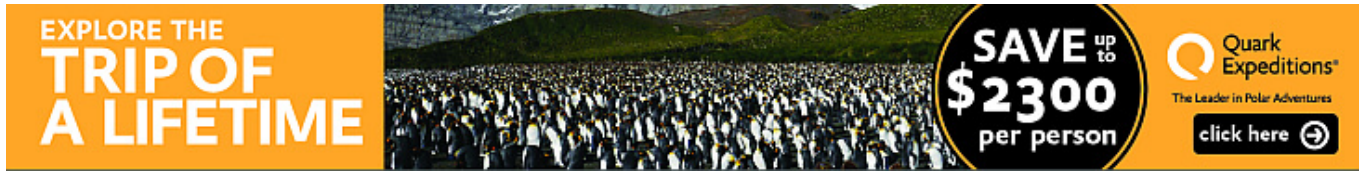




Luxury + Eco-friendly in Costa Rica

Want to truly get away from it all relax...but still have a connection for your smart phone? Want to do the right thing for the environment, but still be comfortable and eat well? It's tough to balance a green travel ethos with a luxury vacation sometimes, but the relatively new [Playa Cativo in southern Costa Rica](#) does a better job than most other places I've experienced. They get the balance right, with power supplied by solar and hydro, an organic garden on site, and a location that feels far removed from civilization. It's a gorgeous place though, with comfortable beds, a pool, and a kitchen that does good work with mostly local ingredients.

Plus you get plenty of what most visitors come to Costa Rica for: nature. The property sits on the edge of a nature reserve filled with interesting plants and animals and the deep gulf it faces hosts dolphins, sea turtles, and whales. See our [full review](#) of Playa Cativo and check out a video tour [in this blog post](#).



A New Inkaterra Hotel in Peru

Speaking of doing good, the Inkaterra collection of hotels in Peru has won plenty of sustainability awards and employed a lot of Peruvians while offering a superlative guest experience. The company is adding to its collection with the brand new [Inkaterra Hacienda Urubamba Hotel](#) in the Sacred Valley.

This is still a work in progress, with the free-standing casitas still getting the finishing touches, so our correspondent Ellen was one of the first travel writers to review it. You'll certainly be seeing much more about it in the press in the coming months. There's been a bit of "build it and they will come" strategy in the Sacred Valley that has yet to get a large volume of visitors to stick around, but hopefully this new property will help the region get to the tipping point.



Chile to Pass 4 Million Visitors?

Chile's tourism undersecretary announced this week that the country is on track to pass [the 4 million tourists mark](#) by the end of the year. They said that [in 2013 too](#) though and it didn't happen, so we'll see. It probably depends in part on whether Mother Nature cooperates and doesn't send an earthquake or big volcanic eruption.

Despite the stronger dollar and weakening Chilean currency though, most of those visitors were from nearby countries. "Latin America accounts for 77.4 per cent of all foreign arrivals, he said, acknowledging that it's a challenge for Chile to attract tourists from other parts of the world, especially the United States and Europe."



Coming Soon

Upcoming Conference Travel

If you're an industry person for Latin American travel, we'll be at [Travel Mart Latin America](#) in Guatemala in a few weeks.

Soon after that we'll be attending [ILTM Americas](#) at the Fairmont Mayakoba near Playa del Carmen in Mexico.

I'll also be attending the Travel Blogger Exchange-- [TBEX North America](#)--in Ft. Lauderdale in late October.

If you're going to any of these, get in touch and let's connect!

Next week we'll be posting a new tour story from **Costa Rica** and after that some updates of hotels we've revisited lately.

Our associate editor is touring the Mexican wine country of Baja Norte right now and I'll be reporting from trade shows about new hotels and tourism developments. I'll also be updating some of our older hotel reviews from the Riviera Maya and Cancun.

The best way to keep up with what's new each week is to check out the [Luxury Latin America blog](#), where recent posts have had a Baja Sur video tour, driving routes in Chile, and luxury developments in Panama City. You can also follow us by clicking on the buttons below for Facebook, G+, and Twitter.

Hasta Luego,
Timothy Scott, Editor