JOURNEY
LATIN AMERICA



CLASSIC GROUP TOURS

GAUCHO: VINTAGE ARGENTINA

12 days from **£3,981pp**

CHILE / SANTIAGO AND THE VINEYARDS / ARGENTINA / MENDOZA AND THE VINEYARDS / SALTA / IGUAZÚ FALLS / IGUAZU FALLS – ARGENTINIAN SIDE / BUENOS AIRES



WHY US

We are the UK's No.1 specialist in travel to Latin America and have been creating award-winning holidays to every corner of the region for over four decades; we pride ourselves on being the most knowledgeable people there are when it comes to travel to Central and South America and passionate about it too.

OUR JOURNEY

As our name suggests, we are single-minded about Latin America. This is what sets us apart from other travel companies – and what allows us to offer you not just a holiday but the opportunity to experience something extraordinary on inspiring journeys throughout Mexico, Central and South America.

WE LOVE LATIN AMERICA

- A passion for the region runs through all we do
- All our Consultants have lived or travelled extensively in Latin America
- Up-to-the-minute knowledge underpinned by 40 years' experience

TRAVEL WITH CONFIDENCE

- Fully bonded and licensed
- ATOL-protected
- On your side when it matters
- Book with confidence, knowing every penny is secure

THE REAL LATIN AMERICA

- Our insider knowledge helps you go beyond the guidebooks
- We hand-pick hotels with character and the most rewarding excursions
- Let us show you the Latin America we know and love

OVERVIEW & OUTLINE ITINERARY

This group journey focuses on gorgeous natural landscapes, with world renowned wine and top cuisine. Visit Mendoza, capital of Argentina's wine region; colonial Salta surrounded by blood red canyons, the Iguazú Falls and cosmopolitan Buenos Aires.

	UK clients depart on an overnight flight arriving in Santiago, Chile, the following day.
DAY 1	**Guided tour of the city.**
DAY 2	**Day trip to the historical city of Valparaiso and wine tasting.**
DAY 3	**Fly across the Andes to Mendoza.**
DAY 4	**Tour of local vineyards.**
DAY 5	**Flight to Salta.**
DAY 6	**Optional visit to Humahuaca gorge and nearby Andean villages.**
DAY 7	**Wine tasting in Cafayate, visit the multi-coloured canyon country.**
DAY 8	**Fly to Puerto Iguazú visit Brazilian side.**
DAY 9	**Explore the Argentine side of the waterfalls.**
DAY 10	**Guided tour of Buenos Aires.**
DAY 11	**Food tour of San Telmo.**
DAY 12	**Depart for international flight or extension.**
	UK clients arrive home the following day.

ITINERARY

Northern Argentina is a vast and varied land with an abundance of attractions, and our Gaucho Journey is a superb introduction to its impressive geography and rich culture. You actually start the tour in neighbouring Chile, before flying over the Andes to the lively city of Mendoza. These first few days will offer the chance to delve into the wine production for which these regions are famous. This theme continues as you head north to the dazzling paint-box colours and arid canyon landscapes of Salta and the surrounding region, also one of Argentina's premier wine producing areas. Leave the city behind and fly east to Puerto Iguazú where you spend time exploring the mighty Iguazú falls and spotting the local colourful wildlife, before finishing your tour in cosmopolitan Buenos Aires, considered to be Latin America's most European city, with its wide boulevards, colonial architecture and café society.

UK clients depart on an overnight flight arriving in Santiago, Chile, the following day.



DAY 1

Guided tour of the city.

Those passengers arriving on an international flight will be met at the airport by the tour leader or a local representative.

