JOURNEY
LATIN AMERICA



PRIVATE JOURNEYS WITH JOURNEY LATIN

LUXURY ARGENTINA: VINEYARDS, GLACIERS AND GAUCHOS

13 days from **£11,600pp**

ARGENTINA / BUENOS AIRES / THE PAMPAS / MENDOZA AND THE VINEYARDS / EL CALAFATE AND LOS GLACIARES NATIONAL PARK



WITH OVER 40 YEARS EXPERIENCE, NO-ONE KNOWS LATIN AMERICA LIKE WE DO

EXPERIENCE SOMETHING EXTRAORDINARY

WHY US

We are the UK's No.1 specialist in travel to Latin America and have been creating award-winning holidays to every corner of the region for over four decades; we pride ourselves on being the most knowledgeable people there are when it comes to travel to Central and South America and passionate about it too.

OUR JOURNEY

As our name suggests, we are single-minded about Latin America. This is what sets us apart from other travel companies – and what allows us to offer you not just a holiday but the opportunity to experience something extraordinary on inspiring journeys throughout Mexico, Central and South America.

WE LOVE LATIN AMERICA

A passion for the region runs through all we do

All our Consultants have lived or travelled extensively in Latin America

Up-to-the-minute knowledge underpinned by 40 years' experience

TRAVEL WITH CONFIDENCE

Fully bonded and licensed

ATOL-protected

On your side when it matters

Book with confidence, knowing every penny is secure

THE REAL LATIN AMERICA

Our insider knowledge helps you go beyond the guidebooks

We hand-pick hotels with character and the most rewarding excursions

Let us show you the Latin America we know and love

OVERVIEW & OUTLINE ITINERARY

Stay on an elegant estancia in the pampas and at the finest hotels and lodges in vineyard country, amid the glaciers of Patagonia and in Buenos Aires. Gourmet food and drink throughout.

DAY 1	**Arrive in Buenos Aires. Transfer to your luxury hotel in the Recoleta district.**
DAY 2	**City tour with a visit to Recoleta Cemetery.**
DAY 3	**At leisure. Dine at a live tango show.**
DAY 4	**Fly to Mendoza in the wine-producing region.**
DAYS 5-6	**Visit wineries from your countryside lodge.**
DAY 7	**Transfer to colonial estancia on the pampas.**
DAY 8	**At leisure on the estancia.**
DAY 9	**Transfer to airport, fly to El Calafate and drive to luxury estancia.**
DAYS 10-11	**Activities at your Patagonian retreat.**
DAY 12	**Transfer to airport, fly to Buenos Aires**
DAY 13	**Transfer to airport for your flight home.**

ITINERARY

There are some wonderful top of the range places to stay in Argentina: a few days spent at each of these is an experience in itself; we have chosen luxury properties in three of the most interesting and beautiful locations: the pastures and grasslands of the beef-rearing pampas; the sunlit wine-country on the eastern slopes of the Andes and in Patagonia's chilly landscape of wind-buffeted plains, snow-draped mountains and glaciers. Your luxurious holiday begins in cosmopolitan Buenos Aires, considered to be Latin America's most sophisticated and European city, with its wide boulevards, colonial architecture and café society.

DAY 1

Arrive in Buenos Aires. Transfer to your luxury hotel in the Recoleta district.

You will be met at the airport and escorted to your hotel in the Recoleta District. This elegant neighbourhood is, for many people, one of the most attractive in Buenos Aires, an atmospheric mix of belle époque and Italianate townhouses with innovative new-build and conversions. Evita Perón was laid to rest in the ornate cemetery here.

Buenos Aires is a cultured and cosmopolitan city famed for its interesting museums, the fascinating arty district La Boca, with its cobbled streets and brightly painted houses, and the former docks at Puerto Madero, where warehouses and port installations have been converted into an attractive leisure area. The centre of the city is home to the colonial heartland, government buildings and churches, as well as chic shopping districts, which have a nostalgic Parisian feel. San Telmo, also a short hop from the colonial heart, is a bohemian quarter with crumbling houses and signs of gentrification, it's the cradle of the tango and hosts a famous flea market, late night bars and boutique hotels and restaurants.

DAY 2

City tour with a visit to Recoleta Cemetery.

Your guided city tour takes you along Avenida 9 de Julio, one of the widest boulevards in the world and studded by the Obelisk, an emblematic symbol of the city. On to the Plaza de Mayo, enclosed on three sides by the Metropolitan cathedral, the Town Hall and the Casa Rosada, the presidential palace. The tour continues to bohemian, arty La Boca, which was settled and built by Italian immigrants and has streets lined with brightly painted corrugated iron-clad houses. Visit the district of Recoleta where the elegant architecture of its tree-lined streets feels distinctly Parisian. Recoleta's vast cemetery is the resting place of generations of the Argentinean elite including Evita as well as an array of presidents, artists, scientists, writers and athletes.

