EXPLORE! Tour Notes

PRICE GUARANTEE 100% NO SURCHARGES

Indulge Itinerary Version (TMAR6)

INSPIRING LANDSCAPES

TOUR DURATION **15** DAYS

Tour Type: Tailormade

Tour Code: TMAR6

Tour Essentials

Accommodation:

Included Meals: 12 breakfasts, 0 lunches, 0 dinners

Transport:

Countries: Argentina

Tailormade Self-drive Argentina's Northern Circuit

Suitability

We've given each of our tours a comfort rating and a tour pace, walking or cycling grade to give you a general idea about the level of activity on each tour and the standard of accommodation you will be staying in at the end of your day's adventure.

Often you'll stay in different styles of accommodation during your tour; so we make an average rating across the entire tour. For more information on where you'll stay each night, please refer to the day by day tour itinerary.

Your tour itinerary

Tour itinerary notes

While our intention is to adhere to the day-by-day itinerary as printed below, a degree of flexibility is built in. Overnight stops may vary from those suggested.

DAY 1 to 2 Buenos Aires

Fly to Buenos Aires and have an afternoon free to start to explore or relax.

DAY 3 Buenos Aires

Enjoy an afternoon tour of the city's captivating sights. You'll see the historic Plaza de Mayo Square, ´Casa Rosada´ Government House, Cabildo (the Old City Hall) and cathedral, and in the south of the city visit La Boca district with its colourful "Caminito" street and San Telmo, one of the oldest and most traditional neighbourhoods in Buenos Aires. This evening enjoy a traditional Argentinian dinner and tango show.

DAY 4 to 5 Fly to Mendoza

Depart Buenos Aires for you flight to Mendoza, where you collect your hire and drive to the hotel. Mendoza has stunning landscapes of mountains and rivers, combined with lively plazas with bars and restaurants. Winery and vineyard visits are the main reason to go Mendoza, as there are almost 550 vineyards lying all across the province, and the next two days are free to explore the area.

DAY 6 Drive to Villa Union

Leaving Mendoza you drive north through San Juan province to La Rioja province, arriving at Villa Union town late afternoon. Approximately seven hours drive.

DAY 7 Ischigualasto and Talampaya National Parks

Today we recommend you visit Ischigualasto and Talampaya National Parks. The Ischigualasto National Park, a 62,000 hectare river bed that dried up millions of years ago, creating fascinating rock structures and many fossils, the park is known as Valley of the Moon. Talampaya National Park nearby is a dusty desert of spectacular rock formations and canyons, set to a backdrop of lovely mountains

Why Book this tour?

Argentina is an ideal year-round destination. As it's in the southern hemisphere, expect warmer temperatures between November and March; with cooler days from May to September.

DAY 8 Drive to Belen

Heading further north, your journey takes you to Belen. A little visited friendly town. It is the best place in Argentina to purchase woven goods, such as ponchos, made from llama, sheep or alpaca wool. Just south of Belen is Londres, the province's oldest Spanish settlement.

DAY 9 Drive to Cafayate

Driving through the provinces of Catamarca, Tucumán and Salta you arrive in Cafayate. Best known for its torrontes grape, producing a fruity white wine, the town also has some great handicrafts including pottery, woollen clothes and artwork.

DAY 10 Day at leisure

Today has been left free for you to relax, visit some wineries or drive to Las Conchas Gorge.

DAY 11 Drive to Cachi

Departing Cafayate you drive to Cachi. This small village is situated at the foot of Mount Nevado, and until 1946 was a closed private property. Now open to visitors you can explore the cobblestone streets, plazas and adobe house. There is an interesting Archaeological Museum which holds more than 5000 objects dating back before the Spanish conquest, when the Diaguita Indians lived in this area.

DAY 12 Drive to Salta

Departing Cachi, your journey continues to Salta, a drive of approximately four hours. One of the first colonial settlements in Argentina, Salta has great architecture, lively cafes but a laid-back atmosphere. It is a lovely place to relax for the afternoon.

DAY 13 Day at leisure

Today has been left free for you to do a little or as much as you wish. You may like to wader round the city and explore the local buildings, museums and cathedral or take a trip to the spectacular Humahuaca Canyon, a UNESCO World Heritage Site filled with surprisingly coloured rock formations and giant candelabro cacti.

DAY 14 Fly to Buenos Aires

Depart Salta and fly to Buenos Aires, the rest of the day is free.

DAY 15 Fly to the UK

Accommodation and Meals

Food & Drink

Included meals: 12 breakfasts, 0 lunches,0 dinners included in the price of this tour. Please be prepared to pay for non-included meals. Please note that costs for drinks and meals can vary depending on location.

Budgeting for your Tour

You will need some extra money to cover meals and drinks not included in the tour price, any optional sightseeing, souvenirs and items of a personal nature such as laundry.

Foreign Exchange

Argentina

ATM Availability: Widely spread in all countries. Recommend to use as much as possible. Although always have some cash as back-up

Credit Card Acceptance: Credit cards are useful and can be used in many places, but may be subject to a 10% service charge

Travellers Cheques: Travellers Cheques can be awkward or expensive to change (American Express are the easiest to change).