In the afternoon your guided city tour takes you to all the major sites of this fascinating city concentrating on Santiago's bustling historic centre, which in recent years has taken on a new lease of life. Awakening from years of neglect, the traditional residential neighbourhood of Lastarria is a delight to explore, replete with shops, arty cafés and characterful hotels. Nearby, leafy Parque Forestal was inaugurated in the early twentieth century to celebrate the first 100 years of the republic. It is just a few blocks from the beating heart of old Santiago, the Plaza de Armas, the capital's main square which is graced by elegant Chilean wine palms with their characteristic bottle-shaped trunks. Grouped around the plaza are Santiago's Cathedral, the main post office, the National Historic Museum and the Municipalidad de Santiago (city hall). From here, if time, visit San Cristóbal Hill by riding the cable car to the top. On clear days there are spectacular panoramic views across the city towards the Andes.

DAY 2

Day trip to the historical city of Valparaiso and wine tasting.

Today there is a visit to Chile's second city, Valparaíso. This lively seaport is built on a series of hills which form a backdrop to the wide bay, with views over the seaside resort of Viña del Mar. You can wander through the steep, winding streets and among the brightly-coloured colonial homes built for 19th century British and German merchants, or take a ride in one of the creaky wooden funiculars which link the cliff-top communities. On the way back we stop to visit one of the vineyards close to Santiago, to sample some highly respected Chilean wine.



DAY 3

Fly across the Andes to Mendoza.

Departing Chile you fly across the Andes to the laid-back city of Mendoza, one of the first places to be colonised by the Spanish in 1561. Although much of the city has been destroyed over the years through fires and earthquakes, its pleasant tree lined avenues, low rise buildings and university city atmosphere make it a great base to explore the region, and a walking tour of the city will help you orientate through its plazas.

DAY 4

Tour of local vineyards.

Todays full day tour will include a visit to 3 different vineyards in the Luján de Cuyo or Maipú areas of Mendoza province. Within the rain shadow of the Andes, these zones have been transformed over generations into world-class wine producing regions using both traditional and modern methods of irrigation. You'll have the opportunity to understand more about the processes involved in the cultivation and production of wine as well as the chance to taste the different varieties. Lunch at one of the wineries is included (with wine, of course).



DAY 5

Flight to Salta.

We fly to Salta, in the northwest of the country. This friendly town is set in the foothills of the Andes, green and flowery in summer, somewhat more arid in winter. It has an attractive main square with a splendid baroque cathedral and many cafés, bars and restaurants. On the outskirts lies a hill, reached by a long cable car, from where there is a sweeping panorama of the city and the mountains beyond. Some of the best-preserved Inca mummies ever found are displayed in the local Museum of High Altitude Archaeology



DAY 6

Optional visit to Humahuaca gorge and nearby Andean villages.

Today there is an optional excursion to visit the Humahuaca Gorge, where the spectacularly contrasting coloured rock strata is as extraordinary as photographs suggest. The higher and dryer hillsides are dotted with battalions of giant cacti. En route we may stop at a few of the colonial/Indian villages, constructed from traditional adobe bricks. These are the only places in Argentina where the inhabitants still wear the intricately woven ponchos of the Andes.



DAY 7

Wine tasting in Cafayate, visit the multi-coloured canyon country.

From Salta we take a full-day trip to the sleepy town of Cafayate, centre for the region's well respected wineries and where we will spend them night. The road follows a dramatic, winding canyon; its rocky walls ranging in colour from yellow ochre, through dusty violet to blood-red. There are several stops en route where you can walk up narrow desert canyons for expansive views.

The town itself is set against an Andean backdrop, and we visit one of the many local vineyards, with a guided tour and opportunity to sample wines such as the Torrontés, which is unique to Argentina.



DAY 8

Fly to Puerto Iguazú visit Brazilian side.

