

Argentina



THIS EDITION WRITTEN AND RESEARCHED BY

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PLAN YOUR TRIP

ON THE ROAD

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Itineraries





A Week Around Buenos Aires

Seen Buenos Aires from top to bottom and wondering where else to visit? There's plenty of choice just outside Argentina's capital, from small and alluring cobblestoned towns to bigger, more exciting cities and bustling soft-sand beach resorts.

Tigre, with its hidden waterways and busy delta, is a popular *porteño* getaway for a day or two. Take a day-trip to peaceful **San Antonio de Areco**, which has a history of gaucho culture, or tidy **La Plata**, with its huge cathedral.

Perhaps you'd prefer a weekend at the beach? **Pinamar** and **Villa Gesell** make great summer escapes, as does **Mar del Plata**, the biggest Argentine beach destination of them all. Or head inland to **Tandil** for a couple of days; it's a pretty town near scenic hills and a large recreational reservoir.

And then there's Uruguay, just a (relatively) short boat ride away. **Colonia del Sacramento** is truly charming; filled with cobbled streets and atmospheric colonial buildings it makes a great day trip. Or stay overnight in **Montevideo**; kind of like BA's little sister, it's smaller and less frantic, but offers big-city delights such as a beautiful theater, an historic downtown and eclectic architecture.





Unmissable Argentina

Argentina is a huge country – the world's eighth largest – and experiencing all its highlights thoroughly will require at least a month, plus several airplane flights. If you want to see both the north and south, plan your trip accordingly: Patagonia is best in January and February, but this is when the northern deserts are at their hottest, so doing both regions might be best in spring or fall. Tailor the following destinations to your tastes, spending more or less time where you want to.

Take a few days to explore the wonders of **Buenos Aires**, with its fascinating neighborhoods and big-city sights. If it's the right season, fly south for wildlife viewing at **Reserva Faunística Península Valdés**; the whales, elephant seals and penguins here are especially popular. From here hop another flight to **Ushuaia**, the southernmost city in the world and a prime jumping-off point to Antarctica (add another two weeks and *minimum* US\$5000 for this trip!).

Now you'll head north to **El Calafate**, where the stunning Glaciar Perito Moreno of **Parque Nacional Los Glaciares** is one of the world's most spectacular sights. If you love the outdoors, cross the border to Chile's **Parque Nacional Torres del Paine**, an awe-inspiring cluster of mountains boasting some of the earth's most beautiful land-scapes. Back in Argentina, next stop **El Chaltén** is another world-class climbing, trekking and camping destination.

Further up the Andes is Argentina's Lake District, where a chocolate stop in **Bariloche** is a must. Gorgeous scenery, outdoor activities and lovely nearby towns can easily add days to your itinerary. Your next destination is **Mendoza**, Argentina's wine mecca, which also offers great outdoor adventures and mind-blowing Andean scenery. A 10-hour bus ride lands you in **Córdoba**, the country's second-largest city, with amazing colonial architecture and cutting-edge culture. From here go north to pretty **Salta**, where you can explore colorful canyons, charming villages and desert panoramas.

Pack your bags again and head east to **Parque Nacional Iguazú**, where the world's most massive falls will astound you. Fly back to BA and party till your plane leaves.



Top: Catedral de la Plata (p118) Bottom: Ruta 40 (p438)









Ruta Nacional 40

Argentina's quintessential road trip, RN 40 travels the length of the country. To do this adventure independently you'll need to rent a vehicle, ideally a 4WD as some sections are still unpayed.

Start near the amazingly colorful mountainsides of **Quebrada de Humahuaca** before hitting **Salta** and the wildly scenic villages of Valles Calchaquíes. Pause at lovely **Cafayate** and spectacularly located **Chilecito** before the long trip down to **Mendoza** to suss out the wine scene.

Continue south, stopping to check out the lagoons and hot springs around **Chos Malal**. Explore the lovely national parks of **Lanín** and **Nahuel Huapi** before hitting **San Martín de los Andes** and **Bariloche**, both of which offer fantastic outdoor opportunities. Further on, sidetrack to **Cueva de las Manos** for indigenous art.

Stop at **El Chaltén** for top-drawer hiking, then experience the **Glaciar Perito Moreno**. Cross the border to Chile and explore stunning **Parque Nacional Torres del Paine** before your last stop, **Ushuaia**; it's as far south as any highway in the world goes.



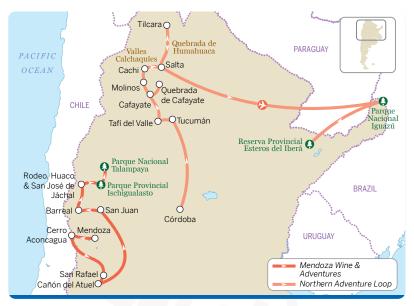
Jaw-dropping Andean peaks, adorable mountain villages and exotic coastal wildlife – you'll hit them all on this spectacular Patagonian adventure.

