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Middle and south america map

For More information fill out the form below or call us at 1(800)-976-9260 from 7:00AM - 5:00PM (PST) America is a mighty big country. It contains multitudes, and it can be hard to get a sense, sitting in, say, Montana, of what’s happening thousands of miles away in Maine. The Real State of America Atlas by Cynthia Enloe and Joni Seager, released last week, is full of maps and graphics that can help quantify some of how we’re doing as a country. For instance, how is our driving? Driving is, as you can see, down from last year, as the recession and high gas prices pinch transportation plans. (Maybe everyone’s taking their bikes and public transportation?) As you can see, states with major metropolitan areas tend to have less driving. In Oklahoma, the non-car options are presumably quite worse.It’s an interesting contrast between states that drive less and states that are fatter. The authors have also included a map of fruit consumption to contrast with this map of obesity. It seems that both driving less and eating more fruit could be related to weighing less. What’s potentially most surprising is how many people in Washington, D.C. are eating fruit, beating even California, where much of the fruit in Washington, D.C. is likely from. This also surely plays into some stereotypes about New England and the Northeast, given how concentrated fruit consumption is. Make your own judgments.It’s easy to read stories in the newspaper about trends and statistics (or simply extrapolate from your own anecdotal experience), but maps like those in the book are the best way to see how that information actually plays out. In a country this big, there isn’t any way of truly knowing what’s happening without looking at the dataReprinted by arrangement with Penguin, a member of Penguin Group (USA) Inc., from THE REAL STATE OF AMERICA ATLAS: Mapping the Myths and Truths of the United States by Cynthia Enloe and Joni SeagerCopyright © 2011 by Cynthia Enloe and Joni SeagerMorgan Clendaniel can be reached by email or on Twitter. The middle class, long a bedrock of the American economy, is contracting. In most metropolitan areas, there are now fewer people living in middle-income households compared with the year 2000, and more people living in both poorer and richer ones. The fabled American middle now barely represents a majority of the overall population (51%).A new analysis from Pew Research looks at households in 229 metropolitan areas, representing about three-quarters of the population. The middle class share fell in 203 places. The share of people in the upper-income bracket rose in 172 places, while the share classed at low income rose in 160 metros.Pew defines middle income as between \$42,000 to \$125,000 a year for a household of three, low income as below \$42,000, and upper income as above \$125,000. It notes that the declining middle is not all bad news. In places like Midland, Texas, the middle-income share has fallen 53% to 43%, but the share of households on upper incomes has expanded from 18% to 37%.But Pew’s analysis is mostly a less-than-happy one. Nationwide, median incomes for U.S. households were down 8% in 2014 compared to 1999, showing how many people are doing worse than at the turn of the century. Across all areas, including the metros in the latest analysis, the share of people in the low-income brackets rose from 28% to 29%.“The decline of the middle class is a reflection of rising income inequality in the U.S.,” says Pew. “Generally speaking, middle-class households are more prevalent in metropolitan areas where there is less of a gap between the incomes of households near the top and the bottom ends of the income distribution. The middle-class share decreased more in areas with a greater increase in income inequality.”See more from the report here.Cover Photo: marchello74 via Shutterstock The majority of South America falls below the equator, which means the seasons are the exact opposite to those in the U.S. and Europe. Summer occurs from December through February and winter occurs from June through August. The enormity of the continent makes it difficult to classify tourism patterns, but like elsewhere, visitors tend to come during times of pleasant weather, good skiing, and holidays. The high and low season chart below is general, and seasonality by specific destination may vary.high season: December to Februarylow season: June to Augustshoulder season: March to May, September to NovemberSchool holidays are also peak times.Weather InformationSouth America stretches from above the equator to just north of the Antarctic Circle, encompassing a wide cross-section