





# Argentina

The mighty Andes form the country's spine. Argentina has it all: fabulous cities and painted deserts; waterfalls, glaciers, mountains and lakes; fantastic wildlife, exotic flowers and lush valleys; magnificent wines and delicious steaks. Walk across a creaking glacier or admire the waterfalls as vivid butterflies flutter through the spray. Birthplace of Evita and Che Guevara, home to sultry tango bars and vast cattle ranches and rugged gauchos.

### At a glance

- The northern areas of Iguazu, Mendoza, Ibera wetlands and Salta have a pleasant climate all year round. Patagonia's peak travel season is between November and March.
- Buenos Aires sophisticated, ebullient and passionate
- · With a lack of beach resorts estancias offer a good alternative
- Iguazu Falls unforgettable panorama of over 275 waterfalls
- The North West spectacular and unusual landscapes; salt-flats and vineyards
- · Lake District superb hiking and range of outdoor activities
- El Calafate glaciers at the World's thirdlargest ice field
- · Ushuaia gateway for cruises to Chile and Antarctica

### Getting there

Direct flight from London Heathrow to Buenos Aires with British Airways. Also there is a direct flight from London Gatwick to Buenos Aires with Norwegian Air. Additional flights to Buenos Aires operate via Madrid with LATAM or Iberia: via Paris with Air France and via Amsterdam with KLM. KLM and Air France offer an excellent network of regional airports.

Prices from £3,215 per person (2 sharing) for a 9 night trip

### Combinations

Combines well with Brazil, Chile and Antarctica.







### **Buenos Aires**

Pulsating Buenos Aires is one of the world's most captivating cities. It has a swift pace, chic restaurants, steamy tango and Parisianstyle restaurants. A place of stylish people and buildings, wide boulevards and leafy parks. It is the most European of all South American cities and a fascinating composition of distinct, highly individualized neighbourhoods that are perfect for exploration. The genteel grandeur of San Telmo with its Spanish colonial architecture and Italianate detailing can be contrasted with the brash rainbow-coloured pressed-tin houses of La Boca.

### OUR TOP TIPS

Visit a Milonga (tango club) and learn Tango with the locals • Visit the lavish cemetery of Recoleta which houses the tomb of Eva Perón



### NH Crillon Hotel

### Buenos Aires BB

The NH Buenos Aires Crillon is a mid-range hotel situated opposite Plaza San Martin in the centre of Buenos Aires and close to shops, restaurants and the famous Avenida 9 July. The hotel has 96 rooms each decorated in a modern style. All rooms have a bathroom (shower), hairdryer, minibar, safe deposit box, cable TV and complimentary Wifi. The compact rooms are comfortable. Excellent value for money.



# The Brick Hotel Buenos Aires - M Gallery by Sofitel

### Buenos Aires BB

The Brick Hotel is located in the upmarket district of Recoleta, close to designer boutiques and trendy cafes. It has 175 spacious rooms and suites and all have complimentary tea and coffee making facilities, cable TV and Wifi. Guests can enjoy contemporary Argentinean cuisine at the hotel's Brick Restaurant or a pre-dinner drink at the bar. In addition, you can relax in the indoor heated pool and health club.

### Iguazú Falls

Thundering down from a height of 82 metres, the 275 waterfalls that make up the Iguazú Falls stretch for more than one and a half miles and are indisputably one of the wonders of the natural world. Twice the size of Niagara, the Falls are an ear-splitting, mind-stunning experience. Bordered by both Brazil and Argentina, it is recommended to view the Falls from both sides to get a full picture of their immensity. From the Argentine side you can take the unique Rainforest Ecological Train, run on natural gas, to the horseshoe-shaped Garganta del Diablo (Devil's Throat) where there is a 1 km walkway directly above the Falls where the roar and spray are tremendous!

