Full Itinerary

AMAZING ARGENTINA

TALK TO OUR WELL TRAVELLED TEAM OF EXPERTS

Toll Free US and Canada: 1 (855) 342-4127

Office open: Monday - Thursday 9:00am - 8:00pm, Friday 9:00am - 5:30pm (London time). Call answered 24/7

JOURNEY SNAPSHOT

ACTIVITY LEVEL:

Level 2

DESTINATION:

Amazing Argentina

DURATION:

14 days / 13 nights

FLIGHT INFORMATION:

Please arrange your flights to arrive into Buenos Aires International Airport [EZE] on Day 1 and depart from Buenos Aires International Airport [EZE] on Day 14.

PICKUP LOCATION:

Buenos Aires International Airport [EZE]

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OVERVIEW

Choose your own departure date for your group

Argentina's wine regions, amazing natural sights and vibrant culture beckon travellers to their fertile valleys...join us as we explore Argentina and its award-wining wineries.

From Bustling Bueno Aires to the amazing sight of Iguazu, the salt plains of Salta, the Andes and much more inbetween, Argentina is an amazin country!

As one of the world's biggest wine producers, Argentina's wine regions have become a popular destination in their own rights. Perhaps as well known as Patagonia's famed glaciers and more alluring than the bohemian enclaves of Buenos Aires, Argentina's wine regions beckon travelers to their fertile Andean valleys.

From Salta in the north where torrontés grapes are cultivated, producing a strong yet, aromatic wine to Argentina's biggest wine producing region, Mendoza. Well-known for producing Malbec, the region has started cultivating a far more expansive range of wine, as a result of a complex wine blending process, ushering in a new era of wine production in the country.

Join us on our tour of Argentina, visiting award-winning wineries, incredible waterfalls and nature, and at times desolate, yet stunning landscapes.

ITINERARY SUMMARY

DAY 1 - Buen Dia, Buenos Aires

DAY 2 - Beautiful Buenos Aires

DAY 3 - Gauchos & Asados

DAY 4 - The Mighty Iguazu Falls

DAY 5 - Cataratas del Iguazú National Park

DAY 6 - Salta the Beautiful

DAY 7 - Salinas Grandes Salt Plains & Purmamarca

DAY 8 - The Valles Calchaquies

DAY 9 - Route 40 & the Colomé Winery

DAY 10 - Quebrada de las Conchas & Mendoza

DAY 11 - The Wineries of the Valle de Uco

DAY 12 - Mendoza's Wines & Olive Oil

DAY 13 - The Last Tango

DAY 14 - Adios Argentina

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FULL ITINERARY

DAY 1 - BUEN DIA, BUENOS AIRES

Welcome to Argentina! You will be met on arrival in Buenos Aires Airport and transferred to your hotel accompanied by an English speaking guide.

Tonight we'll meet up for our welcome dinner for a chance to meet your Big Journey Company Tour Director and fellow group members you'll be travelling with.

Included meals: Dinner
Accommodation: Buenos Aires

DAY 2 - BEAUTIFUL BUENOS AIRES

After breakfast we take a half-day tour of Buenos Aires, the Argentine capital.

Our journey begins in the residential neighbourhood of Palermo with it's curvy streets, rose gardens, and city mansions. Next, we stroll along Avenida Alvear, the most palatial street in Buenos Aires. The Recoleta area once homed the Porteño aristocracy who built the Pereda Palace, now the Brazilian Embassy. Today the area offers elegant architecture and tree-lined promenades

A visit to the mausoleums and statues of Recoleta Cemetery is a must. This is the final resting place of Eva Duarte known worldwide simply as Evita; but please enjoy your visit, she would not want you to shed a tear on her behalf.

We will visit La City (the historical and financial centre), presidential palace and old city docklands. This area is very modern, boasting avant-garde restaurants which contrasts with San Telmo, the historical quarter. Here we see the traditional charm of colonial houses, cobblestone streets, and churches. La Boca was the first port in Buenos Aires. The area was historically inhabited by migrants and today dances with the energy of vibrant multiculturalism that gave birth to the sensual Tango.

After our introduction to Buenos Aires, you can enjoy the afternoon at your own leisure.

Included meals: Breakfast
Accommodation: Buenos Aires

DAY 3 - GAUCHOS & ASADOS

G'day Cowboys (and girls)! Today we shall experience the local gaucho (cowboy) history with a full day at a traditional "estancia" (ranch) on the outskirts of Buenos Aires.

La Bamba de Areco is a short drive out of Buenos Aires on the historical Camino Real that connected the capital city with Northern Argentina. This ranch dates from the 1830's and is one of the oldest estancias in Argentina.
Upon arrival, you are welcomed with homemade empanadas (traditional turn-over pies) and invited to stroll around the gardens and explore the local cowboy museum and church.

