

July 2024

*Dreaming of  
Latin America with Akorn*



  
**Akorn**

AKORN DESTINATION MANAGEMENT

# RECOMMENDED BY AKORN

From the vibrant greens of the Costa Rican forests to the running rainbow waters of Caño Cristales, these past weeks have been incredible, exploring many beautiful destinations in Latin America. Costa Rica and Colombia are countries with easy flight connectivity that can be visited any time of the year and offer an array of diverse landscapes, nature, adventure, and engaging activities. Our Akorn teams are always in search of unique experiences and true connections with the local culture. We explore, vet, and create so your clients can explore our destinations the Akorn way, guided by our teams on the ground.

Pura Vida!

Dalia Gibu  
Regional Sales and Marketing Director - Akorn Latin America  
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## Our Recommendation of the Month

### Sky Biking in Monteverde, Costa Rica

Monteverde is a must-do destination when visiting Costa Rica. A playground for every adventure seeker! I visited Monteverde right after canyoning and ziplining in Rio Perdido - plus hot springs time to relax. Besides ziplining, I wanted to try something different so we visited Treetopia for their new sky biking, following some tree climbing, tarzan swing and hanging bridges, an exciting day which ended at the top of the canopy with some hot cocoa overlooking the amazing cloudforest! For the next days, we headed to surf paradise Nosara to stay at the beautiful Silvestre residences welcomed by our friends Chris and Aaron, and then to Santa Teresa for perfect sunsets at Nantipa and Pasha. Seriously, never a dull moment in Costa Rica! Let's plan the next adventure for your clients together!



## Our Recommendation of the Month

### Argentine Asado, Malbec and the Tigre Aboard the Bruma

Feel like a true Porteño on a visit to Tigre, just 40 minutes from Buenos Aires. One of the favorite places for locals, Tigre has always been a spot to relax with family, friends, or a special someone. Whether navigating the delta or enjoying a picnic by the shore, this is an experience to cherish and remember. And, of course, our local team in Argentina has found a way to elevate this excursion to another level, allowing your guests to navigate Tigre in style. Hop on board the Bruma, a boat built in 1980, that was originally conceived for transporting timber and fruit, and has now been revamped to offer a cruise-like experience. Designed to easily traverse rivers, the Bruma is an ideal choice for navigating the delta's numerous rivers and waterways.

Learn about the islanders' peaceful lifestyle just before hopping off at a spot where a typical Argentine asado and Malbec await.





## WE'RE OPENING IN MEXICO!

The colors, the flavors, the quaint culture that fascinates every visitor, and the welcoming smile of the locals eager to share their traditions—we love every bit of Mexico, and so do our guests. With this in mind, and considering your questions and requests, we're pleased to announce plans to open our newest office in Mexico, making it our ninth office in the region! This strategic move solidifies Akorn's commitment to providing exceptional travel experiences in Latin America and coincides with our plans to open a property here.

Leading the opening of this new office is Graeme Bull, an Akorn veteran who recently oversaw the successful opening of the company's Colombia DMC.

At Akorn Latin America, we are most happy about this milestone, as it doesn't just solidify an expected sustained expansion strategy, but embodies the trust that you, our partners, place in our hands with every booking, every call, and every conversation. Today, we are happy to say that we can offer an even richer portfolio in Latin America, with the benefit of our experience, creativity, attention to detail and passion for high-end service every step of the way.

Looking forward to welcoming you!



## INTRODUCING PURE AMAZON – A NEW CLASS OF BOUTIQUE RIVERBOAT

Discover one of the last true wildernesses on Earth aboard our visionary new riverboat, Pure Amazon. A triumph of conscious design, the state-of-the-art vessel builds on decades of South American expertise from Akorn to redefine luxury travel in Peru.

Navigating the richly biodiverse headwaters of the Pacaya-Samiria National Reserve with a maximum 22 guests, Pure Amazon offers groundbreaking style and comfort, from haute cuisine to onboard wellness facilities.

Panoramic windows and local craftsmanship inspire a seamless relationship with the riverscape; whether spotting caiman from the sky lounge or unwinding in your spacious suite, the rainforest is a constant in your journey.

This is a remote region of Peru –rarely visited by travelers, where local communities and uncountable endemic species exist, little-changed by the modern world. Anacondas slide into the water from the banks, sloths inching along branches and flashes of bright blue and yellow macaws. With flexible itineraries and shore excursions featuring best-in-class guides and equipment, there's no finer way to explore.

