



# Argentina

## & Uruguay Extension

Ten times the size of the United Kingdom, Argentina is the second largest country in South America. Everything in this country is on an enormous scale, with the Iguazu waterfalls in the north and the Perito Moreno Glacier in the south. Argentina also boasts fantastic wildlife, culture and breathtaking landscapes, making it a truly magnificent destination.

### At a glance

- Esteros del Ibera - The 'Argentinean Pantanal'
- Buenos Aires - fashionable, sophisticated and vibrant, with a European feel
- Visit Iguazu Falls, Perito Moreno Glacier and Ushuaia, the southernmost town in the world
- See whales, penguins, sea lions and elephant seals at Peninsula Valdes
- Mendoza - one of the most famous wine producing regions in South America
- Fly drive options in the lake district and northwest region
- Great variety of landscapes - dramatic Andean Northwest, the vast Pampas, lake district, glaciers, extensive wetlands and sub-Antarctic forests of Tierra del Fuego
- The southern half of the country is best visited from September to April
- In order to secure hotel availability advisable to book at least 9 months in advance
- Uruguay Extension - Visit the upmarket beach resort of Punta del Este

### → Getting there

There is a good choice of daily flights from London Heathrow via Europe (Madrid) - with Iberia or direct flights (inc touchdown in Sao Paulo) - with British Airways or (change of plane at Sao Paulo) with TAM Airlines.

Prices from **£3,781** per person for a 12 night itinerary.

See pages 194-195 for suggested itineraries and prices.

### Combinations

Easily combined with **Brazil, Chile and Antarctica.**

See pages 22-29.





## Buenos Aires

A vibrant, cosmopolitan city, Buenos Aires has a distinctly European feel with its elegant architecture, parks and outdoor cafes, yet somehow manages to retain its own unique identity.

With a population comparable to that of Greater London, Buenos Aires and its suburbs are fashionable, trendy and sophisticated. The city has a strong Spanish/Italian influence, which is reflected in the great food (beef and pizza), wine and the stylish Porteños (local residents).

The city, founded in 1580, is set on the Rio de la Plata, across the water from the Uruguayan capital of Montevideo. It stretches along the banks of the estuary with its very fashionable northern, riverside suburbs of Olivos, Martínez, San Isidro and Tigre.

The Plaza de Mayo in the centre is where the main public buildings are grouped and the Calle Florida, Avenida Santa Fe and Plaza San Martín are the main shopping, hotel and theatre areas.

East of the centre is the stylish, renovated dock area of Puerto Madero and to the south, the older, interesting neighbourhoods of San Telmo and La Boca; full of restaurants, cafés, artists and antique shops.

To the north of the city is Palermo, a trendy district, off the usual tourist track and home to several parks and gardens and famous for its art galleries and fairs, designer shops, bars and bistros.



### Casa Calma

Buenos Aires **BB**

Casa Calma is one of the first "Green Hotels" in South America. With a vertical wall garden surrounding the inside and outside of the property, this small boutique hotel provides a relaxing natural environment in the heart of downtown Buenos Aires. Located just one block away from the Avenida Santa Fe and two blocks from the Plaza San Martín, Casa Calma is the perfect refuge after a day exploring the sights of Buenos Aires. There are 18 rooms, each featuring private facilities, a jacuzzi for two, Scottish Shower, personally controlled air conditioning, plasma TV, iPod port, hair-dryer and luxury linens/bathrobes. 6 of the rooms also have their own sauna. Casa Calma is committed to its green credentials and all aspects of the hotel have been designed with an effort to minimise any negative impact on the environment. This property is truly unique and highly recommended.



### Sofitel

Buenos Aires **BB**

The Sofitel is an elegant hotel located in an exclusive part of downtown Buenos Aires. The grandeur of the Sofitel's exterior, refined interior design and its close proximity to a haven of antique shops and art galleries, ensures that it is an excellent choice for those wishing to stay in an upmarket property in Buenos Aires.

The hotel has a stylish restaurant and "la Bibliotheque", a small library full of Argentine and French literature. A traditional café serves various assortments of food throughout the day and plays host to live music in the evenings. A fitness centre is located on the upper floors. There is also a small heated pool. The 115 rooms and 29 suites, are equipped with private facilities, air-conditioning, safe deposit box, mini bar, TV, cable and radio, telephone, desk, high speed internet access, hair-dryer, bath robe and fresh flowers.



### Useful Notes

#### Tango

Probably the best known manifestation of Argentine popular culture is the tango. Originating around 1880, it was a vulgar dance initially associated with the working class and brothels. The musical backdrop was of Gaucho verse blended with Spanish and Italian music.

With a resurgence in Tango's popularity in the late 20th century, Buenos Aires is once again home to a thriving tango scene.

#### The Real Tango Experience

The Real Tango Tour enables tourists to experience an authentic taste of Argentinean tango by visiting a traditional Milonga. Milongas are the local



dance halls where Milongueros of all ages dance the sensual Tango.

Guests can have a private tango lesson with a professional instructor before visiting the Milonga. There is the option of participating in the passionate dance themselves, or alternatively, simply watch the graceful locals glide across the dance floor!

Please ask our reservations team for more information.



### NH Lancaster

Buenos Aires **BB**

The NH Lancaster is ideally located in downtown Buenos Aires and is a perfect base from which to explore all the different attractions that the city has to offer.

The recently modernised port area of Puerto Madero and the exclusive neighbourhood of Recoleta, are just minutes away, whilst the main shopping artery of Avenue Florida is a mere 2 blocks.

The hotel has been recently renovated and it now has a sleek modern interior, alongside its classical façade. There is a stylish lobby bar and restaurant, as well as a small fitness centre.

The hotel has 115 comfortable rooms all of which have private facilities, a mini-bar, safe deposit box, air-conditioning, cable TV, desk, hair-dryer, telephone and bath robe.



### Legado Mitico

Buenos Aires (Palermo) **BB**

This is a well presented Argentine boutique hotel, located approximately 20 minutes drive from downtown Buenos Aires, in the fashionable district of Palermo Soho.

With each room representing a historical Argentine character, (from Eva Peron to Che Guevara) an extensive Argentine library and a selection of fine Argentine wines, Legado Mitico exhibits the different facets of Argentine culture under one roof.

The hotel is in close proximity to a host of boutique shops, outdoor cafés and chic restaurants.

The 11 rooms each have a uniquely designed interior, but all contain the following: private facilities, an TV, DVD player, safe deposit box for laptop, wifi connection, mini-bar, telephone, hair-dryer, air-conditioning and pillow menu. There is also an outdoor wooden terrace with a whirlpool located on the roof.



### Home Hotel

Buenos Aires (Palermo) **BB**

Argentinean Patrica O'Shea and her English husband, Tom Rixton, have created an oasis of peace and quiet in the heart of Buenos Aires, with a real 'feel at home' atmosphere. Located in the Palermo Viejo neighbourhood, the hotel is within walking distance to shops, upmarket restaurants and bars, only a 15 minute taxi ride from the Plaza Mayo, allowing guests to enjoy the city but without the fumes, noise and general mayhem that usually go with it! Unlike most other hotels in Buenos Aires, this is a contemporary purpose-built hotel with modern furnishings, well kept garden, outdoor heated pool and spa.

There are 14 rooms and 2 suites all are air-conditioned, with private facilities, queen size bed, cable TV, safe deposit box and stereo system with CD library. The suites have a king size beds, private Jacuzzi and flower-filled private terrace. The restaurant overlooks the pool garden and serves an excellent breakfast.

### Useful Notes

#### La Recoleta Cemetery

La Recoleta Cemetery is a truly unique place. This amazing "city of mausoleums", is host to numerous elaborate marble sarcophagi, tree lined walkways and the grave of one of

Argentina's most recognisable names – Eva Peron. It is home to the graves of some of the most influential and important people in Argentina's history. You can wonder around the cemetery for hours marvelling at the various

crypts containing presidents, military heroes, influential politicians and the rich and famous of Argentina's past.





## Estancias of Argentina

Argentine estancias range from extensive traditional cattle ranches, farms and plantations, to elegant villas and country houses. The majority are located in the pampas, a vast area of land stretching inland from Buenos Aires for hundreds of miles.

