

EXPLORE!

Wine and landscapes of Argentina

17 days

Argentina, Chile - Trip code NWA



Wine and landscapes of Argentina

Join us on an adventure across the Andes, as we journey into the heart of Argentina. The northwest region houses some of Argentina's most inspiring scenery from colourful mountains and barren salt plains, to spectacular gorges and lunar landscapes. Woven into this tapestry is a strong cultural and gastronomic presence; we discover the indigenous heritage still found in the Andean region, manifested in the art, weavings and lifestyle of the locals, and taste authentic Argentinian Malbec in the many vineyards.

Trip highlights

- ★ **Winetasting** - Taste the specialties in vineyards around Mendoza and Cafayate, famous for their Malbec and Torrontes wines
- ★ **Landscapes** - Journey from arid cacti-strewn deserts to rich fertile forests and snowcapped mountains
- ★ **Salt flats** - Walk on Purmamarca's blindingly white salt plains
- ★ **Humahuaca** - Explore the immense gorge and 'seven coloured mountain'
- ★ **Contrasts** - Discover the indigenous Andes and cosmopolitan Buenos Aires

ACCOMMODATION GRADE:

Standard

Our standard, mid-range accommodation offers a good level of service, often with other amenities such as a restaurant, bar, garden or swimming pool. Generally rooms will be comfortable with en suite facilities.

TRIP PACE:

Moderate

Moderate pace tours are ideal if you want a holiday which combines exciting activities and experiences with plenty of time to relax and unwind. Typically you'll be active and busy for part of the day but then also have time to rest and recharge your batteries.

GROUP SIZE:

12 - 18

Maximum group size ranges from between 6 to 20 people, depending on the type of trip, the transport and accommodation used and activities included. We rarely have groups that are smaller than five or six people and the average is 12 people plus an Explore leader.

Itinerary

Itineraries on some departure dates may differ, please select the itinerary that you wish to explore.

DAY 1 - Join trip in Santiago

One of the most scenic cities in South America, Santiago lies in the shadow of the Andes and we arrive at our hotel in anticipation of our Andean journey over the next 17 days.



Accommodation: Hotel Fundador (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Swimming pool available



Single room available



Meals Provided: None

DAY 2 - Explore Santiago on foot; walk up to the viewpoint at Santa Lucia Hill

Today we discover Santiago, a large city that sprawls out from its old city centre, with the imposing Andes mountain range visible in the distance. Although large, the centre is surprisingly compact and easy to get around. We start with the lovely Bella Vista neighbourhood, home to the impressive Fine Arts museum, which features an excellent collection of Chilean art as well as housing collections from the Dutch masters and sub-Saharan Africa. After a visit to the museum, a stop at the iron-wrought building of the Mercado Central is a must-do - the city's best seafood can be found here and we can stop at one of the market's food stall or restaurants to sample the fresh fish. We take a break from the busy centre with a stroll through Santa Lucia Hill park, an oasis of lush gardens, statues and fountains. A maze of trails and steep stone stairs will lead us to the viewpoint at the top, where we have a 360 degree view over the city. Finally, we meander through the cobbled streets of the Alameda and Concha y Toro neighbourhoods with their mixture of historical monuments and elegant mansion houses, as well as the Plaza de Armas, the main square and home to the city's cathedral. Time-permitting, we have the possibility of doing a wine-tour in the Concha y Toro area (optional).



Accommodation: Hotel Fundador (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Swimming pool available



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

DAY 3 - Traverse the Andes from Santiago to Mendoza (Argentina); hike to the Horcones Lagoon

