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THE ESSENTIAL

ARGENTINA TRAVEL GUIDE

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A WORD FROM THE FOUNDERS

SouthAmerica.travel is proud of its energetic Team of travel experts. Our Travel Partners are based in 7 South American countries, have traveled extensively throughout South America and work “at the source” from their operations headquarters in Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Peru, Ecuador, Colombia and the Guyanas.

We are passionate about South America Travel, and we're happy to share with you our favorite Buenos Aires restaurants, our insider's tips for Machu Picchu, or our secret colonial gems of Brazil, and anything else you're eager to know.

The idea to create SouthAmerica.travel first came to Co-Founders Juergen Keller and Bradley Nehring while traveling through Brazil's Amazon Rainforest. The two noticed few international travelers, and those they did meet had struggled to arrange the trip by themselves. Expertise in custom travel planning to Brazil was scarce to nonexistent. This inspired the duo to start their own travel business to fill this void and help travelers plan great trips to Brazil, and later all South America.

With local tour operators throughout South America, as well as local telephone numbers in multiple countries worldwide, the SouthAmerica.travel Partners have helped hundreds of thousands of travelers fulfill their unique dream of discovering the marvelous and diverse continent of South America. Where will your dreams take you? Let's start planning now...



Juergen Keller
Co-Founder



Bradley Nehring
Co-Founder

“Our goal is to create memories that will last our clients a lifetime.”

Juergen Keller



THE ESSENTIAL

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ESSENTIAL ARGENTINA TRAVEL TIPS

Argentina once the land of the gauchos,

is now a sprawling vivacious country full of natural beauty, and romance. Tango the night away in Buenos Aires, sip Malbec on a wine tour of Mendoza, get soaked under the spray of the mighty Iguazú Falls, trek through the glacial peaks of Patagonia, cruise through the Bariloche Lake District, or go to the end of the earth and see the gorgeous landscapes of Tierra del Fuego.

When to Visit Argentina

June-August is the peak season. Skiing in Bariloche is popular during this time, and it is also a great time to visit Buenos Aires and Iguassu Falls. The shoulder seasons of April-May and September-October are also ideal times to visit. During these months crystal clear air comes up from the Arctic, pushing off the tropical haze from the north. Summer is from December-March, and that is the best time to visit Patagonia.

Please note before making arrangements to visit Argentina; you must have 6 months validity on your passport to enter the country.

Getting There

There are two airports in Buenos Aires, the international airport Ezeiza (EZE), and the domestic airport Aeroparque (AEP). After touching down in Ezeiza, passing through customs, and claiming your baggage, your tour guide will greet you and transfer you to your Buenos Aires hotel, about 36 km (22 mi) from the airport. Shuttle bus and taxi transportation is also available.

Money & Fees

Argentina welcomes visitors from around the world generally without visa restrictions. The entry/exit requirements for U.S. Citizens is a valid passport. U.S. citizens do not need a visa for visits of up to 90 days. Travelers bearing diplomatic or official passports are required to get visas prior to arrival in Argentina.

Recommended Food & Drinks

Argentines like to eat late: lunch is usually from 1-3 pm, and dinner starts around 9-10pm. Argentines love their asado (steak) and no matter where you are in Buenos Aires, you are never too far from a delicious steak house. The typical snacks are empanadas, a delicious stuffed bread or pastry with an assortment of fillings: meat, cheese, ham and cheese, vegetables and more. For desert have an alfajor, a shortbread cookie with a generous helping of dulce de leche (caramel filling) in the middle.

Argentina's Wines

Argentina has become one of the fastest growing exporters of wine, with Mendoza producing the largest amount of wine in the country. The leading grape in Argentina is Malbec. Try other red varieties, such as Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, and Bonarda.