Begin in **Ushuaia**, where you can hop on a boat to cruise around the Beagle Channel and hopefully see some penguins. Nearby **Parque Nacional Tierra del Fuego** offers a few end-of-the-world hikes (literally).

Now fly to **El Calafate** and lay your eyes on the spectacular and unforgettable **Glaciar Perito Moreno**. Outdoors lovers will want to cross the border and trek in Chile's famous **Parque Nacional Torres del Paine**. Head north again to **El Chaltén** for world-class hiking and camping.

Fly to **Bariloche**, where you can hike (or fish, or raft or bike) for days on end in the gorgeous national parks of **Nahuel Huapi** and **Lanín**. If you have an extra day or two, take a day trip to the hippie enclave of **El Bolsón** or the cute village of **Villa Traful**.

Finally, stop in **Puerto Madryn** to see the whales, elephant seals and penguins at **Reserva Faunística Península Valdés** – just make sure it's the right season.





Uncork your trip in beautiful **Mendoza**, located on the flanks of the Andes. Not only are there world-class vineyards surrounding the city, but outdoor enthusiasts will be in heaven. White-water rafting and skiing are awesome in the area, and **Cerro Aconcagua** (the western hemisphere's highest peak) isn't too far away.

Now take a crack-of-dawn bus to **San Rafael**, where you can rent a bike and ride out to the city's wineries, some of which specialize in sparkling wine. The area is also home to scenic **Cañón del Atuel**, a colorful mini Grand Canyon. Then backtrack up north to **San Juan** to try the excellent syrah and regional whites. Rent a car and head west to ethereal **Barreal** for rafting, mountaineering and land sailing, then go further north to explore the remote and traditional villages of **Rodeo**, **Huaco** and **San José de Jáchal**.

Finally, be sure to visit the amazing landscapes of **Parque Provincial Ischigualasto** and **Parque Nacional Talampaya**; both boast spectacular rock formations, along with petroglyphs and dinosaur fossils.



Start in **Córdoba**, Argentina's secondlargest city, to explore one of the country's finest colonial centers.

Now head north to historic **Tucumán** to see where Argentina declared its independence from Spain. Over to the west is pretty **Tafí del Valle**; getting there via a gorgeous mountain road is half the fun. A bit further north is beautiful **Cafayate**, the place to knock back some aromatic torrontés wine. Sober up and day-trip to the epic **Quebrada de Cafayate**, then head to otherworldly **Valles Calchaquíes** and the adobe villages of **Molinos** and **Cachi**.

The central plaza of **Salta** is one of Argentina's best preserved; this city is also a great base for stellar excursions into the Andes. Now journey north through the magnificently eroded valley of **Quebrada de Humahuaca**, where you can overnight in lively little **Tilcara**.

Return to Salta and fly to the incredible **Parque Nacional Iguazú**, home to unbelievable waterfalls. With time, head to **Reserva Provincial Esteros del Iberá**, an amazing wetlands preserve full of capybaras, caimans and birds.

Map Legend

Sights

- Beach
- Bird Sanctuary
- Buddhist
- Castle/Palace
- Christian
- Confucian Hindu
- Islamic
- Jain
- lewish
- Monument
- Museum/Gallery/Historic Building
- Shinto Sikh
- Taoist
- Winery/Vineyard
- Zoo/Wildlife Sanctuary
- Other Sight

Activities. Courses & Tours

- Bodysurfing
- Diving
- Canoeing/Kavaking
- Course/Tour
- Sento Hot Baths/Onsen
- Skiing Snorkeling
- Surfing
- Swimming/Pool Walking
- Windsurfing
- Other Activity

Sleeping

- Sleeping
- Camping

Eating

Eating

Drinking & Nightlife

- Drinking & Nightlife
 - Cafe

Entertainment

Entertainment

Shopping

Shopping

Information

- Bank
- Embassy/Consulate ♣ Hospital/Medical
- @ Internet
- Police
- Post Office
- Telephone
- (I) Toilet
- Tourist Information
- Other Information

Geographic

- Beach
- Gate
- Hut/Shelter
- Lighthouse Lookout
- ▲ Mountain/Volcano
- Oasis
- Park
-) (Pass
- Picnic Area
- Waterfall

Population

- Capital (National)
- Capital (State/Province)
- Citv/Large Town
- Town/Village

Transport

- Airport
- Border crossing
- Bus
- ++ € ++ Cable car/Funicular
- 63 Cycling
- Perry
- Metro station
- Parking
- Petrol station
- Subway/Subte station
- Taxi
- → Train station/Railway
- Tram
- Underground station
- Other Transport

