

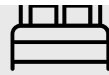
EXPLORE!



Why book this trip?

Combining the unique spectacle of the total eclipse with some of the most breath-taking landscapes in South America, this two week adventure takes you from the inspiring, diverse city of Buenos Aires to the brightly coloured mountains, deep gorges and fertile plains of Argentina's northwest region. Woven into this exceptional landscape 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 Argentinian wines in one of Cafayate's many vineyards.



**INCLUDED MEALS**Breakfast: 11
Lunch: 1
Dinner: 1**TRIP STAFF**Explore Tour
Leader
Astronomer
Driver(s)
Local Guide(s)**TRANSPORT**

Bus

ACCOMMODATION11 nights standard
hotel**TRIP PACE:**

Moderate

GROUP SIZE:

12 - 18

Itinerary

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

DAY 1 - Join trip in Buenos Aires

We join the tour in Buenos Aires and check-in to our hotel. 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 in 1536 the city has thrived on trade and its streets are filled with an eclectic mix of European architectural styles, with Spanish, French and Italian classicism rubbing shoulders with remnants of Victorian grandeur. Gaining independence from its Spanish overlords in 1816 the city grew to rival the great cities of Europe, its wide avenues and elegant squares earning it the title of the Paris of the South.

**ACCOMMODATION:**

Hotel Waldorf (or similar)

Grade: Standard Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: NONE

DAY 2 - Walking tour of the city including Plaza de Mayo and La Boca

Today we will take a tour 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'll also visit 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 will also take us via Palermo Park and the tango-filled streets 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.

After our city tour we have some free time, which you may wish to spend wandering the cobbled streets of the arty district of San Telmo. This evening we will discover the most Latin of dances during one of the city's famous tango shows, with wine tasting and dinner included.



ACCOMMODATION:
Hotel Waldorf (or similar)



Grade: Standard Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST & DINNER

DAY 3 - Fly to San Juan; optional wine tasting

Leaving Buenos Aires behind us we catch a flight to the modern city of San Juan, our base for the next couple of days. Despite being somewhat overshadowed by the fame of Mendoza, San Juan is the second largest wine-producing region in the country, and this afternoon we have the opportunity to visit one of the many vineyards on the 'Ruta del Vino' to try some of the first-class local specialties. Alternatively there is an open, free, wine museum in the city centre which gives an interesting look at the region's wine producing history.



ACCOMMODATION:
Olivos del Sol (or similar)



Grade: Standard Hotel



SWIMMING POOL AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

DAY 4 - View the total eclipse with a local astronomer

A total eclipse of the sun will take place today, July 2nd 2019. We will be driving to a country house approximately 2 hours drive away from San Juan, in an area where the period of total solar eclipse will be at it's greatest duration in Argentina. There will be many other eclipse viewers at this location, including other Explore groups who have been travelling around the country prior to the event, and over lunch we'll be able to share stories about our travels so far. Explore will have a local astronomer with us to provide expert information and to answer any questions that you may have, as well as providing eclipse glasses for you to watch the phenomenon safely. We'll be having lunch at the country house - a traditional Argentinian 'asado' style barbecue lunch, guaranteed to warm us in the Southern Hemisphere's winter months! It will be chilly in the afternoon, so warm clothes are recommended.

At this time of year in San Juan, cloud cover is estimated to be at 20%, which is generally classed as on the cusp of 'sunny' and 'partly cloudy', although we are unable to make any guarantees regarding the weather conditions and the likelihood of seeing the eclipse.

The Moon orbits the Earth almost 13 times a year, and an eclipse happens if it lines up exactly with the Earth and the Sun. Solar eclipses occur at New Moon, when the Moon is between Earth and the Sun. Lunar eclipses occur at Full Moon, when Earth is between the Sun and the Moon. A total eclipse of the sun occurs when the moon appears the same size as the sun, thus completely obscuring the light.

Eclipses do not take place every month because the orbits of the Moon and Earth are tilted at an angle. Most of the time, the line-up is not precise enough for an eclipse. When an eclipse is total, the solar corona can be seen as a white halo around the black disk of the Moon.

Near the beginning and end of total and annular eclipses, the thin, visible slice of the Sun appears broken up into blobs of light. These blobs are called 'Baily's beads' after the British astronomer Francis Baily. They happen because the edge of the Moon is not smooth but jagged with mountain peaks. When just one bead is visible, the effect is often likened to a diamond ring.

The eclipse will take place at approximately 4.25pm, after which point we will return to our accommodation in San Juan.



