

Journey Idea to Argentina

16 Days



Upsala Glacier, Los Glacier National Park

Prepared for
Steppes Travel Clients

QUICK REFERENCE ITINERARY

Day 1	Fly UK/Buenos Aires
Days 2 & 3	Buenos Aires
Day 4	Fly Buenos Aires/Calafate
Day 5	Calafate
Day 6	Calafate/El Chalten
Day 7	El Chalten
Day 8	Fly Calafate/Bariloche
Days 9 & 10	Bariloche
Day 11	Fly Bariloche/Mendoza
Day 12	Mendoza
Day 13	Fly Mendoza/Iguazu
Day 14	Iguazu
Day 15	Fly Iguazu/Sao Paulo/UK, flying overnight
Day 16	Arrive UK

DETAILED TRIP ITINERARY

Day 1

UK/Buenos Aires

Depart the UK on a flight to Buenos Aires, a journey of approximately 15 hours.

You will be met upon arrival by the Steppes Travel representative at the airport and transferred to your hotel. All transfers are private (unless stated otherwise) and included in your trip, however it will not detail every transfer on this itinerary.



After a first attempt in 1536 the great city of Buenos Aires was founded in 1580 on the shores of the River Plate. Not only is it the continent's largest city but it is also the most sophisticated. Its people are lively and friendly and it has something for every visitor: beautiful parks, football stadiums, horse racing, riding, rose gardens, golf courses, night clubs, theatres, tango and opera. Shopping is an exciting experience along Florida street, around San Martin Plaza or in San Telmo where antiques are a speciality. The Italian Boca district, Palermo Parks, Recoleta Cemetery and the waterway of the Paraná River are all attractions that give Buenos Aires a character all of its own.



There are opportunities to savour the best beef and local wines in sophisticated restaurants, riverside eating houses or with Gauchos who prepare juicy cuts on special spits and grills - truly a city to be enjoyed!

Overnight at your chosen hotel in Buenos Aires on a bed & breakfast basis.

Day 2

Buenos Aires

Half day guided orientation tour of Buenos Aires.



This fascinating tour will introduce you to the most interesting *barrios* of this lively and cultural city. Visit the beautiful parks and gardens of Palermo, the old quarters of San Telmo, birthplace of Tango, the historical Government House, Congress and World-renowned Colon Theatre, and finally, Recoleta Cemetery, the final resting place of Eva Peron.

Overnight at your chosen hotel in Buenos Aires on a bed & breakfast basis.

Day 3

Buenos Aires

Day to spend independently as you choose in Buenos Aires. Here are some of the best ways to spend your time in this vibrant, buzzing city:



- Learn to tango in one of the city's famous *milongas* (dance halls)
- Browse for bargains in the famous antique market in San Telmo on Sunday



- Linger over a martini in the opulent surroundings of The Alvear Palace's lobby bar
- Watch a game of polo by some of the world's leading players
- Check out the trendy bar and restaurant scene in hip Palermo Viejo
- Hit Florida Street for superb leather goods
- Explore the riverside suburb of Tigre & cruise the waterways of the Delta
- Experience gaucho culture and traditional rural life on a Pampas estancia
- Make a daytrip by ferry across the Plata River to explore the charming UNESCO town of Colonia in Uruguay

This evening you will be taken for an incredible night's entertainment at *Esquina Carlos Gardel*, one of the leading Tango salons in the city. The dinner menu draws strongly on local dishes and is a good opportunity to sample the excellent local Argentine beef and red wine. The main focus however is a spectacular presentation of the popular and sensuous Tango by some of the world's finest exponents, who won't fail to impress with their intricate dance steps accompanied by the soulful tunes of Tango.

Overnight at your chosen hotel in Buenos Aires on a bed & breakfast basis.

Day 4

Buenos Aires/Calafate



Depart Buenos Aires on a flight to Calafate.

