



TREASURES OF ARGENTINA

Discover a wonderful world of contrasts in Argentina. Wild, raw and always surprising: this is the true Argentina.

Tailor-Made Journeys, Suggested Itineraries



Latin America, Argentina



13 days from AU\$15,230 pp



Private

Journey Overview

Discover a wonderful world of contrasts in Argentina. From the sensuous vibe of sophisticated Buenos Aires to the rich colonial history of Salta; the roaring spectacle of Iguazú Falls to the winemaking prowess of Mendoza and the rainbow lunar landscape of northwest Argentina. Sample mouth-watering cuisine and wines that make each region unique, and even learn how to create your own delicacies. Wild, raw and always surprising: this is the true Argentina.

Journey Highlights

- Be swept away by live music, sensuous tango and world-class wine in Buenos Aires
- Venture into the roaring Garganta del Diablo canyon in Iguazú Falls
- Sample the diverse wines and cuisine of Argentina's renowned Mendoza winelands, including visits to vineyards complete with tastings and a cooking lesson
- Explore Purmamarca, a tiny village with an incredible setting right at the foot of the famous Hill of Seven Colours



Itinerary

Day 1: Arrive Buenos Aires

Welcome to Buenos Aires, the “Paris of the South”. Meet your A&K representative who will accompany you on your private journey to your superb boutique accommodation situated in the heart of trendy Palermo Soho. Step out on your own, wander the narrow streets for your first taste of the capital, explore the restaurants, cafés and boutiques in one of the city’s best neighbourhoods.

Legado Mitico Buenos Aires

Day 2: Buenos Aires

Spend your morning discovering the many sides to this passion-filled city during a privately guided excursion. Start in the high-class hustle of Recoleta where mansions take you back in time to a grander Argentina. Wander the vast, surprisingly romantic Recoleta Cemetery and find the tomb of Argentina’s first lady, Eva Peron. Then, step inside the dazzling opulence of the Teatro Colon opera house to discover a seven-storey labyrinth of stages, chandelier-lit hallways and dressing rooms.

Later uncover vibrant street graffiti which makes Buenos Aires one of the best cities in the world for its urban art. From its fiery political origins to the more modern context appreciate an in-depth view into this intriguing art form dotted throughout the city. Enjoy an evening in the seductive embrace of Argentina’s most evocative dance at Phillippe Starck designed hotel where Rojo Tango’s live band and sensuous performers will leave you breathless, while the gastronomic offering teams aromas and textures with Argentinean wines.

Legado Mitico Buenos Aires | Meals: BD

Day 3: Buenos Aires - Iguazú Falls

Heading north today, fly to Puerto Iguazú, a tiny town on the border of Brazil and Argentina. Privately transfer to your hotel on the Argentine side. Later, discover why the mighty Iguazú Falls is one of the New Seven Wonders of the World. Appreciate the views of the falls from your accommodation, the only hotel located in the heart of the Iguazú National Park in Argentina.

Gran Meliá Iguazú | Meals: B

Day 4: Iguazú Falls

Explore the Argentine side of the falls, surrounded by lush tropical forest that's home to more than 2,000 species of flora and over 500 bird species. Wander along the network of pathways and gaze at the endless sheath of water — some 275 thundering cascades covering a three-kilometre stretch. Venture by train for a close-up tour of Devil's Gorge, the most dramatic of the falls, before embarking on a jeep ride through riverside jungle following the Yacaratiá trail to Port Macuco. Here, a motorboat awaits to take you up the Lower Iguazú River, through rapids into the roaring Garganta del Diablo canyon in the heart of the falls.

Later, your dinner at The Argentine Experience promises more than exquisitely cooked steak paired with free-flowing malbec. Try your hand at making empanadas and dulce de leche filled biscuits while feasting on a wonderful meal.

Gran Meliá Iguazú | Meals: BD

Day 5: Iguazú Falls

Spend time on the Brazil side of the falls. Descend into the canyon and soak up the vista of some 275 falls, before taking a glass elevator back to the top. Take a helicopter flight (additional charge) over the Iguazú National Park for an unrivalled view of the waterfalls, Três Fronteiras (the meeting point of Argentina, Brazil and Paraguay) and the Itaipú Dam and reservoir. Return to the Argentine side, your hotel and enjoy the remainder of the day at leisure.