Today we board our private bus and head out of the city, winding our way upwards through the mountains. Once we are around an hour outside of Santiago, the views from the bus become scenic - rugged black rock rises imposingly in front of us, and we see the giant snow-capped mountains coming steadily closer. On a clear day we will see the summit of Aconcagua, the tallest mountain in the Americas. After passing into the Argentinian side the landscape becomes greener, with vistas opening out before us to the wide plains below. Before arriving into Mendoza we stop at the Puente del Inca, a geologically formed bridge once allegedly used by Incas to cross the river. The reddish oranges of the formation are caused by the minerals in the waters running beneath the bridge, and the remains of a slightly weird looking stone chapel are still found built into the rock.. A short drive away is the Aconcagua National Park where we stop for a 1.5hr hike to the Horcones Lagoon, from which many trekkers start each year in their intrepid attempt to summit the mountain itself. The trail is relatively flat and rocky, with mountains looming at either side of us and the peak of Aconcagua rising before us in the distance. We arrive into Mendoza in the evening. Please note that today we cross the border from Chile to Argentina which can be a bureaucratic and lengthy process, however we can get off the bus for some fresh air and mountain scenery. The crossing point is at approximately 3200m altitude.



Accommodation: NH Aconcagua (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

DAY 4 - Bike trip around the wineries, with included wine tasting

30 minutes outside of Mendoza city we find Lujan de Cuyo - a wine growing region where row upon row of vines grow in neatly ordered lines under the shadow of the Andes mountains. Drinking wine in this landscape is an unforgettable experience, and today we will be jumping on our bikes and enjoying a leisurely cycle between three of the region's wineries. Although this area is home to many varieties of white, it is mainly known for its reds, particularly the ubiquitous malbec. We will have the chance to taste the multiple varieties of grape found in the area throughout this roughly 4km cycle, and in the last winery we enjoy lunch with the especially paired wines before returning to Mendoza. The late afternoon is free to explore the city, and on our first full day in Argentina it's a good idea to try some of the local delicacies - alfajores are an Argentinian staple, a cakey biscuit filled with 'dulce de leche', perfect with an afternoon tea or coffee. We may even try mate - a bitter green tea drink that takes centre stage in most Argentinian social gatherings. Throughout our trip we may often see people walking around the towns and cities, flask in hand, as they go about their daily business. If you are offered some take note - mate is served in a communal cup, with a 'bombilla' (straw) to drink through, and is passed around the circle, each drinker enjoying the mate before passing it back to the server to be re-brewed. Be careful not to say thank you, as this signifies that you have had enough!



Accommodation: NH Aconcagua (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast & Lunch

DAY 5 - El Leoncito National Park and visit to observatory

This morning we set off on our 8 hour drive to San Juan via Leoncito National Park. The national park is a protected area with very strict regulations on air pollution, and due to the quality of the atmosphere it is also an important centre of astronomy. The highlight of the park is the observatory, and there are also many trails around the rocky terrain and across the streams of the park, amid herds of guanacos (a smaller relative of the llama) with outstanding panoramas of the Andes mountains. Our Explore Leader will discuss the options on our arrival, and whether it's a visit to the observatory or a longer hike, this is a great landscape to explore. We arrive into the charming town of San Juan in the early evening, and no doubt Argentina's famous steak will be on the menu for many!



Accommodation: Hotel Alkazar (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Swimming pool available



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

DAY 6 - Explore the red deserts of Talampaya National Park

Talampaya National Park is the site of our exploration today - once the kingdom of dinosaurs, this park, along with its neighbour, Ischigualasto, which we will be visiting tomorrow, contains the most complete fossil record known from the Triassic Period. The scrub desert boasts fossilised remains of a wide range of ancestral animals and plants. Even for those amongst us who are not scientifically-minded, the park is an impressive show of geological wonders. The main attraction is the canyon, an imposing red rock trench whose sides tower approximately 150 metres above us as we venture through it. From here we can observe the oddly shaped rock towers with evocative names such as the Chimney, the Monk, the Elevator and the Cathedral. During our visit to the park, we hike through the Don Eduardo Gorge, which is an approximately 8km hike on flat terrain. The dry riverbeds, red dunes and sand plains are more akin to a Martian journey than our expectations of Andean scenery. We head on to Villa Union, our base for this evening.