of climates. In the hottest regions, visitors may find that winter offers the most pleasant temperatures.Crowd InformationCrowds are most common during high seasons, holidays, school vacation periods, and events such as festivals. In Brazil, Carnival is a major draw. Peru celebrates over 1,000 festivals each year.Closure InformationHotels, shops, and other venues tend to remain open throughout the year, but if in doubt, check with tourist information providers for each area.When to SaveThough prices will vary according to popularity and season, there are sometimes more discounts and sales during spring and fall.When to BookFor maximum availability, book four to six months in advance. Simon Bolivar leading rebel troops against the Spanish forces of Agustin Agualongo. De Agostini Picture Library/Getty Images In 1810, Spain controlled much of the known world, its mighty New World Empire the envy of all the nations of Europe. By 1825 it was all gone, lost in bloody wars and upheavals. The Independence of Latin America was wrought by men and women determined to achieve liberty or to die trying. Who were the greatest of this generation of patriots? Simon Bolivar. Hulton Archive/Getty Images There can be no doubt about #1 on the list: only one man earned the simple title “The Liberator.” Simón Bolívar, greatest of the liberators. When Venezuelans began clamoring for independence as early as 1806, young Simón Bolívar was at the head of the pack. He helped establish the First Venezuelan Republic and distinguished himself as a charismatic leader for the patriot side. It was when the Spanish Empire fought back that he learned where his true calling was. As a general, Bolívar fought the Spanish in countless battles from Venezuela to Peru, scoring some of the most important victories in the War of Independence. He was a first-rate military mastermind who is still studied by officers today all over the world. After Independence, he attempted to use his influence to unify South America but lived to see his dream of unity crushed by petty politicians and warlords. Witold Skrypczak/Getty Images Father Miguel Hidalgo was an unlikely revolutionary. A parish priest in his 50’s and a skilled theologian, he ignited the powder keg that was Mexico in 1810. Miguel Hidalgo was the last man the Spanish would have suspected was a sympathizer with the growing independence movement in Mexico in 1810. He was a respected priest in a lucrative parish, well-respected by all that knew him and known more as an intellectual than as a man of action. Nevertheless, on September 16, 1810, Hidalgo took to the pulpit in the town of Dolores, announced his intention to take up arms against the Spanish and invited the congregation to join him. Within hours he had an unruly army of angry Mexican peasants. He marched on Mexico City, sacking the city of Guanajuato along the way. Along with co-conspirator Ignacio Allende, he led an army of some 80,000 to the very gates of the city, overwhelming Spanish resistance. Although his insurrection was put down and he was captured, tried and executed in 1811, others after him picked up the torch of liberty and today he is rightly considered the Father of Mexican Independence. DEA PICTURE LIBRARY/Getty Images A reluctant liberator and leader, the modest O’Higgins preferred the tranquil life of a gentleman farmer but events pulled him into the War of Independence. Bernardo O’Higgins’ life story would be fascinating even if he weren’t Chile’s greatest hero. Illegitimate son of Ambrose O’Higgins, the Irish Viceroy of Spanish Peru, Bernardo lived his childhood in neglect and poverty before inheriting a large estate. He found himself caught up in the chaotic events of Chile’s Independence movement and before long was named Commander of the patriot army. He proved to be a brave general and an honest politician, serving as the first President of Chile after liberation. Painting by Arturo Michelena (ca. 1896) Francisco de Miranda was the first major figure of Latin America’s Independence movement, launching an ill-fated attack on Venezuela in 1806. Long before Simon Bolivar, there was Francisco de Miranda. Francisco de Miranda was a Venezuelan who rose to the rank of General in the French Revolution before deciding to try and liberate his homeland from Spain. He invaded Venezuela in 1806 with a small army and was driven off. He returned in 1810 to take part in the establishment of the First Venezuelan Republic and was captured by the Spanish when the Republic fell in 1812. After his arrest, he spent the years between 1812 and his death in 1816 in a Spanish jail. This painting, done decades after his death, shows him in his cell in his final days. DEA PICTURE