Gran Meliá Iguazú | Meals: B

Day 6: Iguazú Falls - Salta

Fly west to Salta, considered to be one of the most beautiful cities in Argentina, renowned for its colonial architecture, cobblestone streets and rich Andean heritage. Spend your day discovering some of the many highlights of Salta. Meander through narrow streets and plazas steeped in Andean tradition. Marvel at the mountains that stand guard protectively over the city. Look for the ornate cathedral in dazzling pink and cream and the stop off at the MAAM, Museum of High Altitude Archaeology. Right on the main plaza, this beautiful historic building houses the world-famous Llullaillaco Children, three immaculately preserved Inca mummies who were sacrificed on top of a nearby volcano some 500 years ago. Later, you may choose to dine at one of the many parrillas, with plenty of local wine and dancing.

Legado Mitico Salta | Meals: B

Day 7: Salta - Purmamarca

Take to the high road through rugged mountain scapes and startling red rock formations into the province of Jujuy and the winding Lipan Slope road to the extraordinary salt flats. Continue the road trip to the sleepy little village of Purmamarca, which sits famously at the base of the Hill of Seven Colours whose mineral pigments swirl in colourful layers across the slope. Arrive at your charming locally inspired hotel in the late afternoon. This evening, visit Tilcara, the archaeological capital of the region, and explore the rich history of this town with its low adobe houses, narrow streets and fascinating museum.

La Comarca | Meals: B**Day 8: Purmamarca**

Venture to the Salinas Grandes salt desert, the third largest in the world. Drive through the high-altitude salt plains soaking in the magnificent vista of Mt Chani soaring to 6,200 metres. As you head west from Humahuaca Gorge, you are suddenly surrounded by white stretching as far as the eye can see. Stop awhile to dine on a picnic lunch in this otherworldly expanse of crystalline flatlands and witness how the salt is extracted for local artisans to create figures in white stone. Return to your hotel late afternoon where you may choose to enjoy sundowners in the shade of your hotel courtyard.

La Comarca | Meals: BL**Day 9: Purmamarca - Salta**

Step back in time as you hike alongside a pack of llamas through valleys and along mountain trails with the backdrop of some of Argentina's most dramatic mountain scenery. Used to convey goods throughout the Andean countries since time immemorial, llamas are still bred by the people of the Andes for their meat, wool and as beasts of burden. Today, you can recreate that ancestral activity as you walk along the different paths to old ruins, salt deposits, valleys, ravines and volcanoes. This afternoon return overland to Salta where the remainder of the day is at leisure.

Legado Mitico Salta | Meals: BL

Day 10: Salta - Mendoza

After a relaxing morning in Salta, fly south to leafy, laid-back Mendoza — in the heart of Argentina’s wine country. Journey to your luxury boutique accommodation, set against the awe-inspiring backdrop of the snow-capped Andes and acres of vines, drop your bags and settle in with the rest of your day free to spend at your leisure.

Casa de Uco Vineyard & Eco Resort | Meals: B

Day 11: Mendoza

Head out amongst the vines to explore the foremost wineries in the Uco Valley. The Clos de los Siete is an ambitious project bringing together some of the most famous names in French wine to produce Argentina’s best wines across five state-of-the-art wineries. During the day visit three of these prestigious estates to discover their unique approaches and sample their premium wines and limited editions. Indulge in a vineyard lunch of local delicacies accompanied by perfectly paired wines. Later, join the resident sommelier for an exclusive tasting in the hotel’s own bodega, followed by a traditional Argentine *asado* (barbecue).

Casa de Uco Vineyard & Eco Resort | Meals: BLD

Day 12: Mendoza

Step into the winery kitchen to learn how to create local delicacies in a private cooking class with the resort chef. Master the art of Argentine cuisine using seasonal produce from the organic vegetable garden, before feasting on your creations among the vines. Following lunch you may like to connect with the environment and walk around the entire estate along winding paths and discover hidden nooks and experience life on a vineyard.

Casa de Uco Vineyard & Eco Resort | Meals: BL

Day 13: Depart Mendoza

Spend your morning at leisure, before transferring to the airport for your onward journey.

Meals: B

Map



Accommodation

Legado Mitico Buenos Aires



This hotel is a wonderful combination of old and new, ideal for those with an eye for the urbane. The Legado is hidden behind mahogany-paneled doors off the cobbled streets of Palermo and is a haven of sophistication where every detail has clearly been pored over in creation of superb interiors. Despite all the refinement, the hotel still manages to create a friendly, homely atmosphere.

The Legado's eleven rooms, all en suite, are individually decorated and furnished. All take neutral décor and polished hard wood floors as their starting points, adding splashes of colour with woven rugs, bedspreads and paintings. They are the very definition of elegant chic.