Calafate lies on the shores of Lago Argentino, one of the largest lakes in Argentina. Originally a small outpost catering to the local wool trade, due to its convenient proximity to the Perito Moreno glacier and the Los Glaciares National Park, in recent years the town has experienced phenomenal growth and is now a very comfortable base from which to explore the area with excellent facilities for visitors.

Overnight at your chosen hotel in Calafate on a bed & breakfast basis. (Superior deluxe full board basis).

Day 5

Calafate



Full day visit to the stunning Perito Moreno Glacier located 80km from Calafate within Parque Nacional Los Glaciares.

This majestic glacier descends from the Patagonian ice cap into Lake Argentino forming a heavily-crevassed glacial front 3 km's wide and up to the equivalent of 20 storeys high. In contrast to many other glaciers around the world it is said to be one of the few glaciers still active, and not retreating. Excellent viewing of the glacier is provided by a series of wooden viewing platforms from where you can enjoy panoramic views of the whole glacier. The incredible natural spectacle of vast chunks of ice carving off the front of the glacier and crashing in the lake below is unforgettable. The unique experience of trekking on the actual surface of the glacier with crampons can be arranged.

Overnight at your chosen hotel in Calafate on a bed & breakfast basis. (Superior deluxe full board basis).

Day 6

Calafate/El Chalten



Transfer by road the 240kms from El Calafate to El Chalten in the Fitzroy area of Los Glaciares National Park. The National Park is situated in the south west of Santa Cruz province and the richness of this wild and difficult terrain makes it one of the most unusual national parks in the world. Its most important attractions are the Perito Moreno Glacier and the Fitz Roy Peak.

El Chalten is an ideal base for those who love mountain trekking. The beauty of the nearby mountains and its relatively easy access have made this region an obligatory stop for anyone wanting to see Patagonia at its wildest. Options available are to be discussed with your guide and depend on weather and fitness. Possible treks include those to Laguna de los Tres just below the famous Fitzroy Peak, the base of Cerro Torre or to Piedra del Fraile and then perhaps on to Aguja Guillaumet, Lago Electrico or the Marconi Glacier.

Overnight at your chosen hotel in El Chalten on a bed & breakfast basis. (Superior deluxe full board basis).

Day 7

El Chalten



Day to explore locally and go walking in the beautiful Los Glaciares National Park, enjoying the views of the stunning Fitzroy Range. Possible treks worth considering include:

- Full day hike to Lago del Desierto & Rio de las Vueltas
- Full day trek to Laguna de los Tres, just below the famous Fitzroy Peak
- Half day hike to Laguna Capri & Mirador Cerro Fitzroy
- Full day hike from Hosteria El Pilar, along the Rio Blanco trail via Marconi hanging glacier
- Full day to the base of Cerro Torre, rappel across the river to Cerro Torre Glacier
- Half day trek to Lago Electrico
- Boat trip to Viedma Glacier & opportunity to mini trek on the ice



Overnight at your chosen hotel in El Chalten on a bed & breakfast basis. (Superior deluxe full board basis).

Day 8

Calafate/Bariloche

Depart Calafate on a flight to Bariloche.



Bariloche is situated on the shores of Lake Nahuel Huapi at the base of Cerro Otto, surrounded by the snow-capped Andes. Founded in 1903, built in an 'Alpine Style', Bariloche is famous for its chocolate industry, fantastic skiing and stunning scenery. This is the perfect base to explore the surrounding area, with a vast choice of adventure activities

available from fishing and trekking to horse riding and white water rafting. The surrounding area is heavily wooded and the choice of different walks and local adventures is endless.

Overnight at your chosen hotel in Bariloche on a bed & breakfast basis.

Days 9 & 10



Bariloche

Days at leisure to explore the local area. Bariloche and the Nahuel Huapi region are one of Argentina's major outdoor recreational areas and there are a wide variety of activities and excursions available, which can be arranged locally, including:

- Guided city tour
- Scenic tour up the spectacular 'Route of the Seven Lakes'
- Boat trips across on Lake Nahuel Huapi
- Trekking and mountaineering in the local national parks
- Biking and horse riding
- Fly fishing on The Traful or Limay Rivers for trout
- White-water rafting, kayaking, sailing and windsurfing
- Paragliding
- Skiing (May - October)
- Golf

Overnight at your chosen hotel in Bariloche on a bed & breakfast basis.