LIBRARY/Getty Images Not long after Chile declared a provisional independence in 1810, brash young Jose Miguel Carrera took charge of the young nation. Jose Miguel Carrera was the son of one of Chile’s most powerful families. As a young man, he went to Spain, where he fought bravely against Napoleon’s invasion. When he heard that Chile had declared independence in 1810, he hastened home to help fight for liberty. He instigated a coup that removed his own father from power in Chile and took over as head of the army and dictator of the young nation. He was later replaced by the more even-keeled Bernardo O’Higgins. Their personal hatred of one another almost brought the young republic crashing down. Carrera fought hard for independence and is rightly remembered as a national hero of Chile. DEA / M. SEEMULLER/Getty Images José de San Martín was a promising officer in the Spanish army when he defected to join the patriot cause in his native Argentina. José de San Martín was born in Argentina but moved to Spain at an early age. He joined the Spanish army and by 1810 he had reached the rank of Adjutant-General. When Argentina rose in rebellion, he followed his heart, discarded a promising career, and made his way to Buenos Aires where he offered his services. He was soon put in charge of a patriot army, and in 1817 he crossed into Chile with the Army of the Andes. Once Chile was liberated, he set his sights on Peru, but he eventually deferred to the generalship of Simon Bolivar to complete the liberation of South America. From the high peaks of the Andes all the way to the beaches of Brazil, South America is full of natural beauty. And for outdoorsy travelers, the continent offers plenty of adventure. Whether you prefer speed and danger or enjoy the slower and more patient forms of adventure like long-distance hiking, there’s something for everyone to fire up your adventurous spirit. 01 of 25 Often compared to Machu Picchu, La Ciudad Perdida, as it is known is a three to four-day trek through the jungle to reach the site in the Sierra Nevada mountains. Dating from around six centuries earlier than Machu Picchu, there are several platforms that have been cleared around the hilltop, and the final 1,200 stone steps you have to climb to reach the site are a real challenge. 02 of 25 Olga Gavrilova / Getty Images The Miraflores Cliffs are a key part of the seafront in Lima, and they provide a launching spot for paragliders every day. You can take a tandem flight with one of the local instructors for an amazing adrenaline rush. And as you’re soaring through the air, you’ll have an unforgettable view of Peru’s capital city. 03 of 25 A 35-mile stretch of road perched on the edge of a cliff with no fences, this once was the main route between La Paz and Chulumani. While a new road has been built to take most of the traffic, mountain biking on this stretch of road is a thrilling adventure. It’s safer now as there is now much less traffic on the road, but you’ll still want to test your brakes before starting. 04 of 25 Argentina’s capital is one of the hotbeds of Tango dancing, and both in nightclubs and in public squares you will see people practicing and performing this passionate dance. Take lessons with an expert, and dare to try out your steps in a local dancing club. Continue to 5 of 25 below. 05 of 25 OJARAMILLO / Getty Images This part of Colombia has some great beaches, and San Andres especially has some good winds blowing in from the ocean. These winds have made it a hotbed for windsurfing and kitesurfing, in particular. If you don’t know how to kitesurf this is a great place to learn! 06 of 25 Silvestre Garcia - IntuitivoFilms / Getty Images With the sheer number of dangerous animal species, such as crocodiles and piranhas, the Amazon is the ultimate adventure. A boat ride from Colombia to the Brazilian city of Manaus is a chance to see the world’s most spectacular, and largest, rainforest. 07 of 25 Just outside of the town of San Pedro de Atacama, you can ride a sandboard down the dunes. Kind of like snowboarding, sandboarding is something you have to try when visiting the desert. 08 of 25 Danita Delimont / Getty Images In Guyana, there is a river that flows out into the ocean is teeming with marine life. In the Rupununi, you can catch large and small species of fish that can be a real challenge to pull in. You may even spot river snakes! Continue to 9 of 25 below. 09 of 25 Nigel Pavitt/ John Warburton-Lee Photography Ltd / Getty Images At the country’s southernmost tip, the Torres Del Paine mountains are spectacular with their steep slopes and jagged peaks. Hike the W Trail, from which you’ll be able to see the mountains from many different angles. 