THE NATURAL HIGHLIGHTS OF ARGENTINA

Iguazú Falls

Iguazú Falls are one of the New World Wonders, comprised of over 270 waterfalls splashing over the border of southern Brazil and northern Argentina. Set amidst subtropical rainforest encompassing 2250 square km, the Iguazú National Park was once the realm of the Guaraní tribe. While visiting Iguazú Falls, wake up early and take the Ecological Rainforest Train through the Argentine side of the national park. Walk along the nature trails to for a close-up view of The Devil's Throat, a gaping waterfall 82 meters high and 700m long. As you make your way towards the falls, each view point gets better and better. In the park you'll see plenty of wild life including butterflies, monkeys, toucans and more. If you are an adventure seeker, sign up for the Grand Adventure Safari boat ride, this excursion takes you nearly under the falls!

You can fly to Puerto Iguazu, on the Argentina side, or to Iguassu Falls on the Brazil side. If you are flying in from Rio, you'll fly into the Brazilian side, while if you're flying in from Buenos Aires, you'll fly into the Argentine side.

View our [Iguazu Falls Tour](#)



Insiders Tip

In the afternoon or the next day, transfer to the Brazil side of the falls, where you can follow walkways out over the water and be almost completely surrounded by rushing waterfalls.





Los Glaciares National Park & El Chaltén

Argentina has 8 UNESCO World Heritage treasures, including the spectacular Los Glaciares National Park. Los Glaciares is a glacier playground, with the Perito Moreno Glacier being the main attraction. The world's largest advancing glacier, Perito Moreno juts up against the waters of Lago Argentino. Often ice chunks break off from the glacial wall, thundering into the lake in a process called "calving." Also worth visiting is the Cueva de las Manos, a cave with colorful hand prints and paintings from millennia ago. Also in Los Glaciares are Lake Viedma and the Viedma Glacier, Mount Fitz Roy, Cerro Torre, the Upsala Glacier, and 44 more glaciers. Here, Andean grey foxes, guanacos, condors, eagles, and lenga beech trees decorate the landscape.

From El Chaltén and El Calafate, you can go hiking, ice trekking, or take a cruise to explore some of the highlights of Los Glaciares National Park. There are several Patagonia tours that include a visit to Perito Moreno Glacier, Mount Fitz Roy and the Viedma Glacier. If you want to get off the beaten path, check out the Patagonia Estancias Eco Tour, which takes you to some estancias (cattle ranches) in the heart of Patagonia. Patagonia is, after all, still the land of gauchos, where cowboys rule and the highest-quality livestock is produced.



Bariloche & the Patagonia Lake District

San Carlos de Bariloche is a popular Argentina destination year-round. In the spring, summer, and fall, it is popular for hiking, horseback riding, kayaking, fishing, and lake crossings by boat. In the winter, Cerro Catedral (with its 67 km of ski routes) and other world-class ski resorts in the area are the prime reason visitors make the trip to Bariloche. Bariloche is called "The Switzerland of the South," due to the beautiful mountains and picturesque European-style chocolate shops. The town overlooks Lake Nahuel Huapi, part of Argentina's oldest national park.

It's also possible to take the Old Patagonian Express train, "La Trochita," from Esquel to Los Alerces National Park. This narrow-gauge railway was once the getaway for Butch Cassidy and his cohorts as they escaped from Argentina into Bolivia. Also stop in El Bolsón, a traditional Patagonia town. Visit the nearby Welsh town of Trevelin, a wheat farming town where you'll find delicious pastries in Welsh style as well as quaint Welsh tea houses.

Read more: [The Chile, Andes, and Buenos Aires Tour](#)



Ushuaia

Known as the southernmost city in the world, Ushuaia overlooks the edge of the world. The picturesque city is backed by glaciated peaks at the tip of the Andes Mountains, and is surrounded by the windswept landscape of Tierra del Fuego. The Beagle Channel winds through the Cabo de Hornos, past the red-and-white lighthouse, to the open seas where many adventurous souls head to Antarctica. Tierra del Fuego National Park is a must-see for its fire bush flowers, lenga beech trees, and box-leaf barberberries spread out over 155,676 acres.