Accommodation: Hotel Pircas Negras (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Swimming pool available



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

DAY 7 - Hike in the lunar landscape of Ischigualasto National Park

Another weird landscape awaits us today as we drive to Ischigualasto National Park. Popularly known as 'Moon Valley', this park, together with its neighbour Talampaya, were granted UNESCO heritage some years ago, and while yesterday's exploration had an overriding theme of 'red', today's scenery warrants the lunar nickname. The geological oddities that have been somehow formed by water, wind and sun over the last million years have turned the park into another planet. 'Bowling Lane' is one of the most iconic sites, with scores of perfectly polished round balls sitting on a flat surface, with apparently no explanation to their formation. We also explore 'The Submarine', 'The Mushroom' and 'The Worm' as well as hiking the 400m ascent of Cerro Morado for panoramic views before returning to Villa Union.



Accommodation: Hotel Pircas Negras (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Swimming pool available



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

DAY 8 - Drive to the sleepy town of Belen via local villages

Belen is in the heart of Catamarca province, one of the most rugged and least visited areas of Argentina. The country's iconic Route 40 takes us from Villa Union - much like Route 66 in the US, the road is embedded into the country's culture, taking travellers from Salta in the north down to the wilds of Patagonia. Today we stop at the tiny villages of Chilecito and Londres en route - both towns share beautiful locations amid low rocky hills and high snowcapped peaks, and the surrounding slopes are dotted with cacti. We may have the chance to visit a nut harvesting garden - essentially the gardens of local homes that are often opened up to the public. The beauty of today's journey is in the charm of villages suspended in time, and people-watching is a must in the quiet streets. The Argentina of the Andes is steeped in Inca heritage, and the indigenous populations have retained many of their old traditions - in Belen, local methods of weaving have been maintained since pre-Hispanic times, and after our late afternoon arrival we may have time to spend amongst the local traders, admiring their woven clothes, hats, sweaters and ponchos in llama and vicuna wool.



Accommodation: Belen Hotel (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

DAY 9 - Wine-tasting in Cafayate and visit to indigenous Quilmes ruins

Today we set off into Argentina's northern winelands around Cafayate, stopping at the indigenous Quilmes ruins en route. The Quilmes people, dating back to around AD1000, famously resisted the Incan invasion and lived through over a century of Spanish colonisation. The large site is made up of the remains of terraces rising up the cacti-covered hillside - we can walk to the top for excellent views of the valley and the site. Although not as impressive as other archaeological sites in the Andes, it helps us to understand the indigenous heritage in this part of Argentina. Finally, we arrive in Cafayate in the early afternoon for another round of wine tasting in two of the region's rustic wineries, their rows of green vines backed by the spectacular mountains beyond. This time we might try Argentina's main white wine, Torrontes, famous in this region.



Accommodation: Los Sauces (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

DAY 10 - Walking tour of Cafayate and drive to Cachi through 'Broken Arrow Gorge'

Although Cafayate is becoming more and more well-known, it has still retained its small-town feel - the main square abounds with handicrafts, and it is easy to wander around in peace, admiring the scenic mountain views. Our guide today will give us a short tour of the town, including a visit to one of the vineyards to learn about wine production. In the afternoon we drive to Cachi through 'Broken Arrow Gorge', a spectacular formation of sharp, pointed rocks shooting up through the air at all sorts of different angles; the road that we travel on pierces this dramatic and surreal landscape. On arrival in Cachi (2530m altitude) we have some free time. For those who wish, our Explore Leader will take us on some easy walks to explore the surroundings. Alternatively, we can use the time to relax and wander the cobblestoned streets and tranquil plazas of the town.



Accommodation: El Cortijo Hotel (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

DAY 11 - Drive to Salta through high arid cactus deserts down to fertile forests on the 'Bishop's Hill Road'

This morning we have free time in Cachi to explore some of the surrounding mountain trails. In the afternoon, we head on to Salta, down the 'Bishop's Hill Road', 20kms of hairpin bends that offer views down to the Sierra del Obispo. During the three hour drive the change in scenery is simply amazing, as we travel from the cactus filled deserts of the Cardones National Park, down to lush green mountains, blanketed in vegetation and eroded by rippling brooks and streams. We stop to discover the spectacular mountain views at the various viewpoints on route to arrive at Salta - one of the more cosmopolitan cities in the north of Argentina, it is a blend of colonial architecture, fascinating museums and buzzing nightlife. Tonight we can get a taste of its music scene at a 'pena', a traditional folk music hall where locals come with guitars and take turns in playing and singing.