DAY 3

At leisure. Dine at a live tango show.

At leisure in Buenos Aires. Stroll round Puerto Madero, the refurbished port district where former dock installations and features have been preserved alongside a string of excellent restaurants and loft conversions. Beyond the city limits, consider a trip across the River Plate to Colonia in Uruguay. Travel along a forest-fringed estuary, dotted with upmarket residences, to this peaceful little port, where you can wander among cobbled streets lined by colonial houses, or have a meal or drink in the yacht club. Alternatively, venture into the watery delta to the small town of Tigre, set on the banks of the Luján River. Have lunch at one of the restaurants on the shores of the Río Paraná, while watching fisherman at work and river-craft gliding by.

Evening guided visit to a tango show with dinner. The passage of time has given respectability to a dance once confined to the seedy underworld bars of the red-light La Boca district. Nowadays, a number of 'tango houses' offer a dinner and show as an evening out. Rojo Tango is located within the Faena, a chic and arty hotel in the regenerated docklands area of Puerto Madero. This intimate venue is very much in the style of an old cabaret nightclub with moody red decór.

DAY 4

Fly to Mendoza in the wine-producing region.

Fly to Mendoza in Argentina's wine country in the shadow of the eastern flank of the Andes, and continue to your Lodge. The celebrated vineyards in this region provide the perfect place to enjoy fine vintages and a superb gastronomic experience.

DAYS 5-6

Visit wineries from your countryside lodge.

At leisure at Cavas Wine Lodge. The property is ideally situated as a base to visit some of the region's finest private wineries including Catena Zapata, Chandon, Achaval Ferrer, and Fabre Montmayou. Your stay includes a visit to a different winery on each day and you can also take advantage of one of the outdoor sports on offer which include biking, trekking, horse riding and golf followed by a massage courtesy of the lodge, the ideal pre dinner aperitif.

DAY 7

Transfer to colonial estancia on the pampas.

Fly back to Buenos Aires and transfer by road to the Estancia. A place where you will be drawn back to more opulent times when they were the backbone of a thriving economy.

DAY 8

At leisure on the estancia.

There's a lovely outdoor swimming pool (open in summer) with views over parkland and sun loungers, games room and small library. Activities include horse-riding, walking and carriage rides in the surrounding bird-filled pampas.

DAY 9

Transfer to airport, fly to El Calafate and drive to luxury estancia.

Fly to El Calafate in Southern Patagonia (5hrs), a small tourist resort with a frontier feel situated on the banks of milky turquoise Lago Argentino. Argentina's Patagonia is a remote land of endless grassy plains, granite mountain peaks tipped with eternal snows, turquoise lakes dotted with icebergs and immense blue-tinged glaciers. Continue by road to your Hotel.

DAYS 10-11

Activities at your Patagonian retreat.

Guided excursion to Perito Moreno Glacier. It's an early morning departure from El Calafate to Los Glaciares National Park, a 90min drive to the walkways and viewing platform overlooking the glacier. The thundering shards of falling ice are a breath-taking spectacle as you pass at a safe distance along the walkway in front of the Canal de los Tempanos, which separates Brazo Rico from the main part of the lake. The glacier is a staggering 5km wide and stands 60m above the surface of the lake. Its ice mass is fed by the southern continental ice field from the west, and from other smaller glaciers in the vicinity.

In the afternoon, board the Safari Nautico or Moreno Fiesta for an hour-long cruise on the lake beneath the glacier, with a commentary. Alternatively, you can just walk and contemplate, away from the other visitors.

There's also a guided excursion to Estancia Cristina. This full-day trip explores the iceberg-strewn fingers of Lago Argentino. There are about 15 bumpy minutes as the comfortable motor cruiser crosses the southern arm of the lake. Soon, the first icebergs come into view as the boat continues towards the Upsala Channel and the vast Upsala Glacier. It isn't possible to get close to the glacier because of the floating ice in its vanguard but the surrounding scenery is wonderful.

Continue into the Cristina Channel, and dock at Estancia Cristina. Explore one of Patagonia's most remote historic estancias, established in 1914 by English pioneer Joseph Masters and named after his daughter. Have lunch before going on a 10km drive by all-terrain vehicle into the mountains to a refuge. Here, walk for half an hour to a viewpoint, offering – weather permitting – a fabulous panorama of the eastern side of the Upsala glacier, the Southern Patagonian ice cap, Lago Guillermo and – of course – the Andes. Drive back to the estancia and in the late afternoon, sail back towards Punta Bandera and your hotel.

DAY 12

Transfer to airport, fly to Buenos Aires

You have one further night in the capital to enjoy one of the fine restaurants and maybe dip into the capital's famous nightlife entertainment.

DAY 13

Transfer to airport for your flight home.