Discover life at the source of the mighty Amazon in unparalleled style from June 2025.

## WHAT'S NEW IN LATIN AMERICA



### Peru Acknowledged as National Geographic's Best Destination

For the second year in a row, Peru has been acknowledged as National Geographic's Best World Destination for 2024. Paracas, Lake Titicaca, the Colca Canyon, and the Nazca Lines are some of the must-includes in your Peru itinerary. And, just in case you were wondering,

Machu Picchu and the Cusco region are said to deserve a dedicated trip. Contact our local team in Peru for inspiration on how to enhance your clients' visit to the Land of the Incas.

### Direct Flights from Bogota

We are happy to announce that Avianca has presented 2 new direct routes from Bogota:

- \*Bogota-Paris: flights will operate three times a week, on Wednesdays, Fridays, and Sundays, but they are expected to increase to five flights a week by mid-July.
- \*Bogota-Chicago: starting October 27th, this route will operate 7 times a week.

### Condé Nast's Hot List Winners of 2024

Condé Nast Traveler has announced their annual collection of the World's Best New Hotels, Restaurants, and Cruise Ships. We are proud to announce that two of our hotel partners made it to the list! Congratulations to:

- \*Puqio, in the Colca Valley: Peru's first tented camp brings elevated safari-style accommodations to this region, known for the dramatic Colca Canyon!

- \*Casa Lucia, in Buenos Aires: A soothing embrace in a city that blends sophistication with tradition and flavors, bringing to life a metropolis to fall in love with.

### Latin America for Summertime

Several travel magazines have released their recommendations of places to visit this summer. Instead of sharing multiple articles, we'll simply list the most lured destinations in the region for your convenience:

- o Cartagena, Colombia
- o Quito, Ecuador
- o Buenos Aires, Argentina
- o Bariloche, Argentina
- o Mexico City, Mexico
- o Costa Rica
- o Uruguay



### Chinese Nationals Required a Visa to Enter Ecuador

Please note that as of July 1st, nationals from the People's Republic of China are required to have a visa to enter Ecuador. While this does not affect any of our current bookings, we kindly ask you to keep this in mind for new inquiries. Our on-site team will be happy to assist.

Contact us for further information: [ecuador@akorndmc.com](mailto:ecuador@akorndmc.com)



### 11 Latin American Restaurants Among the World's 50 Best

The 50 Best has recently released their list of the World's 50 Best Restaurants, with Latin America earning 11 spots! This accolade is no surprise given the amazing local cuisine and the region's growing appeal among discerning foodies. If you're planning your journey, make sure to visit:

- o Maido, in Lima – 5th place
- o Quintonil, in Mexico city – 7th place
- o Don Julio, in Buenos Aires – 10th place
- o Kjolle, in Lima – 16th place
- o El Chato, in Bogota, 25th place
- o Casa do Porco in Sao Paulo – 27th place
- o Borago in Santiago – 29th place
- o Pujol in Mexico city – 33rd place
- o Rosetta in Mexico city – 24th place
- o Oteque in Rio de Janeiro – 37th place
- o Mayta, in Lima – 41st place

# WHAT'S HOT IN LATIN AMERICA

## **15% Off When Combining Nayara and Valle Nevado Properties**

Elevate your Chilean experience by combining two or more of our preferred destinations with two of our preferred hotel partners! When you combine 3 or more nights at Nayara Alto Atacama, Nayara Hangaróo, and Valle Nevado, enjoy a 15% discount. This special offer is valid for bookings made through Akorn until September 30th.

Contact our team at: [chile@akorndmc.com](mailto:chile@akorndmc.com)

## **Ecuador Last-Minute Specials**

With great weather year-round, versatile destinations, and short distances, Ecuador is always an ideal destination to visit. Take advantage of discounts and last-minute deals on selected Galapagos Cruises and Amazon Lodges! Contact our local team to benefit from up to 20% discounts when booking with Akorn: [ecuador@akorndmc.com](mailto:ecuador@akorndmc.com)

## **Akorn-Exclusive Special: Discover the Brazilian Amazon with Akorn**

Our local team in the land of samba and colors has recently crafted an amazing program to explore the Brazilian Amazon in style, at the best rates! Contact us to learn more about our special 5-day program: [brazil@akorndmc.com](mailto:brazil@akorndmc.com)



# OUR TEAM IN LATIN AMERICA

## Latin America Managing Team - Yearly Meeting

Every year, our regional managing team convenes to set goals, strategies, and plans aimed at enhancing client experiences. This year's meeting took place in Costa Rica, where we identified opportunities for improvement and brainstormed ideas to elevate our service offerings. Stay tuned to learn more about the exciting products and services that will soon be available!



