

Walk Argentina

Northern Argentina Self Drive



vibrant Buenos Aires – colonial Salta – beautiful salt flats
Andean cloudforest – high Andes – Iguassu Falls – boutique small hotels

Enjoy the best of northern Argentina's scenery at your own pace on this relaxing self-drive holiday.

Spend time getting to know Buenos Aires, with your dedicated guide.

Travel at your own pace as you explore Salta's remarkably varied scenery by car from salt flats to cloudforest.

Wander and explore the spectacular Iguassu Falls.

This is a Pura *handpicked* holiday with an activity rating of *low* and a comfort rating *premium*.



The salt flats above Salta with the Andes in the background.



"All I can say is we had the best holiday ever." Sheila D.

Holiday Itinerary

Day 01 | Buenos Aires | **travel to Argentina**

Fly to Argentina's capital, Buenos Aires.

Please note: international flights are quoted separately.

On arrival you are collected by your guide and taken to your charming small hotel in the Las Canitas area.

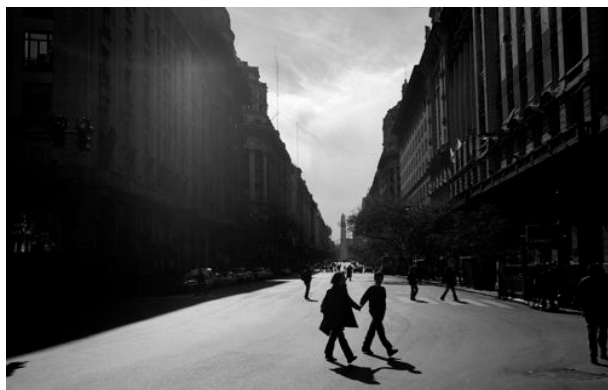
Despite being close to the centre of the city, this *barrio* is quiet, leafy and green with lots of pavement cafes.

Stroll to one of the restaurants nearby for supper.

Day 02 | Buenos Aires | **explore the capital**

Spend this morning in the company of your own private guide who can take you on and off the beaten track in this lively and beautiful city.

You will have a car at your disposal, but we recommend getting out and walking for some of the tour.



Time to stroll in Buenos Aires.

Rather than follow a specific route, you basically just let them know what sorts of things you like to see and they can take you.

It could be that you want to see the main sites, or you might want to stroll amongst the small local boutiques of Palermo or the lovely buildings of Recoleta.

This afternoon you might like to explore the enormous and rather lovely Recoleta cemetery. (b)

Day 03 | Buenos Aires | **day at leisure**

Spend today exploring the city at your own pace. (b)

Day 04 | Salta | **fly to the north east**

Transfer to the airport for the flight up to the northeast of the country and the area of Salta.

The provinces of Salta and Jujuy were the first areas to be colonised by the Spanish as they came down from Bolivia, but the indigenous cultures of the region are still very much alive today.

In fact, Salta is a world away from the more European city of Buenos Aires.

In the northwest of Argentina you really know that you are in South America: the welcoming locals, the pretty village churches, the grand colonial city architecture and the mystical pre-Inca ruins all leave you in no doubt!

However, it is the scenery of this remarkable region that is the real star of the show.

Expect beautiful and varied landscapes, from the vineyards of Cafayate to the lunar landscapes of the Purmamarca salt flats.

To book or for more information call us on **0845 22 55 058**

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The façade of the cathedral in Salta



Enjoy the freedom to explore at your own pace.



Stay in the heart of a vineyard at Cayafate.

Travel along roads that snake through the brilliant red rocks of the Valley of the Shells or wind through cloudforest, all with the backdrop of the Andes.

On arrival today you are collected by your local guide who will take you on a tour of the town this afternoon.

Your walking tour of the city known as 'Salta la Linda' (Salta the beautiful) includes a trip in a cable car up the Cerro San Bernardo, offering great views over the city.

Spend tonight in a very comfortable hotel. (b)

Day 05 | Cachi | **travel across mountains**

Pick up your car this morning.

Set off on your journey to drive over the Piedra del Molino Pass and through the Los Cardones National Park to the mountain village of Cachi.

The national park is particularly famous for its giant cacti which dot hillsides ranging in colour from dark green to deep red.

Please do not buy any souvenirs made from the cactus as they are trying to discourage the locals from harvesting them!

There will be plenty of stops to admire the impressive views. The total drive is around 150km.

Stay in a beautiful small boutique hotel outside of town with great views across the valley to the hills and mountains beyond. (b)

Day 06 | Cachi | **walk in the mountains**

Spend today walking in the mountains surrounding the Cachi Valley. (b)

Day 07 | Cayafate | **travel Ruta 40**

Follow the legendary Ruta 40 down Calchaquies Valley.

The villagers in this area make their living from peppers so you will pass enormous stretches of red peppers drying in the sun.

After passing through the village of Molinos, you will reach the Valley of the Arrows.

As the sun sets, the mountains change colour, making for some of the most beautiful scenery of your holiday.

Spend the next couple of nights in the sleepy wine producing town of Cayafate, staying on a vineyard. (b)

Day 08 | Cayafate | **visit a winery**

This morning visit a local bodega with a typical lunch and wine tasting included.

The area produces excellent wine is particularly known for its Torrontes white wine and Shiraz red wine (known locally as Syrah).

This afternoon enjoy a sunset hike through the Valley of the Shells.

This valley is strewn with vast, bright red rocks, and at this time of day you have the evening sun making the whole valley glow. (b)

Day 09 | Tilcara | **travel to cloudforest**

Set off for the longest drive of your trip, five to six hours, but the asphalt road will be a welcome change from the dirt mountain roads of the Calchaquies Valley.