WHAT'S INCLUDED IN THE PRICE

Services of our team of experts in our London office

Services of Journey Latin America local representatives and guides

All land and air transport within Latin America

Accommodation as specified

Meals as specified

Excursions as specified, including entrance fees

INCLUDED EXCURSIONS

City tour of Buenos Aires

Tango show with dinner in Buenos Aires

Activities at Estancia La Bamba

Winery visits in the vineyard country

Guided excursion to Perito Moreno Glacier with boat trip

Cruise on Lago Argentino to historic Estancia Cristina

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED IN THE PRICE

Tips and gratuities

Meals other than specified

International flights to Latin America

Airport taxes, when not included in the ticket

Optional excursions

ESSENTIALS

TRANSPORT
4 flights (longest 3hrs); several scenic road journeys (longest about 2hrs).

ACCOMMODATION
Argentina has a fine choice of first class luxury ranch and country estate accommodation (estancia). The estancias are intimate, cosy, and elegant properties – for this holiday we've chosen from the very best and most stylish properties available. They all have beautiful settings and top-of-the range facilities.

MEALS
Breakfast daily, half board days 3, 4, 7; full board days 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11.

GUIDES
We carefully select our local partners, some of whom we have worked with for over 25 years. Their English-speaking guides understand the expectations of our clients very well, and are consistently singled out for praise by the latter on their return.

SUMMARY OF NIGHTS
13 days, 12 nights: Buenos Aires 3; vineyard and winery 3; pampas estancia 2, Patagonian lodge 3; Buenos Aires 1.

DAILY SPEND
It is very difficult to give a guideline for essential expenses but a budget of around US$50 per day should cover the cost of meals not included in the holiday itinerary, drinks and the odd souvenir. Eat at the best restaurants and you will pay considerably more.

CURRENCY
The unit of currency in Argentina is the Argentine peso.

HOW TO TAKE IT
For our latest currency advice for Argentina please see our FAQs section.

TIPPING
Tips are expected and local guides often rely on their tip as a significant proportion of their income.

Most service industry workers will expect a tip of some kind and so it is useful to have spare change for hotel porters, taxi drivers and the like. It is common to leave 10 – 12% in restaurants.

INSURANCE
Travel insurance is essential.

Details of our recommended policy can be found on our Travel insurance website.

AIRPORT TAXES
If you have purchased your flights through Journey Latin America, the international departure tax is usually included in the ticket.

TRIP SUITABILITY
Given the spectacular size of Argentina, there are distances to cover on this holiday so we have chosen domestic flights as the most convenient way to get around. There's time to relax, or book up optional excursions at the lodges. Be prepared for potentially some extreme weather in Patagonia.

This holiday is suitable for all able reasonably fit visitors, including families. If you are travelling alone or have a disability or other special requirement, please do call us.

CLIMATE

Buenos Aires and the pampa plains have similar weather conditions – they are hottest January-March (very humid with tropical showers, occasionally over 40°C during the day). They can be cold and cloudy July-August, so weather conditions are best for a visit in spring and autumn.

Mendoza is a year round destination with plenty of sunshine. Temperatures dip from a high of 30°C to 15°C in winter but most rain falls in summer. The vineyards are stunning when cloaked in the fiery red of their autumn plumage.

Patagonia is best to visit in the summer (December-February) when days are long and mild. March/April or September/October can be sunny and clear, but it can be windy. In the winter months June-August it is very cold and access routes can be blocked by snow. Many facilities are closed then, too.

CLOTHING AND SPECIAL EQUIPMENT

The southern hemisphere summer will be hot, therefore in Buenos Aires take loose-fitting light clothing for maximum comfort at this time. An umbrella is a good idea in case of a tropical shower. Spring and autumn are milder and less predictable.

For day-to-day wear in Patagonia you should go prepared to encounter all seasons. Bring both warm clothing and a sun hat; a light fleece jacket and a Gore-Tex outer shell is a good combination. Trousers, skirt or shorts made from light, quick-drying synthetic materials work well.

South America is in general a relaxed continent and you won't need clothes for formal dining but you may wish to take some smart casual wear for dining at the estancias or at top of the range restaurants.

Please get in touch with the office before departure if you have any doubts. Good equipment is very important and hard to come by in South America.

VACCINATIONS

Preventative vaccinations are recommended against the following: typhoid; polio; tetanus; hepatitis A. You should consult your GP for specific requirements.

You can also find helpful information on the Masta Travel Health website.

VISAS

Holders of a full British passport do not require a visa, although passports must be valid for at least 6 months after the trip begins. Anyone with a different nationality should enquire with us or check with the relevant consulate.

If flying to the US, or via the US you will need to fill in your online ESTA application.

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GET IN TOUCH WITH US...

Our friendly, knowledgeable team of travel experts are always happy to chat about holiday ideas and share helpful advice. Give us a call today and begin planning your perfect trip to Latin America.

GIVE US A CALL

We'd love to chat

0208 747 8315

OPENING HOURS

Monday – Friday: 9am – 6pm
Saturday & Sunday: Closed

SEND US AN EMAIL

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