

ARGENTINA

Cultural and Cuisine Immersion Tour PLUS The 2019 Longines Gran Premio Latinoamericano

08 to 23 March, 2019 \$8,500 (AUD) per person inc. return Qantas airfare



Santiago



Tango in Buenos Aires



Art gallery in La Boca

From the snow-capped Andes, to the wines of Mendoza, the rich history of Cordoba, and the vibrant street life of Buenos Aires, Argentina delights the senses and invigorates the mind.

Our tour starts in Santiago, Chile, where we will begin by exploring the culinary delights of the city. Our time in Santiago coincides with South America's most prestigious horserace, the Longines Gran Premio Latinoamericano, which takes place at the historic Club Hipico de Santiago racetrack. After experiencing this special event, we will embark across the breathtaking Andes Mountains in our luxury coach.

From here our tour takes us to historic Cordoba, founded by Jesuit priests in the sixteenth century and now a modern university town, where old and new complement each other, reminding us of where we have been and where we are going. For art lovers, this city is the perfect blend of historic and contemporary artistry, where a Moorish cathedral, adorned with marble altars and gold leaf, overlooks a contemporary gallery featuring avant-garde works of art.

From Cordoba, we veer off the usual tourist routes and head to Santa Rosa de Calamuchita, a small village where Argentinians spend their leisure time relaxing by pristine rivers and lakes. This is the perfect place for our guests to take a little breather. Here, we will soak up the sights and sounds of typical village life: relishing the aromas of traditional cooking, enjoying calming yoga and massages, delighting in scenic walks, or just sitting by a Darwin's Barberry shrub and reading a book in the shade. And, of course, this relaxing respite includes gourmet dining with panoramic views. There is no better place to enjoy Argentine asado (barbecue), delightful Viennese cakes, local pizza, and many more culinary delights.

With our energy levels restored, we head to the cosmopolitan sophistication of Buenos Aires. With its grand architecture and European-style boulevards, the Argentinian capital boasts theatres, art museums, bookshops, bohemian barrios, street art, café culture, tango performances, and much, much more.

This is the perfect small-group tour for the discerning traveller looking to tick a must-see destination off their bucket list with a luxurious and relaxing South American holiday.

Highlights

- Experiencing the breath-taking beauty of one of South America's "must see" destinations
- Enjoying the natural landscapes and rich history of Chile and Argentina
- Travelling by luxury coach through the Andes mountain range
- Tasting the cuisine and world-class wine of Mendoza
- Visiting the UNESCO World Heritage sites of Jesuit Block and Estancias of Cordoba, as well as Uruguay's Colonia Del Sacramento
- Taking in Cordoba's beautiful churches and architecturally-significant buildings
- Staying in rural cabanas in Santa Rosa de Calamuchita, where Argentinians come to relax and play.
- Savouring traditional Argentinian BBQ, and experiencing traditional artisan markets and Swiss-German influences.
- Appreciating cosmopolitan Buenos Aires, the tango capital of the world
- Taking an optional extension to Iguazu Falls on the border of Argentina and Brazil, to explore all 2700 metres of the awe-inspiring waterfall
- Experience the glamour, excitement and action of South America's most prestigious horse race - **The 2019 Longines Gran Premio Latinoamericano**



Louise Ward is vibrant, vivacious, and full of fun. She has travelled the world, but her heart belongs to South America – and specifically Argentina.

Louise's passion is personal—her son Chris lives in Argentina. Bringing some family warmth to our trip, Chris will host a traditional barbecue for our guests and will serve as our guide throughout our stay in Santa Rosa de Calamuchita. Louise and Chris together own Spanish and Beyond in Sydney, which offers Spanish-language courses to Sydney travellers, and they host linguistic and cultural immersion trips to Argentina.



Shopping at Galerías Pacífico, Buenos Aires



Mendoza

16 Day/15 Night Itinerary

Friday 08 March:

Arrive in Santiago

Qantas flight QF27 Sydney-Santiago 12.50pm/11.10am | Duration: 12hrs 20mins

Santiago is a city of contradictions, where modern skyscrapers and colonial building sit side-by-side, all in the shadow of the magnificent Andes mountain range. On arrival at Santiago Airport, we'll be met by our local guide and transferred by private mini-bus to our hand-picked, charming hotel in Providencia.

Saturday 09 March:

Santiago

After a leisurely breakfast, we will meet at the Bella Artes Museum in Barrio Lastarria for a private tour of the Fine Arts Gallery. Then we'll enjoy free time to explore boutiques, markets, local cafes, and restaurants before our afternoon excursion to La Chascona, the home of well-known poet and writer Pablo Neruda. Our welcome dinner will be held at the famous *Aqui Esta Coco* restaurant. (B,D)

Sunday 10 March:

Santiago (Longines Gran Premio Latinoamericano)

Leisure day in Santiago.