The region is known as the economic heart of Argentina as it produces much of the beef for which the country is famous.

The handful of estancias selected below offer wonderful opportunities to experience a real life working ranch,

with activities including horse riding (from novice to experienced), fishing, hiking, birdwatching, to name but a few. Or alternatively, you can sit back, relax and enjoy the authentic Argentine atmosphere!



### Estancia El Rocio

San Miguel del Monte (1 hour from Buenos Aires) [FB](#)

French owner Patrice Gravière and his Spanish-Argentine wife, Macarena Llambi, originally built this four-bedroom cottage as their personal residence, filling it with momentos from their travels throughout the world, including a hand-carved liquor cabinet from Portugal, a rocking horse from Thailand and ceramic masks from Mexico. Now with 5 guest rooms, they have opened their doors to visitors offering the ambience and activities of the Argentine Pampas. Set within 400 acres of fields and pastures, it really serves as an elegant and sophisticated 'getaway'.

Guests can learn how to cook delicious regional specialities, enjoy a massage or simply relax by the pool. Those interested in polo can take lessons from professionals and within a few days even play in a practice game. Guests with advanced skills may participate in games and tournaments at a polo club nearby. Or otherwise sit back and enjoy watching a game or two! The five guestrooms are beautifully appointed and set a short walk from the main residence. Enjoy delicious regional cuisine including the Argentine asado (barbecue), homemade jams and dulce de leche, fresh baked breads, local cheeses and fresh produce picked from the garden. A little paradise that makes a splendid place to relax, enjoy fabulous cooking and polo.

### El Ombu De Areco

San Antonio de Areco (1.5 hours from Buenos Aires) [FB](#)

About 100 kilometres north east of Buenos Aires, in San Antonio De Areco, El Ombu is located right at the centre of Gaucho tradition. El Ombu takes its name from the gigantic traditional tree of Argentina. Built in 1890 by General Ricchieri, this private retreat has been converted into an Estancia. There are six bedrooms, all furnished in typical country style, and all with bath and shower. El Ombu has a small swimming pool, restaurant and bar. At weekends, weather permitting, lunches are taken under a massive Ombu tree, where typical meat barbecues are enjoyed. This is an ideal spot for relaxation and tranquility.

El Ombu has its own stables and clients may take the opportunity to go riding. For the less energetic, carriage rides are also available. Trips to nearby San Antonio and the Ricardo Güiraldes Museum can be arranged. The extensive grounds provide a wonderful opportunity for bird watching. During the month of November all the ranches around the area have their annual festivities in San Antonio with the Gauchos dressed in their traditional costumes!

### Estancia Los Potreros

Potrero de Loza, (1 hour from Cordoba) [FB](#)

Nestling between the pampas and the Andes, way off the beaten track, this 6000 acre estancia is a veritable paradise for horse lovers, nature lovers and hikers alike. Having been in the same Anglo-Argentine family for four generations, the history of the estancia dates back to the times when its principal occupation was breeding mules for the silver mines in Peru.

Today the principal activity is the breeding of Aberdeen Angus cattle and Paso Peruano pacing horses. It is run by English-educated Robin Begg, his wife Teleri and their children, for whom nothing is too much trouble. There are 7 rooms each with wood burning stove, antique furniture and private facilities (bath & shower). Delicious meals are served in the formal dining room. Apart from riding, guests can go birdwatching, wine tasting, hiking, play a round of golf at a nearby course, or simply relax by the pool.

Estancia Los Potreros allows you to experience wildlife, scenery and culture at close quarters while not abandoning creature comforts provided by good accommodation, great food and fabulous horses.



## Mendoza

Mendoza is the heartland of Argentine wine cultivation, producing around 80% of the country's wine in some 1200 wineries. Located 750m-1100m above sea level in the Eastern foothills of the Andes, its vineyards are irrigated by the waters of the Mendoza River.

The wine is harvested from February to April and the 1st weekend of March sees the grand celebrations of the harvest festival, considered to be the highlight of the year in Mendoza. The Mendozian countryside is surrounded by wineries (known locally as bodegas) where you can sample a large variety of grapes, including the Argentinean specialty, Malbec.

The town is also a popular destination for adventure tourism with rafting and trekking in the Aconcagua Mountain (the highest mountain in the Western Hemisphere). The city is also famous for its cultural activities with a number of museums, universities and theatres.



### Park Hyatt

Mendoza **BB**

Located in the centre of Mendoza 15 minutes drive from the nearest winery making it an ideal base for you to visit the many vineyards and surrounding countryside.

The rooms are spacious with minimalist décor. All with a separate work area, large bathroom, satellite television, internet access and direct dial telephone. There is 24 hour concierge, pool, spa and casino.

The hotel restaurant offers local food and of course an extensive wine list. There is also the 'Uvas Bar' where you can enjoy a glass of the local Malbec wine.



### Cavas Wine Lodge

Mendoza **FB**

The lodge is 20 minutes from central Mendoza on a 14 hectare vineyard with views over snow peaked mountains. It is a great location for winery tours, hiking, rafting or horse riding. The in house restaurant offers South American dishes and offers a huge list of world class wines.

There are 14 rooms all of which are very spacious with a living area, flat-screen TV, CD/DVD player, direct dial telephone and wi-fi access. All have en-suite bathrooms with bath and shower.

The rooms lead on to a private patio with a plunge pool and al-fresco shower. There is also a communal pool and spa and a living room with an open-fireplace.



### Activities

Mendoza offers a fantastic range of exciting activities for all abilities. All those listed below can be arranged locally. (Check that your insurance covers you for such activities before booking).

- Cycle to the local vineyards and enjoy a spot of wine tasting.
- White Water Rafting or Kayak on the Rio Mendoza.
- Climb the breathtaking Aconcagua Mountain, the highest summit outside of the Himalayas.
- Horse back ride through the Andes.

After all this adventure you can relax in one of the many thermal spas!

### Useful Notes

#### Suggested routes for crossing through the Andes to Chile

##### Mendoza - Santiago (& vice versa)

This 8 hour bus journey takes you through a tunnel that passes under the Andes, and via Portillo, the upmarket ski resort of Chile.

#### Why not combine with Chilean Wineries?

Why not combine an Argentinean winery itinerary with a Chilean winery itinerary (page 160). Please enquire for details.



## Salta & the Northwest

This region is ideal for fly-drive holidays, as the area can be explored independently. The route features contrasting scenery from the town of Humahuaca in the north, at nearly 3,000 metres, to Tucuman in the south at around 450 metres above sea level.

The road follows through the Humahuaca valley and past the Cerro de Siete Colores, a beautiful hill where seven coloured layers of stone have settled over the centuries.

The picturesque northern village of Purmamarca, with its 200 year old church, is an ideal location from which to explore some of the most attractive landscapes in the northwest.

Heading further south, Cachi, a beautiful town at the foot of the Nevado del Cachi with narrow, cobbled streets, one-storey adobe houses and road signs made from Cactus wood, makes for a convenient stopping point en-route from Salta to the Bodega Colome. Salta, with 800,000 inhabitants, is a busy agricultural city. Vegetation here is very lush and the land used for farming.



### Hostel El Cortijo

Cachi (2,280m above sea level)

Built in the early 20th century, this former family home has been lovingly restored using local materials such as adobe, stone and wood and now offers a comfortable Moorish styled accommodation that is in perfect harmony with its surroundings. Each one of its 15 rooms is simply yet individually decorated. All rooms are with private facilities (shower) and twin beds.

Two rooms have double beds. The suite is situated on the first floor with a private roof-top terrace enjoying panoramas to Mount Cachi. Most of the rooms surround a central courtyard and there is a cosy lounge where you can enjoy homemade breads and jams at breakfast time, chat with the hosts, read a book or simply relax after a long day exploring the environs. It is a ten minute walk from the town square, where there are a couple of restaurants. A delightful property.

### Useful Notes

#### Salta to the Atacama Desert

Traverse the Andes from Salta to the Atacama Desert (N Chile) including 2 nights at a traditional hacienda on the outskirts of Cachi, 1 night camping and 4 nights at Explora Atacama. Please enquire for further details or refer to our website.

