



## Essence of Argentina & Brazil

Active Immerse Yourself Tour | 12 Days | Physical Level 3

Buenos Aires – Uruguay - Iguacu – Rio de Janeiro

A classic South America itinerary with a tango-worthy twist, travel between the vivacious cities of Buenos Aires and Rio de Janeiro and the spectacular Iguacu Falls. Visit 3 Countries in one trip with a trip to Colonia in Uruguay.

- Explore the delights of Buenos Aires
- Take a Tango dancing class
- Explore La Colonia in Uruguay
- Dine on a traditional asado
- Marvel at Iguacu Falls
- Discover vibrant Rio de Janeiro



### Essence of Argentina & Brazil inclusions:

- Return international economy flights, taxes and current fuel surcharges (unless a land only option is selected)
- All accommodation
- Meals as stated
- Touring with guides and entrance fees
- All transportation and transfers
- English speaking Local Guides

*The only thing you may have to pay for are personal expenditure e.g. meals, drinks, visas, optional excursions or shows, insurance of any kind, customary tipping, early check in or late checkout and other items not specified on the itinerary.*

### South America Active Immerse Yourself Tours:

Active tours combine the key sights with more energetic pursuits such as hiking and cycling. This allows us to explore more and discover the destination in greater depth. These tours are designed to provide a wide range of activities to ensure a varied and culturally immersive experience. These tours include:

- Cycling or walking through classic sites
- Unique cultural experiences and encounters
- Off the beaten track destinations
- More evenings at leisure for independent exploration

### Physical Level 3:

All our tours feature a physical rating to help you select the right holiday for you. To travel on any of our tours requires unaided mobility and the ability to stroll around the sights. 'Essence of Argentina and Brazil' is rated 3 on the physical level scale. A good level of fitness is required as you need to be comfortable walking for 2-3 hours and covering longer distances. Walking or other activities such as cycling will be at a gentle pace and will involve straight forward terrain.

- You will be required, on several occasions, to climb on and off boats without assistance and spend an extended amount of time on boats in open water.
- There will be several days of sightseeing on foot for a period of time and in some cases for an extended period of time.

Of course, our Local Guides will always endeavour to provide the highest level of service and assistance; however, they cannot be expected to cater for customers who are unfit to complete the itinerary.

### Joining Your Tour

The tour is 12 days in duration including international flights. Travellers booked on 'Land Only, the price includes your arrival/departure airport transfers if arriving/departing on the start and conclusion date of your tour. Please advise your international flight times to reservations. Join the tour on Day 1 in Buenos Aires and end the tour on Day 10 in Rio De Janeiro. Please refer to your final itinerary for more specific meeting instructions pertaining to your departure.

## Itinerary – Essence of Argentina & Brazil

Days 1: Fly Australia to Buenos Aires

Meals included: Dinner

Fly to Argentina's flamboyant capital city Buenos Aires, arriving the same day due to crossing the International Date Line. You will be met at the airport and transferred 45 minutes to your hotel. The rest of the day is at leisure until a welcome dinner this evening.

### Destination Information

**Buenos Aires** - The Paris of South America, Buenos Aires is a romantic and lively city. The culture of the city is extremely diverse and the asado (barbecue) restaurants are second to none. Most importantly of all, Buenos Aires is the home of Tango and performers can be seen dancing in restaurants, bars or even on the streets.

Day 2: Vibrant Buenos Aires

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

After breakfast, enjoy the irresistible combination of Latin flair and European elegance in a Buenos Aires city tour. Visit the vibrant districts of La Boca, San Telmo, Puerto Madero, Palermo and Recoleta. This afternoon participate in a quintessential Argentinian experience; the tango! Take a tango class before sitting down for dinner and a sultry tango show.



### Destination Information

**La Boca** – A buzzing barrio of Buenos Aires packed with colourful shacks built from Zinc, La Boca is a popular area to see street artists and tango dancers.

Day 3: Buenos Aires to La Colonia

Meals included: Breakfast, Boxed lunch

Enjoy a day trip to Uruguay, taking a ferry across the Rio de La Plata to Colonia del Sacramento. A picture-perfect colonial town, Colonia was founded by the Portuguese in 1680 and is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The beautiful Barrio Historico, which occupies a small peninsula that juts out into the river, is a maze of old cobbled streets that are a delight to wander. Admire the main square, see the ruins of San Francisco Church and visit the lighthouse amongst much more. (B,L)

### Destination Information

**La Colonia** – The historic quarter of **Colonia** del Sacramento, founded in 1680, evokes old Lisbon with its Portuguese-influenced architecture and winding streets. The area, located in southwestern **Uruguay** on the Rio de **la** Plata, was named a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1995.

#### Day 4: Estancia Experience

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

Travel 1 hour 30 minutes by road to just outside the city. Spend the day on the vast, fertile grasslands known as the pampas, on a traditional estancia (ranch). Here you'll get some insight into the life of the folk heroes, the gaucho, and after a typical Argentinian asado lunch, there will be a fun folklore show.