A visit to this traditional ranch provides a glimpse of life on the pampas and offers the chance to share in the country's farmland customs, traditions and mouth-watering asados (barbeques). During your lunch you can savour typical Argentine cuts of barbecued beef and salads paired with vibrant Argentine wine.

We return to the city where the evening is yours to explore Buenos Aires.

Included meals: Breakfast & Lunch
Accommodation: Buenos Aires

DAY 4 - THE MIGHTY IGUAZU FALLS

After breakfast we checkout and head to the airport in Buenos Aires for our flight north to Iguazú, lying on the border with Brazil, where we will be met and transferred to our hotel.

Here we will visit Iguazú Falls, one of the world's most spectacular waterfalls, which span the Argentina, Brazil and Paraguay borders. This

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afternoon we cross into Brazil to visit Brazil's Iguazú National Park, the first conservation area in Brazil to be included on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 1984.

Iguazú means big water in the language of the semi-nomadic Guaranís who inhabited the area before the arrival of the Spanish conquistadores in the 16th century. Described as 'an ocean falling into the abyss, Iguazú Falls stand 80 metres high and 3 km wide, consisting of approximately 275 cascades and rapids.

Here, we will cross the border to Brazil and you will witness panoramic views and nearly three million gallons of water descending each second. You will see lush vegetation which thrives in the humid environs and supports many unique, rare and endangered species of flora and fauna. This is a truly memorable day!

We later return across the border to our hotel in Argentina for an evening at leisure.

Included meals: Breakfast
Accommodation: Iguazu

DAY 5 - CATARATAS DEL IGUAZÚ NATIONAL PARK

Today we spend a whole day exploring the Argentine side of the Iguazú Falls at the Cataratas del Iguazú National Park, home to wonderous waterfalls and colourful wildlife in the heart of the jungle.

These breath-taking natural falls are truly worth their place among the seven natural wonders of the world. They form a towering mass of spray, whipped into thick creamy clouds that tumble through rainbows of light. The spray rises so high that, from a distance, the falls seem almost to be travelling both with and against gravity. The National Park has been described as a 'shimmering necklace' of 275 separate falls divided by emerald-green jungle islands that stretch nearly 4 kilometres (2.5 miles).

The falls can be viewed from numerous paths, including the Lower Circuit, paths running around waterfalls of immense natural beauty, passing begonias, orchids, ferns and palms with flocks of parrots, toucans and butterflies, or alteratively the Upper Circuit whose catwalks literally hang over the falls offering a breath-taking sight. The paths are often dotted with lizards flitting past, monkeys jumping from branch to branch and colourful parrots and butterflies.

The Devil's Throat (Garganta del Diablo) pathway leads to a fantastic lookout point hanging over what is considered the most spectacular fall! Gallons of water plunge and spout back as an eternal cloud of mist can create blazing rainbows. A sight not to be missed.

Included meals: Breakfast
Accommodation: Iguazu

DAY 6 - SALTA THE BEAUTIFUL

After breakfast, it is time to check out and head to Iguazu Airport for our flight south to Salta.

The city of Salta boasts many historical buildings and important monuments that preserve a colonial feel and justify the moniker Salta La Linda (the Beautiful) The day will offer some free exploration time to explore the following important sights including the 9 de Julio Square, celebrating Argentine Independence Day and displaying well-preserved architectural legacy dating back to the 18th century, the Cabildo, where many important historical events took place, and which houses the Museo Historia del Norte and the Cathedra, a striking pink building featuing a golden alter.The plum-red and gold building has the tallest church tower in South America. The facade's colours reflect the colourful landscape of the red rocks and snow-capped mountains of Salta.

After exploring this area, we shall enjoy a short, guided tour before we check into our hotel. The evening is free for some time at leisure.

Included meals: Breakfast
Accommodation: Salta

DAY 7 - SALINAS GRANDES SALT PLAINS & PURMAMARCA

We depart our hotel early to the Quebrada Del Toro (Bull's River Gorge) and past the Ruins of Santa Rosa de Tastil, an ancient pre-Inca settlement and the mining town of San Antonio de los Cobres, a typical highland settlement with adobe houses. We take in the vistas as we cross Puna to the expansive 212km2 salt flats of Salinas Grandes.

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The striking landscape offers inventive photography opportunities, perhaps you will make optical-illusion photographs, or jump or handstand against the salt vistas. This is also a great place to purchase a llama or cactus figurine carved in salt.