#### Suggested Excursions From Salta

- Calchaquí Valleys and Rio Las Conchas Gorge
- Humahuaca Gorge
- Cachi



### El Manantial del Silencio

Purmamarca (2,200m above sea level)

El Manantial, a Moorish-styled, boutique hotel has 19 rooms, all with private facilities (bath and shower), tiled floors and bamboo ceilings. One suite is larger than the standard rooms and has a private lounge and Jacuzzi. There is an outdoor swimming pool set in gardens that are surrounded by colourful hills.

The restaurant serves local specialities including Llama meat, quinoa and other regional dishes. Breakfast comprises of delicious homemade jams and marmalades. The village is a short walk (500m) from the hotel where the indigenous population brings life and colour to the town square with a daily handicraft market.



### House of Jasmine

Salta

Located on the outskirts of Salta, this 100 year old farmhouse estancia has been refurbished to an exceptional standard whilst maintaining its rustic roots.

There are 7 rooms and 3 spacious suites. There is also a separate 2 bedroom house decorated to a high standard that is perfect for families. The hotel lies on a 30 acre site with views across a mountain range and includes a spa, swimming pool and rose garden. Meals are prepared in the farmhouse kitchen from locally sourced ingredients. With no set dining room, meals are relaxed and food can be eaten where you choose; on the terrace, patio or one of the indoor seating areas.

Situated only 15 minutes from the city centre and airport, the house still retains a peaceful and relaxing ambience. Highly recommended.



Heading south from Cachi, follow the winding road through Seclantás, with its graceful whitewashed church. We suggest you make a small detour to Colte, where you can appreciate the artistry of the women weaving complex designs with llama and sheep wool on hand looms, often near the road or just outside their houses.

The Bodega Colome is a short distance from the elegant, colonial town of Molinos, known for its magnificent church built in 1639. From here, pass through the spectacular Quebrada de la Flechas canyon, a forest of

sharp granite spires, onto Cafayate, a very important wine producing area. Head south, past extensive vineyards, to Tafi dei Valle, stopping en-route at Quilmes, a 17th century fortress.



### Patios de Cafayate Hotel and Spa

Cafayate **BB**

Located in the heart of the Calchaquies Valley, an area rich with culture, wine and tradition, this hotel offers spectacular views of the vineyards and the magnificent Calchaqui Valley. It shares grounds with the El Esteco Winery and it allows guests to unwind in peaceful surroundings, with extensive gardens, traditional architecture and antique colonial patios.

There are 30 rooms including 3 suites, most of which overlook the pool and garden. All rooms have private facilities, mini bar and cable TV. Non smoking rooms are available. The gourmet restaurant serves local cuisine and first class wines produced right next door at El Esteco. The 'Winespa' features massage rooms where special wine-based treatments are available in addition to a heated outdoor pool. Highly recommended.

### Bodega Colome

Near Molinos **FB**

Situated in the Calchaqui Valley, close to the town of Molinos, the Bodega Colome is a working estancia and winery which also houses a small boutique style hotel. There are nine spacious rooms, seven junior suites and two master suites (with a separate living room). All have a fireplace, mini-bar, ceiling fan, telephone, safe deposit box and large veranda.

The hotel restaurant offers dishes prepared with organic home grown vegetables and meat from their farm, and has a dining gallery and sun deck offering wonderful views over the valley. There is also the gaucho bar, living room, library, TV room, pool table and yoga/meditation room. For the more active, there is a large swimming pool set among the vineyards and cacti, walking trails, tennis court, putting green, horse riding and bicycles. For those who prefer gentler pursuits, there are estate tours, and visits to the winery and bio-dynamic garden. All activities and tours are included.



## Patagonia - Peninsula Valdes

Located approximately two thirds of the way down the country and around 2 hours flying time from Buenos Aires, the promontory of Peninsula Valdes is attached to the eastern coast of Patagonia by a narrow isthmus. Declared a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1999, the peninsula is one of the most significant marine reserves on the planet.

There are large colonies of Magellan penguins both on the peninsula and at nearby Punta Tombo, which can be observed at close quarters from September to March. Between June and December, daily whale watching boat trips are organised locally from Puerto Piramides.

Sea lions and elephant seals may be seen between August and April from observation points. Bird life is abundant, with eagles, owls and Lesser Rheas amongst other species. The Patagonian hare, grey fox and guanacos are not difficult to spot. The region is very flat, monotonous and susceptible to high winds. August is the windiest month.

The port town of Puerto Madryn is situated approximately 80 kilometres west of the entrance to Peninsula Valdes and was the site of the first Welsh landing in 1865. A little inland, the Chubut Valley became home to, and remains, the centre of the Welsh settlement.

In the town of Gaiman some of the original buildings, some refurbished, are still standing. It is renowned for its tea houses, where clients are served by waitresses in traditional Welsh costumes. One of the main remnants of the Welsh influence in this area are the 15 chapels located throughout the lower Chubut. The largest of these are to be found in Gaiman.



### Tolosa Hotel

Puerto Madryn **BB**

This is a basic yet well located hotel, situated in downtown Puerto Madryn, two blocks from the beachfront. It has 78 rooms of varying size, all with safe deposit box, hair-dryer, direct dial telephone, cable TV and bathroom with bath and shower. There is a lift. On the ground floor, there is a lobby, computer with internet access and breakfast room.

### Territorio Hotel

Puerto Madryn **BB**

This boutique hotel with 36 very well decorated rooms is located in Puerto Madryn close to the point where the first Welsh settlers landed in Argentina. All the rooms have a dressing room, divided bathroom, minibar, TV, safe deposit box and air-conditioning.

The hotel has a gym and spa which overlook the bay. The restaurant serves regional specialties such as sea food and lamb.

### Faro Punta Delgada

Peninsula Valdes **BB**

Faro Punta Delgada is a unique property on Peninsula Valdes. It has its own lighthouse and is close to a beach that is home to a large colony of Elephant Seals.

Accommodation is fairly rustic but it's popular with tourists - the restaurant and pub are especially lively in the evening. The 27 rooms are basic and have private facilities.



### Estancia Rincon Chico

Peninsula Valdes **HB**

This estancia has 8 en suite bedrooms and a communal living and dining room. It has a great location on the Peninsula Valdes, close to a beach home to large colonies of elephant seals. The estancia offers a number of activities including guided walks to view the seals and bird life or you can borrow bikes to explore the area yourself.

The estancia is half board, and meals are served in the communal dining area. Pre-dinner drinks (not included) can best be enjoyed on the verandah where you can watch the sunset over the Patagonian landscape, where rhea, guanaco and Patagonian hares roam freely.

#### Magellan Penguins

It is during September when the male penguins start to come to land to make their nests, quickly followed by the females. Eggs are laid in October and chicks are born the following month. From birth until February, the parents share the responsibility of feeding and nursing. By late February, once the feathers have grown, the juveniles head out to sea and do not return to land until the following September. Punta Tombo is believed to be home to some 175,000 penguins.

#### Elephant Seals

Regarded to be among the world's best divers, elephant seals can reach depths of up to 1,500 m and hold their breath for up to 2 hours. They need only come to the surface for about 3 minutes to breathe before diving again for food, namely squid. They spend two periods on land and two periods at sea. They return to land for reproduction between August and November and for moulting between December and mid April. The 2002 census showed that there were over 16,000 elephant seals living in the Punta Delgada area. One can spend hours simply watching this beautiful, fascinating animal!

#### Southern Right Whales

'Giants of the sea', these majestic animals reach up to 13 m in length (25% of which is just the head) and weigh up to 40 tons. Females give birth every 3 years after which they return to the Peninsula Valdes between June and December. Male adults and juveniles tend to return every year at this time. It is estimated that there are approximately 1500 whales in the Peninsula Valdes area.

#### Peninsula Valdes What, where and when to see the fauna?

Fauna	Location	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Southern Right Whales	Puerto Piramides												
Orcas	Punta Norte Caleta Valdes												
Sea Lions	Punta Norte Punta Piramide												
Elephant Seals	Punta Delgada Caleta Valdes Punta Norte												
Magellan Penguins	San Lorenzo Caleta Valdes Punta Tombo												

■ - present □ - not present



## Calafate - Los Glaciares National Park

The Perito Moreno glacier is undoubtedly one of the natural wonders of the world. Los Glaciares National Park was created in 1937 to preserve the wonders of this section of the Austral Patagonian Andes, and the protected area covers 6,000 sq.kms.