#### Day 5: Buenos Aires to Iguacu (Brazil)

Meals included: Breakfast

Say farewell to Buenos Aires and transfer 30 minutes to the airport to board your plane over to Puerto Iguaza, the town closest to the incredible wonder that is Iguacu Falls. Your flight is just under 2 hours. Pass over the border into Brazil by road. This side of Iguacu offers a completely different experience with paths and boardwalks to wander. These will lead you to some of the numerous smaller cascades that dance their way along gullies and through lush greenery. Admire the falls for around 2 hours before continuing on to your hotel.

*Please note that you will be travelling straight to the Falls from the airport, so you will need to pack suitable waterproof clothing in your hand luggage for the flight*

#### Destination Information

**Iguacu Falls** - The incredible Iguacu Falls spans the border of Argentina and Brazil and features hundreds of rushing cascades, set in a lush rainforest scene. The region has been declared a world heritage site and received the status of one of the New Seven Wonders of Nature in 2011.

#### Day 6: Iguacu (Argentina)

Meals included: Breakfast

Today, transfer 25 minutes to the falls. You will wander along the Argentinian side of Iguacu, which offers a fantastic overview of the whole of the falls, and showcases its power and magnificence. Don't miss the viewpoint of one of the falls' most impressive sights, the Garganta del Diablo. Take the Ecological Jungle Train, a 15 minute journey, which takes you to the most impressive observation point – the Devil's Throat. Sightseeing today will be a full day with around 6 hours on foot. This afternoon, take a unique opportunity to learn about the indigenous culture of the *Mbororé Aldea* people, who open the doors of their community and share fascinating stories of their ancestors, rituals, myths and legends. Finish the day with an interactive craft experience.



**Day 7: Iguacu (Argentina) to Rio de Janeiro**

Meals included: Breakfast

Today, after breakfast, hop on a plane to Brazil's 'Cidade Maravilhosa', Rio de Janeiro. The flight is approximately 2 hours. On arrival, transfer to your hotel.

**Destination Information**

**Rio de Janeiro** – Famous for its beaches, lush scenery and samba fuelled nightlife, the captivating city of Rio is home to Christ the Redeemer and the impressive Sugar Loaf Mountain.

**Day 8: Christ the Redeemer**

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

Climb onboard a jeep to venture to some of Rio's many wonders! Drive about 20 minutes to Cosme Velho Street, then in Paineras station switch to the official vans to ascend the Corcovado, on the peak of which Christ the Redeemer watches over the city, on the way you will pass through the lush vegetation of the Tijuca Forest. You can take the steps at the final stage to Christ the Redeemer however there is an escalator if you'd prefer. Next explore the 19th-century hillside neighbourhood of Santa Teresa, an area with a wonderfully bohemian atmosphere, where you'll also have lunch in a traditional restaurant.

**Destination Information**

**Corcovado** - Meaning hunch back in Portuguese is a 710m granite peak in the centre of Rio, surrounded by the Tijuca Forest, and is home to Christ the Redeemer.

**Santa Teresa** - An area of Rio with a wonderfully bohemian atmosphere known for as the arts centre of the city with lots of craftsmanship galleries.

### Day 9: Explore Rio de Janeiro

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

After breakfast, tour the city through downtown Rio, passing by the Sambodrome and the Metropolitan Cathedral. Get to know the traditional Candelaria square with its historical buildings; the Municipal Theatre, the National Library, and the National Museum of Fine Arts. Then via Aterro do Flamengo, transfer about 20 minutes to the neighbourhood of Urca where you will ascend to the heights of Sugarloaf Mountain by cable cars. The first cable car, will take you 215 metres high. From there, board the second which will lead you to breath taking views at the top of the Sugar Loaf Mountain, 395 metres high. Take in the incredible sights of the Guanabara Bay and its islands, Rio-Nitero Bridge and Corcovado. Later in the evening, transfer back to Copacabana to visit a samba club, where you can simply tap your foot to the infectious beat and watch the dancing, or dance the night away yourself!



#### Destination Information

**Sugar Loaf Mountain** – An iconic peak in Rio reached by cable car and offering stunning views from its summit.

### Days 10 - 12: Depart Rio de Janeiro

Meals included: Breakfast

Today you will transfer approximately 1 hour to the airport according to your international flight to Australia. Arriving home in 2 days due to crossing the International Date Line once again.

## Essence of Argentina & Brazil Travel Information

### Visas

Australian passport holders currently do not require a visa to enter Argentina, but a visa is required for Brazil. Your passport needs to be valid for at least six months beyond your intended return date to Australia. Wendy Wu Tours does not provide a visa service for Worldwide tours and you will need to obtain a Brazil Visa before you depart Australia. To stay up to date with the latest visa requirements, visit [www.smartraveller.gov.au](http://www.smartraveller.gov.au)

### Insurance

It is a condition of booking with us that you take out suitable travel insurance. You must provide us with the name of your insurer, policy number and their 24-hour emergency contact number when you book with us or as soon as possible thereafter. These details will be available to your local guides should they be required. Wendy Wu Tours will not be liable for any costs incurred by you due to your failure to take out suitable travel insurance from the date of booking.

