ARGENTINA - ARGENTINA IN DEPTH

TRIP CODE
ARTSAID
DEPARTURE
Daily
DURATION
15 Days
LOCATIONS
Argentina, Patagonia

INTRODUCTION

Choose this Tailor-Made itinerary or customise to create your own unique journey. Departs daily to suit your travel plans. Price based on Standard accommodation. Superior or Deluxe also available.

Explore Argentina thoroughly with this comprehensive 15 day itinerary. Start with a few days in Argentina's cosmopolitan and European capital of Buenos Aires. Then travel south to the small Patagonian town of El Calafate where you will explore the spectacular Perito Moreno Glacier.After El Calafate you'll move to northern Patagonia where you will explore the Bariloche lakes district - called the Switzerland of Latin America for it's chalets, dramatic scenery and of course excellent chocolate! you head to the far north of Argentina to explore Salta - with it's colourful desert landscapes and fantastic wines it's a complete contrast to Patagonia. Finally you will take a short flight to Iguacu Falls where you will get to explore one of the world's great waterfalls.

ITINERARY

DAY 1: Arrival transfer in Buenos Aires

On arrival, please make your way through to the Arrivals Hall where our representative will be waiting for you to transfer you to your hotel. This service includes a driver and local English speaking guide, who will provide you with any useful information needed for your stay. He/she will be holding a sign with your name on it.

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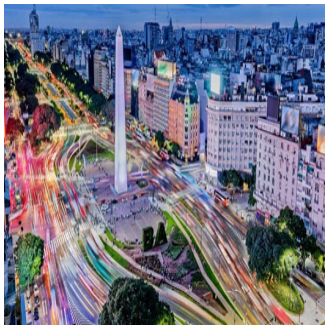
DAY 1: Buenos Aires



Buenos Aires, Argentina's elegant, historic and cosmopolitan capital, is known as the "Paris of the South" due to its European atmosphere with glamorous avenues lined with fashionable shops and Parisian-style restaurants and cafes. Located on the western shore of the estuary of the Río de la Plata, Buenos Aires has many fascinating neighbourhoods to explore including the colourful and lively La Boca, home to art galleries and tango shows; San Telmo with its restored mansions and antique stores and Recoleta, the city's most exclusive area.

DAY 2: Morning Highlights of Buenos Aires City Tour

You will be collected from your hotel for your three-hour morning tour visiting the most important highlights of the city of Buenos Aires. Discover the history of the Plaza de Mayo Square, the site of Argentina's most important historical events - see its surroundings and the most emblematic buildings and learn all about them. Then enjoy Mayo Avenue and wonder in awe at the oldest residential neighbourhood in Buenos Aires: San Telmo. Live and feel the original Tango in the neighbourhood of La Boca: walk along Caminito Street and enjoy the Dancers and souvenir shops. See the mythical Boca Juniors soccer stadium. Contemplate the modernization of the city whilst traveling along Puerto Madero and its exclusive docks, full of excellent restaurants and large offices. Pass through the Retiro neighbourhood and move on to see Palermo and its most exclusive residential area before finally arriving at Recoleta. The tour comes to an end near the Recoleta Cemetery. Here you can choose to be taken back to the hotel with the group, or to continue unguided into the cemetery, where you can find the final resting place of Eva Peron, "Evita." Please note: This is a small group tour. If you wish to stay behind and visit the Recoleta Cemetery, there is an entrance fee of approximately $15 USD, payable locally, you would then need to make your own way back to the hotel.

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DAY 3: El Querandi Tango Show & Dinner

This evening you will be collected from your hotel to experience a Tango Show with dinner. This is an intimate & passionate tango show, housed in a cozy wood-panelled 19th century building with a colourful history as a meeting point for poets and students in the heart of Buenos Aires's historic centre. After being abandoned in the late 1970s, the bar was restored and reopened in 1992 as El Querandí Tango Hall. The show is directed by Claudio Campos, with musical arrangements by Ado Falasca, and it smoothly charts the history of Argentina's most authentic artistic expression from its origins to the modern day. The dinner is better than many, and at just over an hour long, the show is the perfect length. The three house singers, six dancers and four musicians put on a great show. Dinner will be served from 8.30pm followed by the show commencing at 10.00pm. Please note timings are subject to change and will be confirmed directly to you. On completion of the show, you will be taken to your hotel. Please note this is a small group tour.