Day 11



Bariloche/Mendoza

Depart Bariloche on a flight to Mendoza via Buenos Aires.

Founded in 1561, Mendoza is situated at the foot of the Andes, on the plains of the river Mendoza. This area is renowned for its intense wine cultivation, a stopping off point for travellers between Buenos Aires and Santiago in Chile and the starting point to climb Aconcagua, the highest point in the Andes. The city makes a good base for exploring The Andes to the west and has excellent restaurants, relaxing cafes, interesting museums, countless shopping opportunities and some of the finest plazas in the county.

Overnight at your chosen hotel in Mendoza on a bed & breakfast basis.

Day 12



Mendoza

Half day to visit various vineyards in the surrounding area.

Argentina is a renowned producer and major exporter of high quality wine. Vineyards are located along the eastern slopes of the Andes, where the climate is perfect for growing a variety of grapes.

The Argentine vineyards lie between the Southern Latitude parallels of 22-42 where a desert climate produces arid growing conditions. Irrigation by water obtained from the plentiful, eternal snows of the Andes and the combination of



warm sunny days and often very cold nights create an especially healthy environment for vines. Each vine-growing region is marked by its own particular attributes and even within each region; there are areas with different climatic and soil characteristics, which enable the cultivation of different vines and the production of a wide variety of wine styles.

The central-west region comprises vineyards located in the provinces of Mendoza and San Juan, which together produce over 90% of Argentine wine. Soils are calcareous but lack of organic matter restricts vigorous vine growth. Such conditions are excellent for the production of high quality wine. Rainfall is less than 200mm/annum but abundant snow in the mountains allows irrigation from the rivers of melted snow as and when required. The main grape varieties in this area are Malbec, Cabernet Sauvignon, Syrah and Chardonnay.

While in Argentina, it is worth going on a day trip to visit the local vineyards or stay a night, as some owners have opened their properties to paying guests.

Overnight at your chosen hotel in Mendoza on a bed & breakfast basis.

Day 13

Mendoza/Iguazu

Depart Mendoza on a flight to Iguazu.



Argentina, Paraguay and Brazil meet where the Iguazú river joins the Paraná river in the north-eastern Argentine province of Misiones. It is here that the Iguazú Falls (meaning 'Big Water' in the local Guaraní language) plunges over hard granite into a wide gorge in a series of gigantic waterfalls measuring two miles in length and plunging more than 240 feet below. The thunderous roar of crashing water and the multicoloured mist that rises above the falls is an incredible, awe-inspiring sight that has lost none of its impact since first discovered by Europeans in 1542.



Day to spend independently in and around Iguazu. Here are some of the best ways to spend your time:

- Helicopter flight over the falls and surrounding area
- Macuco Safari - half day trip on the Brazil side of the falls by jeep and boat right up to the falls
- Visit Itaipu on the Brazil side - the largest hydro electric power dam in the world
- Night time walking tours which cast a blue halo over the falls
- Explore either the Brazil or Argentinean side of the falls for a different perspective
- Wander the forest trails and experience the fabulous flora and fauna
- Visit the fascinating bird farm on the Brazil side



Overnight at your chosen hotel in Iguazu on a bed & breakfast basis.

Day 14

Iguazu



Half day tour of the Brazilian side of the Falls.

Located in the Iguassu National Park, one of the largest reserves of sub-tropical jungle, the Cataratas are formed by 240 different cascades. Descend the walkway for a fantastic panoramic view and return by panoramic elevator. Then on to the Macuco Trail, a 20 minute ride in open carts through the sub-tropical forest in all its splendour where orchids, bromelias, butterflies, cocoons, lizards can be seen. Next you walk 600 metres along the same trail down into the Iguassu Canyon, which was formed over millions of years, passing by the small but picturesque Macuco Falls to the banks of the Iguassu River for a 20 to 30 minute ride on open boats up the Iguassu Canyon. Jeeps are waiting at the river's edge for the return trip.