Note: Not all symbols displayed above appear on the maps in this book

Routes

Tollway Freeway

Primary Secondary Tertiary

Lane

Unsealed road Road under construction

Plaza/Mall

Steps Tunnel

Pedestrian overpass Walking Tour

Walking Tour detour Path/Walking Trail

Boundaries

--- International State/Province Disputed Regional/Suburb Marine Park

> Cliff - Wall

Hydrography

River, Creek Intermittent River Canal

Dry/Salt/Intermittent Lake

Reef

Areas

Airport/Runway Beach/Desert Cemetery (Christian)

Cemetery (Other)

Glacier

Mudflat

Park/Forest

Sight (Building)

Sportsground

Swamp/Mangrove

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Carolyn McCarthy

Patagonia, Tierra del Fuego Carolyn first fell for Argentina while teaching English in Buenos Aires when the peso floated on par with the US dollar. She is a frequent visitor to Patagonia. For this trip, she traveled over 7500km overland, exploring parks, estancias and wine lists. Carolyn has contributed to over twenty Lonely Planet titles, including *Trekking in the Patagonian Andes*, and has written for *National Geographic*, *Outside*, *Boston Globe* and

other publications.

Read more about Carolyn at:

http://auth.lonelyplanet.com/profiles/carolynmccarthy



Andy Symington

Iguazu Falls & the Northeast, Salta & the Andean Northwest Andy's relationship with Argentina is a story of four generations: his grandmother lived here in the '20s, and her father ran a mate plantation in the northeast. Andy first visited the country with his own father, the start of a long love affair with the country that has involved many trips all around the nation, a spell living and working in Buenos Aires, and a deep-rooted respect for provincial

Argentina. Andy hails from Australia, lives in northern Spain, and has contributed to many Lonely Planet products.



Lucas Vidgen

Córdoba & the Central Sierras, Mendoza & the Central Andes, Bariloche & the Lake District Lucas first visited Argentina in 2001 and was captivated by the country's wide open spaces and cosmopolitan cities. The huge amount of quality beef and wine didn't go unnoticed, either. Lucas has contributed to a variety of Latin American Lonely Planet titles, including various editions of the Argentina and South America books. He currently

divides his time between his hometown in Melbourne, Australia and his adopted mountain home in Quetzaltenango, Guatemala.



OUR STORY

A beat-up old car, a few dollars in the pocket and a sense of adventure. In1972 that's all Tony and Maureen Wheeler needed for the trip of a lifetime – across Europe and Asia overland to Australia. It took several months, and at the end – broke but inspired – they sat at their kitchen table writing and stapling together their first travel guide, *Across Asia on the Cheap*. Within a week they'd sold 1500 copies. Lonely Planet was born. Today, Lonely Planet has offices in Franklin, London,

Melbourne, Oakland, Beijing and Delhi, with more than 600 staff and writers. We share Tony's belief that 'a great guidebook should do three things: inform, educate and amuse'.

OUR WRITERS



Sandra Bao

Coordinating Writer, Buenos Aires Sandra's mom and her family escaped China's communist regime in the years following WWII, eventually boarding a freighter bound for Argentina in 1952. After her parents met and married in Montevideo, Uruguay, the Baos lived the carefree porteño life (with asados every Sunday) until 1974, when things in Argentina got politically dicey. Once again the family emigrated to greener pastures, this time the USA.

Sandra is proud to be a *porteña* and has regularly returned to her homeland as an adult, watching the peso fluctuate wildly through the decades. Highlights from this trip to Buenos Aires included investigating new steak eateries, wine bars and local sights. Over the last 15 years she's contributed to dozens of Lonely Planet guidebooks. Sandra also updated the Plan Your Trip, Understand and Survival Guide sections.



Gregor Clark

Uruguay Over the past 25 years, Gregor has travelled South America from tip to tail, developing a special fondness for Uruguay while researching the last five editions of this book. Favorite memories from this trip include herding cattle on horseback at Estancia Panagea, eating buñuelos de algas in Cabo Polonio and watching roseate spoonbills in Valle del Lunarejo. He has contributed to two dozen other Lonely Planet titles, including Brazil and South America on a Shoe-

string. He lives in Vermont (USA).

Read more about Gregor at: http://auth.lonelyplanet.com/profiles/gregorclark



Bridget Gleeson

The Pampas & the Atlantic Coast Based in Buenos Aires, Bridget is a travel writer and occasional photographer. Though she's been to nearly every far-flung corner of the country for work and for pleasure, she'd never set foot in La Pampa until now — and her travels for this title proved to be an interesting window into Argentine character and culture.



Published by Lonely Planet Publications Pty Ltd ABN 36 005 607 983

10th edition – August 2016 ISBN 978 1 74360 118 1

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10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Printed in China

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