

Please note: transatlantic flights are quoted separately for this holiday. (b)

Day 17 | home | arrive back

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Holiday Information

Pura Handpicked

This holiday is delivered by our partners on the ground in Chile and Brazil.

This itinerary is exclusive to Pura and has been designed to show most the amazing variety of South America from east to west.

We have chosen small, locally owned and run properties which are closely integrated with their communities.

How long?

17 days, departing Fridays between June and September. Can be extended or shortened to suit you.

How active?

A great combination of skiing (as energetic as you want to make it) and relaxation in the spa at Chillán.

In Buzios there are over 20 bays surrounding the town, each with its own atmosphere and activity so you can swim, snorkel, dive, windsurf, sail, kayak, lie on the beach, etc, depending on where you go each day.

How comfortable?

Charming four star hotel in Portillo.

In Rio your hotel is a boutique hotel in the Santa Teresa area of the city or you can choose to stay in one of the comfortable though less characterful hotels near Ipanema beach

In Buzios stay in a beautifully located small, stylish boutique hotel overlooking the sea.

Suggested hotels:

Portillo, Gran Hotel Portillo

Rio, Mama Ruisa

Buzios, Vila d'Este

How independent?

You're very independent on this holiday but can relax knowing that support and help is a phone call away.

Private transport and transfers throughout.

How responsible?

Pura Aventura is passionate about the places it visits.

To help preserve the integrity of these destinations we:

- Keep groups small to minimise environmental impact.
- Work directly with local businesses and organisations to directly benefit local economies. We use small, locally owned hotels and restaurants. We know the owners except in the large cities.
- Work with local guides so that our holidays are more interesting for clients and more beneficial locally.
- Make payment to suppliers before our clients arrive.

Weather

The ski season in Chile runs from late June to the end of September. You can expect 80% clear days.

Although it is winter in Brazil, you can expect temperatures in the mid-20s and warm water.

Not based in the UK?

We are very happy to discuss your requirements if you are not travelling to and from the UK.

Please call us on **+44 (0)1273 676712** between 9am and 6.30pm GMT weekdays.

Not quite right?

If this holiday's not quite right for you, call us to discuss your ideas or consider:

Ski Chile: Ski the Andes Focus on skiing with a choice of excellent Andean ski resorts.

Walk & Beach: Peru and Brazil Hike the Inca Trail before flying to a beautiful Brazilian beach to relax.

Walk & Beach: Chile and Brazil Walk in the Atacama desert then cross Patagonia on foot. Portaged and no camping. End with time on beautiful beaches.

How do I book?

As a tailor made holiday we need to check availability and prices before taking your booking. If you would like us to prepare you a detailed proposal then simply email info@pura-aventura.com or call 01273 676 712 with your preferred dates plus any other changes you would like us to make.

Once you have the proposal and decide you would like to go ahead then please call in with the following:

- Full names
- Address
- Contact telephone numbers & email
- Deposit of 15%

Deposits can be paid by card, cheque or bank transfer, whichever suits you best (the balance of your holiday is due 60 days prior to travel).

Prices & departures

2012	Low £3,388pp Regular £4,075pp Peak £4,597pp <i>Price can vary greatly according to resort/hotels selected and length of stay.</i>
Flights	International flights are quoted separately for this holiday (<i>guide price £800 - £950</i>). You can book these directly or we can book them on your behalf.
Prices include	Flights Chile to Brazil; seven nights' in Portillo; lift passes; two nights in Rio hotel; five nights in boutique hotel in Buzios; transfers as per itinerary; meals (b,l,d) as per itinerary & local information.
Not included	Transatlantic flights; personal expenses; ski equipment hire; tips.
Seasons	<i>Low season start dates:</i> June 16, September 08, 15, 22 & 29. <i>Regular season start dates:</i> June 23 & 30, August 04, 11, 18, 25, Sep 01. <i>High season start dates:</i> July 07, 14, 21 & 28.

Prices are per person, based on two sharing.

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