The deep blue ice walled Perito Moreno glacier stretches down 30 kms from the Patagonian icefield, a 17,000 sq. kms block of ice as big as Israel. The glacier has a surface of 257 sq. kms and, where it ends in Lago Argentino, has a width of 4 kms. It stands 50 m to 70 m above the lake and reaches 137 m below the surface. With the movement of the glacier, enormous pieces (as big as blocks of flats) break off and create icebergs which float in the lake. It is a spectacular and unforgettable sight.

To the north of the park is the Chalten region (225 kms from Calafate) a hikers paradise where two of the world's most spectacular peaks can be seen (Fitz-Roy and Cerro Torre).

To the south, the Patagonian plain slowly rises from the Atlantic to the shores of Lago Argentino which, like a giant squid, has tentacles of fjords and glaciers which reach deep into the Andes.



### Eolo Hotel

Near Calafate **FB**

Located 30 minutes from El Calafate, en route to the spectacular Perito Moreno Glacier, this exceptional property reflects the style and spirit of the old Patagonia Estancias. Set in an area that covers over 3000 hectares, guests can enjoy superb views over the striking Patagonian landscape. Facilities include a library, restaurant, heated indoor pool and living room. There are 17 suites, all of which have private facilities, telephone, hair-dryer, bath robes, adjustable central heating and comfy sofas to relax and enjoy the views.

This property is luxurious and highly recommended.

Set in sheep farming country, the nearest town is Calafate (population 4,000), which is 80 kms east of the glacier. Calafate is the base for viewing the region and also for excursions to Chalten and boat trips to view the Upsala Glacier and Onelli Bay, which are only accessible by boat.

March and April (autumn) and October (spring) are good months to visit the area as the weather is good in Calafate and there is relatively little wind. June, July and August are months when the road to the Perito Moreno might well be closed by snow. January to mid February are the peak summer months.

The whole region is one enormous glacial valley controlled by the sheep farming Estancias which can be visited while staying in Calafate. Here, the crested caracara and the condor are regularly sighted, soaring above the peaks and Patagonian plain.



Alto Calafate Restaurant

### Alto Calafate Hotel

Calafate **BB**

Thanks to its elevated position, this 4 star hotel enjoys fine views over Calafate and the Lago Argentino. There are 103 well-appointed, spacious rooms each equipped with TV, minibar, heating, telephone, safe deposit box and private facilities.

Rooms to the front of the property have lake views and non smoking rooms are available. The panoramic restaurant serves both international and regional cuisine and fresh, homemade bread is served at breakfast. It is about a 20 minute walk from the centre of Calafate although the hotel does provide a regular shuttle bus into town.

## El Chalten

Located within Los Glaciares National Park, 3 hours from Calafate, this area is famous for the granite peaks of the Torre and Fitzroy Mountains in addition to numerous glaciers, including the Viedma and Moyano Glaciers.

Surrounded by spectacular and unique landscape, this young village serves as an ideal base for expeditions to both mountain ranges and the Continental Ice Fields. Activities include trekking, mountain climbing and horse-riding.



### Los Cerros

El Chalten **AB**

The only first class hosteria in Chalten, this new property enjoys an elevated position offering views over the village and surrounding mountains. The hotel has 44 rooms, each with private facilities and Jacuzzi, decorated in warm simplicity to match the natural environment.

After a full day's trekking amongst the most fantastic scenery of glaciers, mountains and lakes, this hotel serves perfectly as a comfortable place to stay. A simple hosteria yet conveniently located for those keen on trekking. Includes a selection of half and full day guided hikes in addition to ice trekking on the Viedma Glacier. Open Oct-Apr.



## Ushuaia

There is a certain excitement to visiting the southernmost city in the world. The area is snow bound from the end of May to the end of September but daytime temperatures in the summer hover around 20 degrees centigrade.

Ushuaia itself, founded in 1884 and the provincial capital of the island of Tierra del Fuego, has a frontier, shanty town feel with a population of 45,000. The island is separated from the mainland by the Magellan Straits to the north and to the south is the Beagle channel of which there are fine views from Ushuaia. Tierra del Fuego is half Chilean and half Argentinean and, if one were travelling overland, the Argentinean half could only be entered through the Chilean portion.

The beautiful 150,000 acre Parque Nacional Tierra del Fuego and the Escondido and Fagnano lakes should be visited. Take a boat trip (it can be rough) along the Beagle Channel to view penguins (November to March), seals,

sea-lions, petrels, cormorants, Kelp geese and the occasional blackbreasted albatross.

The landscape surrounding Ushuaia is spectacular, with level upon level of craggy and snow capped peaks, culminating in the Darwin range to the west. Crystal clear, unfathomable lakes and wooded valleys of evergreen beech forests, are abundant. A wonderful area for walking and the only place in this enormous country where the mountains meet the sea. It is also one of the few places where fresh fish can be had. The crabs are especially recommended. This is one of the most expensive areas in Argentina as everything has to be imported.



### Los Nires

Ushuaia **BB**

Los Nires Hotel is situated just 3 km from the centre of Ushuaia and 7km (20 minutes drive) from the International airport. It is set in the heart of the impressive forest of Lengas and Nires, between the Beagle Channel and the mountain chain of Martial. It has 47 well appointed bedrooms on 2 floors all with private facilities, safe deposit box, telephone and hair-dryer. There are triple rooms and rooms for the disabled. Overlooking Golondrina Bay, the restaurant serves International cuisine as well as fish and regional dishes. The hotel runs a free shuttle bus into Ushuaia.



### Los Cauquenes

Ushuaia **BB**

Los Cauquenes is located 7km from downtown Ushuaia on the edge of Cauquen bay with panoramic views of the surrounding mountains. It has 54 rooms including 5 suites all with private bathroom, mini bar, safe and hair dryer. The hotel offers a range of spa treatments. The restaurant serves international food and has great views over the Beagle Channel.

### Useful Notes

#### Ushuaia

Ushuaia is a starting point for many of the Antarctic and Patagonian cruises.

- The Antarctic Dream Expedition – The ship departs Ushuaia 3 times a month between November and March, see page 177 for more information.
- M/V Mare Australis/ M/V via Australis – Ushuaia – P. Arenas (or vice versa) Weekly departures between September and April.



Ushuaia is a great starting point from which to cross into Chile to enjoy the spectacular Patagonian scenery!



## The Lake District

With over 30 glacial lakes, the Lake District is a beautiful area that is blessed with some breathtaking scenery. Bariloche is the main resort and is situated on the shore of Lake Nahuel Huapi. It is a pretty alpine town that is famed for its chocolate production and skiing, whilst the quieter, attractive resort of Llao Llao is 24km along the shore of the lake and is a perfect base from which to explore the natural surroundings.

Victoria Island, a forested peak, is set in the heart of the lake and home to hummingbirds, deer, woodpeckers and exotic flowers. From Llao Llao, follow the scenic route north,

passing by the seven lakes to reach the small, Andean town of San Martin de los Andes. Nestling at the foot of a mountain range on the shores of Lake Lkar, it is in close proximity to the Lanin National Park.



### El Casco Art Hotel

Near Bariloche **EB**

Situated on the shore of Lake Nahuel Huapi, El Casco Art Hotel is an elegant property that features Argentinean artwork.

It is an upmarket property that benefits from beautiful natural surroundings. The hotel walls are adorned with artwork from Argentina's finest artists and walking through the hotel is comparable to walking through one of Buenos Aires Art galleries! The outside of the property is as attractive as the hotel's interior and 31 out of the 33 rooms have a view overlooking the lake.

The facilities are of a high standard with an excellent restaurant (with 180° views of the lake) a wine cellar with an extensive selection of fine Argentinean wine, a stylish health club and a heated outdoor-indoor swimming pool which overlooks the lake.

The 33 rooms are all decorated with artwork (the majority of which is on sale) and have private facilities, plasma TV screen, Hi-Fi, mini bar, safe deposit box, wifi, telephone and hair-dryer.



### Hotel Tunquelen

Llao Llao **BB**

Set in six hectares of beautiful woods and gardens, this hotel is about 25 km from Bariloche and only 2 km from the jetty of Puerto Panuelo. The restaurant (specialities being wild boar and venison) and lounge/bar with open fireplace have beautiful views over the Nahuel Huapi Lake.