DAY 4: Transfer to the airport for onward destination

You will be collected from your hotel at the appropriate time and transferred to the airport for your onward flight. This service includes a driver only.

DAY 4: Arrival transfer in El Calafate

On arrival, please make your way through to the Arrivals Hall where our representative will be waiting for you to transfer you to your hotel. He/she will be holding a sign with your name on it. Please note this service is with a driver only. Please make your own way to Las Lengas counter upon arrival to wait for your next shuttle. Please bear in mind that wait times can vary from 15minutes up to 2 hours depending on flight schedules.

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DAY 4: El Calafate

El Calafate flanks the southern shore of Lago Argentino in the southwest part of Argentina's Santa Cruz Province. The town is near the edge of the Southern Patagonian Ice Field and one of the gateways to World Heritage Listed Parque Nacional Los Glaciers. The name El Calafate is derived from the calafate plant common in Patagonia. The town's main street, Avenida del Libertador General San Martín, is lined with restaurants, cafes, chocolate shops and souvenir shops.

DAY 5: Perito Moreno with South Wall Cruise

This morning you will be collected from your hotel to venture into Los Glaciares National Park to see the world famous Perito Moreno Glacier. The glacier is more than two miles wide and averages 74m in height above the surface of the water of Lake Argentino. It is one of the very few glaciers in the world that continues to advance and if you are lucky you may see the glacier calving as large masses of ice break away from the glacier and collapse into the water. Enroute to the glacier, stop at the pier for a short boat trip to the south wall of the glacier. From the water level you get a feel for the size of this remarkable glacier - a true highlight of Patagonia. Reaching the Icebergs Channel, the boat will stop at a safe distance from the glacier, continuing to sail down all its front, allowing a spectacular view of the high wall of ice. On completion of the tour you will be taken to your hotel.

DAY 6: Rios de Hielo Glacier Boat Trip

Early this morning you will be collected from your hotel to navigate Lake Argentino and see the Upsala and Spegazzini Glaciers. On arrival at the pier and after a safety briefing, cruise northwest along the northern arm of Lake Argentino towards the Upsala Canal, where there is a spectacular wall of ice and fantastic panoramic views of the Upsala Glacier. Then the boat turns south down the Spegazzini Canal, from where the Seco Glacier can be seen enroute to the Spegazzini Glacier, the highest in the Glacier National Park. Return to the pier at Puerto Bandera and once you disembark, you will be taken to your hotel. Please note this is small group tour with a box lunch and entrance fee to the National Park is included.

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DAY 7: Transfer to the airport for onward destination

You will be collected from your hotel at the appropriate time and transferred to the airport for your onward flight.

DAY 7: Arrival transfer in Bariloche

On arrival, please make your way through to the Arrivals Hall where our representative will be waiting for you to transfer you to your hotel. He/she will be holding a sign with your name on it. Please note this service is with a driver only.

DAY 7: Bariloche

San Carlos de Bariloche lies on the southern shores of Lake Nahuel Huapi in the foothills of the Andes surrounded by mountains and forests. Its location is stunning, surrounded by the Nahuel Huapi National Park, the oldest National Park in Argentina. With its Alpine-styled architecture, its picturesque lakeside setting overlooked by mountains and forests as well as numerous boutique chocolate shops and St. Bernard dogs, the city has a Swiss-like atmosphere.