## Akorn Colombia Team: Inspection to Caño Cristales

Recently, our Regional Sales & Marketing Director and Colombia Management team conducted an inspection ahead of a private jet operation to Caño Cristales, the Rainbow River in Colombia. We focused on fine-tuning operational details, strengthening connections with property owners and staff, and selecting top guides to ensure our guests experience Caño Cristales the Akorn way. This hidden gem offers a unique landscape, flora, and fauna, making it a must-see destination in Colombia and Latin America.

# OUR EXPERT ADVICE ON THE COFFEE REGION

## About the Coffee Region

**Extension:** 3 departments: Caldas, Pereira and Quindío

**Weather:** 23°C (73°F) average

**Good for:** outdoors, culture, adventure sports, coffee, coffee and coffee.



Ana María Lesmes

*"My name is Ana María Lesmes, and I am Colombian from Bogotá, the capital city. With over 17 years in the tourism industry, I am passionate about showcasing my wonderful country to the world. Colombia's diversity enriches its culture, gastronomy, and activities, making it a destination worth visiting repeatedly. The Coffee Region, one of the country's most important agricultural areas, is where magic blends with reality. Here, you can admire architecture straight out of a fairy tale, unwind amidst nature's wonders, immerse yourself in local culture, or savor a freshly brewed cup of Colombian coffee."*

# OUR EXPERT ADVICE ON THE COFFEE REGION



### **My Favorite Local Thing to Do in the Coffee Region:**

Marvel at the stunning landscape, listen to birdsong at a peaceful spot, and savor a cup of exceptional Colombian coffee.

### **Top 5 Things to Do in the Coffee Region:**

1. Visit coffee farms and learn all about the coffee culture and experience.
2. See the wax palm trees, making the backdrops of the Cocora Valley.
3. Take a hike to "Los Nevados National Natural Park".
4. Visit a local "Hacienda".
5. Go on a bird-watching tour to try and spot one of the over 600 native species.

### **My Favorite Akorn Experience?**

Take a hot-air balloon ride for breathtaking views of the Coffee Region (Pereira, Manizales, and Armenia), capturing enviable photos and videos.

### **My Favorite Hotels to Stay at?**

Hacienda Bambusa, Bio Habitat Hotel, Nido del Condor and Sazagua Hotel.

### **My Favorite Restaurant in the Coffee Region?**

Octavo, by Rausch and Ambar in Pereira, Quindú in Salento and Helena in Filandia.

### **What to Bring on Your Trip:**

Pack essentials and be prepared for changing weather. Comfortable footwear, a hat, sunscreen, sunglasses, and a waterproof jacket are recommended.

### **My Local Advice:**

Nature takes center stage in the Coffee Region, so immerse yourself in its activities. Experience different types of coffee, embrace the coffee culture, and consider flying into Matecaña Airport in Pereira for optimal weather conditions.

### **Visit the Coffee Region**

[This itinerary](#) will allow you to enjoy a beautiful experience in the Coffee Region, and complement it with other must-see destinations of Colombia.

# HAPPY TRAVELERS IN LATIN AMERICA



## AKORN BRAZIL

"I just wanted to thank you for the quite astonishing level of support that we received before, during and after our Rio event. The event was entirely next level and my special thanks to Anna and Deborah for curating and running the spectacular party. The Akorn Brazil experience is "what great looks like" and will be our gold standard by which we benchmark others moving forward."

- BN  
May, 2024



## AKORN CHILE

"We are checked in for home flight. Thank you so much for a wonderful Chile visit. Everything ran smoothly and it gave us confidence to know we were in the experienced care of your great crew of guides, drivers and associated hotels. Regards to yourself, Leo, Walter and the exceptional and long day with Andreas which just topped off our great trip. He was such a great professional!"

- SK  
May, 2024



## AKORN COLOMBIA

"Everything was just great! The hotels, the meals, the excursions, the transfer, the guides the Colombian warmth, and how you all were always one step ahead with whatever we needed! Everything was just perfect! You've gone beyond expectation!"