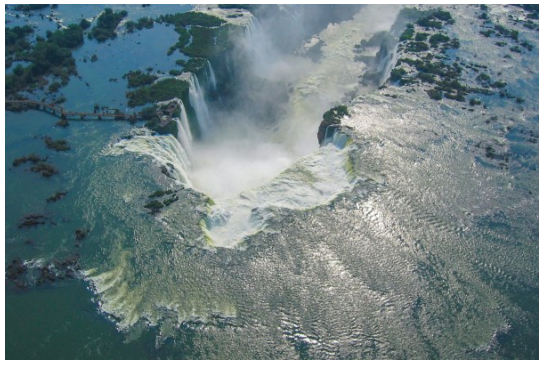


Fly to Puerto Iguazú in the subtropical north-east corner of Argentina. The Iguazú Falls constitute one of the most extraordinary natural wonders in the world. A total of 275 falls thunder through dense forest over a distance of 2.5km. At the u-shaped Garganta del Diablo (Devil's Throat) the Iguazú river is sent cascading over a precipice and columns of vapour are thrown skyward. Elsewhere the river flows decorously through the rainforest breaking up into dozens of smaller falls. You can often spot toucans perched in the foliage above the tumultuous waters.

Once you drop your bags off at the hotel head out to the Brazilian side of the falls, from where there is a broad panorama of these magnificent cataracts, and some excellent opportunities to photograph the full sweep of the cascades. Flight times may mean this is done the following day.

DAY 9

Explore the Argentine side of the waterfalls.



Today you visit the Argentine side of the falls, starting at the National Park Visitor Centre, which reveals the biodiversity of the region's tropical rainforest. A small locomotive then transfers you to Cataratas Station where the Upper Walk begins. This sequence of causeways links dozens of tiny basalt islands at the top of a sheer rock face and the walkways cross the myriad streams of the Iguazú river as they cascade over the lip of the precipice and thunder onto the rocks below.

The train then continues to Devil's Throat Station and from here a 1km long walkway leads across the river to the Devil's Throat. From this vantage point you can feel the mesmerising power of the water as it plummets into the vortex below.

DAY 10

Guided tour of Buenos Aires.



Fly to Buenos Aires an elegant city famed for its grand colonial and belle époque architecture along with the arty port district of La Boca. It was in La Boca, with its gaily painted houses, that the tango was born, and where Diego Maradona honed his footballing skills. The centre of town is home to the historic heartland, government buildings and churches as well as chic shopping districts, which have a nostalgic, Parisian feel. The bohemian district of San Telmo is full of quaint old houses interspersed with antiques shops, tango bars and extravagant restaurants. Close to the centre is the Gallic influenced Recoleta district where Evita Peron was laid to rest. We explore some of these quarters on our guided city tour.

DAY 11

Food tour of San Telmo.



Today's included excursion is a culinary-themed lunchtime walking tour around the bohemian district of San Telmo. Here you will find some of the best off-the-beaten-track eateries to taste authentic Argentine dishes, including from the city's traditional hole-in-the-wall parrillas. Learn about culture and cuisine visiting several venues, sampling traditional street foods like choripan, provoleta and empanadas; a variety of classic parrilla cuts of meat; wines; and artisanal 'heladeria' ice creams.

Later the afternoon is free for you to further explore this magnificent city and in the evening you might want to finish off your trip at a tango show.

DAY 12

Depart for international flight or extension.

UK clients arrive home the following day.

INCLUDED EXCURSIONS

- Santiago: walking tour of the city
- Santiago: day trip to Valparaiso and a vineyard
- Mendoza: walking tour of the city
- Mendoza: full tour of local wineries
- Salta: Cafayate canyons and wineries
- Iguazú: Argentine and Brazilian sides of the Iguazú Falls
- Buenos Aires: city tour
- Buenos Aires: Parilla tour

ESSENTIALS

To find out more about how our group tours including group sizes, solo travellers and why to choose us. Please click **here.**

On this tour, you'll be accompanied from start to finish by one of our **exceptional Journey Latin America tour leaders**. From the moment you land in Latin America until the day the tour ends they will deal with all the practicalities, expertly adapting to the circumstances and individual needs of the group. Rather than different guides in different cities, your leader will get to know the group and keep you informed and entertained as you go.

SUMMARY OF NIGHTS

12 days, 11 nights: Santiago 2; Mendoza 2; Salta 2; Cafayate 1; Puerto Iguazú 2; Buenos Aires 2.