Many of the 57 rooms have a lake view and all have private facilities including shower. The indoor swimming pool, jacuzzi and sun terrace are set in the extensive and attractive gardens which lead down to the lake. This is a charming hotel set in quiet, yet spectacular surroundings.



### Useful Notes

#### Bariloche - Puerto Montt/Puerto Varas (& vice versa)

This is a fun and exciting way to cross through the Andes from Argentina to Chile. En-route, you take a leisurely stop at the Peulla Hotel for lunch and a short break. It takes 13.5hrs over one or two days and involves 3 boat crossings (39 nautical miles), 3 bus trips (106km) and a private car transfer (2km). The magnificent scenery (subject to weather conditions of course) makes it a great way to cross between the two countries. A must for the more adventurous!

#### San Martin de los Andes - Pucon (& vice versa)

This relatively short land transfer (4 hours) takes you along the Mamuil Malal Pass, through extensive Araucaria forests, past ravines and waterfalls and alongside the ever present figure of the Lanin Volcano. The route is approximately 180km on mostly unsealed roads.





## Iguazu Falls

Indisputably one of the natural wonders of the world, Iguazu Falls has over 275 waterfalls extending over a frontage of 3 kms. The sight and sound of the falls is spectacular and a highlight of any trip to Argentina.

An average 1,750 cubic metres of water per second fall across 275 individual waterfalls. The water plunges over a 60 metre precipice, with a frontage of 2.7km

The falls are 20 metres higher and much wider than Niagara and are protected by the Argentinean and Brazilian National Parks. Begonias, orchids, ferns, palms and butterflies abound as do 450 bird species (120 permanent) including toucan, parrots and swifts.

The waterfalls, viewed from an extensive network of wooden catwalks, lie across the Brazilian and Argentinian borders and both sides should be visited.

The Argentineans are very keen to preserve the pristine environment and a railway, run on natural gas, takes you along the upper part of the Iguazu river to the Devil's throat station.

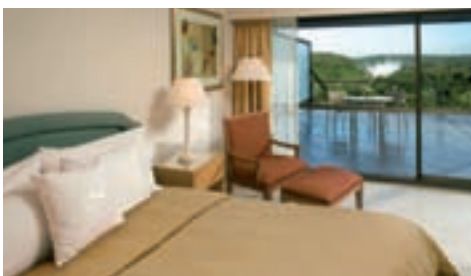


### Yacutinga Lodge, Wildlife & Nature Reserve

Iguazu Rainforest **BB**

2 hours from Iguazu Falls (minibus and jeep transfer) This lodge is set in the heart of the Argentine rainforest, surrounded by the Iguazu National Park, a region of large rivers, humid tropics, red soil and bright green jungle. The lodge has twenty simply furnished bungalows, all with jungle views, private facilities (shower - no door) and each built from local materials including stone and wood gathered from naturally fallen trees.

During the winter months, June to September, the bungalows are heated by traditional wood stoves. Various, eco-focused activities are included such as wild fauna spotting at dusk, guided walks and gentle boat trips along the San Francisco River. Within this reserve, there is a small swimming pool, wildlife observation platform and trails that guests can easily follow. Please contact us for details on this 3 night package (including 1st night at the Sheraton Hotel).



### Sheraton Internacional Iguazu Resort

Iguazu National Park **BB**

The only hotel on the Argentinean side of the national park which, being in an elevated position, has fine views, across the jungle to the falls. The falls are half a mile (15 minutes walk) from the hotel which is ideally located for exploring the whole area on foot.

There are 180 rooms including 4 suites. There is a lift. The airconditioned rooms have a falls or jungle view. All have a balcony, minibar, television, direct dial telephone and bathroom with bath and shower.

The 'Garganta del Diablo' restaurant serves both regional and international dishes. There is a new, beautifully located, swimming pool and pool bar serving snacks in addition to a new spa, sauna, jacuzzi and gym. Bicycles can also be hired and arrangements made for rafting.



### Iguazu Grand Hotel Resort & Casino

Iguazu Falls - 15mins/18km from the Falls **BB**  
20km from Puerto Iguazu Airport (Argentina)  
40km from Foz do Iguacu Airport (Brazil)

In our opinion, this is the best hotel in Iguazu thanks to its quality service, beautiful grounds and architectural style. It was built by a group of Englishmen, and was an addition to a casino that had been established seven years earlier.

Fortunately, the casino is quite separate from the hotel, situated at one end of the building, and therefore does not impinge on the running of hotel.

It has 80 tastefully decorated rooms which are all air conditioned and with balcony, minibar, ceiling fan, safe deposit box, cable TV, hairdryer, direct dial telephone and bathroom with bath and shower. Some rooms have pool views. There are 20 suites, all of which have jacuzzi bath and walk in shower. Lush, tropical gardens surrounding its waterfalls, walkways and multilevel swimming pools, make this the perfect setting to relax. It is ideal for both short and long durations.

The hotel has a complete health and beauty centre offering massages, spa treatments and yoga sessions (at extra cost) as well as tennis courts and a children's club.

The hotel also offers eco tours including bird and butterfly watching. There is a piano bar along with several excellent restaurants serving international dishes, top quality Argentinean beef, seafood and Italian cuisine.



## Esteros Del Iberá

Argentina's biggest unsung attraction, Esteros del Iberá is a breathtaking wetland covering up to approximately 13,000 sq. kms, which makes up almost 15 percent of the Corrientes Province. The wetland forms the biggest, uncontaminated fresh water mass in the world, recharged almost exclusively by rainwater.

It is a broad, shallow river, covered by semi-submerged marsh grasses, reeds, and other water-loving plants flowing diagonally from the northeast toward the southwest, where the Río Corrientes enters the middle Paraná.

In terms of wildlife, Iberá is an American Serengeti. While lacking the total biomass of Africa's famous plain, the variety of species and the sheer number of birds, mammals and reptiles is certainly impressive. For these reasons, it has attracted the attention of international conservationists.

There are approximately 350 different species of birds, abundant reptiles, colourful butterflies, insects and several mammals. The most readily seen animals include the carpincho, marsh deer, pampas deer, howler monkey, caimans, storks, herons, egrets and waterfowl.

Iberá is a year-round destination but the summer months can be extremely hot and humid. Rain can fall at any time of the year. Activities include bird-watching and other wildlife watching, hiking on a gallery-forest nature trail and horseback riding.



### Estancia Rincon del Socorro

Esteros del Iberá 

The estancia is located 4,5 hours from Pousada airport deep in Esteros del Iberá. There are 6 spacious rooms and 3 bungalows all with fans, en-suite bathrooms and living area. All meals are served in the communal dining area. There are no televisions or telephones making it easy for you to relax and enjoy this nature reserve where the emphasis is on eco-tourism.

All activities are included, such as walking tours of the estancia, horse riding, boat safaris, bike riding, night safaris and cattle round-ups. This estancia is highly recommended!



### Puerto Valle Hotel

Puerto Valle 

This hotel is a welcome stop en-route to Esteros del Iberá. With only 4 spacious deluxe rooms and 1 suite the hotel offers a very personal level of service. All rooms have uninterrupted views of the river and a peaceful atmosphere amidst the tranquil surroundings. The rooms feature en-suite bathrooms, traditional Maté Tea making facilities and comfortable folding chairs to take around with you whilst exploring the grounds.

The hotel has a swimming pool with views over the river, an outside lounge area with hammocks and an excellent restaurant serving freshly prepared food where you can try the locally farmed caiman! Guided tours of the Eucalyptus plantation, caiman farm and jungle trail are also included in your stay.



## Uruguay - Punta del Este

Punta Del Este is an upscale Uruguayan beach resort situated on a short peninsula dividing the Atlantic Ocean from the Rio de la Plata, approximately 130kms east of Montevideo.

Widely acclaimed as one of the most glamorous resorts in South America, (it is often referred to as the “St Tropez” of South America), Punta Del Este boasts a coastline full of beautiful beaches, crystalline sea, glamorous nightlife, chic restaurants and unique cultural activities.

The geographical and commercial centre of Punta Del Este is the peninsula. An Ocean front promenade, the Rambla General Artigas, runs along the peninsula and is lined with cafés, bars and seafood restaurants.