10 of 25 by Marc Guitard / Getty Images A hub for adventure sports in South America, Banos is a great place for white water rafting. There are many rivers where you can experience class III and IV rapids in some wonderful natural surroundings. 11 of 25 Michael DeFreitas / robertharding / Getty Images This beautiful coastal town is one of the most popular surfing destinations in Peru. With great beaches and fantastic waves, you can surf all day before heading into town to party all night. 12 of 25 Rafael Fernando / Getty Images Just over 100 miles south of Rio, this lush green coastline reveals some remote but beautiful beaches. You can also see some wonderful wildlife and even enjoy some multi-day trips into the Saco do Mamangua, the only tropical fjord in the country. Continue to 13 of 25 below. 13 of 25 Humberto Ramirez / Getty Images The clear blue waters around this archipelago make it a great place to enjoy the natural wildlife. A scuba or snorkeling trip is just the thing to see the beautiful underwater world of Venezuela. It has beautiful coral reefs and stunning marine life, including plenty of sea turtles. 14 of 25 Christian Declercq / Getty Images This is probably the most iconic hike in the world. If you choose to do the hike, you’ll enjoy a unique entrance and vantage point upon arrival at Machu Picchu. The trail takes four days to complete, but you will be enjoying the spectacular Andean scenery as you hike along. 15 of 25 Agenturfotograf / Getty Images These beautiful forests cover the area around the Igazuu Falls, the most powerful waterfall in South America that sits on the border of Argentina, Brazil and Paraguay. Take a trip through the forest from Ciudad del Este to experience some fantastic hiking through the canopy and maybe even spot some wildlife. 16 of 25 picturegarden / Getty Images The tradition of ranch work and looking after cattle is strong in Argentina, and there are many ranches in the Patagonia region where you can learn the work of the gaucho. You will also enjoy meals and learn more about the culture of this unique part of Argentina. Continue to 17 of 25 below. 17 of 25 The piranha is famous for sharp teeth that can shred through flesh in the blink of an eye, so try not to get distracted by the scenery on one of these fishing trips. There are plenty of other fish to catch in this lovely place too! 18 of 25 olegmj / Getty Images From abseiling down into the canyon to climbing over rocks and wading through rushing waterfalls, this thrilling experience is a great adventure. The best way to start is by signing up with a canyoning tour operator who will be able to guide you and show you the ropes of canyoning in Venezuela. 19 of 25 Photogilio / Getty Images A short drive from the city of Cuenca, this area is known for the steep rugged slopes of its mountains. Here, you’ll find some great cliff faces for rock climbing that have routes for novices and experienced climbers alike. 20 of 25 diegograndi / Getty Images There are some beautiful islands in the Chiloe archipelago, and while the main island has the busiest waters, consider visiting some of the less inhabited areas. In a kayak, some vistas can only be seen and appreciated from the water. Continue to 21 of 25 below. 21 of 25 During the winter in this part of Patagonia, you may be lucky enough to join a group of dogs running through the snow with great joy and abandon. In Moquehue where the traditionally Scandinavian activity of dog sledding is being preserved, Samoyed dogs provide a great experience as you are pulled through the snow. 22 of 25 luoman / Getty Images The Rio Carnival is the largest in the world, drawing over 2 million people every year, but to get more of a taste for the event, arrive early and take a few classes. This way you can strut your moves with everyone partying and dancing on the streets. 23 of 25 Julin Aude Santacruz / 500px / Getty Images In Southern Chile the water of the Pacific may be cold, but they are also home to some fantastic wildlife. A boat trip out into the ocean around the area will often reveal some of the stunning whales and dolphins that live around this part of the coast. 24 of 25 Gary Matas / EyeEm / Getty Images This city in the winter is almost like a Swiss Christmas card. You can enjoy it well while snowboarding on the slopes, followed by a hot cup of traditionally prepared chocolate. Continue to 25 of 25 below. 25 of 25 Marco Simoni / robertharding / Getty Images This beautiful archipelago has some lovely beaches, and the clear water is ideal for snorkeling. Here, you will often be able to spot all kinds of natural marine life in the shallow waters around the islands.

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