

ARGENTINA HIGHLIGHTS TOUR IDEA WITH MENDOZA & CORDOBA

Argentina is an astonishingly diverse country, you can be in the North in a tropical climate & later the same day be in the Glacier National Park in very south of the country. In-between there are many other stunning areas to visit. All this magnificent diversity allows Argentina to boast, quite correctly, that they have something to offer everyone.

If you are travelling between April & August this is the ideal season to visit the wine region of Mendoza & an estancia in Cordoba.

The below itinerary is designed to be a basis to work from and can be adapted to suit clients personal preferences, priorities & budget.

14 night itinerary idea:

Δ 1 night Buenos Aires

Δ 2 nights Iguazu Falls – in 2 different hotels

Visit both the Argentinean & Brazil sides

Δ 2 nights Yacutinga Lodge

Δ 3 nights Mendoza

Δ 3 nights Cordoba

Δ 3 nights Buenos Aires

With a half day city tour
& evening Tango Show with dinner.

Day 1

On arrival into **Buenos Aires** Airport you will be met & have a private transfer to your preferred hotel for 1 night BB. You will get to spend more time in this wonderful city @ the end of the itinerary, or of course we can change the order so you have more time @ the beginning of the trip.

Day 2

Transfer to the airport to take domestic flights to **Iguazu**.

Iguazu Falls: Are the most spectacular waterfalls in the world & acts as a natural border between Argentina & Brazil. On the Argentine side you are more within the falls & so close to the powerful water. There are several nature trails & the iron work walkways over the river & some falls are wonderful. You can easily spend a full day enjoying the numerous walkways. A really fabulous walk is the route that takes you across the upper river to the Devils Throat, where the water plunges 240ft. It is also worth having a half day visit to the Brazil side of the falls as from there you get the magnificent panoramic view of the falls. On the Brazil side there is only 1 walking route, so it gets busy & we recommend getting there for opening time before the coaches arrive, before it gets too hot & most important before the sun comes around inhibits the view.

This is a very busy, touristic region & there are several hotels to choose from. You can stay on either the Brazil or Argentine side – or even both. We tend to prefer the Argentine side hotels.

Some of our hotel recommendations include:

- **The 5* Sheraton Iguazu Hotel** is the perfect choice for clients that like walking & want to spend the maximum amount of time around the falls, enjoying the nature trails etc with no time constraints. The hotel itself is not particularly wonderful but its location is. This is the only hotel within the Iguazu National Park & therefore has stunning views of the falls. We recommend paying the supplement for a room with a falls view so you can enjoy the falls from your private balcony.
- **The 5* Iguazu Grand Hotel.** This is the probably the best hotel away from the falls & is only a 2 minute drive to the entrance to the Brazil falls. The rooms & gardens are beautifully designed & the Spa is wonderful. The only downside is that the property does also have a popular Casino, but this does have a separate entrance.
- **Panoramic Hotel,** is owned by the same group as the Grand hotel but is a smaller & less formal property. It is located @ the meeting point of the Iguazú and Paraná rivers, dividing the borders of Argentina, Brazil and Paraguay & therefore has a wonderful view of the 3 countries. The hotel is also within walking distance of the town & its local restaurants & shops.
- **Amerian Iguazu** is so close to the river that Brazil & Paraguay are incredibly close – 100 metres. The hotel is a modern property & the pool area is wonderful & they also have an indoor pool & Jacuzzi area, spa & gym.

Guided tour of the Argentinean side of the Falls.

Day 3

Guided tour across to the Brazilian site for the panoramic view of the falls & experience a completely different view. It is advisable to get to the entrance as they open to avoid the crowds & also in the afternoon the sun comes round to face you so is hard to see the view.

Day 4

You will have a transfer to the meeting point to join the group guided transfer operated by Yacutinga Lodge. You now have a 2 nights stay on full board with tours included @ this wonderful Lodge.

- **Yacutinga Lodge** is the perfect retreat away from the crowds around Iguazu & experience a wonderful jungle lodge – so different to the Iguazu area. The lodge has 20 cabins & guided tours are included within your stay. Only 4 hectares out of the 570-hectare area of the property have been used to build this unprecedented ecotourism complex in Argentina. During the construction process special care has been taken to minimize negative impacts on nature. This lodge and its surrounding nature reserve are part of a sustainable eco-project which protects the sub-tropical rainforest. It offers its visitors an exciting ecological experience whilst staying in its comfortable lodgings. Excursions are focused on providing guests with an understanding of the area by walking through nature trails, floating down the river on a raft or relaxing in the grounds listening to the birdsong.