There is also Punta Del Este’s port: where you can view luxury yachts belonging to South America’s elite.

There are a variety of beaches in and around Punta Del Este, from the busy to the remote. As a result of the Peninsula’s unique location, the “Playa Mansa” beaches to the west of the peninsula (Rio de la Plata side) are host to calmer waters, whilst the “Playa Brava” beaches to the east (the Atlantic side) are home to much cooler water and rougher waves.

From Buenos Aires there is a direct flight to Punta del Este Airport (approximately 50 minutes), or alternatively client’s can catch the Hydrofoil (ferry) from Buenos Aires to Montevideo, (approximately 2 hours 45 minutes) and then take transfer by road to Punta del Este (approximately 1.5 hrs) The best time to visit Punta Del Este is from December to March.



### Posada Al Dila

Punta del Este (Punta Ballena) **BB**

This pretty boutique hotel is set in lovely grounds and is located just a few minutes stroll from the large and secluded Punta Ballena beach. Punta Del Este is just a short 15 minutes drive away. With its warm interiors, attractive flora and friendly service, the Posada Al Dila has a very homely feel.

The hotel features a heated open-air pool and a wooden outdoor decking area -perfect for watching sunsets over the water. There is a gym, sauna, and bikes are available to hire for guests. A beach service is also available. A multitude of activities from horse riding to water sports, are all within easy access of the property. All 14 rooms are equipped with modern private facilities and have a balcony.



### La Pousada del Farro

Punta del Este **BB**

La Pousada del Farro is located on the beach front in the quiet and sophisticated village of Jose Ignacio, only 30km from the town of Punta del Este. There are fifteen rooms which come in three categories; standard, special and superior. All the rooms are decorated in modern furnishings and with beautiful private terraces which overlook the pool and beach.

All rooms are equipped with mini bar, air conditioning, TV and Wi Fi internet.

The hotel can arrange a selection of activities for guests, such as offshore fishing, horseback riding on the beach or whale watching (July-Oct).

### Useful Notes

#### Highlights around Punta del Este

There is more to Punta Del Este than beautiful beaches and clear water:

- Casapueblo – The former home of famous Uruguayan artist Carlos Paez Vilaro is now a modern art museum and one of the major landmarks of the city with its Gaudi-esque architecture.
- Isla de lobos – Lying 8km from the city, this island is home to one of the largest sea-lion colonies in the world.
- Museo del Mar – Housing one of the largest collection of maritime articles in the world, the museum has a quirky collection of marine oddities including embalmed sea-lions and dolphin skeletons.





## Suggested Itineraries

These itineraries are based on individual travellers (based on 2 sharing) not group departures. For group quotations or single supplements please contact us.

Accommodation is on a bed and breakfast basis unless otherwise stated. All our excursions always include an English speaking guide. Excursions will be on a shared, small group basis unless otherwise stated - this ensures that the prices are as competitive as possible. If you prefer the excursions to be on a private basis, please let us know (prices on request).

All the itineraries are subject to internal flights and suitable connection times being available at the time of booking. On certain internal flights it may be necessary to travel via Buenos Aires as this is the main 'hub' in Argentina (please check with us at the time of booking). Any road transfer times stated are approximate and subject to traffic, road and weather conditions.

Please also remember when planning your holiday to Argentina that due to the distances, airline schedules and time differences you normally have to allow 2 extra days for travelling there and back from the UK (in addition to the land itinerary durations stated). Please see airline section for an idea of timings and routings.

### Wildlife and Glaciers of Patagonia

15 NIGHTS

- Buenos Aires 1 night BB
- Peninsula Valdes 3 nights BB
- Ushuaia 1 night BB
- Mare Australis Cruise 3 nights FB
- Punta Arenas 1 night BB
- Torres del Paine 3 nights FB
- Calafate 2 nights BB
- Buenos Aires 1 night BB

**Day 1** Upon arrival into Buenos Aires, transfer to the hotel. Afternoon privately guided city tour. Overnight: Casa Calma, Buenos Aires

**Day 2** After breakfast, morning at leisure to independently explore Buenos Aires. Afternoon transfer to Buenos Aires airport for flight to Trelew. Upon arrival in Trelew, transfer to Puerto Madryn. Remainder of day at leisure to explore Puerto Madryn. Overnight: Tolosa Hotel, Puerto Madryn

**Day 3** After breakfast, full day private excursion to the Peninsula Valdes. This includes a whale watching boat trip and the chance to spot Orca, Sea Lions and Elephant Seals. Overnight: Faro Punta Delgada, Peninsula Valdes.

**Day 4** After breakfast, guests are escorted down to the beach to view a colony of Elephant Seals. The rest of the day is spent visiting a Penguin colony at San Lorenzo and more opportunities to spot various wildlife inhabitants on the Peninsula Valdes, before returning back to Puerto Madryn. Overnight: Tolosa Hotel, Puerto Madryn.

**Day 5** After breakfast, transfer to Trelew airport for flight to Ushuaia. Upon arrival into Ushuaia, transfer to the hotel. Remainder of day at leisure to explore Ushuaia. Overnight: Los Caquenes, Ushuaia.

**Day 6** After breakfast, morning privately guided tour of Lapataia National Park. Afternoon transfer to Mare Australis for a 3 night cruise to Punta Arenas (see page 170 for cruise details). Overnight: Mare Australis Cruise, Ushuaia – Punta Arenas – AA Cabin FB (3 nts)

**Day 9** Upon arrival into Punta Arenas, transfer to the hotel. Remainder of day at leisure. Overnight Dreams Hotel, Punta Arenas



**Day 10** After breakfast, transfer to Punta Arenas station for shuttle bus to hotel in Torres Del Paine (full day including visits en route). Overnight Cerro Guido, Torres Del Paine (FB)

**Day 11** Day at leisure. Small group guided activities available (payable locally) including horse back riding and excursions into Torres del Paine

**Day 12** Day at leisure. Small group guided activities available (payable locally) including horse back riding and excursions into Torres del Paine

**Day 13** After breakfast, private transfer to Cerro Castillo (border point with Argentina) and then continuation across the border to Calafate. Overnight: Alto Calafate, Calafate

**Day 14** After breakfast full day group guided excursion to the Perito Moreno Glacier with an opportunity to take a cruise on Lake Argentina to see the glacier up close (subject to weather). Overnight: Alto Calafate, Calafate

**Day 15** Transfer to Calafate Airport for flight to Buenos Aires. Upon arrival transfer, to the hotel. Evening dinner and tango show. Overnight: Casa Calma, Buenos Aires

**Day 16** Transfer to Buenos Aires airport for flight returning to the UK

### Northern Argentina

12 NIGHTS

- Buenos Aires 2 nights BB
- Purmamarca 2 nights BB
- Salta 1 night BB
- Molinos 3 nights FB
- Cafayate 1 night BB
- Salta 1 night BB
- Iguazu Falls 2 nights BB

**Day 1** Upon arrival into Buenos Aires, transfer to the hotel. Remainder of day at leisure. Overnight: Casa Calma, Buenos Aires

**Day 2** After breakfast, morning privately guided city tour. Remainder of afternoon at leisure. Overnight: Casa Calma, Buenos Aires

**Day 3** After breakfast, transfer to Buenos Aires airport for flight to Jujuy. Pick up car from airport and self drive to Purmamarca. Overnight: El Manantial del Silencio, Purmamarca

**Day 4** Day at leisure to explore Cerro de los Siete colores (hill of the seven colours) and visit Quebrada de Humahuaca. Overnight: El Manantial del Silencio, Purmamarca

**Day 5** Self drive to Salta. Day at leisure to explore Salta. Overnight: House of Jasmynes, Salta

**Day 6** Self drive to Molinos through the Calchaqui valley. Overnight: Bodega Colome, near Molinos (FB)

**Day 7** Day at leisure. Activities and tours such as visits to the winery and horse riding are included. Overnight: Bodega Colome, near Molinos

**Day 8** Day at leisure. Activities and tours such as visits to the winery and horse riding are included. Overnight: Bodega Colome, near Molinos

**Day 9** Self-drive to Cafayate. Opportunity in the afternoon to visit local wineries. Overnight: Patios de Cafayate, Cafayate

**Day 10** Self-drive to Salta. Overnight: House of Jasmine, Salta

**Day 11** After breakfast, self-drive to Salta airport and drop off vehicle. Flight from Salta to Puerto Iguazu via Buenos Aires. Upon arrival, transfer to the Sheraton Hotel. Overnight: Sheraton Hotel, Iguazu Falls – (Falls View room)

**Day 12** After breakfast, morning private excursion to the Brazilian side of the falls with an optional boat ride under the Brazilian side of the falls. Transfer back to the hotel. Overnight: Sheraton Hotel, Iguazu Falls – (Falls View room)

**Day 13** After breakfast, opportunity to explore the Argentinean side of the falls. Evening transfer to Foz do Iguazu Airport for returning flight to the UK.