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The cloudforest of La Cornisa.



The peppers drying in the sun on the way to Cayafate.



The Iguassu Falls

Start by driving up the Route 68 through the Valley of the Shells before you reach Salta.

From here the road snakes through the cloudforest of La Cornisa.

This is a wonderful patch of greenery to interrupt your week of high and dry landscape.

The road eventually reaches the high Andean plains around Tilcara.

Overnight in Tilcara at a lovely small hotel where you have your own terrace on which to relax. (b)

Day 10 | Tilcara | walk with llamas

In the neighbouring village of Maimara, the engineer Fernando Dupont has created the valley's first winery. Start the day with a short visit of the winery, discovering the secrets of its production.

After breakfast in the main house you set off to walk into the hills accompanied by llama.

The llamas carry everything necessary for the rest of the day, including a delicious wine from the winery.

Climb the hill that divides Tilcara from Maimara to enjoy a picnic with a beautiful panoramic view.

This afternoon, walk back to Tilcara, passing the Omaha-Incan fort that dominates the village. (b)

Day 11 | Salta | cross the salt flats

This morning you will pass through the village of Purmamarca, famous for its Seven Colour Mountain.

Stop and browse the local handicraft stalls before the drive continues: climbing up the hillside until the horizon opens out onto the giant, surreal landscape of the salt flats.

After crossing this mesmerizing place, you reach the Andean village of San Antonio de los Cobres, the highest point on the trip.

From here the road follows the tracks of the famous "Train to the Clouds" as it descends into Salta.

Spend the night in Salta for your last night in the northeast of Argentina.

Take time to visit one of the Peñas (folkloric dancing bars) on Balcarce street. (b)

Day 12 | Iguassu | travel to the falls

Today should be a Monday, Wednesday or Friday to fit in with flight timetables.

Stay in a stylish boutique hotel within a national park.

Transfer to the airport for your flight to Iguassu.

On arrival there you will be met at the airport and taken to your small hotel near the centre of the town of Puerto Iguassu. (b)

Day 13 | Iguassu | explore the falls

Head up to the falls today to tour the Argentinian side in the company of your guide.

The falls are surrounded by a network of walkways and paths which allow you to walk above, beneath and even behind the massive curtains of water. (b)

Day 14 | flight | travel home

Transfer back to the airport for your flight back to Buenos Aires and on to the UK. (b)

Please note that flights for this holiday are quoted separately.

Flight times may mean you need to add a night in Buenos Aires at the end of your holiday.

Day 15 | Home | arrive back

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Pura Handpicked

While this holiday is delivered by our partners on the ground in Argentina, it was designed by and for Pura Aventura.



This itinerary is exclusive to Pura and has been designed to show the amazing variety of the northern Argentina both on and off the beaten track.

We have chosen small, locally owned and run properties which are closely integrated with their communities.

How long?

This is basically a two week holiday but it can be tailored in almost any way.

How active?

As active as you like but fairly relaxed on the whole.

In Salta you can explore on foot, horseback or bike according to your mood.

How comfortable?

Stay in very comfortable first class hotels throughout this holiday.

In Buenos Aires stay in a small boutique style hotel in the pretty Las Canitas area of the city.

In the Salta area stay in a series of small, welcoming and very comfortable boutique hotels and lodges.

In Iguassu stay in a small lodge on the edge of the town of Iguassu.

How independent?

Private guided excursions in Buenos Aires, Salta and Iguassu as above.

Private transfers throughout and hire car in and around Salta for the duration of that part of your stay. Otherwise independent with help on hand should you need it.

When should I go?

This holiday can genuinely be taken at any time of the year. If you had to pick an ideal month then it would probably be May/June as you will have moderate temperatures, low precipitation but with the greenery and water flow at a peak from the rainy season which ends around April time.

Buenos Aires is a year round destination with rainfall fairly light and steady throughout the year.

Temperatures in high summer (December through February) will go over 30c. Even at its coolest, in July, daytime highs are around 15c.

You can visit *Salta* year round. Winter runs from May through September. This is the driest time of year with basically zero precipitation.

It is also the coolest time of year with average daytime highs of around 20c. Days are somewhat shorter with sunrise at around 6am, sunset at 5pm.

In summer, average daytime highs move to 25c and higher. Rainfall peaks at around 160mm in January/February. Days are longer with sunrise at around 4am, sunset at around 6pm.

Iguassu The falls are spectacular at any time of the year. It is cooler and drier from May to September. August being the clearest and driest month but if you want the most water then rainfall is at its highest in April and December so May and January will see the

How responsible?

Pura Aventura is passionate about the places it visits. To preserve the integrity of these destinations we:

- Work directly with local businesses & organisations. We use small, locally owned hotels and restaurants.
- Work with local guides so that our holidays are more interesting for clients and more beneficial locally.
- Make payment to suppliers before our clients arrive.

In Argentina you will stay in a series of family run hotels directly benefiting the communities you visit.

Prices & Departures

2010/11	Year round £2,298pp guide price
Flights	<i>Transatlantic flights are quoted separately.</i> We can arrange these for you or you can arrange your own. Guide price £550 - £800 depending on season.
Prices include	All accommodation; Flights within Argentina; Excursions and activities as above; Meals (b,l,d) as above; Guiding as above; Car hire with insurance as above; Transport and transfers as above.
Not included	Transatlantic flights; personal expenses.
Please note	Whilst we keep this itinerary as up to date as possible, the definitive list of our departure dates & prices can be found at www.pura-aventura.com/departures

Prices are per person based on two sharing

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