Accommodation: Hotel Patios de Lerma (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

DAY 12 - Walking tour of Salta; optional walk through San Lorenzo Gorge

Salta's grand neo-Classical buildings and bustling town squares are perfect for exploring on foot. In the heart of the city we discover the extraordinary pink cathedral and the San Francisco Church. We get a great view of the city and surrounding valleys from San Bernardo Hill, a slog of more than 1000 steps, with the 14 stations of the cross built into the side of the hill. Alternatively there is a cable car for those feeling the heat (not included). At the top there is an amphitheatre and coffee shop, and we may see some of the locals looking for a shady spot to prepare mate. On descending the hill, we have the option to sample a staple of northern Argentinian food; empanadas in Argentina are much like the pasties of Cornwall, but much smaller, lighter, and in a wider variety of flavours - all deliciously addictive! Our Explore Leader will take those interested to the Patio de la Empanada, a giant courtyard packed with tables surrounded by different empanada kiosks. Eating is optional but highly recommended; the best option is to get a variety and share. There are usually musicians or performers around the courtyard, and the atmosphere is lively. After a filling lunch, we have free time in Salta to explore the local handicrafts or head to the coffee shops for alfajores. Alternatively, our Explore Leader can take us on a hike through San Lorenzo Gorge, a nature reserve found at the foot of the Andean mountains just 10 kms from the city centre. Within the gorge we hike through Yungas forest, a fertile green landscape of ferns, creeks, moss and colourful fauna. We hope to see wildlife here, perhaps foxes, small deer, hawks or toucans. During this four hour hike, the mid-afternoon light through the trees is beautiful, and we will be rewarded for our uphill efforts by the views over the deep, green valley below.



Accommodation: Hotel Patios de Lerma (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

DAY 13 - Follow the rails of the Train to the Clouds; visit Polvorilla Viaduct (4220m altitude)

A day of spectacular scenery awaits us as we head towards the mountain town of San Antonio de los Cobres, following the rails of the famous Train to the Clouds by vehicle as we ascend through the winding Toro Gorge to reach the rugged and sleepy backwater town. The change in scenery is dramatic, as the multi-coloured cacti-strewn mountains are followed by silent high-altitude desert. San Antonio lies at 3775m, a small town surrounded by bleak landscapes. We ascend a little further to the spectacular metal structure of the Polvorilla Viaduct, an audacious feat of railway engineering at 4220m of altitude. After taking in the views we descend and continue to our nightstop at Purmamarca, traversing the lunar landscapes of the Puna Jujena and the Salinas Grandes flatlands, where entire families of salt workers make a hard living of working the soil of the salt flats. Our road literally pierces through the salt flats, and the blinding white cracked surface of the floor seems endless, making the mountain backdrop seem almost dwarfed in comparison. We spent a little time exploring the flats, before entering the Humahuaca gorge area, and arriving at our charming nightstop at the village of Purmamarca.



Accommodation: Hotel La Casa de Piedra (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

DAY 14 - Discover Humahuaca Gorge; visit local villages

Today we set out to explore the UNESCO Heritage area of the Humahuaca Gorge, a highlight of any trip to the northwest of Argentina. Purmamarca is one of the towns within the gorge, and setting off today we can appreciate the town's incredible backdrop - a mountainside named the 'Seven-Coloured Hill' for its bright shades of yellow, oranges, reds and green. Indeed, the rest of the day's journey is awash with colour and scenic roadside lookouts; another appropriately named mountain is The 'Painters Palette'. Through our exploration today we visit the regions old traditional villages, such as Tilcara, Maimara and Humahuaca - these villages are perfect people-watching opportunities, and it's interesting to see once again the heritage from the pre-Columbian period which gives this area of northwest Argentina a very distinct sense of cultural identity. This is not only manifested in the woven items that we have seen in other towns, but also in the local diet, with northern food including llama stews and corn dishes. We return to Salta this evening and can make the most of our journey in the north by eating at one of the local restaurants.