DAY 8: Llao Llao Peninsula & Chairlift

This afternoon you will be collected from your hotel for the short circuit tour of the town. Leave the city behind to take in the breath taking views offered by Llao Llao Peninsula's short circuit tour. Home to a number of protected species as well as the iconic Llao Llao Hotel, the peninsula is nothing short of spectacular. We begin on the southern shore of the famous Lake Nahuel Huapi before heading to Mt Campanario where we take a 10-minute chairlift ride to the top of the mountain. Enjoy incredible views of the surrounding area. Please note this is a small group tour. Ticket for chairlift is included.

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DAY 9: Half Day Boat Trip to the Tristeza Branch

In due time you will be collected from your hotel to begin this boat excursion that starts in López Bay navigating along the most remote and less visited branch of the Nahuel Huapi Lake, the Tristeza Sound. Beautiful mountains and waterfalls surround this part of the lake. If the weather conditions are good you can appreciate a beautiful view of the Tronador Mountain. Once you reach the shore you will start a hike in the forest among amazing trees like Coihues and Alerces (larch trees). The trail climbs up to a group of beautiful waterfalls coming down from the Frey River. On the way back to the port you will enjoy lunch on board the Kaiken Patagonia boat. On completion of your tour, you will be taken to your hotel. Please note this is small group and includes lunch. Level of difficulty is easy.

DAY 10: Transfer to the airport for onward destination

You will be collected from your hotel at the appropriate time and transferred to the airport for your onward flight.

DAY 10: Arrival transfer in Salta

On arrival, please make your way through to the Arrivals Hall where our representative will be waiting for you to transfer you to your hotel. This service includes a driver and local English speaking guide, who will provide you with any useful information needed for your stay. He/she will be holding a sign with your name on it. Should you not be able to locate them, please refer to the front of your itinerary for emergency contact details of our representative office.

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DAY 10: Salta

Known as ''Salta la Linda'' (Salta the Pretty), Salta is a provincial capital in the mountainous north western part of Argentina. Founded in 1582, it is known for its Spanish colonial architecture and cobblestone streets as well as its Andean heritage. The centre of the city is the Plaza 9 de Julio, an elegant square bordered by the cathedral and El Cabildo, an 18th century town hall that is now a historical museum.

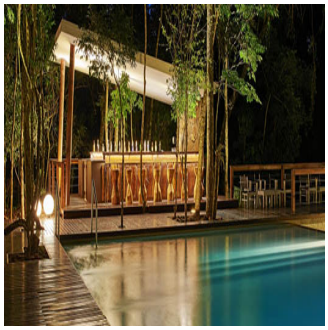
DAY 11: Salta - Cachi - Cafayate

We set out from Salta travelling south to El Carril and entering the Laurel and Escoipe Gorges. From here we head up the Cuesta del Obispo, enjoying stunning views of the Enchanted Valley below before reaching the Mill Stone. At 3,384 meters, this is the highest point of the trip. From here we cross the Los Cardones National Park, named after the cactus plants that grow here before stopping at the charming mountain town of Cachi. We continue along Route 40 to arrive in the sleepy town of Cafayate where we spend the night.

DAY 12: Cafayate - Salta

We begin this morning with a tour of Cafayate before boarding the bus for our return journey. This time we follow Route 68 traversing the Quebrada de las Conchas (Valley of Shells), where erosion caused by wind and water has carved various recognisable shapes out of the bright red rock.

DAY 13: Transfer to the airport for onward destination



You will be collected from your hotel at the appropriate time for a private transfer to the airport for your outward flight from Salta.

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DAY 13: Arrival transfer in Iguazu

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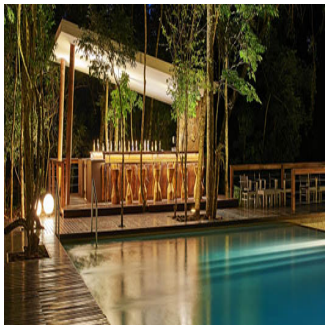

DAY 13: Iguazu Falls

The spectacular Iguazu Falls that straddle the Argentine-Brazil border, are made up of 275 individual waterfalls lining a 2.7km wide horseshoe-shaped gorge. The Falls are located where the Iguazu River cascades over the edge of the Paraná Plateau. The Falls can be viewed from both the Argentinian and the Brazilian sides, the Brazilian side offering a broader, panoramic view, with the Argentinian side offering a series of catwalks that allow you to experience the Falls from close range.