OR join us for a fantastic day at The 2019 Longines Gran Premio Latinoamericano, South America's most prestigious

horse-race for thoroughbreds. Dates and hospitality packages will be confirmed in August. (Own expense) (B)

Monday 11 March:

Santiago to Mendoza

We will travel in style with a full-day, luxury coach transfer from Santiago to Mendoza, rated one of the most scenic drives in South America. Our trip will take us through picturesque wine country, desert canyons and, of course, the majestic Andes. After checking in to our hotel, we will head out to explore the city of Mendoza. (B)

Tuesday 12 March:

Mendoza (Hiking in the Andes)

During our first full-day in the Mendoza region, we will enjoy a trip to the scenic mountain ranch Estancia La Alejandra, just ninety minutes southwest of Mendoza. Experience an optional two-hour trek through Valle de Las Carreras, a beautiful mountain valley where we will explore the scenery as the snow-capped Andes loom overhead. The trek ends with a traditional Argentine asado (barbecue) accompanied by local wines. (B,L)

Wednesday 13 March:

Mendoza

Today we will visit two wineries in the stunning Uco Valley just southwest of Mendoza. One features a contemporary art and sculpture gallery, while the other

known for its superb degustation menu, paired with local, premium wines.

The wine region in the foothills of the Andes is a new frontier in Argentine winemaking and attracts winemakers from across the globe, drawn to the valley for its state-of-the-art technology and gold-medal terroir. It's no secret that the wine in this region is the future of Argentine wine. (B,L)

Thursday 14 March:

Mendoza to Cordoba

Today we will fly to the city of Cordoba, founded in the sixteenth century by Jesuit priests. The afternoon will be spent exploring the ancient city on foot, visiting a museum and art gallery, and browsing the antique shops and boutiques. At night we will visit Paseo del Buen Pastor for a light show and independent dinner. (B)

Friday 15 March:

Cordoba to Santa Rosa de Calamuchita

This morning we will take a guided tour of the Jesuit Block in the Old Town of Cordoba with Ana, our Argentine guide and Spanish teacher. We will then leave Cordoba for Santa Rosa de Calamuchita, stopping on the way for lunch at an authentic Argentine grill. Our time here is very relaxed and unscheduled. We may go out to a local Italian restaurant for independent dinner. (B,L)



Palace of the Argentine National Congress



Buenos Aires

**Saturday 16 March:
Santa Rosa de Calamuchita
and La Cumbrecita**

We will begin the day by enjoying continental breakfasts at our cabanas, followed by a leisurely morning before we leave Santa Rosa for a scenic drive to the German town, La Cumbrecita. Here in the mountains, we can do some walking, brisk or otherwise, go sightseeing, shopping, and sample Viennese cakes. We will return to Santa Rosa de Calamuchita in the late afternoon. After a siesta, we will take a bus or taxi to a tapas restaurant for a light dinner and music. (B,D)

**Sunday 17 March:
Santa Rosa de Calamuchita**

We will take a short, mid-morning drive to Amboy de Calamuchita, the birthplace of Dalmacio Vélez Sarsfield, the lawyer and politician who wrote the Argentine Civil Code of 1869. This small historic town boasts a fascinating museum showcasing the history of Argentina.

In the afternoon, we will visit a private artisan market before enjoying our 'Farewell Santa Rosa' dinner, featuring Chris Ward's famous Argentine asado, where we will be entertained by local singers. (B,D)

**Monday 18 March:
Cordoba to Buenos Aires**

We will depart mid-morning for Cordoba (an approximately two-hour

drive) for an early afternoon flight to Buenos Aires. Upon our arrival in Buenos Aires, we will transfer to our hotel in Barrio Ricoleta and explore the neighbourhood in the evening. (B)

**Tuesday 19 March:
Buenos Aires**

Welcome to lively, cosmopolitan Buenos Aires! Described as a Latin city with European flavour and called "the Paris of South America," we'll enjoy a private guided city tour and visit Teatro Colon, the spectacular Opera House. You'll enjoy a free afternoon, where Louise will take anyone interested to MALBA, the Museum of Latin America Art.

At night, we will enjoy an authentic tango performance with an optional, independent dinner afterward at a local restaurant recommended by Ana. (B)

**Wednesday 20 March:
Buenos Aires**

Today, we will go on a morning guided tour of Recoleta Cemetery, Eva Peron's final resting place. After this, Louise will accompany anyone interested to Bella Artes, the Fine Arts Museum. We'll round-off the day at the Ateneo Grand Splendid Bookstore for browsing and coffee. (B)

**Thursday 21 March:
Full day excursion to Uruguay
(Colonia del Sacramento)**

You'll enjoy a day trip to Colonia del Sacramento, a UNESCO World Heritage site across the river in Uruguay.

Departing Buenos Aires at 8:30 a.m, we'll take a fast ferry to Colonia, lasting one hour and fifteen minutes. Upon arrival, we will be met by our private tour guide for a walk through of the historic district, followed by free time for lunch and shopping. The return ferry departs at 4:01 p.m. Then we'll enjoy our 'Farewell Buenos Aires' dinner together in a local Recoleta restaurant. (B,D)

**Friday 22 March:
Buenos Aires**

Today will be a free day in Buenos Aires or an optional day trip to Tigre Delta. Louise will take anyone interested to an exciting contemporary art gallery in La Boca and then a walking tour through San Telmo's antique shops and ice cream parlours. This evening, you will enjoy an orchestral concert at Teatro Colon or live music at a local jazz club (for the serious night owls)! (B)

**Saturday 23 March:
Departure**

Today, you will be transferred to the airport for your flight to Santiago (Stay overnight). (B)

Or, an onward flight to Iguazu Falls (Ask Natalie for details)

** Price quoted in AUD per person twin share. Single supplement, on request. Terms and Conditions apply