Highlights of Argentina with Punta del Este

15 NIGHTS

- Buenos Aires 2 nights BB
- Estancia near Buenos Aires 2 nights FB
- Iguazu Falls 2 nights BB
- Calafate 2 nights BB
- Llao Llao 3 nights BB
- Punta Del Este 3 nights BB
- Buenos Aires 1 night BB

**Day 1** Upon arrival into Buenos Aires, transfer to the hotel. Remainder of day at leisure. Overnight: Casa Calma, Buenos Aires

**Day 2** After breakfast, morning privately guided city tour. Remainder of afternoon at leisure. Overnight: Casa Calma, Buenos Aires

**Day 3** After breakfast, transfer to the Estancia. Afternoon at leisure for guests to participate in an activity of their choice. Options include horse riding, rearing activities, bird watching or simply walking around the beautiful Estancia grounds. Overnight: Estancia El Ombu de Areco

**Day 4** Day at leisure for guests to participate in an activity of their choice. Options include horse riding, rearing activities, bird watching or simply walking around the beautiful Estancia grounds. In the evening there is an opportunity to try a traditional Argentine Asado (barbecue) with fine Argentinean wines. Overnight: Estancia El Ombu de Areco

**Day 5** After breakfast, transfer to Buenos Aires airport for flight to Puerto Iguazu. Upon arrival, transfer to the Sheraton Hotel. Remainder of day at leisure to explore the Argentinean side of the falls by foot from the hotel. Overnight Sheraton Hotel, Iguazu - (Falls view room)

**Day 6** After breakfast, morning private excursion to the Brazilian side of the falls with an optional boat ride under the Brazilian side of the falls. Transfer back to the hotel. Overnight: Sheraton Hotel, Iguazu Falls – (Falls View room)

**Day 7** After breakfast, transfer to Puerto Iguazu Airport for flight to Calafate. Upon arrival, transfer to hotel. Remainder of day at leisure. Overnight: Alto Calafate, Calafate

**Day 8** After breakfast full day group guided excursion to the Perito Moreno Glacier with an opportunity to take a cruise on Lake Argentina to see the glacier up close (subject to weather). Overnight: Alto Calafate, Calafate – Standard room

**Day 9** After breakfast, morning at leisure then an afternoon transfer to Calafate airport for flight to Bariloche. Upon arrival, transfer to the hotel. Overnight Tunquelen Hotel, Llao Llao near Bariloche – (Standard Lake View room)

**Day 10** After breakfast, half day scenic tour of Bariloche including a visit to Cerro Campanario with stunning views over the Lake District. Remainder of day at leisure to explore Bariloche. Overnight: Tunquelen Hotel, Llao Llao near Bariloche – (Standard Lake View room)

**Day 11** After breakfast, full day tour of Isla Victoria and it's Arraynes Forest. Also includes a boat trip across the Nahuel Haupi Lake. Overnight: Tunquelen Hotel, Llao Llao near Bariloche – (Standard Lake View room)

**Day 12** After breakfast, transfer to Bariloche for flight to Montevideo (Uruguay) via Buenos Aires. Upon arrival in Montevideo, transfer to Punta Del Este. Overnight: Posada Al Dila, Punta Del Este

**Day 13** Day at leisure to relax on one of the many beaches around Punta Del Este. Overnight: Posada al Dila, Punta Del Este

**Day 14** Day at leisure. Suggest visiting Casapueblo, a famous Uruguayan Art Museum or visit Isla de Lobos, home to one of the largest sea-lion colonies in the world. Overnight: Posada Al Dila

**Day 15** After breakfast, morning at leisure then transfer to Punta Del Este Airport for flight to Buenos Aires. Upon arrival, transfer to hotel. In the evening enjoy the real tango experience. Guests visit a Milonga (local dance hall) and have the opportunity to try a tango class and dance at the Milonga, or simply sit back and watch the locals in action! Overnight: Casa Calma, Buenos Aires

**Day 16** After breakfast, morning at leisure to independently explore Buenos Aires. In the afternoon transfer to Buenos Airport for flight returning home.



Approximate Driving Distances

Please note many of the roads in the North West are unsealed thus best visited during the dry season (Jun-Nov)

	Km	Hrs		Km	Hrs
Bariloche - San Martin (via 7 lakes)	195	3.5	Jujuy - Salta	100	1.5
Bariloche - Villa la Angostura	83	1.5	Junin de los Andes - Bariloche	200	2
Buenos Aires - San Antonio de Areco	100	1.5	Lake Traful - Lake Machonico	30	1
Buenos Aires - San Miguel De Monte	50	1	Llao Llao - Bariloche	25	0.45
Cachi - Colome	64	2	Montevideo - Punta del Este	130	1.5
Cafayate - Salta	180	4	Puerto Madryn - Faro Punta Delgada	170	2
Cafayate - Tafi dei Valle	125	3	Purmamarca - Humahuaca	66	2
Calafate - Cancha Carrera	320	4	Purmamarca - Salta	266	3.5
Calafate - Perito Moreno	80	1.5	Salta - Cachi	145	4
Bodega Colome - Cafayate	130	3.5	San Lorenzo - Puerto Madryn	170	2.5
Bodega Colome - Salta	209	5	San Martin - Chapelco Airport	20	0.25
Jujuy - Humahuaca	128	4	Trelew Airport - Puerto Madryn	67	1
Jujuy - Purmamarca	166	2	Villa la Angostura - Lake Traful	94	1.5

Flight timings

Buenos Aires - Puerto Iguazu and vv	1hr 45mins
Buenos Aires - Salta and vv	2hr 15mins
Buenos Aires - Tucuman and vv	1hr 55mins
Buenos Aires - Trelew and vv	2hrs
Buenos Aires - Mendoza and vv	1hr 50mins
Buenos Aires - Montevideo	45 mins
Buenos Aires - Bariloche and vv	2hr 20mins
Buenos Aires - Calafate and vv	3hr 13mins
Buenos Aires - Punta del Este	50 mins
Trelew - Ushuaia and vv	3hr 40mins
Ushuaia - Calafate and vv	3hr 40mins
Calafate - Bariloche and vv	1hr 45mins
Trelew - Ushuaia and vv	2hr 11mins
Trelew - Bariloche and vv	2hr 25mins (via Esquel)
Trelew - Calafate and vv	1hr 51mins

(vv: vice versa)



**Flight Details**

We have a choice of airlines to Argentina some of which offer departures from regional airports at no extra cost. As an independent operator, we are not tied to any particular carrier and we are more than happy to give our honest opinion (from personal experience) of their respective services. We will always endeavour to offer the carrier representing the best value for money at any given time of the year.

Supplements for other carriers and regional airports are on request. Supplements for club class are also on request - please note that generally club class fares to Latin America are very high.

Prices are based on economy scheduled return flights with TAM from London Heathrow (via Sao Paulo). Supplements for British Airways and Iberia are available on request. Single supplements are available on request. UK airport taxes are included.



Daily	Daily
D Heathrow 21:05	D Buenos Aires 18:10
A Sao Paulo 07:00*	A Sao Paulo 20:50
D Sao Paulo 08:30*	D Sao Paulo 23:55*
A Buenos Aires 11:20	A Heathrow 13:25*

\*following day  
#change aircraft in Sao Paulo  
ECONOMY SEAT PITCH:  
HEATHROW - SAO PAULO: 34 inches

D = Departure time  
A = Arrival time

The above details were correct at the time of going to press. However, all timings and routings are subject to change and will be confirmed at the time of booking. UK airport departure tax has been included in all prices.