Day 6

Transfer to Iguazu airport to take a flight, via Buenos Aires to Mendoza. On arrival you will be met & have a transfer to your preferred hotel for a 3 night stay.

Argentina is the 5th largest wine producer in the world & the region of Cuyu & the city of **Mendoza** is the countries heart of the “land of sunshine & wine”. Mendoza boasts 550 wineries, from small boutiques to large scale exporters, with over 2000 vineyards. For our wine loving clients there are heaps of tasting opportunities! There is also a road over the Andes to travel between Mendoza & Santiago in Chile.

In 1884, the Mendoza authorities decided to attract specifically those immigrants who knew about wine-growing and sent a representative to Europe to recruit specialists and workers from Italy, France and Spain. The initiative brought many wine-growing families and entrepreneurs to the region with their treasured vines, families whose names now grace the labels on many a bottle. However, no variety has enjoyed more success than the flagship Malbec, originally a French grape of little distinction which arrived in this country at the beginning of the 20th century and flourished beyond expectation under the Mendoza sun. In the early 1980s, the Malbec underwent a revival when the trend for blended table wines turned towards single-grape varietals and the taste for Malbec as well as Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Chardonnay, Chenin and Sauvignon Blanc took off, together with the budding community of wine-enthusiasts. Twenty years later, these grapes have been joined by other new-world favourites such as Syrah, Bonarda, Tempranillo and Viognier as well as the fruity local white Torrontes, winning prestigious international prizes and glowing recommendations from the world’s top wine-writers. The province of Mendoza now boasts 550 wineries, from small boutiques to large-scale exporters, many of which are included in the recently-created Rutas del Vino, or Wine Routes, open to the public for a tour of their installations and a wine-tasting led by their wine-makers.

Some hotels we recommend in the area include..

- **The Park Hyatt Mendoza Hotel** has a beautifully restored 19th-century Spanish colonial façade & is located in the main business and banking district in the centre of Mendoza. With a prominent position on the Plaza de la Independencia, the hotel is only 15 minutes from Mendoza international airport, 15 minutes from the main Mendoza vineyards and 90 minutes from major ski resorts in Argentina.
- **The Executive Hotel** Located in a residential area, opposite Plaza Italia and a short walk from the main commercial and tourist city. They have 77 rooms, a gym, swimming pool etc.
- **The Cavas Wine Lodge** With fabulous views of the Andes this prestigious lodge is located within a 60 acre private valley, 390 minutes south of Mendoza City. There are 14 individual guestrooms, each with an outside terrace. The food & wine is wonderful & they also have an outdoor swimming pool & spa facilities. This lodge provides guests with the most authentic & boutique style accommodation

Day 9

Transf ofr 3 nights @ the Estancia Los Potreros on full board.

Cordoba has a wine growing tradition that goes back some time. Records show that 10,000 vines were planted the year after the foundation of Cordoba in 1574. The wine cellar of the Jesus Maria Jesuit farm was the largest in the Spanish colony of the River Plate. From this cellar, the very first bottle of wine from the Spanish Americas was sent to the king in Spain. This wine was christened "Lagrimilla", which we still drink as a dessert wine at Los Potreros today! Wine production in Cordoba had a second wind when the immigrants arrived from the region of Friuli Venezia Giulia in northern Italy. They founded "Colonia Caroya" in 1878 only 50 kilometers from Cordoba city in the heart of the old Jesuit country. The spirit of those pioneers still continues, as do some of their traditions and dialects.

Today riders, drivers, walkers and birdwatchers alike all enjoy the Cordoba wine produced by the Bodega Caroyense. Trying the different wines is great fun and La Caroyense selects grapes from other provinces as well as the homegrown. Some of the better wines are from these selected grapes. Half a century ago, Estancia Los Potreros had a small home production of wine. Today using modern methods, La Caroyense produce and bottle the only private wine in their cellars on behalf of the estancia. The popularity of the Malbec and Torrontes is now spreading beyond visitors to the farm, and the owners are always keen to share informal wine-tastings with their guests.