ACCOMMODATION:
Olivos del Sol (or similar)



Grade: Standard Hotel



SWIMMING POOL AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST & LUNCH

DAY 5 - Hike in the lunar landscapes of Ischigualasto National Park

This morning we drive north of San Juan to Ischigualasto National Park. Popularly known as 'Moon Valley', this park, together with its neighbour Talampaya, was granted UNESCO heritage some years ago. The hike to Cerro Morado Hill will take us to many balcony-style look out points with excellent vistas across the whole valley. The round trip hike takes approximately three hours, and there is a moderate 400m climb up to the top of the hill, with chances of spotting centuries old plant life, unique to the valley. We will also explore the unique rock features found in the park, by bus, before heading to our accommodation in Villa Union this evening.



ACCOMMODATION:
Canon del Talampaya (or similar)

Grade: Standard Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



SWIMMING POOL AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

DAY 6 - Explore the red deserts of Talampaya National Park

Another other-worldly landscape awaits us today as we drive to the magnificent Talampaya National Park. Once the kingdom of dinosaurs, this park, along with its neighbour, Ischigualasto, contains an important number of fossils, providing a sequential record of life through the Triassic period. The scrub desert boasts fossilised remains of a wide range of indigenous animals and plants from roughly 250 to 200 million years ago. 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 carving through the desert floor. From here we can observe the oddly shaped rock towers with evocative names such as the Chimney, the Monk, the Elevator and the Cathedral - more akin to a Martian journey than our expectations of Andean scenery. This afternoon we continue to the town of Catamarca and check into our hotel.



ACCOMMODATION:
Amerian Catamarca (or similar)

Grade: Standard Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

DAY 7 - Visit to ancient Quilmes ruins; drive to Cafayate

This morning we have some free time in Belen, a small town with a strong Andean heritage, very different from the cosmopolitan cities of Buenos Aires and San Juan. We may have time to spend admiring the hats, sweaters and ponchos woven from llama and vicuna wool by the local traders, many of whom are maintaining pre-Hispanic methods of weaving. Leaving the town this afternoon, we head towards the winelands of Cafayate, stopping at the ancient ruins of the pre-hispanic Quilmes civilisation en route. The Quilmes people, dating back to around AD1000, resisted the Incan invasion and lived through over a century of Spanish colonisation before succumbing to disease and war. 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.



ACCOMMODATION:
Los Sauces (or similar)



Grade: Standard Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

DAY 8 - Wine-tasting in local vineyards; drive via 'Shell Gorge' to Salta

This morning we head out for a round of wine-tasting in one of the area's rustic wineries, their rows of vines backed by the stunning mountains beyond. Torrontes is the wine of choice here - a white wine that is well-known for being produced in this region. Later in the morning we take route 68, which connects Cafayate and its surrounding winelands to the city of Salta. The views down this road are spectacular, particularly in the Quebrada de las Conchas, or 'Shell Gorge', with its bright orange jagged rock formations standing out against the greens of the sparse trees and bushes that line its walls. There are some impressive geological formations on show here, all shaped by the winds that have blown through the gorge. After making several stops on our way, we arrive into Salta in the afternoon, and discover the city on foot. 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. Fear not, as we plan to take the cable car up to the top, where we will find an amphitheatre and coffee shop, and we may see some of the locals looking for a shady spot to prepare mate - a bitter green tea drink that takes centre stage in most Argentinian social gatherings.



ACCOMMODATION:
Amerian Salta (or similar)



Grade: Standard Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



SWIMMING POOL AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

DAY 9 - Discover the 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 region's old traditional villages, such as Tilcara, Maimara and Humahuaca - these villages are perfect people-watching opportunities, and it's interesting to see 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 are particular to the Andes, 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:
Amerian Salta (or similar)



Grade: Standard Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



SWIMMING POOL AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

DAY 10 - Free time in Salta; fly to Buenos Aires

We have free time this morning to wander around the peaceful squares and streets of the city before taking a flight later this afternoon back to the hustle and bustle of Buenos Aires, which will be a huge contrast from the quiet and open landscapes of the Andean region. This evening is free to enjoy something of Buenos Aires' dazzling nightlife.