Daily	Daily
D Heathrow 06:20	D Buenos Aires 23:40
A Madrid 09:40	A Madrid 14:30*
D Madrid 12:35	D Madrid 16:30
A Buenos Aires 21:50	A Heathrow 17:50

\*following day  
ECONOMY SEAT PITCH  
MADRID-BUENOS AIRES: 32 inches



Daily	Daily
D Heathrow 21:10	D Buenos Aires 14:15
A Sao Paulo 06:45*	A Sao Paulo 16:55
D Sao Paulo 08:00	D Sao Paulo 18:15
A Buenos Aires 10:45	A Heathrow 07:15*

\*following day  
Please note there is no plane change in Sao Paulo  
ECONOMY SEAT PITCH  
HEATHROW -SAO PAULO: 31 inches

**Prices for suggested itineraries**

Holiday prices are in £'s per person for duration stated based on two persons sharing a twin/double room. PLEASE NOTE AT THE TIME OF GOING TO PRESS FINALISED AIRLINE AND GROUND PRICES WERE NOT AVAILABLE. THEREFORE, THE PRICES BELOW ARE A GUIDELINE ONLY. PLEASE CONTACT US FOR AN EXACT QUOTE. DURING EASTER AND CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR PERIODS SPECIAL SEASONAL RATES AND MINIMUM NUMBER OF NIGHTS MAY APPLY. PLEASE NOTE THAT BETWEEN MAY AND SEPTEMBER THE MARE AUSTRALIS CRUISE DOES NOT OPERATE AND CERRO GUIDO (TORRES DEL PAINE, CHILE) IS CLOSED, THEREFORE THERE IS NO PRICE FOR THE WILDLIFE ITINERARY BETWEEN THESE DATES.

Departure Date determines price. See suggested itineraries for full details. See pages 194-195. For itineraries combining Argentina with other countries see pages 22-29.

ITINERARY	Number of Nights	Guideline price	Guideline price	Guideline price
<b>Highlights of Argentina (with Punta del Este)</b> - Buenos Aires, Estancia near Buenos Aires, Iguazu Falls, Calafate, Llao Llao, Punta del Este	15 nights	£4,554	£4,454	£4,748
<b>Northern Argentina</b> - Buenos Aires, Purmamarca, Salta, Molinos, Cafayate, Iguazu Falls	12 nights	£3,776	£3,695	£3,782
<b>Wildlife and Glaciers of Patagonia</b> - Buenos Aires, Peninsula Valdes, Ushuaia, Mare Australis Cruise, Punta Arenas, Torres del Paine, Calafate	15 nights	£5,281	£4,962	n/a

**Price includes**

- Economy scheduled flights from London Heathrow with TAM Airlines (change of plane in Sao Paulo) including UK airport departure tax and fuel surcharges
- Accommodation, internal flights, transfers, excursions and meals as outlined in the various itineraries

**Not included**

- Personal Travel Insurance (see page 246)
- International airport departure tax
- Park entrance fees (where not specified on the itinerary)
- Supplement for other airlines and airports
- Tips

**Notes**

Single supplements are available on request

**Important Note**

Payment by credit or charge card will incur a 2% processing charge. This charge may rise if the credit card companies increase their charges.

# Argentina - A Few Guidelines

## Currency

The unit of currency is the Peso. Argentinian pesos are not available in the UK. However US dollars are readily exchanged and accepted. Travellers' cheques may be exchanged at certain banks, but are not usually accepted in shops and restaurants.

## Visas

Travellers with British/European Community Passports do not require visas for Argentina. However, please ensure that your passport has at least six months to run. Please also take several photocopies of the main page of your passport with you.

## Food

Food varies with the region but is generally of a high standard in all the hotels, hosterias and estancias we use. There are typical dishes in every region, with a wide variety of sweets and fruits. Buenos Aires caters for every palate. Parrilladas, a selection of grilled meats is a speciality of the country, and the north west prides itself on wild boar and venison dishes. Argentinean wine is excellent and inexpensive. Prices depend very much on location, an average being around US\$ 15.00 - 20.00 per person for a meal.

## Vaccinations/Health

There are no health requirements for Argentina, but you should always check with your doctor or travel clinic as to latest health requirements no later than four weeks before departure.

## Language

Spanish is the official language, but English is widely spoken.

## Driving

The roads are asphalted, (with the

exception of some in Bariloche Peninsula Valdes and the North West) are of good standard and the driving (on the right) even in the larger towns, is civilised. Driving in the NW during the wet season is not recommended. Petrol is approximately 75 cents per litre.

## Hotel Gradings

Hotels are graded on the UK system from Deluxe downwards. The Estancias are not graded, but generally are of a good four star European rating. You will find the overall standard of the hotels we feature very satisfactory. All rooms will have private facilities – either bath and shower or shower only.

## Early Morning arrival in Buenos Aires

Please note that some international flights arrive very early into Buenos Aires. Access to rooms is only guaranteed from 14.00 onwards. However, we do appreciate that you will be weary from your long flight and therefore, our local agents will always do their best on your behalf to try and obtain access to your room as early as possible. We recommend, in order to guarantee an immediate check-in, that you ask us to add the previous night's accommodation (at a supplement).

## Weather/When to go

Being such a vast country, weather varies greatly from region to region. Buenos Aires summers (December to February) are very humid with temperatures between 27°C and 35°C degrees, spring and autumn can be cooler, but the winter months tend to be the most pleasant as the rainfall is usually very low. In the north west area, especially in the higher mountains, temperatures vary from -20°C in winter (July to September) to 30°C degrees in summer (December to February). The hills and

valleys have milder weather but are susceptible to heavy rain in the summer months. The Iguazu area is tropical with mild winters (July to September) and hot summers (December to February) with rain falling in short but very strong bursts. The Bariloche area has temperatures of between 10°C to 25°C in summer (December to February) and between 0° to 11°C degrees in winter (July to September). May and August tend to be the wettest months. Peninsula Valdes and Calafate, in Patagonia, generally have long summers (November to March) and long winters (June to September). Peninsula Valdes temperatures can reach 40°C degrees in summer, with very strong winds along the coast in winter. The climate in the glaciers is generally very cold in winter (July to September) and mild in the summer months (December to February). Strong southwesterlies (especially between September and March) prevail in the area of Ushuaia. Daytime temperatures range between 11° to 20°C degrees in summer to 0°C degrees in winter.

## Time

For most of the year, Argentina is three hours behind Greenwich Mean Time (GMT) but this varies depending where you are in the country.

## Recommended reading

Argentina travel guides published by Rough Guide and Footprint both serve a useful insight into the country.

## Car Hire

In order to be independent and maximise your experience of the country, we recommend self-drive in the North West of the country (summer months only) and the area of Bariloche and the Lakes. This allows the flexibility to stop whenever you see

something interesting. The main roads in Argentina are reasonably good and we therefore recommend a medium sized hatchback vehicle. We have selected Hertz as our supplier in Argentina - they have offices in Buenos Aires, Bariloche, Calafate, Mendoza, Puerto Iguazu, Salta, San Martin de los Andes, Trelew, Tucuman and Ushuaia. Therefore, vehicles can be picked up in one place and dropped off at another.

Please note that due to the fact that each car-hire office in Argentina is a separate franchise with their own stock of cars, there are drop-off charges to cover the cost of collecting/leaving vehicles in different locations - these charges are payable locally and will be shown on your tailor-made itinerary.

A UK driving licence (international licence is preferable), passport and credit card will need to be displayed when collecting the vehicle. The general policy (unless advised otherwise) is to receive the car with a full tank of petrol and to therefore return it full on drop-off - if you forget, your credit card will be charged automatically!

Limited mileage (200km per day up to 4 days and 1000km per week), roadside breakdown assistance (up to 300km from the local Hertz office), local taxes and Collision Damage Waiver are included in the Hertz car-hire rates. Minimum age for renting a vehicle is 21 but there is no maximum age. The CDW covers you for damage to your vehicle (up to the value of the car) and any third party claims arising from 'normal' use of the car. An excess of \$1500 applies. The vehicle must be returned to the office on time otherwise extra charges will apply (payable locally). There is an extra charge for a second driver which can be paid locally.

