

# RUTAS NEWS

## Rewarding & Unique Travel Adventures in South America

Hi everyone

Summer is here and that makes me very happy! I hope sales are going strong for you and you have a great start to 2017. Its meant to be a great year for South America so fingers crossed.

I have lots of news and updates in this edition of my newsletter. As you might have heard, Mountain Lodges of Peru will be launching a new 3 star boutique hotel in Cusco called **El Retablo**. Also, we have changed the 3rd lodge in our Lares Program to **Kuychi Rumi** in Urubamba. We believe this is a better option for our customers while our 3rd MLP lodge in Patacancha is built in 2017. Also, we have included new activities in both Salkantay & Lares Programs. I will coordinate a meeting with you to give you more detailed information about these updates from MLP.

Also, Delfin Amazon Cruises has launched special departures for next year aboard the Delfin II. Read below for more info.

Further, please be aware that Tambopata Research Centre will be closed from 1st January to 30 March 2017. See note below with more updates from Rainforest Expeditions.

And finally, I will be travelling to Melbourne on the 1st December to do a few sales calls. If you want to meet with me, please drop me a line. All the best, Bec



### MOUNTAIN LODGES OF PERU

#### El Retablo—NEW property in Cusco

As of 15<sup>th</sup> December 2016, Mountain Lodges of Peru will launch a new boutique hotel called "El Retablo", a 17-room mid/upscale property, located 2 blocks from Plaza Nazarenas (location of Monasterio, Palacio Nazarenas & Inkaterra La Casona) in the city of Cusco. **El Retablo** will have 2 types of rooms; Superior & Superior Deluxe and it will be positioned as the *best 3 star option in Cusco!*

In terms of architecture and interior design, it will be a **concept boutique hotel**, similar to El Mercado. **Retablos** are a sophisticated Andean folk art in the form of portable boxes which depict religious, historical, or everyday events that are important to the Indigenous people of the highlands of Peru and Bolivia. The first retablos were placed on or behind the altars of Catholic churches in Spain and Latin America. They were three-dimensional statues or images inside a decorated frame. Later, retablos evolved to include daily scenes in the lives of the Andean people, such as harvests, processions, feasts, and tableaux depicting shops and homes.

In the next couple of weeks, I should be able to send you a PDF document with more information as well as some pictures. In the meantime, please let me know if your DMC in Peru hasn't given you the tariffs yet, so I can send them to you.

### ECOVENTURA GALAPAGOS

#### Travelling solo and promotions for single passengers

When many people think of cruises, they think of romantic gateways or action packed adventures with the family. Less often do people think of a cruise as an ideal vacation for solo travelers. So, if you have passengers eager to explore the Galapagos islands, but travelling by themselves, here are a few things to consider:

#### - There is much to explore as a solo traveler with Ecoventura

Whether is paddle boarding, snorkeling, relaxing on our sun deck or enjoying regional meals from our renowned chefs, your passengers will never be bored during their cruise with Ecoventura. And the best part of travelling solo? Is solo travelers can do whatever THEY want!

Just learn from one of our happy solo passengers, Australian travel blogger, Jean Holly Smithereens, who was a guest on board our luxury yacht, the MV Origin.

<http://www.holysmithereens.com/2016/06/tour-ecoventuras-mv-origin-luxury-vessel-galapagos/>

#### - Its not expensive to travel solo with Ecoventura

Travelling solo in a yacht cruise in the Galapagos doesn't have to be expensive. Ecoventura is able to waive the single supplement and provide a regular double occupancy cabin on selected departures for solo travelers.

For 2017 we are able to confirm a single cabin on the MV Origin on all seasonal departure dates with no supplement. On the peak departure dates, we can offer a single cabin, albeit at the single rate or we can offer to match the guest with a same sex roommate to avoid the single supplement.



### DELFIN AMAZON CRUISES

#### Delfin II - Special Departure

In 2017, Delfin Amazon Cruises will feature special guest lecturer **Jean-Jacques Decoster** on board the Delfin II.

Throughout the duration of each cruise, Dr. Decoster will deliver a series of presentations that explore topics tied intimately to the Amazon River and its surrounding geographical region.

Dr. Decoster, a renowned professor at the National University of San Antonio Abad in Cusco, will deliver lectures onboard the Delfin II during its departures on **Sunday, July 9th, 2017** and **Sunday, August 6th, 2017** – both 4-day, 3-night cruises. Pricing for these special departures follows standard Delfin II rates **plus \$100 per passenger**.

### RAINFOREST EXPEDITIONS

#### Tambopata Research Centre

We are excited to share with you some good news!

We have received the green light from SERNANP (National Service for the Protection of Natural Areas) to proceed with the renovation project for our Tambopata Research Center (TRC) facility.

Our improvement plans include the upgrade of several of our rooms as well as some important areas in the lodge. We have designed these enhancements with our guests in mind, for their delight and comfort.

With this in mind, **we will be suspending operations from January 1st through March 30th, 2017**. For those bookings we have already confirmed at TRC we are offering the opportunity to move the program to Refugio Amazonas which will remain open all season.

#### Refugio Amazonas

Refugio Amazonas is launching a new project, the **Wired Amazon**, which gives our visitors the opportunity to participate in innovative citizen science projects. You could discover a new species, set up camera traps and watch which wildlife species roam our surroundings, or experience Aerobotany, a new way to do science by using a drone!

we encourage our guests to look further into the biodiversity of the Amazon Rainforest, Make Science Happen and help to protect this unique ecosystem of the world.



### LAS TORRES HOTEL - PATAGONIA

#### New website

Last month, Las Torres Hotel launched their new website. Check it out when you get a chance [www.lastorres.com](http://www.lastorres.com)

It includes many videos and pictures which can be used to promote this destination and product as well. It also contains a new feature; a "live chat" window where you can ask one of our admin staff any question and they can get back to you asap.

Further, in the next couple of weeks we will be implementing a few content changes to the website so please bear with us while we implement these changes. If you need current tariffs or any product info please drop me a line.