In Ushuaia, there are many activities to do! Take the End of the World Train through Tierra del Fuego National Park, where you will be introduced to the southernmost extreme of the Americas. Or board a Beagle Channel Cruise to see the Les Eclaireurs Lighthouse. If you're searching for an active day outside, sign up for snowshoeing, dog sledding, skiing, or hiking excursion. For history enthusiasts, visit Estancia Harberton, once the home of an English pioneer and missionary. Or continue your adventure towards Chile aboard a Patagonia cruise.

See our [Patagonia Cruises](#)



THE HIGHLIGHTS OF ARGENTINA

Buenos Aires

For your first night in Buenos Aires, head to Puerto Madero, the renovated port district where locals go for late-night supper and to stroll along the waterfront. As the sun sets, admire the 19th-century shipping vessels, docks, and the Puente de la Mujer (“Woman’s Bridge”) – a rotating cantilever bridge meant to resemble a female tango dancer.

On a Buenos Aires city tour, you can visit the highlights in a day, and then spend another day visiting in-depth the barrios that most interest you. Highlights include: the Obelisk, Colon Theater, the Plaza de Mayo, and more. Finish with a dinner and tango show at one of the Tango Clubs, such as La Ventana or Esquina Carlos Gardel. Enjoy a meal of authentic Argentine steak and wine, while professional dancers perform the world’s best tango.

If you have an extra day in the city, take a day trip from Buenos Aires to the Tigre Delta, where elite porteños (residents of Buenos Aires) have their summer homes on the Tigre River delta.

Read more: [View Buenos Aires City Tour](#)





Mendoza

Blessed by sunshine throughout the year, the Mendoza region in northern Argentina is shadowed from the chill and rain by the Andes Mountains. Pioneers irrigated the Lujan de Cuyo, Uco, and Maipu valleys in the 18th century, paving the way for prime vineyards in the 20th century. Today, Mendoza Malbec and other varietals are Argentina’s most famous wine.

A Mendoza wine tour includes wine tastings, tours of vineyards, and sometimes a gourmet cooking class – Mendoza is also known for its exquisite Andean cuisine. A popular side trip is a visit the Puente del Inca, a natural bridge with vibrant colors due to mineral deposits.

Because of the perennial sunshine, Mendoza is also known for its adventure sports such as white water rafting, trekking, mountain biking, and more! Get off the beaten path with a winery biking tour to 3 famous wineries near Mendoza

Read more: [Wine Tours in Mendoza, Argentina](#)



Train Rides - Salta & the Train to the Clouds

The word “Salta” comes from the native Aymara word for “beautiful.” In Salta, visit colonial churches and buildings, including the Plaza 9 de Julio with its Cathedral, Cabildo, Museo Historico del Norte, and San Francisco Church. The Museo Arqueologico de Alta Montaña has an interesting exhibit about the Incas in northern Argentina. Take the cable car up San Bernardo Hill for a panoramic view of the city. Maximize the value of your trip to Salta by including a nearby wine tour of Cafayate, a visit to the Salinas Grandes, or an overnight stay in Purmamarca, home to the Hills of Seven Colors, or Tilcara.

The famous Train to the Clouds is a dream come true for train travel buffs! It’s a spectacular 15-hour train ride through the Cordillera de los Andes mountains, through 19 tunnels, over 29 bridges, and steep switchbacks that will make for a ride you’re unlikely to forget. Originally constructed in the early 1900’s as a route from the coast of Chile to northwestern Argentina, the Train to the Clouds was designed using ingenious technology: instead of making use of brakes, the Train to the Clouds twists and turns through the mountains in order to control its speed.