### OUR TOP TIPS

Visit the impressive Itaipu Dam on the border with Paraguay



### Melia Iguazú

### Iguazú National Park BB

The only hotel on the Argentinean side of the Iguazú National Park, the Melia has an elevated position with fine views towards the falls. It has 176 rooms and 8 suites. The rooms, which have been recently renovated are all smoke-free and offer either falls or jungle views. They all have a balcony, minibar, television, and bathroom with bath and shower. The restaurant serves both regional and international dishes, mainly buffet style. In addition, the hotel has a poolside snack bar, and a lobby bar. Leisure facilities include an outdoor swimming pool and an extensive spa.



### Mercure Iguazú Hotel Iru

### Puerto Iguazú BB

Set in the Iryapú Jungle close to the Argentina/ Brazil border, this modern and comfortable hotel is just 20 minutes from the Iguazú Falls. The 100 sophisticated rooms have contemporary furnishings and feature private balconies with jungle or pool views. All rooms have a bathroom (shower), hairdryer, cable TV, desk, Wifi, safe deposit box and mini-bar. Hotel amenities include a stylish restaurant with terrace, an airy lobby bar, an outdoor swimming pool and a spa.



For additional lodges, itineraries and general information on Argentina please visit **www.sunvil.co.uk** 

106 | Argentina | 107







### The North West

Less well-known and less visited than other areas, Argentina's North West is very rewarding for the more adventurous traveller. Wander through palm-filled plazas in colonial Salta to the sounds of a vibrant peña (bar with folklore group) as crowds of locals clap and sing. Blessed with sunny weather for much of the year the north west offers vineyards in the Cafayate area; stunning multi-coloured hills close to the Tropic of Capricorn; dramatic canyons such as the Quebrada de la Flechas, a forest of sharp granite spires; and salt-flats in the high-altitude Puna. The area is ideal for self-drive holidays, where you can explore the wonderful and varying cactus-lined landscapes and pretty local villages at your leisure.



### Finca Valentina

### Near Salta BB

Finca Valentina is a delightful boutique country house hotel. This property enjoys a semi-rural location, approximately 25 minutes from Salta. The 2-storey house has 8 bedrooms, all with underfloor heating and comfortable beds with luxury linens. Guests are invited to make good use of the facilities including a living-room with library, outdoor swimming pool, gardens and barbecue area. Breakfast is served in the dining room which has views of the Andes; lunch and dinner can also be arranged.



### Vinas de Cafayate Wine Resort

### Cafayate BB

Located on the outskirts of Cafayate, Vinas de Cafayate Wine Resort is a charming hotel set amidst a vineyard. It has 22 rooms - some with views of the surrounding vineyard. The public areas of the hotel were designed in a Spanish colonial style. The rooms are all air-conditioned and facilities include a hair-dryer, complimentary Wifi and a safe deposit box. The hotel has pleasant lawns with a large outdoor swimming pool. The restaurant serves regional cuisine sourcing some of its ingredients from its organic garden.

### Mendoza & Vineyards

Set amidst the foothills and high plains of the Andes, Mendoza is the undisputed heartland of the continent's winemaking, with over 1200 wineries, many specializing in the local grape, Malbec. The harvest takes place from February to April, but on the first weekend in March the city holds its major, spectacular celebration, the Vendimia – and Mendoza certainly knows how to party! With the Andes nearby, the region offers a marvellous range of outdoor activities, from trekking, rafting, wildlife watching, kayaking, fishing and horseback riding. Mendoza itself is an attractive tree-lined city with plazas dotted with fountains and the magnificent San Martin Park.

### **OUR TOP TIPS**

Take a road trip through the Andes from Mendoza to Santiago (or vice versa) • Eat an asado (barbecue steak) under the stars



### NH Cordillera

### Mendoza BB

Conveniently situated close to the city's Independence square, the NH Cordillera Hotel is just a short stroll from the main shopping districts and restaurants. The 105 rooms are well furnished and are air-conditioned, soundproofed and provide complimentary Wifi. A number of the superior and junior suites have good views of Plaza San Martin. Facilities include a small outdoor pool, bar and a restaurant which serves Spanish, French and Argentinian specialities. The NH Cordillera provides an excellent base for exploring the wine country and the foothills of the Andes.