Local Currency: Peso

Recommended Currency for Exchange: Carry your funds in US Dollar Travellers Cheques/cash (NOT Sterling, which is almost impossible to change). It is advisable to take a minimum of US$400-$500 of your total spending money in cash, in mixed denominations. Notes should be in good condition otherwise they might be difficult to exchange.

Where to Exchange: Your Tour Leader will advise you on arrival. When changing money always keep your receipts for changing back money.

Joining your Tour

Flight Information

You are able to book this tour on a 'land only' basis or as a ‘flight inclusive’ package. Your flight inclusive package will be fully protected by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) ATOL protection scheme.

Booking a land only package with Explore

For passengers making their own travel arrangements, please ensure you join the group as described on day one of the tour itinerary. If you are considering purchasing your own airline tickets, you can book these through any travel agent, directly with an airline or through an online flight consolidator. In all cases, we would be happy to arrange transfers to and from the joining point of your tour if required.

Joining Tour Abroad

Clients booked on **'Land Only'** arrangements should make their own way to the joining point. Please refer to separate **'Joining Instructions'** for time and place of rendezvous with tour leader

Booking a flight inclusive package with Explore

We have a good selection of flights not only from London but from many regional airports around the UK allowing us to compare fares between scheduled carriers as well as low cost and charter airlines. Our dedicated flights team will match the best flight options to your arrival and departure airport.

On our website we display a UK flight inclusive package guide price which is generally based on a London departure. To avoid paying supplements or to secure your preferred flight option, we recommend booking as early as possible, especially for peak travel dates.

Important Information

Travel Insurance

It is a condition of joining **any** of our tours that you must have valid travel insurance. It must indicate that you have cover for (at least) medical expenses and emergency repatriation in the event of illness or injury. Medical and repatriation insurance cover is not mandatory for UK residents who are travelling in England and Scotland. We also strongly recommend your policy includes curtailment, personal effects and cancellation protection as all deposits paid are non-refundable.

If you require travel insurance for your tour, Explore Worldwide is an appointed representative of Campbell Irvine Limited, who is authorised and regulated by the Financial Services authority. Our travel insurance policy is specially tailored to the needs of the adventure traveller and will cover you for any included activity on any Explore trip. You can either purchase this at the time of booking or call us on 0844 499 0903 after you have booked.

Vaccinations & Protection

Argentina

Nothing compulsory, we recommend protection against malaria, typhoid, tetanus, polio and hepatitis A. Consult your travel clinic for latest advice on different prophylaxis available against malaria. We recommend protection against yellow fever. There have been very few cases reported, but local authorities do recommend travellers get immunised against yellow fever. The above is not an exhaustive list. Further information regarding vaccinations and travel health advice can be found by following the NHS and NaTHNaC links at http://www.explore.co.uk/Travelhealth/ and from your local healthcare provider.

Preparing for your Tour

Climate

Argentina

Argentina has a climate that ranges from subtropical in the north to cold in the temperate south. The Andes has erratic rainfall and flash floods from December to May. From June to September spring like sunny days temper the cold nights.

General Information

Food

The prices for meals and drinks can vary greatly depending upon location and the prices detailed below are an average guide. In general you would expect that drinks purchased in a supermarket or local bar to be less expensive, whilst drinks in an upmarket bar or restaurant may be more expensive. The costs for meals may vary depending upon location, type of restaurant and number of courses eaten and so the prices given are an average guide.Local restaurants located off the beaten track may be less expensive, whereas an upmarket restaurant located in the centre of a major city may charge more.

Argentina

Lunch £: 10.00

Dinner £: 17.00

Drink

Argentina

Bottle of Beer £: 2.0

Water £: 1.30

Country details

Argentina

Population: 40,117,096

Size of Country: 2,766,890 sq km

Major Language: Spanish is the main language throughout this region, along with a number of indigenous dialects, of which Quechua, Aymara, Quichua and Guarani are the most popular

Religion: Predominantly Roman Catholic.

Time Difference to GMT: -3

Electric Supply & Plugs

Argentina

3 Pin Flat

Why Choose Explore

We've been creating award-winning pioneering adventure holidays for over 30 years, earning the trust of thousands of delighted customers, who feel safe in our hands. Our tour leaders have expert local knowledge and our tours are designed to take you off the beaten track to see the most exotic, inspiring and dramatic places in the world.

- With over 30 years experience, we are passionate about what we do.
- Pioneering small group adventures & tailormade holidays.
- Award winning tour leaders who you can trust.
- Responsible travel is and always has been one the driving principles of Explore.

Our adventure holidays are full of exciting things to see and do, exploring in small groups travelling by bus, boat, plane, rickshaw, camel, elephant, or any number of unusual forms of transport . Often you will stay in family run hotels and village houses and enjoy authentic local cuisine. In this way, it's easy to discover the true heart of the people and the place you travel to – and make some new friends along the way. Each tour is uniquely different, so please feel free to browse through our tours to see what may whet your appetite.