Read more: [See our Train Tours](#)



SIX MUST-DO'S IN BUENOS AIRES

1. Be Enraptured by the Tango

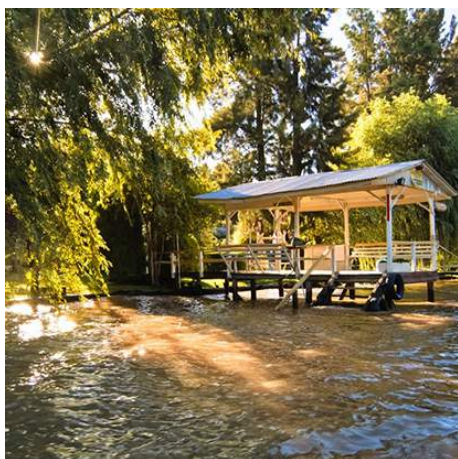
Enjoy an authentic Argentine dinner – with plenty of wine – while watching professional tango dancers perform this romantic dance. If you're feeling inspired, try it yourself at a milonga with private dance instructors. You may find that you have a hidden talent for tango.

2. Root for the Boca Juniors

If you've ever heard of Lionel Messi, you know that Argentinians love fútbol (soccer). While in Buenos Aires, try to catch a fútbol match at the Boca Juniors stadium, and see, up-close, how passionate Argentines are about fútbol.

4. Relax on a cruise to Tigre

Are you looking for a peaceful escape from the busy city? If yes, head to the Parana River Delta. The Parana River Delta is where elite Argentines kept their summer mansions. You can marvel at the rich architecture while you lounge on board.





3. Dine on Argentine Steak

Argentines know how to make a delicious steak dinner. Ask your tour guide to recommend a local restaurant. Or visit the popular steak houses like Don Julio Parrilla or La Cabrera. If you want a more authentic dinner, sign up for the Argentine Experience. You'll learn the fundamentals of what being an Argentine is all about. You'll enjoy a delicious steak paired with the country's best wines and finish the evening with alfajores and yerba mate.

5. Experience Fiesta Gaucha

Just outside the city are several beautiful colonial estancias, where you can taste an authentic asado, see gauchos, ride in an open-air horse-drawn carriage, and see how the Argentine elite lived during the colonial era.

6. Shop for Antiques at the San Telmo Market

Sunday's are busy at the San Telmo Market. Treasures await you amidst the gramophones, vinyl records, hurricane lamps, and other antiques hawked at this world-famous market. Spend some time here, you never know when you might find your pot of gold.



THE BEST TOURS OF ARGENTINA

The Very Best of Argentina

13 Days — Buenos Aires, Bariloche, El Calafate, Ushuaia.

Argentina boasts a variety of landscapes, from the metropolis of Buenos Aires, to the southernmost city in the world, Ushuaia. Along the way, you'll encounter the charming hamlet of Bariloche, known for its terrific ski slopes, and El Calafate, the launching point for viewing the great Perito Moreno Glacier. In Ushuaia, you'll tour Tierra del Fuego National Park to see more glaciers on wildlife.

[VIEW FULL ITINERARY](#)



Chile, Andes, and Buenos Aires

10 Days — Santiago de Chile, Puerto Varas, the Lake District, Peulla, Bariloche, & Buenos Aires.

This don't-miss Patagonia tour starts with wine tasting in Santiago and ends in Buenos Aires, where you can enjoy a steak dinner and a romantic Tango dance show. Along the way, cruise through the Lake District where you'll see the beautiful Andes, volcanoes, glacial lakes, lush forests, and charming towns.

[VIEW FULL ITINERARY](#)

[View our Chile, Andes, and Buenos Aires Video!](#)



Tango, Samba & Waterfalls

10 Days — Buenos Aires, Iguassu Waterfalls, Atlantic Rainforest, São Paulo, & Rio de Janeiro.

Experience a taste of Argentina and Brazil on this thrilling Tango, Samba, and Waterfalls tour. Go shopping in Buenos Aires, "the Paris of South America," see the mighty Iguassu Falls from both the Argentine and Brazilian sides. Take an unforgettable railway journey over the Atlantic Rainforest mountains to the industrial megalopolis of São Paulo. Ride the cable car to the top of Sugarloaf Mountain in Rio de Janeiro, and so much more! Also check out the Rio Carnival Edition and the Oktoberfest Edition!