### Cavas Wine Lodge

### Mendoza Al

The pioneer in luxury vineyard tourism, Cavas Wine Lodge nestles within a 55 acre vineyard just 30 minutes from the centre of Mendoza. This award winning lodge has 18 en suite rooms which face west towards the mountains. The room amenities include a large private deck, outdoor shower and private plunge pool. The lodge also has a communal pool, spa and a large living room with an open-fireplace. We usually arrange Cavas Wine Lodge on an 'all inclusive' package which includes all meals, tours to vineyards and transfers.



For additional lodges, itineraries and general information on Argentina please visit **www.sunvil.co.uk** 

108 | Argentina | 109







Perito Moreno glacier

### The Lake District

In the peaks around Bariloche there are lakes of navy, peppermint-green and the palest blue, surrounded by ancient forest. It is hard to conceive of a greater tranquility than can be experienced among the glacial lakes, snow capped mountains and dense forests of Northern Patagonia, home to 4 National Parks. Bariloche provides easy access to the nearby Nahuel Huapi National Park and its opportunities for hiking, birdwatching, horse-riding, skiing (July-August), rafting (January) and a wide range of water sports. Bariloche has the added attraction of being renowned for its excellent chocolate-making! We recommend that you travel along the Route of the Seven Lakes to Villa la Angostura and San Martin de Los Andes.

### **OUR TOP TIPS**

When combining Argentina and Chile - cross the lake border by boat between Bariloche and Puerto Varas • Self-drive itineraries is an option in this area. Please note many roads are gravel and signposts are not especially common



### Llao Llao Hotel & Resort. Golf & Spa

### Near Bariloche BB

Overlooking the beautiful Nahuel Huapi and Moreno Lakes, Llao Llao is one of South America's renowned hotels. Dating back to 1940, the original hotel (Bustillo Wing) was built in a grand alpine lodge style with exposed cypress timbers, chandeliers, wood panelled walls and massive stone fireplaces. In keeping with this, the rooms in the old part of the hotel vary in size and have a more traditional style. In addition, there is a newer luxury wing (Lake Moreno Wing) where the rooms have a more contemporary decor. The hotel has excellent facilities including an 18 hole golf course, health club, indoor and outdoor heated swimming pools and a choice of fine dining restaurants.



## Design Suites Bariloche

Located opposite Lake Nahuel Huapi and close to Bariloche, the Design Suites offer alpine styled accommodation with garden or lake views. The amenities include a restaurant, bar, heated indoor/outdoor swimming pool, sauna, and massage room. The 78 rooms and suites have light pine flooring and feature private bathrooms with a hydro-massage tub, mini-bar, TV, safe deposit box, telephone, desk, hair dryer and complimentary Wifi. The hotel represents good value for money.

### El Calafate - Los Glaciares National Park

The small town of El Calafate is the gateway for exploring the Upsala Glacier, Onelli Bay, and above all Los Glaciares National Park with its majestic Perito Moreno Glacier. This monumental body of ice - a 30km river of ice which snakes through the mountains. For those who relish the beauty to be found in remote places, this an unmissable experience. There are many viewing platforms and easy trails, but a boat trip among the icebergs takes the experience to another level. El Calafate is also the gateway to El Chalten - a small village at the northern tip of Los Glaciares. It is a rewarding place for trekking - especially Mount Fitz Roy's granite turrets which rise up from the steppe.

### NOTES

On the southern tip there are a number of islands. The name of the biggest island is Tierra del Fuego 'Land of Fire' with an end-of-the-world feel. The focus of the island is Ushuaia which is also a base for exploring Lapataia National Park. We can incorporate this area into itineraries.