Our commitment to the environment

We are passionate about sustainable travel and work hard to create tours where your holiday delivers real benefits to the local communities. We minimise our impact by travelling in small groups, respecting local cultures and traditional, reducing waste and offsetting 100% of the CO2 from our flights.

When you travel with Explore, you are directly contributing to local economies and helping empower the people you meet. We currently support a range of charities and good causes, including: The Sunshine Orphanage (which cares for abandoned children in Luxor, Egypt), Education for All (sponsoring children through their secondary education in Morocco), The Hope Foundation (helping an Indian Village to recover from the 2004 Tsunami) and the Mufindi Orphanage, which support AIDS orphans in Tanzania.

We also care passionately about the world's wildlife. We are patrons of the Born Free Organisation, Travel Operators for Tigers (helping save the Bengal Tiger from extinction) and Friends for Conservation. We have also adopted a beautiful Sri Lankan Elephant called 'Serendip'.

We are delighted to have received a Five Star sustainable tourism status from the Association of Independent Tour Operators in recognition of our on-going commitment to sustainable tourism.

Cool Earth

Explore are delighted to support Cool Earth to reduce carbon emissions through preventing the illegal deforestation of the South America rainforest. One of the top sources of global carbon emissions, rainforest deforestation equivalent to the USA's annual emissions, it also destroys flora and fauna, sometimes to the point of extinction. It also degrades the lives and communities of the 350 million residents of the rainforest.

Cool Earth prevents the deforestation through its support of local communities as forest guardians and by focussing on areas in immediate danger of deforestation. It has so far protected over 350,000 acres of rainforest, with each acre saving an emission of 260 tons of CO2, as well as protecting rare animals and plants. When you travel on an Explore holiday we make a donation to Cool Earth that exceeds the impact of our customers flights each year. In addition to mitigating emissions, when you travel with Explore, you are helping to protect the source of 20% of the world's fresh water and oxygen, as well as the livelihoods of the 1.6 billion people who are reliant on the rainforest. www.coolearth.org

Earth Matters

- The Travel Foundation

  Explore are active members and supporters of the Travel Foundation which has established a variety of sustainable tourism projects in destinations and works with industry to improve practice. Visit their website www.thetravelfoundation.org.uk
- Tourism Concern

  Explore support the work of Tourism Concern who campaign for fairly and ethically traded tourism, and are part of its Ethical Tour Operator Group www.tourismconcern.org.uk
- For further information on responsible travel go to http://www.explore.co.uk/ResponsibleTourism/

Know before you go

We strongly recommend that you check your government's travel advisory for up-to-date information and advice about your destination: safety and security, entry requirements, health, local laws and customs. For UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office Advice follow the link at http://www.explore.co.uk/essential-travel-information/travel-resources/travel-safety

Booking Your Holiday

Peace of mind - book with confidence

You can book your Explore holiday with confidence, as all monies paid to us for your trip are fully protected. Explore is a fully bonded tour operator licensed by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) and by ABTOT.

The air holiday packages (Tours including flights) that we advertise are ATOL protected, since we hold an Air Travel Organiser's Licence granted by the Civil Aviation Authority. Our ATOL number is ATOL 2595. In addition, As a member of the Association of Bonded Travel Organisers Trust Limited (ABTOT), Explore has provided a bond to meet the requirements of the Package Travel, Package Holidays and Package Tours Regulations 1992. Please note that packages booked outside the UK are only protected when purchased directly with Explore.

Reserving your place

To reserve your place on this tour you will need to check availability on the Explore website or through our dedicated call centre based in the UK where you can. Our tours can fill up quickly so you are advised to book as early as possible. If your chosen date is 'Available' or 'Guaranteed' we will be able to provisionally hold you a space for up to 48 hours.

The easiest way to confirm your booking is through our website. When you are ready to book, we normally require a 10% non-refundable deposit, but for some holidays this may be more to cover such items as permit fees, internal flights or other non-refundable services. If your travel starts within 60 days of booking, full payment will be required at the time of booking

100% No Surcharge Guarantee

The price paid for our holidays is no longer subject to change. Once booked and confirmed we will guarantee the price you pay will not increase, whatever the circumstances. You will not be approached to pay fuel surcharges unlike the vast majority of other adventure tour operators. The price guarantee applies to all new bookings departing between 1st January 2013 and 31st December 2014.

Tour Itinerary Versions

Itinerary details may vary depending on departure date and alternative itineraries for this tour may exist. Please refer to the dates and prices page on our website to check which itinerary operates on each departure date.

Please ensure that you have an up-to-date copy of these tour notes immediately before you travel, as from time to time our itineraries may be amended, either for operational reasons or in response to feedback from customers. You will be informed of any major changes to your tour but small changes may just be added to these tour notes.

Please note: 6 itinerary versions are applicable to tours departing in 6. 7/ itinerary versions are applicable to tours departing from 1st January to 31st December 7.

These tour notes were printed on 08/03/2014 10:59:10