[VIEW FULL ITINERARY](#)



Waters of Patagonia Cruise

17 Days — Santiago, Puerto Natales, Punta Arenas, Mare Australis cruise, Ushuaia, Puerto Madryn, Buenos Aires.

Explore Santiago & Valparaiso before flying to Punta Arenas to touch the glaciers and waddle with the penguins. Then board the Mare Australis for a 5-day cruise along Tierra del Fuego National Park to Ushuaia and the Beagle Channel. End your trip in the romantic metropolis of Buenos Aires and enjoy delicious Malbec wine and a steak dinner.

[VIEW FULL ITINERARY](#)



The South America Wine Tour

10 Days – Santiago, Mendoza, Colonia del Sacramento, Buenos Aires.

Vinophiles know that Chile and Argentina have garnered the world's respect as leading vinters of fine wine. From the Maipo River Valley near Santiago comes Carmenère and other strains of the most elite French wines. From Mendoza comes the world-renowned Malbec, a delicious and full-bodied red. This multi-country Chile and Argentina tour is the perfect introduction to South America's best wine.

[VIEW FULL ITINERARY](#)



Patagonia & Tango

10 Days – Santiago, Torres del Paine, El Calafate, Puerto Madryn, & Buenos Aires

This extensive Chile and Argentina tour includes several highlights of southern Patagonia. From Santiago transfer to Torres del Paine National Park, one of the most famous parks in Patagonia and a hiker's paradise. Continue through the Andes to El Calafate to see Perito Moreno glacier. Travel up the coast of Argentina to Puerto Madryn, another wildlife haven and the enclave of many Welsh immigrants. Finish in Buenos Aires with a city tour followed by a tango show & dinner.

[VIEW FULL ITINERARY](#)



Argentina, Land of Contrast

10 Days – Buenos Aires, Iguassu Falls, Salta, Cafayate, Mendoza

Enjoy a 10-day journey through Argentina. Start in the romantic capital city, Buenos Aires. From there fly to the mighty Iguassu Falls. Transfer to Salta, the Northwest region of Argentina and take in the beautiful landscapes while learning about the Andean culture. Finish your tour in Mendoza, the national wine capital, sure to impress.

[VIEW FULL ITINERARY](#)



Skiing in Las Leñas

Las Leñas, Argentina's finest ski resort

Located in the high Andes near Mendoza, the Las Leñas ski resort is the ultimate skiing destination in Argentina. There are over 60 km (45 mi) of skiing trails with peaks as high as 11,253 feet. The resort has the most modern lift system in South America, with 16 lifts that can carry 9200 skiers per hour. On an Argentina ski vacation, hit the slopes each day and relax at a luxury ski resort in the evening.

[VIEW FULL ITINERARY](#)



In-Depth Mendoza Wine Tour

7 Days – Mendoza, Uspallata, Ischigualasto & the Valley of the Moon

Mendoza receives nearly 365 days of sunshine, perfect for growing the rich flavor of Malbec wine. Begin with a Mendoza city tour to get acquainted with the city, and then visit several wineries and a wine museum. Explore the nearby landmarks of Uspallata Valley, the Puente del Inca, and the Valle de la Luna. Choose from a number of optional activities such as rafting, mountain biking, and trekking.

[VIEW FULL ITINERARY](#)



South America Deluxe Tour

12 Days – Buenos Aires, Iguassu Waterfalls, Atlantic Rainforest, São Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, Salvador da Bahia & the Amazon

Want to see the highlights of South America? This deluxe tour includes the magnificent world wonder of Peru, Machu Picchu (available as a pre-extension), a Buenos Aires city tour, the majestic Iguassu Falls, the Atlantic Rainforest railway, and a tour of the bustling city of São Paulo. Continue on to Rio de Janeiro, named "the marvelous city" because of its gorgeous coastline, beaches, and people. See also Salvador de Bahia, the heart of Afro-Brazilian culture and explore the Amazon.

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You can choose between private tours or group tours. We always recommend a private tour so that you have the freedom to ensure the tour covers exactly what you would like to see.



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We work with the best 4-star and 5-star hotels in South America and we partner with the best lodges - from the Amazon to Patagonia. Our accommodations will exceed your expectations.



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