### Kosten Aike Hotel

### Calafate BB

Located just two blocks from the town centre, the Kosten Aike makes for a good base to visit the glaciers. A total of 80 guest rooms all have heating, TV, mini bar, desk and complimentary Wifi. The restaurant serves international and Patagonian meals with a good selection of Argentinean wines. In addition, there is a separate bar/lounge serving snacks. Other amenities include a small gym, sauna and Jacuzzi (treatments not included). Kosten Aike is a homely hotel offering a warm welcome and friendly service.



### 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 a 3,000 hectare estate, Eolo offers superb views across Lago Argentino. Facilities include a restaurant, library, heated indoor pool and living room. There are 17 suites, all of which have a hairdryer, Wifi, bathrobes and comfy sofas from which to enjoy the views. This property is highly recommended.



For additional lodges, itineraries and general information on Argentina please visit **www.sunvil.co.uk** 

110 | Argentina Argentina







San Ignacio Jesuit ruins

### Esteros del Iberá

In the north-east of the country, Esteros del Iberá is a breathtaking wetland area. These wetlands are second only to Brazil's Pantanal in size. A network of lagoons and creeks is best explored by boat and canoe. Caiman, capybara, deer, otter and over 300 species of birds all inhabit this area. The variety of species and the sheer number of birds, mammals and reptiles is impressive and for these reasons it has attracted the attention of international conservationists. A year-round destination, the summer months (December to February) can be extremely hot and humid. Activities include bird-watching, wildlife boat trips in the wetlands, hiking, and horseback riding.

### **OUR TOP TIPS**

Take a road trip between Iguazu and Ibera wetlands and visit the evocative Jesuit ruins at San Ignacio in Misiones • Try the delicious local delicacy pacu river fish.



### Hosteria Rincon del Socorro

### Esteros del Iberá FB

boat safaris and bike riding.

the edge of the Ibera wetlands. This former cattle ranch dates from the late 19th century and has a lounge with open fireplace and restaurant which uses fresh ingredients grown in its organic gardens. There are 9 spacious rooms all with fans, private bathrooms, but no TV. There is a dining terrace and swimming pool. There are a variety of activities available locally, such as walking trails, horse riding,

This estancia is located 6 hours south of Posadas on



### Puerto Valle

### Ituzaingo, Nr Esteros del Iberá FB

Located on the banks of the vast Rio Parana, on the edge of the wetlands. Puerto Valle is a refined property dating from the 1870's. It has 13 comfortable en suite rooms which all have access to a balcony with lovely views over the grounds. In addition, there is a swimming pool with views over the river, an outside lounge area with hammocks, a restaurant and wine cellar. Apart from excursions to the nearby wetlands, Puerto Valle offers specialised bird watching and fishing (payable locally).

### Estancias of Argentina

Argentine estancias range from traditional cattle and sheep ranches, and plantations to elegant villas and country houses. They can be found all over Argentina from the pampas to Patagonia. The pampas is a vast area of land stretching inland from Buenos Aires for hundreds of miles. The region is the economic heart of Argentina as it produces much of the beef for which the country is famous. The two estancias selected below offer the chance to experience a working ranch, with activities including horse riding (from novice to experienced), hiking, birdwatching, to name but a few. Alternatively, you can sit back, relax and enjoy the authentic Argentine atmosphere.



### Estancia Los Potreros

### Rio Ceballos FB

Estancia Los Potreros is a 6,500 acre working cattle farm, located at the top of the Sierras Chicas in the heart of the beautiful region of Córdoba. The simple 7 rooms are tastefully furnished in keeping with the history and style of the estancia, and have their own private bathrooms. Lunch and dinner are taken with other guests at the family table, usually hosted by one of the owners who provide guests with a truly personal experience. The main activity for guests is exploring the countryside on horseback. Approximately 1 hour from Cordoba.