### Eating in Argentina & Brazil

Argentinian food incorporates many European influences predominantly from Italy and Spain. The Argentinian barbeque (asado) with steak and ribs is widely recognised as the countries national dish, however in Patagonia lamb, goat and seafood are popular. Empanadas, stuffed pastry parcels, are a traditional snack and Dulce de leche (similar to caramel) features heavily in desserts throughout the country. Lunch usually seen as the main meal of the day in Argentina with dinner being a lighter dish.

Brazilian food is strongly influenced by European and African cuisines, whilst there is not a single national cuisine there is an assortment of regional traditional dishes. In Rio and Sao Paulo the Brazilian Feijoada is the traditional dish, a stew made from meat and black beans. In Northern Brazil Cassava (a root vegetable) features heavily in meals. Popular dishes throughout the country include rice and beans, served with meat and salad, fresh tropical fruit is a common dessert. Typical snacks include Pao de queijo (cheese bread), Coxinha which is a chicken croquette, and Kibe which is a bulgar wheat and beef croquette.

Whilst we strongly recommend trying as many local dishes as possible, Argentina and Brazil also have a wide range of international foods available.

### Clothing

On this tour, you will be travelling through various regions of Argentina and Brazil with quite diverse climates especially in whilst in the Northern Andean region or Argentina and the Brazil Coastal area of Rio. It is recommended to bring lots of layers including the following: T Shirts made of breathable materials, hiking pants, with the option to turn into a short pant (rain pants optional), a fleece jacket for colder parts and the evenings and a waterproof Jacket as shell layer or a light rain jacket, a scarf and hat, warm socks. The climate in Cartagena is tropical, humid and warm we recommend to, wear light weight breathable clothing. A small back pack that fits into your main hand luggage to carry your daily essentials.

## Accommodation

Your accommodation is selected for convenience of location, comfort or character, and can range from business hotels to rainforest lodges. Hotels are generally rated as local three to four-star standard, but please note that there is no international classification system for hotels and differences in facilities and quality may exist between the Australia and South America. All group tour hotels have private bathroom facilities and air conditioning where needed. If you experience any difficulty, please speak to your Local Guide. Rest assured that all hotels used by Wendy Wu Tours are regularly inspected by our staff and our partners to ensure that standards meet your needs.

## Transport

**Coaches:** Coaches with air conditioning are used on our group tours for city short excursions to the countryside and longer transfers between destinations. Roads in Argentina and Brazil have generally been improved over recent years, but please be aware traffic and/or weather conditions may extend driving times. There may be sections of road where the surface may be comparatively bumpy but our drivers will do their utmost to lessen the impact.

**Planes:** Internal flights are based on economy class, with reputable airlines.

## Souvenirs

There are plenty of interesting bits and pieces to buy as souvenirs in Argentina and Brazil, such as indigenous textiles, handicrafts and artworks. There will be some opportunities during your tour to pick up souvenirs.

## Group Size

Most of our groups consist of 10 travellers or more, there will usually be no more than 28 travellers in each group. All our departures are guaranteed to operate with a minimum of 8 travellers booked (unless cancelled due to factors beyond our control). However, at our discretion we may operate departures with a smaller group size as we try to operate advertised departures wherever it is viable to do so.

## Tipping Policy

Local tipping is customary in South & Central America. However, this can often lead to awkwardness in knowing when it is appropriate to tip and how much. For your convenience, with years of experience in providing the best customer service, Wendy Wu Tours operates a kitty system on your Group Tour so your Local Guide will look after this aspect of the trip for you. This ensures the amounts paid are reasonable for you and still fair to the local people. The suggested total amount is specified for each Group Tour and will be advised again on your final documentation. Tipping is paid in USD or other local currencies if specified. Any additional tipping you feel is appropriate is welcomed at your discretion.

## After your booking

Once you have booked with Wendy Wu Tours, you will receive a confirmation invoice followed by deposit documentation. Your final documentation pack will be sent to you approximately 2-3 weeks prior to departure.

## Itinerary changes

It is our intention to adhere to the day-to-day itinerary as printed; however, the order of events or sightseeing may change as we look to improve our tours or as local conditions dictate; in these circumstances we will make the best possible arrangements whilst maintaining the integrity of your trip.

## Before You Leave

We recommend that you contact either your GP or Travelvax (1300 360 164) for advice on vaccinations and travel health. Travelvax has a comprehensive website that you may also find useful [www.travelvax.com.au](http://www.travelvax.com.au).

We strongly recommend registering your travel plans with [www.smartraveller.gov.au](http://www.smartraveller.gov.au) as in the event of an emergency, Australian Consular assistance will be more readily available. You can also access the Australian Government's travel advisory service for up to date information about your destination on the same website

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