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DAY 14: Full Day Iguazu Argentinian Falls Tour

Early morning pick up from your hotel for your full day of exploring the Argentine side of the falls. This tour always starts early in order to beat the crowds and get the first train to the Devil's Throat. There are walkways over the islands which take you to a balcony over the falls and the most spectacular view of the entire Devil's Gorge. You will then have plenty of time to walk the 800 metres of paths on the upper circuit. These new suspended walkways are detached from the jungle surface so as to protect the fauna by preventing disruption of the natural trails. From this circuit you have a higher sight of the falls, providing you with a magnificent panoramic view. It takes around one hour to cover the upper circuit. The lower circuit contains 600 metres of walkways, also detached from the jungle floor, and has great views from below and around the falls. Once you have finished all the circuits, return to the visitor centre where your vehicles will be waiting to transfer you back to your hotel. Please note there is some degree of difficulty as the path includes many stairs, particularly on the lower circuit. On completion of the tour, you will be taken to your hotel. Please note this is small group tour and National Park Entrance Fee is included.

DAY 15: Half Day Iguazu Brazilian Falls

You will be collected from your hotel for your tour of the Brazilian side of the falls. After arriving at the visitor centre, we board buses for a tour of the park. Equipped with panoramic windows, the buses are designed to maximize your views of the falls, while the walkways and steps allow you to get up close to the spray. Views of the Floriana Falls, the Devil's Gorge Canyon and the Iguazu River are spectacular and are guaranteed to impress. National Park fees included. On completion of the tour, you will be taken to your hotel. Please note this is small group tour.

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DAY 15: Transfer to the airport for onward destination

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INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

Accommodation	Hotels
Inclusions	Private airport transfers Internal flights as part of this itinerary Accommodation with breakfast daily Sightseeing with local English-speaking guide as detailed in itinerary Other meals where stated **Exclusions** International flight Visa and reciprocity fees (if applicable) Travel Insurance Beverages Personal expenses Gratuities for tour guides/drivers Any items not mentioned as included
Difficulty Rating	1 (easy)
Single Surcharge	Available upon request. Contact us for more details.
Notes	All entrance fees are subject to change without prior notice. This is a Tailor-Made itinerary which can be customised to create your own unique journey. Contact us to discuss your travel plans.
Price Dependent upon	Departure date, season and availability.

SUSTAINABILITY

Being environmentally accountable is a crucial part of our organisation. Chimu is currently striving towards using less paper, taking several initiatives to do so and

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tracking our progress along the way. Our goal: A paperless organisation. For this reason, all information given to you will be sent electronically. We encourage those who choose to travel with us to support our aspirations and actions and ask that you reconsider printing out documentation. To view these documents, you can download them to your iPad or portable computer before and during your trip.

Chimu is passionate and dedicated to sustainability measures and understands the crucial part sustainability plays within the tourism industry.

We use local guides and office staff to both maximise local employment opportunities and minimise carbon footprint. Local guides also ensure you benefit from the intimate knowledge, passion and culture of the country you're visiting. Our guides are all highly qualified (most with university degrees) or equip with many years of experience and are paid above the standard wage. Whether it be our knowledgeable local guides, locally produced meals or the transport on tour, we do not use imported goods when local products are available. We aim to minimise our impact on the environment and give as much back as possible to the communities we work in.

While visiting the many national parks, heritage sites, museums and landmarks our travellers are encouraged to explore remain culturally aware and sensitive. We further encourage you to buy appropriate souvenirs and discourage the buying of anything wrongfully made or taken from the environment i.e. shells and endangered species products. Information on how you can be environmentally conscious, and travel responsibly will be made available in our Travellers Guides and provided during your travels by guides and staff.

For more information on our sustainability policies, including how we are striving towards being a paperless organisation, click HERE

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