### Estancia La Bamba de Areco

### Near San Antonio de Areco FB

Located within easy reach of Buenos Aires, La Bamba is an elegant estancia, surrounded by

rolling pampas countryside. It has has 11 rooms and suites, all furnished with antique furniture and local art, but no TV. A feature of the estancia is the Pulperia which dates back to the 18th century and was previously a shelter for horses and carriages. It now serves as a lounge where guests can read, relax or enjoy a glass of wine. Other facilities include a pool, watchtower and a tree-lined park.



For additional lodges, itineraries and general information on Argentina please visit www.sunvil.co.uk

**112** | Argentina Argentina | 113

# Suggested itineraries

Please find some suggested itineraries which can be tailored to suit individual requirements. They are simply examples of what is feasible within different timeframes. There are additional itineraries on our website or please speak to us for further guidance. They are aimed at individual travellers (NOT group escorted tours). Tours include an English speaking guide. Prices are a guideline only please contact us for an exact guote. Please note that we are able to guote for land only arrangements (no flights) but we require a minimum of 7 nights.

### Guide prices include

- International economy return flights from the UK (see the itinerary for specific airline details)
- Accommodation standard room unless stated otherwise
- Private transfers and tours (unless indicated otherwise)
- Internal flights (as featured in the itinerary)
- · Meals (as outlined in the itinerary)

### Board basis key

- **BB** Bed and Breakfast
- **HB** Half-Board
- FB Full Board
- **AI** All inclusive

### Classic Argentina - 16 nights

Based on British Airways direct flight Guide price per person (2 sharing) £6,750

- Buenos Aires 3 nights BB
- Ushuaia 2 nights BB
- El Calafate 2 nights BB
- Bariloche 3 nights BB
- Estancia near Cordoba 3 nights **FB**
- Iguazu 3 nights BB

Day 1 Upon arrival in Buenos Aires transfer to The Brick Hotel 3 nights. BB

Day 2 Group guided half day tour of Buenos Aires. Evening Tango Show with 3 course dinner and transfers included.

Day 3 Independent visit to Colonia del Sacramento in Uruguay.

Day 4 Transfer to the airport. Fly to Ushuaia. Transfer to Lennox Hotel 2 nights. BB

Day 5 Group guided half day tour to the Lapataia National Park. Afternoon cruise on the Beagle Channel.

Day 6 Transfer to the airport. Fly to El Calafate and transfer to Posada Los Alamos 2 nights. BB

Day 7 Group guided full day visit to the Perito Moreno Glacier. A 1 hour boat ride in front of the glacier is included.

Day 8 Transfer to the airport. Fly to San Carlos de Bariloche and transfer to the landmark Llao Llao Hotel, Resort Golf and Spa 3 nights.

Day 9 Group guided half day tour of Bariloche's scenic surroundings.

Day 10 Day at leisure.

Day 11 Transfer to the airport. Fly to Cordoba and transfer to Estancia Los Potreros 3 nights. FB

Days 12-13 Activities included at the estancia.

Day 14 Transfer to the airport. Fly to Iguazu and transfer to the Melia Iguazu Spa & Resort for 3 nights. BB

Days 15-16 Free time to explore the magnificent Iguazu Falls at your leisure.

Day 17 Travel across the border into Brazil to Foz do Iguacu airport. Fly to either Sao Paulo or Rio and onwards to the UK.

### Highlights of Northern Argentina - 12 nights

Based on British Airways direct flight Guide price per person (2 sharing) £3,990

- Buenos Aires 2 nights BB
- Mendoza 3 nights BB
- Salta 3 nights (total) BB
- Cafayate 2 nights BB
- Iguazu Falls 2 nights BB

Day 1 Upon arrival at Buenos Aires, transfer to The Brick Hotel 2 nights. **BB** 

Day 2 Guided half day tour of Buenos Aires, including La Boca and Recoleta.

Day 3 Transfer to the airport for a flight to Mendoza.
On arrival, transfer to the NH Cordillera Hotel 3 nights. BB

Day 4 Guided half day tour of Mendoza.

Day 5 Day at leisure.

Day 6 Transfer to the airport for a flight to Salta.
On arrival, transfer to Legado Mitico 2 nights.