Accommodation: Hotel Patios de Lerma (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

DAY 15 - Fly to Buenos Aires; walking tour of La Boca and Plaza de Mayo

We say goodbye to the northwest and catch our flight to cosmopolitan Buenos Aires. Here we find ourselves in the midst of Argentina's capital, located on the southern shores of the Rio de la Plata. Since its founding by Pedro de Mendoza in the 1500s, the city has thrived on trade and its vibrant streets are filled with an eclectic mix of European architectural styles, with Spanish, French and Italian classicism rubbing shoulders with remnants of Victorian grandeur. This afternoon we take a tour of the southern part of the city, exploring the major landmarks around the Plaza de Mayo, site of the famous mass demonstrations by supporters of Juan Domingo Peron in 1945, organised by his wife Eva. We also visit the arty district of San Telmo, with its small one-way streets and walls covered with street art and graffiti. The tour ends in the colourful vibrancy of La Caminito in the La Boca district of the city. Settled originally by Italian migrants, the area is famed for its colourful houses and lively street performers. We will surely come across the tango being performed on some street corners, a dramatic difference to the Folkloric dancing in the northwest, and highlighting the capital's affiliation with Europe in this most Latin of dances. This evening we have an opportunity to enjoy something of Buenos Aires' dazzling nightlife and soak up the pulsating rhythms of one of South America's most captivating cities.



Accommodation: Hotel Waldorf (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

DAY 16 - Tour the northern city; optional tango show

The sprawling city of Buenos Aires can be nicely split into two areas; the elite north, home to the embassies, the richer neighbourhoods and many of the city's green spaces, and the poorer and more eclectic southern parts of La Boca and San Telmo. We visit the former today, travelling by vehicle in order to cover the main sights including the elaborate mausoleums of the famous Recoleta Cemetery, the final resting place of some of Argentina's most revered figures, including Eva Peron herself. Our tour also takes us via Palermo Park, an urban oasis in the madness of Buenos Aires. The afternoon has been left free to further explore, and in the evening we have the opportunity to enjoy a tango show (optional) at one of the city's tanguerías.



Accommodation: Hotel Waldorf (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

DAY 17 - Trip ends Buenos Aires

Our trip ends this morning in Buenos Aires after breakfast.



Meals Provided: Breakfast



Why book this trip

This trip is a journey through the changing landscapes of a relatively unvisited part of Argentina, with included wine tasting under the impressive backdrop of the Andes mountains.

What's included?



Included meals

Breakfast: 16
Lunch: 1



Transport

Bus
Flight



Trip staff

Explore Tour Leader
Driver(s)
Local Guide(s)



Accommodation

16 nights standard hotel

Trip information

Country information

Argentina Holidays & Tours

Climate

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.

Time difference to GMT

-3

Plugs

3 Pin Flat

Religion

Predominantly Roman Catholic.

Language

Spanish is the main language throughout this region, along with a number of indigenous dialects, of

Chile Holidays & Tours

Climate

The best time to visit is spring (Sept-Nov) and autumn (March- April). Between June and September the heat in the northern part of the country is less intense. Remember rain can fall at any time of the year and the weather is changeable in the mountains. Easter Island has a tropical climate so is likely to be quite hot and humid. It can also rain there in the evenings and become chilly.

Time difference to GMT

-4

Plugs

2 Pin Round

Religion

Predominantly Roman Catholic.

Language

Spanish, Aymara, Rapanui.

Budgeting and packing

Optional activities

Buenos Aires - Tango show US\$70 and US\$120 with dinner; Tigre Delta cruise US\$95 Santiago de Chile - Half day Concha and Toro wine tour - US\$65

Clothing

A warm sweater or fleece, good waterproofs and a windproof jacket are all essential. Laundry services are available throughout.

Footwear

Comfortable and sturdy walking boots with good ankle support and tread are useful for the walks. Trainers/sandals for relaxing in.

Luggage

15Kg

Luggage: On tour

One main piece of baggage and daypack. Total allowance for your international flight: 44lb/20kg. Luggage limit for domestic flights is 15kg. Remember you are expected to carry your own luggage so don't overload yourself.

Equipment

Water bottle, insect repellent, suncream (at least factor 15), good quality sunglasses and a lipsalve with sun protection and walking poles (if you use them).