- NC  
May, 2024



## AKORN ECUADOR

"Wish to say that we had the most wonderful tour guide on the Ecuadorean Tea dance visit at Manta as part of our excursions. She was so engaging and informative and a credit to your company! This was a very good experience for me and my wife and we valued her enthusiasm and humour immensely."

- GS  
May, 2024



## AKORN PERU

"I wanted to drop you a quick thank you for our trip to Machu Picchu. Everything was great. In particular, our guide Gabriela in the Sacred Valley/Machu Picchu was outstanding. She really added a lot to the experience. Another happy client for Akorn. Thanks until next time"

- RN  
May, 2024



# FLAVORS OF LATIN AMERICA

## Ecuadorian Cheese-Filled Empanadas de Verde

Any good Ecuadorian at birth or at heart knows that there is nothing better than green-plantain-based food. Be it for a snack, for breakfast or a more elaborate meal, green plantain is an important part of Ecuadorian traditions, for its flavor, nutritional value and unparalleled flavor. And today we are going to teach you how to make delicious empanadas de verde (green-plantain empanadas).

### What you will Need

- 4 green plantains
- 2 tablespoons of butter
- 1 teaspoon of salt
- 1 cup of grated cheese (fresh or mozzarella)
- 1/3 cup of finely diced white onion
- Oil for frying

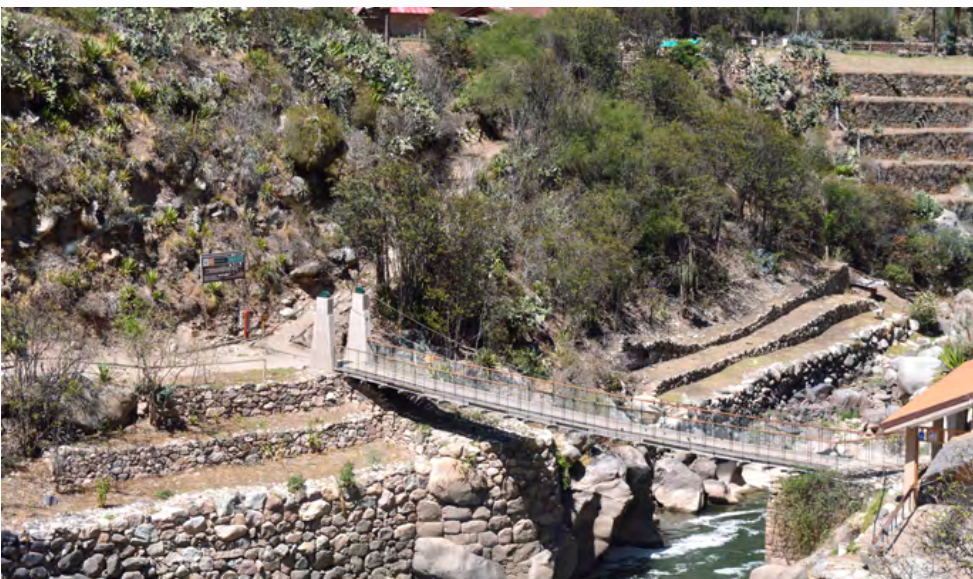
### Instructions

1. Wash, peel and cut into pieces the green plantains, so they cook faster.
2. Grate 1 of the plantains.
3. Cook the other plantains until tender (a pressure cooker is recommended for faster results). When finished, only discard 3/4 of the water, and keep the rest.
4. Remove the cooked plantains from the heat, and while still warm, mash them up in the remaining water, until you have a thick coarse, then add salt the butter and the grated plantain and mix it all together.
5. Make balls with the dough, and then press them into discs.
6. Separately, mix the cheese and the onion together, and place a spoonful of this filling on every disc. Then close it up, and you will have an empanada.
7. Place your batch of empanadas in the fridge for about an hour before frying (not mandatory, but recommended, so they seal better).
8. Fry your empanadas, and get ready for the compliments.

### Expert Tips

\*The perfect pairing for any green-plantain-based treat is black coffee. If you want to look like an international connoisseur, while keeping it simple, trust us and serve your empanadas with freshly brewed black coffee.

\*Not a fan of cheese? You may also fill your empanadas de verde with shrimp, chicken or beef. Your call!



*Last June, our team took part of a reforestation campaign to plant new trees along the Inca Trail to Machu Picchu as an effort to reduce the impact of tourism in the local ecosystem. Our commitment towards our resources and stakeholders, is present in every action.*

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