ACCOMMODATION

The Gaucho is one of our Elevated Tours.

Settle into stylish hotels picked for their character, setting and service. That might be a luxurious city hotel, or somewhere with a setting you won't forget, a former estancia on the Patagonian steppe or a lodge at the foot of Machu Picchu. This is our most memorable style, where the hotel becomes part of the journey itself.

- Santiago: Cumbres Lastarria
- Mendoza: Diplomatic Hotel
- Salta: Solar de Plaza
- Cafayate: Vinas de Cafayate
- Puerto Iguazú: Loi Suites
- Buenos Aires: Loi Suites Recoleta

On extremely rare occasions these hotels can change due to an unforeseen circumstance, however please speak to one of our consultants who can provide full details for each departure if you have any doubts. Address and contact details will be sent out with your final documents.

TRANSPORT

4 flights. Santiago to Mendoza and Iguazú to Buenos Aires are always direct flights. We base the tour around direct flights between Mendoza and Salta and Salta and Iguazú, but due to frequent schedule changes by the companies operating flights within Argentina, these may have to go via Buenos Aires. All land transport is operated privately for the group.

Breakfast daily and lunch days 4 and 11.

OPTIONAL EXCURSIONS

On this tour the price includes excursions in all the places you visit as per the itinerary. There will however likely be some free time when you may choose to take part in an optional excursion. These are booked locally through your tour leader once you are in Latin America, however we are more than happy to advise you of what is on offer in advance of your holiday so you can best plan the excursions that suit you.

TRAVELLING ALONE

There is no extra cost for single travellers who are willing to share a room. You will be accommodated with a same-sex member of the group who is usually also travelling solo. For single travellers who wish to be sure of having their own room there are a limited number of single supplement places available, which carry a surcharge.

CLIMATE

This holiday runs throughout the year. As a broad overview Chile and Argentina has the opposite seasons to the UK, meaning November to February tend to be the warmest summer months. The further south you travel in the country the cooler it gets, although this varies with altitude. A comprehensive overview of the weather in all the regions you are visiting can be found in our Destination pages. Our Travel Experts can answer your questions on climate and further details will be sent with your confirmation documents.

CLOTHING, EQUIPMENT AND LUGGAGE

A daypack is essential for carrying rainwear, snacks, books/tablet and a water bottle as are comfortable walking shoes. Bring a hat with a visor, sunglasses and sun block. Binoculars are useful for bird and wildlife spotting. Because the weather can be changeable, we recommend wearing layered clothing for excursions.

Please take note that Aerolineas Argentinas (who will operate most of the internal flights) permit a maximum of 15kg hold luggage on most domestic flights. Excess luggage can be paid for locally for a small fee. Please get in touch with the office before departure if you have any doubts.

MONEY

Please see the Country Info tab on this holiday for our latest currency information and advice about how to take your spending money. Tipping in Latin America is almost always done using cash. It is customary to tip tour leaders, local guides, drivers, boat crews and other service providers such as restaurant staff and porters. Full tipping guidelines are sent with your confirmation documents as is advice on local costs.

HEALTH, ENTRY REQUIREMENTS AND INSURANCE

For health information on Chile and Argentina including recommended vaccinations, please see https://travelhealthpro.org.uk/

Holders of a full British passport do not require a visa, although passports should be valid for at least 6 months after the trip begins. Other nationalities should enquire with us or check with the consulates.

Travel insurance is essential. Details of our recommended policy can be found on the Travel insurance website.

Our full briefing dossier contains more information on vaccinations, visas and insurance and will be provided with your final travel documents or can be requested from your travel consultant at any time.

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GET IN TOUCH WITH US...

Our friendly, knowledgeable team of travel experts are always happy to chat about holiday ideas and share helpful advice. Give us a call today and begin planning your perfect trip to Latin America.

0208 747 8315

OPENING HOURS

Monday – Friday: 9am – 6pm
Saturday & Sunday: Closed

SEND US AN EMAIL

tours@journeylatinamerica.com