Tipping

Explore leader

At your discretion you might also consider tipping your Tour Leader in appreciation of the efficiency and service you receive.

Local crew

Although entirely voluntary, tipping is a recognized part of life in this region of the world. Some local staff will look to members of the group for personal recognition of particular services provided. In order to make things easier for you, the Tour Leaders may organise a group's tips kitty and if this is the case, they will account for it throughout the tour. Accordingly, you should allow US\$ 40 for tipping

Country Information

Argentina Holidays & Tours

Food and drink

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.

Lunch price

£10

Dinner price

£17

Beer price

£2

Water price

£1.3

Foreign Exchange

Local currency

Peso

Recommended Currency For Exchange

Carry all your funds in US cash NOT Sterling or Travellers Cheques which are more difficult to exchange. We recommend 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.

ATM Availability

Available in Buenos Aires. In Patagonia some cards with Chip and Pin do not work in the ATM machines. Always have some cash as back-up as they are not always reliable

Credit Card Acceptance

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

Travellers Cheques

Travellers Cheques can be awkward or expensive to change

Chile Holidays & Tours

Food and drink

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.

Lunch price

£13

Dinner price

£20

Beer price

£2.00 - 4.00

Water price

£1.3

Foreign Exchange

Local currency

Peso.

Recommended Currency For Exchange

Carry all your funds in US cash NOT Sterling. We recommend to take a minimum of US\$400-\$500 of your total spending money in cash for your tour, in mixed denominations. Notes should be in good condition otherwise they might be difficult to exchange.

Where To Exchange

Tour Leader will advise on arrival

ATM Availability

Available in Major towns. Always have some cash as back-up as they are not always reliable

Credit Card Acceptance

Credit cards are useful and can be used in many places, but may be subject to a service charge.

Travellers Cheques

Travellers' Cheques can be awkward or expensive to change

Transport, Accommodation & Meals

Transport Information

Bus, Flight

Essential information

FCO Advice

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 [click here](#).

For more information from Explore about travel advice, [click here](#)

Under 18 immigration guidance

Please note that some countries require proof of parental consent when travelling overseas with under 18s. Please check requirements with the relevant embassy or consular office well in advance of travel if this applies to your party.

Essential Information

Once your booking has been confirmed we guarantee the price will not increase, whatever the circumstances. Before booking please ensure you have read our important tour pricing information. [Booking Conditions](#)

Visa Information

Please note we require a photocopy of your passport 3 month pre departure. It is essential that you provide Explore with a photo copy of your passport at the time of booking, as this will be required in order to confirm accommodation. Argentina: Visas are not required for UK, US, Canadian, Australian and New Zealand citizens. However Canadian and Australian citizens will need make a payment called the 'reciprocity fee' in advance of travel to enter Argentina. This currently costs 100USD for Australian citizens, 70USD for Canadian citizens. This payment needs to be made online at <http://www.migraciones.gov.ar/accesibleingles> The receipt generated at the time of online payment must be printed and given to local immigration authorities together with your passport. Other nationalities should consult the relevant consulate. You should confirm all visa related issues with the relevant Embassy prior to departure. USA: (including those in transit) Citizens of the UK, New Zealand, Australia, Canada and passport holders from several EU countries can enter the United States without a visa under the Visa Waiver Program (VWP) - where you apply for an ESTA (Electronic System for Travel Authorisation), which applies if you enter the country by sea or by air. This must be done online - <https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov> no later than 72 hours prior to travel. Travellers who have not registered before their trip are likely be refused boarding. You must have an electronic passport with a digital chip containing biometric information about the passport owner. UK passports which are biometric feature a small gold symbol (camera) at the bottom of the front cover. If you have visited Iraq, Syria, Iran or Sudan since 2011 or are dual nationals of these countries, you cannot travel with an ESTA and instead you will need to apply for a visa from the nearest US Embassy or Consulate. If you are unable to provide a valid visa before boarding flights to the US, or entering via another method, you may not be permitted to travel. Please note for your ESTA application you will be required to supply Point of Contact information. Explore's USA contact information will be listed on your final documentation which you will receive approximately 3-4 weeks before departure. If you are leaving for the USA before this, please call the Explore team to get this information. (Not necessary if in transit) For further information please check out the US embassy website. Visa applications - <http://london.usembassy.gov/niv/apply.html>

If you do require assistance in obtaining a visa then you may consider applying through Explore's recommended visa service in the UK, Travcour. See www.travcour.com to download the relevant visa application for your trip, if applicable (UK citizens only), along with details of how to apply for your visa through Travcour. The Team at Travcour will be happy to answer specific questions

relating to visa applications, please call them directly on 0208 5431846.

