



PRIVATE JOURNEYS WITH JOURNEY LATIN

SIGNATURE NORTHERN CHILE AND ARGENTINA: ATACAMA DESERT TO IGUAZU FALLS

15 days from £5,950pp

CHILE / SANTIAGO AND THE VINEYARDS / ATACAMA DESERT / ARGENTINA / SALTA /
IGUAZÚ FALLS / IGUAZU FALLS - ARGENTINIAN SIDE / BUENOS AIRES

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

Together, Argentina and Chile comprise a large portion of South America and encompass some of the most fascinating cultures, unforgettable natural wonders, and dramatic landscapes. Travel to the best destinations in Chile and Argentina with this two-week journey. Cross a high pass over the Chilean Andes from the Atacama Desert to the golden russet canyon country and indigenous villages around Salta in northwest Argentina. Fly to the Iguazú Falls, before heading to cosmopolitan Buenos Aires.

DAY 1	Arrive in Santiago. Transfer to hotel. Walking tour of Santiago's historic centre.
DAY 2	Full day excursion to Maipo Valley visiting two vineyards.
DAY 3	Fly to Calama, transfer to desert town San Pedro de Atacama. Sunset trip to Moon Valley.
DAY 4	Cross the Atacama salt flat to the high altiplanic lagoons
DAY 5	Full day visit to Tatio Geysers – highest geyser field in the world.
DAY 6	Public bus to Purmamarca.
DAY 7	At leisure.
DAY 8	Discover Humahuaca Gorge, continue to Humahuaca village.
DAY 9	Salta walking tour including cable car up San Bernardo Hill. Fly to Puerto Iguazú.
DAY 10	Full day excursion to Argentine side of Iguazú falls.
DAY 11	Half day to explore Brazilian side of Iguazú falls.
DAY 12	Fly to Buenos Aires, transfer to hotel in Recoleta district.
DAY 13	City tour including visit to Recoleta Cemetery.
DAY 14	At leisure, optional evening tango show with dinner
DAY 15	Transfer to airport for international flight home.

ITINERARY

The Andean crossing between the Atacama Desert and Salta in the Argentine Andean foothills is the highest and most elemental pass, where sun-bleached arid rock gives way to ice-clad skeletal peaks. Salta, a friendly, laid-back but cultured colonial city, with its graceful baroque architecture and stunning, colourful cathedral, is a great contrast to the vast capital, Buenos Aires. Around it are communities and vestiges of the country's indigenous population, whose crafts and agricultural practices survive to this day.

From there you'll fly to the subtropical rainforest of Iguazú National Park and survey and explore the monumental Iguazú Falls; 276 separate cascades thundering over a granite precipice. At either end of the holiday there's time in a historically significant, sophisticated city – Santiago and Buenos Aires.

DAY 1

Arrive in Santiago. Transfer to hotel. Walking tour of Santiago's historic centre.

Arrive Santiago and transfer to your hotel in Providencia, a leafy, upmarket residential and commercial district. The cosmopolitan capital, has to its east the immense wall of rock of the Andes – snow-capped in winter. You have a guided walking tour of the historic heart of the city, which is home to a few notable buildings such as the house of celebrated poet laureate Pablo Neruda. There's a panoramic view of the city from Cerro Santa Lucía, a hilltop park.

If you have time, a funicular tram or cable car can take you to the top of Cerro San Cristóbal. A mixture of chic, residential areas and smart office towers surround a compact colonial centre. Beyond are sprawling working class districts with a crush of more modest homes.

DAY 2

Full day excursion to Maipo Valley visiting two vineyards.

Mountain air, haciendas and stately manor houses set the scene for a tour which takes you into the heartland of Chile's wine growing region. Pirque in the Maipo Valley is home to two of the country's most prestigious names in wine; Concha y Toro and Cousiño Macul. A short distance from the capital, these vineyards offer an insight into a wine growing region blessed with what is often referred to as the trilogy: climate, soil and vine-stock.

Visit two vineyards with the opportunity to learn about the wine-producing processes and sample the results. Lunch is usually taken at the atmospheric Tesoros del Chile restaurant, situated in a quaint nineteenth century residence in Pirque.

DAY 3

Fly to Calama, transfer to desert town San Pedro de Atacama. Sunset trip to Moon Valley.

Fly to Calama in the Atacama Desert and continue by road to the little resort town of San Pedro de Atacama. There's a guided afternoon excursion to the moon-like Valle de la Luna. Drive through the spectacular rock formations of Cordillera de la Sal towards the valley where, especially in early-evening light, the lunar landscape is astonishingly photogenic.

