



## Essence of Argentina & Brazil

Worldwide Tour | 14 Days | Moderate

Buenos Aires – Salta – Purmamarca – Iguazu – 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 via the Andean city of Salta and the spectacular Iguazu Falls.

### TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- Explore the delights of Buenos Aires
- Take a Tango dancing class
- Dine on traditional asado
- Ride the 'Tren a las Nubes' through the Andes
- Marvel at Iguazu 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 English speaking Local Guides and entrance fees
- All transportation and transfers
- Specialist advice from our experienced travel consultants

*Personal expenditure e.g. drinks, optional excursions or shows, insurance of any kind, tipping (USD114 per person for the entire trip is customary), early check in or late checkout and other items not specified on the itinerary are at your own expense.*

## Worldwide Tours

With our selection of Worldwide tours, you can expect exactly the same Wendy Wu Tours experience. You'll get to see the iconic sites and magnificent treasures of South America on an excellent value group tour, whilst enjoying the company of like-minded people. This tour includes all meals, so you'll get to taste a range of delicious local foods at handpicked local restaurants or at your hotel. You will be accompanied by our dedicated and professional Local Guides throughout, whose unparalleled knowledge will turn your holiday into an unforgettable experience.

## Moderate Tour

'Essence of Argentina & Brazil' is a **moderate** tour. This means that the itinerary requires a good level of fitness.

- There will be time spent at altitude – The Humahuaca Valley sits at 3,000 metres above sea level and you will travel as high as 4,220 metres at La Polvorilla Viaduct. Activity at these levels will be at an easy pace.
- 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.

## 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.

## Joining Your Tour

Essence of Argentina & Brazil is 14 Days in duration including international flights. Travellers booked on Land Only, the tour price still includes your arrival and departure airport transfers. Please advise your international flight times to reservations. Join the tour on Day One in Buenos Aires and end the tour on Day 12 in Rio de Janeiro. Please refer to your final itinerary for more detailed information pertaining to the start and conclusion of your tour.

# Essence of Argentina & Brazil Itinerary

## **DAY 1: FLY TO BUENOS AIRES**

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 where you can refresh and relax until the welcome dinner this evening.

*Meals Included: Dinner*

### **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**

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.

*Meals Included: Breakfast, Dinner*

### **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: ESTANCIA EXPERIENCE**

Travel one hour and 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.

*Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch*

## **DAY 4: BUENOS AIRES TO SALTA**

This morning, transfer 30 minutes to the domestic airport for your flight to Salta. The flight is approximately one hour and 30 minutes. On arrival, you will be transferred 25 minutes to your hotel for check-in. This afternoon, tour the city and spend some time in the excellent Museo de Arqueología de Alta Montaña. The tour will last three hours.

*Meals Included: Breakfast*

### **Destination Information**

**Salta** – Set amongst the peaks at 1,152 metres above sea level, Salta is an engaging place, with great museums and extravagant colonial edifices.

## **DAY 5: SALTA TO PURMAMARCA**

The 'Train to the Clouds', one of the world's highest railways, departs from San Antonio de los Corbres and climbs its way into the spectacular heights of the Andes. Transfer approximately four hours to the station and climb aboard this heritage railway, you will chug two hours towards the Chilean border, passing along the Lerma Valley and through the otherworldly landscapes of Quebrada del Toro to the 4220-metre altitude La Polvorilla Viaduct. On arrival continue by road for about four hours to Purmamarca to check into your hotel. This day is at altitude.

*Meals Included: Breakfast*

### **Destination Information**

**Purmamarca** – A picturesque village of traditional adobe houses, Purmamarca is set at the base of the striking Seven Colours hill.

## **DAY 6: THE HUMAHUACA VALLEY**

Spend the day amongst the extraordinary formations and undulating colours of the Humahuaca Valley, a one hour drive from your hotel. Visit some of the different villages around the area including Tilcara. Return by road, approximately four and half hours, to Salta this evening.

*Meals Included: Breakfast*

### **Destination Information**

**Humahuaca Valley** - A UNESCO World Heritage site, the rocks of this stark, dry canyon are a swirling rainbow, the hues constantly changing, whilst others have been eroded into all sorts of odd and interesting shapes.

## **DAY 7: SALTA TO PUERTO IGUAZÚ**

Say farewell to Salta and the Andes and transfer 30 minutes to the airport to board your plane over to Puerto Iguazú, the town closest to the incredible wonder that is Iguazú Falls. Your flight is just under two hours. The rest of the day is at leisure.

*Meals Included: Breakfast*

### **Destination Information**

**Iguazú Falls** – The incredible Iguazú 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 8: IGUAZÚ FALLS (ARGENTINA SIDE)**

Today, transfer 25 minutes to the falls. You will wander along the Argentinian side of Iguazú, 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 six hours on foot.

*Meals Included: Breakfast*

### **DAY 9: IGUAÇU (BRAZIL SIDE) TO RIO DE JANEIRO**

Pass over the border into Brazil by road. This side of Iguaçu 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 two hours before transferring one hour to the airport. Hop on a plane to Brazil's 'Cidade Maravilhosa', Rio de Janeiro, the flight is approximately two hours. On arrival, transfer to your hotel.

*Meals Included: Breakfast, Dinner*

### **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 10: CHRIST THE REDEEMER**

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 Redemmer 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.

*Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch*

### **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 artisanship galleries.

### **DAY 11: RIO DE JANEIRO**

After breakfast, tour the city through downtown Rio, passing by the Sambodrome and the Metropolitan Cathedral. Get to know the traditional Cinelandia 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 breathtaking 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!

*Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch*

### **Destination Information**

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

### **DAY 12-14: FLY TO AUSTRALIA**

Transfer about one hour to the airport according to your international flight departure time and fly to Australia, arriving home in two days due to crossing the International Date Line.

*Meals Included: Breakfast (on Day 12)*

## 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. To stay up to date with the latest visa requirements, visit [www.smarttraveller.gov.au](http://www.smarttraveller.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 Guide 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.

### Altitude

On Day Five of this tour (Purmamarca) you will be spending several hours at altitude. Symptoms of Altitude Sickness may include dizziness, fatigue, nausea and shortness of breath. It is recommended that travellers utilize their first day in high-altitude destinations to acclimatise. To help you acclimatise we have designed our tours to be at a slower pace with more convenience stops and more free time. Staying hydrated, eating light meals and following a very light schedule will all help. We recommend that any symptoms that are unusual should be brought to the attention of your guide. Your guide will be extremely well-trained in dealing with its effects – taking it easy and taking some time to acclimatise are the best ways to prevent and combat it. Serious cases, meaning that you must descend immediately, are rare. We have adapted the itinerary to make sure that your time at these heights is as relaxed and easy as possible.

There are no specific factors, such as age or fitness, that can cause you to suffer from Altitude Sickness. It can affect anyone at any time and symptoms may vary. In some instances, a short spell on Oxygen can help enormously. There is medication - that can help treat and prevent symptoms. Consult a doctor before taking any of these medications, before engaging in strenuous activity at high altitude and regarding any necessary vaccinations in plenty of time before travelling.

### 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.

## Accommodation

Your accommodation is selected for convenience of location, comfort or character, and can range from business to tourist hotels. 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, air conditioning, TV and telephone. 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 short excursions to the countryside and longer transfers between destinations. Roads in South America are generally well maintained, although you will find some roads are not paved but gravel, particularly in Bolivia, 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 items 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 but there will usually be no more than 29 travellers in each group although you may encounter other Wendy Wu tour groups while you are travelling. 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 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 two weeks prior to departure.

## 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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