Booking conditions

Before booking your Explore trip, please ensure that you read both our Essential Information and Booking Conditions.

Transfers

[Find out more about Trip Transfer Terms and Conditions before you book.](#)

Booking a land only package with Explore

Customers who have chosen to book on the 'Land Only' arrangements of our tour, please ensure that you have checked your tour specific 'Joining Instructions' prior to booking your own travel arrangements. Your joining instructions can be found below in the dates and prices information.

You may also be eligible for the Free Explore Transfer.

Joining Tour Abroad

Customers booked on the 'Land Only' arrangements will now receive a Free Transfer, provided you arrive and depart on the tour only itinerary start and end dates. The transfers will be from the Explore designated airport or train station to the joining point of your tour, and then back from the ending point to the designated airport or train station. The exception to this rule is customers who are booked on a tour where the joining and ending point is at the designated airport or train station.

Free transfers are not available for Self-Guided, Tailormade or Tours for Churches customers.

If you are not eligible for the Free Transfer then you will need to make your own way through to the joining and ending point. On a majority of our tours Explore will be able to provide a private transfer at an additional cost. Please ask for a quote at the time of booking.

For more information regarding the Explore Free Transfer [click here](#)

Insurance

It is a condition of booking with Explore that you have adequate valid travel insurance. It is your responsibility to arrange appropriate travel insurance and ensure you have read and understood the full terms and conditions of your travel insurance policy to ensure that you are covered for all activities you intend to undertake whilst on the tour, including all optional activities. Your Insurance Policy must fully cover you for medical expenses and emergency repatriation to your home country. Please ensure your policy includes medical emergency helicopter evacuation in the event of illness or injury and covers the entire duration of your holiday. If you are trekking at altitude please ensure that there is no upper altitude limit which may limit or exclude cover for your trip. Medical and repatriation insurance cover is not mandatory for UK residents who are travelling on trips within the United Kingdom.

Read more information about what travel insurance is required.

Flight information

Explore offers a wide range of flexible flying options to make joining and leaving our trips easy. [Read more about them here.](#)

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 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.

Argentina Holidays & Tours

Vaccinations

Nothing compulsory, we recommend protection against typhoid, tetanus, polio and hepatitis A. Please consult your travel clinic for the latest advice on Malaria, Dengue and Zika Virus. Please take preventative measures to avoid mosquito bites - these include mosquito repellent as well as long trousers and long sleeve shirts to cover up when necessary. Please note many countries in Central America, South America and the Caribbean require a yellow fever vaccination certificates if travelling from infected areas. A detailed list of these countries can be found on the NaTHNaC website - <http://travelhealthpro.org.uk/countries>. Also on the NaTHNaC site there is a list of Countries (and specific areas within a country) which are at risk of infection and a vaccination is therefore recommended.. 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.

Chile Holidays & Tours

Vaccinations

Nothing compulsory, we recommend protection against typhoid, tetanus, diphtheria, polio and hepatitis A. Please consult your travel clinic for the latest advice on Malaria, Dengue Fever and Zika Virus. Please take preventative measures to avoid mosquito bites - these include mosquito repellent as well as long trousers and long sleeve shirts to cover up when necessary. Please note many countries in Central America, South America and the Caribbean require a yellow fever vaccination certificates if travelling from infected areas. A detailed list of these countries can be found on the NaTHNaC website - <http://travelhealthpro.org.uk/countries>. Also on the NaTHNaC site there is a list of Countries (and specific areas within a country) which are at risk of infection and a vaccination is therefore recommended.. 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.