Huge sand dunes sweep across a panorama of salt-encrusted canyons, gullies and eroded rock sculptures such as Las Tres Marias. Walk up to the top of the impressive 'Gran Duna' – a popular venue for extreme sports such as sand-boarding – and take your position for arguably the most memorable experience of today's excursion: the valley's appearance at sunset – a dazzling artist's palette of gold and reds.

DAY 4

Cross the Atacama salt flat to the high altiplanic lagoons

This scenic full-day excursion to the high altiplano above San Pedro de Atacama reaches an altitude of over 4,300m. The road heads south, passing the distinctive cone of Lincancabur volcano and cutting across the eastern corner of the Salar de Atacama before reaching the village of Toconao (2,600m), which is typical of the small oasis villages of the area. Figs and quinces and a handsome whitewashed bell tower help give the village its own distinctive character.

Continue to the village of Socaire (3,500m) with its 18th century church set against a field of sunflowers and a market specialising in llama wool knitwear. Next, drive up to Minique and Miscanti lagoons. At over 4,100m above sea level, Minique has deep, dark blue waters while Miscanti is a brilliant azure colour. Stroll along the shores before crossing the Salar de Atacama, the third largest salt flat in the world and home to colonies of Andean, Chilean and James flamingos. Arriving at Laguna Chaxa, you should have the opportunity to observe flamingos and a variety of other birds.

DAY 5

Full day visit to Tatio Geysers – highest geyser field in the world.

Depart in the early hours of the morning (normally before 5am) for the guided excursion to Tatio geysers. It's a 98km drive to the highest geyser field in the world (4,300m). At this altitude, sub-zero temperatures are the norm, especially just before dawn. Upon arrival, enjoy a picnic-style breakfast and explore with your guide. The geysers are a memorable, surreal sight at sunrise – blow-holes send jets of water and steam into a cloudless sky and, as the sun rises, the pools of water turn to shimmering silver.

DAY 6**Public bus to Purmamarca.**

Drive down through the eastern flank of the Andes into Argentina. This is a spectacular drive by comfortable public coach over the Andes. It takes 6-7 hrs, including border controls outside San Pedro de Atacama and again at Paso de Jama (4,400m) on the Argentine side, 3hrs hours later. Along the way, enjoy breathtaking wilderness scenery: turquoise lakes backed by high mountains, glistening salt flats and desert strutted by battalions of cacti.

The bus stop in the village of Purmamarca is right outside your accommodation for the night.

DAY 7**At leisure.**

At leisure in Purmamarca, in the north-western area known as Quebrada de Humahuaca. Purmamarca is at the foot of the famous Seven Colour hill, one of north-west Argentina's most popular attractions. The hill's deeply-defined strata seem to constantly change colour according to the light conditions. Purmamarca is a relaxing place to explore – its dazzling white 17th century church dominates the village square where inhabitants like to relax in the shade whilst visitors wander among colourful handicrafts stalls.

DAY 8**Discover Humahuaca Gorge, continue to Humahuaca village.**

Check out of the hotel and you'll be driven along the Humahuaca gorge, famous for its deep terracotta rock strata and giant cacti. Even this far into Argentina, there are echoes of Bolivia in the canyon's peaceful towns and villages with their solid-looking colonial churches and quaint adobe-brick houses. Just south of Humahuaca village, the Tropic of Capricorn passes through the village of Uquia.

Meanwhile Tilcara is one of the region's most important settlements where you'll visit the pre-Inca Pucara fortress which has great views across the town and valley beyond. Continue to Salta (3hrs)

DAY 9

**Salta walking tour including cable car up San Bernardo Hill.
Fly to Puerto Iguazú.**

Walking tour of Salta. The friendly north-western city is renowned for its colonial architecture and claret-red ponchos. This is the only Argentine region where vestiges of indian heritage are still visible. There is a walking tour of the attractive city including the cathedral, San Francisco church, the Northern Historical museum, San Bernardo convent, and the view of the city from San Bernardo hill reached by cable car. Later, fly to Puerto Iguazú on the border with Brazil in the northeast.

DAY 10

Full day excursion to Argentine side of Iguazú falls.

Excursion to the Argentine side of Iguazú Falls. Stop at the National Park Visitor Centre, where there is a display illustrating the biodiversity of the tropical rainforest. From here, a little gas-powered train transfers you to Cataratas station where the Upper Walk begins. This sequence of causeways and passerelles links dozens of tiny, basalt islands at the top of the rock face. The walkways cross the myriad streams of the Río Iguazú as they cascade over the lip of the precipice. A succession of lookout points allows your gaze to follow the water, as it plunges onto the rocks below.