Next we visit Purmamarca, a quaint village with dusty streets at the foot of the kaleidoscopic slopes known as "Seven Colours Hill". The minerals and sediments in the surrounding mountains create brilliant green, purple, red, orange and white stripes that swirl through the rocky mountain face. The streets in Purmamarca are flanked by craftsmen selling hand-woven blankets and hats, scarves and an array of hand-crafted objects, a perfect chance to purchase gifts or travel mementoes.

We then return to Salta where the evening is free for your own leisure

Included meals: Breakfast & Lunch
Accommodation: Salta

DAY 8 - THE VALLES CALCHAQUIES

Today we checkout and take the road from Salta to Cachi; one of the most spectacular drives in northwest Argentina.

We pass through four different ecosystems travelling from the green jungle of the Yungas to the semi-desert of the Calchaquí Valley. Our mountain road brings us close to Paso Piedra de Molinos, 3400m above sea level!
You may spot an Andean Condor soaring above against the deep blue skies - this rare bird, the national symbol of Argentina, is the world's largest flying bird and can weigh up to 15kgs with a wingspan of 3.3 metres!

Expect also to see guanacos and wild burros (donkeys) trotting amongst thousands of cardones, the local species of cacti. We will take time for a walk in a rarely visited, red desert and enjoy moments of relaxation sat in the restorative shade of an ancient molle tree in the charming colonial village of Cachi where the sun shines almost year-round.

We will share lunch at a local restaurant in Cachi before we continue to Molinos, a tiny village of nine hundred souls that (but for the occasional satellite dish or passing car) appears stopped in time many years ago.

Dinner will be served at the hotel tonight.

Included meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
Accommodation: Molinos

DAY 9 - ROUTE 40 & THE COLOMÉ WINERY

After breakfast we depart Molinos and drive northwest towards Colomé Winery. The Bodega Colomé was founded in 1831 by the Spanish Governor of Salta. In 1854, his daughter brought the first French Malbec and Cabernet Sauvignon vines to Colomé. Grapes from three vineyards planted in that year are still being used in the production of Colomé Reserva wines.

We visit the winery and James Turrell Art Museum, followed by lunch at the Colomé Winery.

After lunch, we drive a section of Route 40 (one of the world's longest roads) which winds past desert scenery, small ranches and vineyards, through the limestone mountains and the striking Quebrada de las Flechas.
Cafayate is famous for its wine production. The perfect combination of weather, soil, vines, human expertise and altitude make the Calchaquí Valley the perfect place to produce Torrontes: the region's distinctive varietal white wine.

This is our destination for this evening. You have the evening at your own leisure to appreciate the vineyards, or perhaps even their produce (optional!)

Included meals: Breakfast & Lunch
Accommodation: Cafayate

DAY 10 - QUEBRADA DE LAS CONCHAS & MENDOZA

After breakfast we check-out and explore the Quebrada de las Conchas' Gorge (meaning Gorge of the Shells), a deep ravine 74km long that is framed by colourful mountains.

Marine fossils have been found in the area confirming that this was once an ocean floor, formed millions of years ago when huge mineral

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deposits were moulded by water.

We continue to Salta Airport in time for our afternoon flight to Mendoza. We'll be met at Mendoza Airport and transferred to our hotel before enjoying dinner together at the hotel.

Included meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
Accommodation: Mendoza

DAY 11 - THE WINERIES OF THE VALLE DE UCO

Today we visit remote Valle de Uco, a winemakers' paradise! This picturesque valley is named after an Indian chief who ruled the area centuries ago. The valley's fertile soil provides perfect conditions to grow high quality grapes and has recently been discovered by numerous prestigious wineries. Here the snow-capped Mount Tupungato overlooks fields of seemingly never-ending vines lined by golden poplar trees along the dirt roads.

Our experience includes not only tasting the local grapes, but even creating (as a group) our own unique wine blend. The winemaker will conduct a tasting and explain best blending process. Split into small groups, you will be given three components (e.g. Merlot, Malbec & Cabernet) and in groups we will create unique alchemy. After three blends, each group will submit their best blended wine and a jury of experts will decide the day's best wine. The winners will be awarded a prize, and all participants will receive a diploma rewarding their newly acquired blending skills.

We move on to the state-of-the-art winery of Andeluna. This 200-acre mountain vineyard rests in a spectacular setting. Our lunch at the Andeluna Cellars is a combination of wine tasting and fine food, as each of the six courses is paired with a different wine. After lunch you can visit four separate tasting areas and enjoy a stroll in the grounds which has produced many of Argentina's finest wines.

Included meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
Accommodation: Mendoza

DAY 12 - MENDOZA'S WINES & OLIVE OIL

Our last day of wine tasting will be in Mendoza's prime winery area of Agrelo where many of the best-known export-oriented Argentinian wineries are located.

