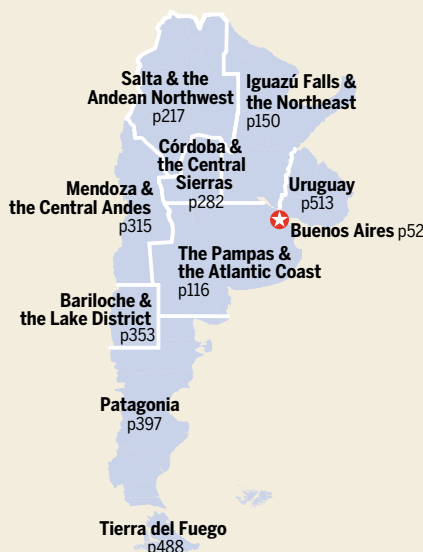




# Argentina



THIS EDITION WRITTEN AND RESEARCHED BY

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# Itineraries



## A Week Around Buenos Aires

Seen the capital city from top to bottom and wondering what else to do? Well, if you like water, **Tigre** is a great nearby choice – a bustling delta and popular *porteño* (Buenos Aires resident) getaway. And not far away is peaceful **San Antonio de Areco**, with a history of gaucho culture and surrounded by *estancias* (ranches) – or tidy **La Plata**, with its huge cathedral.

Perhaps you'd prefer the beach? **Pinamar** and **Villa Gesell** make a great summer weekend trip, as does **Mar del Plata** – the biggest Argentine beach destination of them all. Or head inland to **Tandil**, 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, while **Montevideo** is kind of like BA's little sister – smaller and less frantic, but still offering big-city delights such as a beautiful theater, 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 (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 are especially popular. From here hop another flight to **Ushuaia**, the southernmost city in the world and 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 is one of the world’s most unique 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 landscapes. Back in Argentina is **El Chaltén**, 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 now **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 up your bags again and head east to **Parque Nacional Iguazú**, where the world’s most massive falls will astound you. Now fly back to Buenos Aires and party till your plane leaves.

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Above: Lago Nahuel  
Huapi (p362), near  
Bariloche

Right: Buildings on  
El Caminito (p69),  
Buenos Aires

JOHN W BARNAGAN/GETTY IMAGES ©



30  
DAYS

## Ruta Nacional 40

Argentina's quintessential road trip, RN40 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 unpaved.

Start near the amazingly colorful mountainsides of **Quebrada de Humahuaca** before hitting **Salta** and the wildly scenic villages of **Valles Calchaquies**. Pause at lovely **Cafayate** 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 national parks of **Lanín** and **Nahuel Huapi** or epic hiking before hitting **San Martín de los Andes** and **Bariloche**. 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.

18  
DAYS

## Patagonian Passage

Begin in **Ushuaia**, where you can kayak or hop on a boat to cruise around the Beagle Channel and possibly see 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.

3  
WEEKS

## Northern Adventure Loop

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

Now head north to historic **Tucumán** for some eclectic architecture and a lively street scene. Over to the west is pretty **Tafí del Valle**, and 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 travel through the epic **Quebrada de Cafayate** to the otherworldly region of **Valles Calchaquies** and the adobe villages of **Cachi** and **Molinos**.

**Salta's** central plaza is one of Argentina's best preserved; this is also where the famous "Train to the Clouds" begins. 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. Another worthy destination is **Reserva Provincial Esteros del Iberá**, an amazing wetlands preserve full of capybaras, caimans and birds.

2  
WEEKS

## Mendoza Wine & Adventures

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 **Cañon de Atuel**, a colorful mini Grand Canyon. Then backtrack up north to **San Juan** to try the excellent syrah and other regional whites. You can also 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 **San José de Jáchal**, **Rodeo** and **Huaco**.

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



### **Andy Symington**

**Iguazú Falls & the Northeast, Salta & the Andean Northwest** Andy's relationship with Argentina is a story of four generations: his grandmother lived here in the 1920s, and her father had a *mate* plantation in the northeast. Andy first visited the country with his own father, the start of a long love affair 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 guidebooks.

Read more about Andy at:  
[lonelyplanet.com/members/andy\\_symington](https://lonelyplanet.com/members/andy_symington)



### **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 lives in Quetzaltenango, Guatemala,

where he publishes – and occasionally works on – the city's leading nightlife and culture magazine, XelaWho ([www.xelawho.com](http://www.xelawho.com)).



## OUR STORY

A beat-up old car, a few dollars in the pocket and a sense of adventure. In 1972 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 Author, 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 months at sea they arrived in Buenos Aires – just two days after the death of Eva Perón. Sandra's parents married in Montevideo, Uruguay, then raised Sandra and her brother Daniel in BA. They lived the carefree *porteño* life (with *asados* every Sunday) until 1974, when

things got politically dicey. Once again the Baos 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. Over the last 14 years she's contributed to dozens of Lonely Planet guidebooks. Sandra also updated the Plan Your Trip, Understand and Survival Guide sections.

Read more about Sandra at:  
[lonelyplanet.com/members/sandrabao](http://lonelyplanet.com/members/sandrabao)



### Gregor Clark

**The Pampas & the Atlantic Coast, 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 four editions of this book. Favorite memories from this trip include admiring bird's-eye views of the pampas through the natural rock window atop Cerro de la Ventana in a screaming windstorm and riding horses at Estancia El Galope. He has contributed to two dozen other Lonely

Planet titles, including *Brazil* and *South America on a Shoestring*.

Read more about Gregor at:  
[lonelyplanet.com/members/gregorclark](http://lonelyplanet.com/members/gregorclark)



### Carolyn McCarthy

**Patagonia, Tierra del Fuego** Carolyn first fell for Argentina teaching English in Buenos Aires when the peso floated on par with the US dollar. For this trip, she traveled overland over 7500km, trekking in national parks, communing with Magellanic penguins and leaking radiator fluid. When not writing about Patagonia, she tries to visit tropical nations. Carolyn has contributed to more than 20 Lonely Planet titles, including *Trekking in the Patagonian Andes*, and has written

for *National Geographic*, *Outside*, *Boston Globe* and other publications.

OVER MORE  
PAGE WRITERS

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