ACCOMMODATION:
Hotel Waldorf (or similar)

Grade: Standard Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

DAY 11 - Free day in Buenos Aires

Today we enjoy a full free day in Buenos Aires to explore more of one of South America's most captivating cities. There is much to enjoy just from wandering around the districts like La Boca and San Telmo, and you could also taste some of Argentina's most mouth-watering traditional food at one of the city's many parrillas (grills). Choripan comes highly recommended - a large chorizo in a homemade crusty bread roll, covered with spicy chimichurri sauce. Delicious! Alternatively, you can escape the city with a trip to an estancia (ranch) or take a boat trip on the Tigre delta, a fascinating insight into the manmade communities and stilted homes set around this swampy river.



ACCOMMODATION:
Hotel Waldorf (or similar)

Grade: Standard Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

DAY 12 - Trip ends Buenos Aires

Our trip ends this morning in Buenos Aires.



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

Trip information

Country information

Argentina

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

Budgeting and packing

Optional activities

The following excursions and/or activities are usually available and may be arranged locally. Estimated costs are provided below for guidance only, are on a per person basis unless shown otherwise, and may depend on the number of participants. Prices quoted are correct as of the date these tour notes were originally issued but may change at any time due to currency fluctuations. Please note: These activities are booked and paid for direct with the supplier and do not form part of your Explore holiday contract.

Tigre Excursion - US\$ 90 per person

Pampas Ranch Excursion - US\$ 166 per person

Clothing

June is the winter season in Argentina, so you should expect cold, crisp and mainly dry days, and pack accordingly. The sun can still be strong so sunblock is recommended, particularly in the national parks, as well as a rain jacket and sturdy shoes to walk in. On the eclipse day you will be outside with the astronomer for part of the day, so pack a thick jumper in case you become cold.

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

Eclipse glasses will be provided for you in Argentina.

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\$ 50 for tipping

Argentina

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	Dinner price	Beer price	Water price
£11	£20	£3-4	£2

Foreign Exchange

Local currency

Argentine Peso (ARS)

Recommended Currency For Exchange

You can choose to either change your money in advance or on arrival at the airport. Here you will find both ATMs and Bureau de Change. The exchange rate with the ARS is approximately ARS 57 to the British Pound. You may wish to take extra USD cash as most optional excursions need to be paid in USD cash (not dispensed by ATMs in Argentina or Chile). Please check on line for up to date information

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 card are widely accepted in many shops and restaurants but some may be subject to a service charge

Travellers Cheques

We do not recommend Travellers Cheques

Transport, Accommodation & Meals

Transport Information

Bus

Accommodation notes

In San Juan you will have 3 nights in a hotel made up of differing cabins and rooms. Here you may be in a studio apartment, a double room or a small cabin. This is the best available place to stay to see the eclipse near San Juan.

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.

Price Guarantee

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 and Passport 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. Please note Australian passport holders will need make a payment called the 'reciprocity fee' in advance of travel to enter Argentina. This currently costs US\$ 100. This payment needs to be made online at <http://www.migraciones.gov.ar/accesible/templates/reciprocidad/reciprocidad.htm> The receipt generated at the time of online payment must be printed and given to local immigration authorities together with your passport.

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 on line - <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>

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 on line - <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. When completing an application for transit you should enter the words 'In Transit' with your final destination location in the address line.

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.

Please note that if you have visited Iraq, Syria, Iran or Sudan since 2011 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.

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.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you are in possession of a full passport, with the correct validity for your chosen destination.

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 complimentary transfers will be arranged from the Explore designated airport or train station to your trips joining point, and then back from the ending point to the designated airport or train station. Generally the airport or station that Explore have selected will be the one that is closest to the town or city where the trip starts, or the one nearest to the joining point. It will be either an airport or train station but not both.

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, Polar, 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. The cost of many of our Polar Voyages will exceed the capped amount covered by standard insurance premiums and you will be required to pay an additional premium to cover the full value of your trip. Please ensure that you are covered for the full amount of your holiday cost, as insufficient cover could invalidate a claim under the policy. 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

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. Yellow fever is only recommended for those travelling to Iguazu falls. Please check the latest requirements with your travel clinic or doctor prior to departure. 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 Explore Travel Health and from your local healthcare provider. Visa and vaccination requirements are subject to change and should be confirmed by you before travelling.

Additional Information



Why book this trip

Join a local astronomer to view the total solar eclipse from San Juan, and enjoy three different opportunities to taste Argentinian wine beneath the wonderful setting of the Andes mountains. This trip is ideal for active people who want to combine some city sightseeing and cultural discovery with walks amid some of the world's most inspirational scenery.



**AWARD WINNING
EXPLORE LEADERS**



**PRICE GUARANTEE
PROMISE**



**AIRPORT
TRANSFERS**