The same could be said of the rest of the interior, which is a blend of gentlemen's club and seriously upscale apartment. Wood panelling and leather chairs abound, but so do more modern pieces, whilst there seem to be books in almost every corner. Finally, the enclosed terrace is a wonderfully relaxed and private space, where the bustle of the city seems worlds away.

Why we like it

- Each room is named after an icon of Argentine culture
- Legado Mitico Buenos Aires is located in the trendy Palermo Viejo district
- The hotel does not have its own restaurant, but there are a wide variety in the surrounding streets
- Other facilities include gardens and terraces, a lounge and a library packed with historical tracts
- The hotel is open to children, but does not offer specialist kids' facilities

Meliá Iguazú, Puerto Iguazú



The comfortable, modern Meliá Iguazú (formerly the Sheraton) unquestionably has the pick of the views of all the lodges and hotels in this area with a location right in the national park delivering breathtaking views over the falls themselves. Hotel guests also enjoy privileged access to the falls before the crowds arrive.

Casa de Uco Vineyard & Wine Resort, Mendoza



The beautiful retreat of Casa de Uco is arguably the best way to explore life on a vineyard. Located in an ecological reserve surrounded by the foothills of the Andes, the stunning remoteness of this property is all part of its charm. Each of the 16 rooms offer supreme comfort and have enormous glass windows framing views to the snow-capped mountains and beyond. The resort also has a cosy living area with wood-fire chimney, a games rooms and the outdoor deck is ideal for al fresco dining or simply lounging beneath the sun or stars.

Dining at Casa de Uco is an absolute treat for the senses and Mendozaan chef, Pablo Torres has created a menu that best reflects the flavours of the region. Most of his ingredients are fresh from the organic vegetable garden or local farmers. The Uco Valley is renowned for Argentina's best Malbec grape and in light of the estate grounds are also home to an exclusive boutique winery. Their expert sommelier, Juan Pablo Nieva, can introduce you to some of the region's best with a tasting in the underground wine cave. But it's not all about the grape, Mendoza is also famous for creating some of the world's best olive oils.

Casa de Uco's stunning location is ideal for exploring the wonders of the Mendoza. Fill your days with soft treks, horse riding and cooking classes, or adrenalin junkies may prefer paragliding, net fishing, white water rafting, and mountain biking in the Andes. After, unwind at the Uco Spa with a unique range of vinotherapy and hydrotherapy treatments designed to nourish both body and mind. Spa facilities include a sauna, steam room and deep soaking hydrotherapy baths while outside you'll find the infinity pool, Jacuzzi, solarium and peaceful lagoon.

Why we like it

- Beautiful 320 hectare estate of private vineyards and secluded luxury villas in Mendoza's Uco Valley
- Just 16 minimalist rooms with views overlooking the Andes
- Executive chef, Pablo Torres, will take you on a culinary journey inspired by the valley
- Underground wine cellar with an impressive selection of the region's best wines
- Sensual Uco Spa offering vinotherapy and hydrotherapy treatments

Legado Mitico Salta



This chic hotel has the air of a discreet private club - from the elegant grey townhouse façade to the restored antique furniture and Persian rugs it is inspired by the history and culture of Salta and the surrounding area.

Once home to a wealthy Salteno family, the building fell into disrepair until rescued and transformed into a boutique hotel. A wonderful combination of old and new, local and national, Legado Mitico is ideal for those seeking a mix of authentic charm and chic sophistication, along with with a warm and friendly service.

The rooms and suites are, without exception, huge and luxurious. Each is named after a revered local literary or historical figure, and has a subtle decorative theme to match - a small library of relevant books here, a painting or a framed poem there.

Why we like it

- The 11 rooms are individually decorated - some have open fires and others have balconies
- Legado Mitico Salta is located in the historic quarter of colonial Salta and only a five minute walk from the main square
- The hotel does not have a restaurant, but offers an all day menu of local specialties and snacks
- In-room massages, facials, manicures and hair cuts are available on request
- Other facilities include a bar, terrace, lounge and WiFi

La Comarca



La Comarca is situated in beautiful Purmamarca, heart of the mythical, heritage listed Quebrada de Humahuaca canyon. The bright and spacious, rooms at La Comarca are fitted with heating and parquet floors, and the bungalows feature fireplaces and private patios with breathtaking mountain views.

A roof terrace and veranda overlook the valley and surrounding hills affording wonderful views throughout the day. Breakfast is served daily, and guests can dine on locally inspired cuisine at the hotel restaurant paired with a variety of delicious wines from the onsite cellar. Budding sommeliers can savour a tour of the cellar itself.

Relax and unwind at the hotel spa, which offers massages, a sauna and a range of rejuvenating beauty treatments, or take a dip in the heated pool.

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