Day 7 Group full day tour heading north to Purmamarca where you can see the Hill of the Seven Colours and the UNESCO listed Humahuaca Gorge.

Day 8 Group transfer travelling south via Los Cardones National Park to Cachi. Continue in the afternoon, via Molinos and the spectacular landscapes en route to Cafayate. Stay at Cafayate Wine Resort 2 nights.

Day 9 Day at leisure.

Day 10 Group transfer to Salta and stay at Finca Valentina 1 night. BB

Day 11 Transfer to Salta airport for a flight to Iguazu Falls. Transfer on arrival to the Mercure Iguazu Iru Hotel 2 nights. BB

Day 12 Guided half day tour of the Argentinian side of the Iguazu Falls.

Day 13 Transfer across the border into Brazil. Fly from Foz do Iguacu airport to either Sao Paulo or Rio de Janeiro to connect with your return flight to the UK.



### Argentina's Massive Highlights - 9 nights

Based on British Airways direct flight Guide price per person (2 sharing) £3,215

- Buenos Aires 3 nights BB
- El Calafate 3 nights BB
- Iguazu Falls 3 nights BB

Day 1 Upon arrival in Buenos Aires, transfer to NH Crillon Hotel 3 nights. BB

Day 2 Group sightseeing tour of Buenos Aires including La Boca and Recoleta.

Day 3 Day at leisure.

Day 4 Transfer to the airport for a flight to El Calafate. On arrival transfer to Kosten Aike hotel 3 nights. BB

Day 5 Group sightseeing tour to the Perito Moreno Glacier. Includes a 1 hour boat ride in front of the glacier.

Day 6 Day at leisure.

Day 7 Transfer to the airport and fly to Buenos Aires and connect with onward flight to Iguazu. On arrival, transfer to the Mercure Iguazu Iru Hotel 3 nights.

Day 8 Guided tour of the Iguazu Falls (Argentinian side).

Day 9 Day at leisure.

Day 10 Transfer across the border into Brazil. Fly from Foz do Iguacu to either São Paulo or Rio de Janeiro to connect with your return flight to the UK. Or alternatively, extend your stay in Brazil.

### Passage to Cape Horn - 14 nights

Based on British Airways direct flight Guide price per person (2 sharing) £5,975

- Buenos Aires 3 nights (total) BB
- El Calafate 3 nights BB
- Puerto Natales 3 nights BB
- Australis Cruise (Punta Arenas to Ushuaia)
   4 nights FB
- Ushuaia 1 night BB

Day 1 Upon arrival in Buenos Aires, transfer to The Brick Hotel 2 nights. **BB** 

Day 2 Guided half day tour of Buenos Aires including La Boca and Recoleta.

Day 3 Transfer to the airport. Fly to El Calafate and transfer to Kosten Aike Hotel 3 nights. BB

Day 4 Group guided full day tour to Perito Moreno Glacier. 1 hour boat ride in front of the glacier included.

Day 5 Day at leisure.

Day 6 Transfer by coach to Puerto Natales in Chile. Stay at the Costaustralis Hotel 3 nights.

**Day 7** Group guided full day tour to the Torres del Paine National Park. Lunch included.

Day 8 Day at leisure.

Day 9 Transfer by coach to Punta Arenas. In the afternoon, embark on either the Stella Australis or Ventus Australis (Magellanes Deck Cabin) 4 nights. FB

Days 10-12 Excursions included (weather and sea conditions permitting), to the glaciers and fjords of Tierra del Fuego, as well as Cape Horn.

Day 13 Disembark at Ushuaia. Transfer to Los Cauquenes Resort & Spa 1 night. BB

Day 14 Morning guided half day tour of Ushuaia. Afternoon flight to Buenos Aires and transfer to The Brick Hotel 1 night. BB

Day 15 Transfer to the airport for return flight to the UK. Alternatively extend your stay with a visit to Iguazu Falls.





114 | Argentina Argentina