- **Estancia Los Potreros** is set in a beautiful reserve at the top of the Cordoba hills in the center of Argentina. The estancia dates from 1574 when breeding mules for the silver mines in Peru was the principal activity. Today it is an idyllic retreat for horsemen and nature lovers. This organic working farm, breeds Aberdeen-Angus cattle and Paso Peruano horses. It has been in the same Anglo Argentine family for four generations and sets the highest standards of accommodation, combining the pleasures of estancia life with exceptional riding. The owners have a passion for conservation and the preservation of the environment. They cherish the farms "spring water" and use wind and solar energy. Home rides, long-distance pack trips, polo, assisting the gauchos with cattle or simply relaxing by the pool are some of the many

Fiona Urquhart-Derin
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activities. The riding terrain is exciting ranging from steep rocky paths down tree-studded gullies, to open, grassy hilltops. Los Potreros is a year round destination known for its fabulous horses. The adventure allows you to experience the best traditions of Argentina while not abandoning all creature comforts.

Day 12

Transfer to the airport to take the flight to Buenos Aires. On arrival you will be met & transferred to your preferred hotel for your final 3 nights in Argentina staying at your preferred hotel BB.

Some of our hotel recommendations include:

- **Alvear Palace** is without doubt the most luxurious hotel, part of the exclusive “Leading Hotels of the World” group & has won the title “Top Luxury Hotel in Latin America” . It was built as a hotel, in a French style, and is a historical landmark in itself. The 210 rooms are on 8 floors, with each floor having a butler on duty to meet all guests’ requirements. Each room has fresh flowers provided by the 6 staff employed just to take care of the flower arrangements throughout the hotel. The hotel offers a superb English afternoon tea in the Winter Garden, the spa & swimming pool area was new in 2007 & boasts a superb Kinesis system gym
- **Park Hyatt** is a beautiful combination of a modern hotel & the historical palace. The way they has combined the modern & the historical is exceptionally well done. The hotel has a total of 165 rooms, 142 in the modern part & 23 in the Palace. You can either walk through the art gallery & past the fragrant flower shop or the garden to get between the 2 buildings.
- **The Sofitel Hotel** is located in the heart of the antique & art gallery area – Arroya Street. On the last Friday of every month the galleries stay open at night & visitors can meet the artists. The Hotel has retained it colonial house feeling & has kept the original gates as a feature of the hotel front. There are 173 rooms in total with a small gym & swimming pool.
- **The Faena Hotel & Universe** is a very special place to stay in Buenos Aires & perhaps not to everyone’s taste. The hotel, in the newly redeveloping Puerto Madero area, was designed by Andrew Starck & was originally an abandoned grain warehouse. This unusual and innovative property is the complete opposite of the Four Seasons and Alvear Palace. They have their own tango show in the El cabaret bar – which has a really intimate atmosphere.
www.faenahotelanduniverse.com
- **Boutique Hotels** in Buenos Aires are popping up all the time. Some do not really understand the concept of “boutique Hotels” & are probably best described as Urban hotels. However the best boutique hotels we have found are: Llegado Mitador, Esplendor, Vain & Vitrum Corriti.

Day 13

Half Day Buenos Aires City tour.

This cosmopolitan & vibrant city is sometimes referred to as the “Paris of Latin America” because of its style & exuberance. It is split into very distinct districts (barrios) from the colourful Italian area of La Boca, chic Recoleta – home to Evita’s mausoleum, to the very chic fashion design area of Palermo –

a popular residential area for the rich & famous. Palermo Soho & Hollywood are now the trendiest areas of the city with new boutique hotels opening up & an abundance of lively cafes, restaurants & bars. Buenos Aires is a great city to walk around & there are some beautiful parks. The shopping is fabulous all over the city & a Tango Show is a must on any visit to Argentina – to see professional Tango dancing is incredible!

In the evening be collected from your hotel to go to an **evening Tango Show**, with dinner included.

Day 14

Day at leisure in this wonderful city, to shop or walk around the park areas etc.

Day 15

Private transfer to the airport to check-in for your flights back to the UK.

Other areas that clients may like to include may be the wine region of Mendoza, the NorthWest region of Salta & Jujuy or stay with an authentic & working Estancia.