Overnight at your chosen hotel in Iguazu on a bed & breakfast basis.

Day 15

Iguazu/Sao Paulo

Depart Iguazu on a flight to Buenos Aires.

Depart Buenos Aires on a flight to the UK, flying overnight.

Day 16

Arrive UK

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TRIP PRICE

In each location there is a variety of different category of hotels, lodges and guest houses, therefore as a guide we have broken these down into 3 categories; Traveller, Deluxe and Superior Deluxe. It is difficult to categorise each property as they vary so much therefore this is a general price guide only.

Traveller price from £3,395 per person + flight taxes.

Deluxe price from £4,319 per person + flight taxes.

Superior Deluxe price from £5,361 per person + flight taxes.

The rates quoted are subject to the availability of all services, currency fluctuations, written confirmation and Steppes Travels terms and conditions.

The price includes return flight from UK, internal flights, local transport, airport-hotel transfers and tours on a shared basis (or can be organised on a private basis), accommodation (twin/double with private facilities) and board. Accommodation is normally on a bed and breakfast basis, unless staying in a remote lodge when normally this will be on a full board basis.

Extras include entrance charges to sites, parks and museums, extra local excursions and guided tours, international and domestic airport taxes. Travel insurance, visas, single supplements (if applicable) and items of a personal nature, such as laundry, drinks, etc

Please note that the above is only a suggested journey, allowing in-depth visits to the highlights of the country and the chance to explore the wide range of possibilities this fascinating country has to offer. We have a separate list of escorted tours and specialise in tailoring individual itineraries to your particular interests and requirements. This journey idea serves more as a general guide on what there is to see and do, as well as a guide on price.

Why Travel with Steppes?

Steppes Travel was founded in 1989 with the objective of creating a travel company where service and knowledge are of the highest priority. We aim to design itineraries and include the highlights of any country, whilst taking travellers off the beaten track to see lesser known, interesting places not frequented by large numbers of tourists. We offer individuals the ability to travel safely in remote areas, with the knowledge that we have travelled there before.

Financial Protection

Steppes Travel is a fully bonded tour operator that complies with the Civil Aviation Authority bonding conditions of the UK. This fully guarantees your money in the unlikely event of us going out of business before you start your holiday. Our ATOL number is 6945 and we have full insurance to cover the financial failure of an airline. In addition, all accommodation-only bookings (such as hotels, lodges and boats) which are not covered by the ATOL regulations are financially protected with all payments being held in a separate trust account until the date of departure. This is in accordance with the Package Travel Regulations Act 1992.

Specialist Knowledge

We demand and employ only a very high calibre of staff. All of our specialists have a wealth of travel experience and have travelled, and continue to travel, extensively throughout their regions of specialisation. You can therefore rely on their first hand knowledge and expertise. Some have been with us for more than ten years. They will tell you about those intimate, friendly hotels and introduce you to our charismatic guides - those little extra qualities that make your holiday both unique and special.

A Tailor-made Journey

After an initial discussion with you, one of our specialists will create a unique itinerary for your trip, designed around your own interests, preferred style of accommodation and the pace at which you like to travel. This will be fine tuned until you are completely satisfied with it. Throughout this whole process, you will be dealt with by the same specialist and you are welcome to call them at any time.

24 hour Emergency Service

We have an emergency service so that we can be contacted 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Recognition

More than 65% of our business is achieved through recommendations, referrals and repeat bookings. This, for us, is the highest endorsement we could have. In addition, our 20 years of experience in this specialist travel sector confirms our expertise.

Please contact the Latin America team on 01285 885 333 or visit our website www.steppestravel.co.uk for further information.

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