You can then continue to the Lower Walk, which involves stairs, and gives you a totally different view of these falls. Climb back up to the train and continue, about 20mins, to Devil's Throat station. From here, a kilometre-long walkway leads you across the river to the thunderous Garganta del Diablo, which offers a spectacular vantage point to peer into the thundering vortex below.

DAY 11

Half day to explore Brazilian side of Iguazú falls.

Guided excursion to the Brazilian side of the falls. Cross the bridge which spans the Iguazú river and links the cities of Puerto Iguazú in Argentina and Foz do Iguaçu in Brazil. You'll board a (shared) National Park service here and continue by road for the final stretch to the falls themselves.

There's a walkway of about a kilometre, with viewpoints at strategic intervals – you get a panoramic view of the whole sweep of the cataracts – an entirely different experience from the Argentine side. Towards the end of the walk, there's an observation tower adjacent to the falls, and a walkway at the bottom takes you out for a closer and much wetter experience.

DAY 12

Fly to Buenos Aires, transfer to hotel in Recoleta district.

Fly to Buenos Aires (2hrs) and transfer to your hotel in Recoleta, the smart belle époque/Italianate residential quarter of leafy plazas, pavement cafés and the famous cemetery where Eva Peron was buried. Buenos Aires is probably the most cosmopolitan metropolis in South America. Certainly it looks more European than any other in the Americas: wide boulevards, monumental architecture, art deco cafeterias and designer-label shops.

This seductive city oozes old world atmosphere and nostalgia, with its colonial buildings, antique markets, shady squares and tango halls. That's not to say Buenos Aires is just stuck in its past – it's equally vital and contemporary with a vibrant arts scene, top drawer restaurants, ultra-chic boutique hotels and a pulsating nightlife. The city's passion for football reaches a crescendo during the local derby between Argentina's two biggest football clubs, Boca Juniors and River Plate.

DAY 13**City tour including 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 14**At leisure, optional evening tango show with dinner**

A final day at leisure to enjoy Buenos Aires. In the evening why not head out to one of the city's tango venues. 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' cater to visitors and a visit is a must. San Telmo's tango venues occupy elegant, atmospheric buildings where you can observe a polished performance of this sensual, often melancholy art form of which the porteños are justifiably proud – all _____

DAY 15**Transfer to airport for international 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

Half day walking tour of Santiago's architecture

Full day excursion to Maipo Valley visiting two vineyards

Sunset trip to Moon Valley

Tour to Toconao village, Minique and Miscanti lagoons, Atacama salt flat and Laguna Chaxa

Full day visit to Tatio Geysers – highest geyser field in the world

Discover Humahuaca Gorge, on to Tilcara and Humahuaca village

Salta walking tour including cable car up San Bernardo Hill

Full day excursion to Argentine side of Iguazú falls

Half day to explore Brazilian side of Iguazú falls

Tango show with dinner at El Querandi

Half-day guided tour in Buenos Aires

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

SUMMARY OF NIGHTS

15 days, 14 nights: Santiago 2; San Pedro de Atacama 3; Purmamarca 2; Salta 1; Iguazú 3; Buenos Aires 3.

ACCOMMODATION

This trip features small or mid-sized hotels, traditional or contemporary in style with well equipped rooms, private bathroom and heating. Some are considered to be boutique hotels with special features and good service.

TRANSPORT

Three flights (longest 4hrs); 2 scenic road journeys (longest 7hrs).

MEALS

Breakfast daily, lunch days 2, 4; dinner day 14.

GUIDES

Our local, trusted and carefully selected partners understand the expectations of our customers very well, and their staff and guides are consistently singled out for praise by clients on their return. On this holiday, you will be joined by different guides for each activity and or region, ensuring you benefit from specialised expertise and knowledge, often from someone local to the area.

OPTIONAL EXCURSIONS

As well as any included activities, this Private Journey includes some free time for optional excursions. As optional excursions are often subject to availability, we recommend you discuss and arrange them with your Travel Expert as early as possible before you depart.

A selection of these include:

- Helicopter ride over Iguazú falls.
- Bird Park Iguazú (Brazilian side).
- Guided trip into the River Plate delta from Buenos Aires.

ALTITUDE

Some of the excursions in the Atacama Desert are spent at high altitude, although you stay the night in San Pedro de Atacama which is at a comfortable height of 2,500m. Please refer to the Country Information page or your briefing dossier, for further information on altitude, including how to avoid and treat altitude sickness.

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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

tours@journeylatinamerica.com