We first visit the Maal winery, which has an innovative approach to making wine. The whole winery is built out of recycled materials. The main structure of the winery is made from five big, abandoned containers and recycled pipes. Inside, the chairs are constructed from old church pews and the tasting room (where we shall enjoy some wine tasting) is completely constructed with oak from old barrels.

Our next stop is the boutique olive oil producer Maguay. This small olivícola produces artisanal olive oil of spectacularly high quality, with a very low acidity. It is situated in a building from the early 1900's where the family winery used to be. The owners are the Giol family who live next door in a Victorian manor house and still take time to chat to visitors. The visit starts at the olive grove where you learn about harvests, irrigation systems and the differences between varieties. The tasting is in the old cellar accompanied by fresh olives and wine.

Our last winery is the Mil Suelos, which produces certified organic wines. It's owner and winemaker Alejandro Sejanovich has developed over 60 small wine projects and educational programs throughout the country, from the northern tip of Argentina to remote and wild Patagonia in the south. Many of his wines have been recognized by specialist wine magazines. Our lunch at Mil Suelos is yet again a combination of wine tasting and fine food.
The evening is free for leisure time.

Included meals: Breakfast & Lunch
Accommodation: Mendoza

DAY 13 - THE LAST TANGO

Today we depart Mendoza for our flights back to Buenos Aires. On arrival at the hotel, we have some time at leisure before we come together to enjoy our farewell dinner and tango show in the evening.

Tango is everywhere in Buenos Aires. Argentinians believe that only in Buenos Aires could the tango be born; only in this city of migrants could music of such emotional depth spring forth and take hold of a population. In the early days, tango was most often heard in seedy cafés and the

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dance was performed by two men. Today, tango has evolved into an important cornerstone of Argentine culture. The spirit of the dance is captured and expressed everywhere, ranging from huge theatre venues to small milongas (tiny bars) where an ageing porteño sings of his long-lost love.
This evening, for our farewell, we attend a show together accompanied by dinner and wine. Prepare to watch dancers embrace in passion as they move to the beat of the Tango. Wear comfortable shoes because a quick Tango class is included, and you can dance a few steps yourself! A fitting to round off our time in Argentina.

Included meals: Breakfast & Dinner
Accommodation: Buenos Aires

DAY 14 - ADIOS ARGENTINA

We bid a fond farewell to our fellow members today, as we fly home with unforgettable memories of our time (and wine!) in Argentina.

We'll arrange your departure transfers to Buenos International Airport to meet your departure flights.

Included meals: Breakfast

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WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Meet & Greet at Buenos Aires International airport [EZE) on arrival
- Domestic flights; Buenos Aires Jorge Newbury [AEP] - Cataratas de Iguazu [IGR]; Cataratas de Iguazu [IGR] - Salta [SLA], Salta [SLA] - Buenos Aires Jorge Newbury [AEP] - Mendoza [MDZ], Mendoza [MDZ] - Buenos Aires Jorge Newbury [AEP]
- All activities, visits and excursions as detailed in the itinerary
- Transport as detailed in the itinerary
- Accommodation as detailed in the itinerary (or similar standard).
- Meals as detailed in the itinerary.
- English speaking tour guide throughout.
- Tour Director from The Big Journey Company as well as the local tour guide (subject to minimum group size being reached.)

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

- Please arrange your flights to arrive into Buenos Aires International Airport [EZE] on Day 1 and depart from Buenos Aires International Airport [EZE] on Day 14.
- Visas - NB - We will be enterting Brazil when we visit the Brazilian side of the Iguazu Falls. All nationalities are required to check visa requirements prior to travelling as many will require a visa in order to enter Brazil!
- Drinks
- Travel insurance
- Gratuities
- All entrance fees to non-stipulated attractions
- Any personal items and anything not mentioned under included in price above
- Any meals not mentioned in itinerary
- Any optional activities offered

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IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- Hold luggage allowance for the domestic flights included on this tour are 1 bag per passenger, no heavier than 15kg.
- Please let The Big Journey Company know prior to travelling if you have any medical needs or take any medication that we need to be made aware of to ensure that you have a safe and pleasant tour.
- Check in is after 2:00-3:00pm and check out is before 10am unless otherwise specified in the itinerary.
- Cancellation 90 – 0 days prior to departure cancellation fee is 100%. It is your responsibility to ensure the correct travel insurance in place to protect you against the need to cancel your holiday. Deposits are required on booking and are non-refundable.
- Further terms and conditions apply and will be provided upon request or at the time of booking. The Big Journey Company reserves the right to withdraw any offer prior to accepting a reservation request. This does not affect your statutory rights. This offer is subject to availability and space is limited.

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BOOK YOUR JOURNEY

Choose from the list of dates below

Call to Book

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