



NORTHWESTERN ARGENTINA IN 17 DAYS

17 Days, 16 Nights



- ✓ Accommodation and breakfast - Double Room
- ✓ Transfer IN OUT APT/HTL/APT
- ✓ Regular Tours with Spanish & English Guide
- ✓ Permanent coordination

Itinerary



Buenos Aires - Tucumán

Transfer from Ezeiza International Airport to Jorge Newbery domestic airport of Buenos Aires to take a flight to the city of San Miguel de Tucumán. Welcome at Benjamín Matienzo Airport in San Miguel de Tucumán and transfer to the hotel.



Tucumán – City tour

Breakfast at the hotel. We will visit the historic city center and the surroundings of the city to learn about three centuries of history. We will start our journey in the Independence Square, from where we will be able to see the stunning Governor's Residence and the architectural collection of buildings around it.

We will visit the Cathedral Church, the Church and San Francisco Convent; Nuestra Señora de la Merced Church, the Historical House of Independence, Nicolás Avellaneda Provincial History Museum, Padilla House and Santo Domingo Church and Convent.

Then we will head for 9 de Julio Park, one of the most beautiful parks designed by the French landscape gardener Carlos Thays; and we will also visit the Sugar Industry Museum Casa del Obispo Colombres (Colombres Bishop's House). After that, we will visit the most elegant part of the city whose core is Sarmiento Avenue. There we will come to the Urquiza Square, typical area of the city due to the French architectural style where you will see the National School building, San Martín Theatre, the Legislature of the Province and the Casino.

Alberdi Square is one of the squares in which the interior street layout is better preserved as well as an important monument in its center, and in front of this square there is the Civil Train Terminal General Mitre. Then we will get back to the city center.



Tucumán - Tafi del Valle – Quilmes Indian Ruins - Cafayate

Breakfast at the hotel. We will head for Tafi del Valle, visiting La Quebrada de Los Sosa (Sosa's Ravine) along the way. We will leave from San Miguel de Tucumán. We will visit San José de Tules Jesuital Ruins, which since 1670 was a Jesuital establishment until they were expelled in 1760. We will also visit Famaillá, Acheral and Santa Lucía, the route goes up surrounded by sugar and citrus plantations.

We will visit La Quebrada de Los Sosa and the cornice road, and the typical vegetation in the Tucuman Forest. We will visit places such as El Indio (the Indian), Fin del Mundo (End of the World) and La



Heladera (the Fridge). As we go down, the vegetation changes; there are no tall trees, and alders, willows and pines are more common.

We will see El Mollar, La Angostura Dock, Tafl del Valle where we will visit La Banda Jesuital Church, and then head for the ledge Abra del Infiernillo (3042 m.a.s.l.) from where we will enjoy a spectacular view.

We will start our way down up to the Calchaquí Valleys, passing by Ampimpa –a picturesque country house– a few kilometers from there we will visit Amaicha del Valle town. After crossing the Yocavil River (Santa María) we will reach the Quilmes Indian Ruins, one of the main pre-Hispanic establishments in our country. We will visit the museum and then see the fortress built by the Indians. Finally we will head for Cafayate, where we will spend the night.



Cafayate - Salta

Breakfast at the hotel. We will visit a Salta winery in Cafayate city. Then we will set out for Salta City.



Salta - City Tour

Breakfast at the hotel. We will visit the Cathedral, San Francisco Church, the Town Council and the Northern Historic Museum, the Craft Market and San Bernardo Hill.

San Francisco Church is a magnificent temple of the Franciscan order that has an exquisite architectural style and ornamental fine details. The Town Council was built in different stages, and shows baroque expressions. In the Craft Market you can buy silverware or textile mills. San Lorenzo is the summer village in Salta par excellence.



The Calchaquí Valley Circuit – Through Cachi

Breakfast at the hotel. In our second day, we will make the Circuit of the Calchaquí Valleys, but this time we will go to Cachi. We will go through captivating landscapes such as the rough beauty of Cuesta del Obispo (Bishop's Slope) and La Quebrada de Escolpe (Escolpe Ravine).

We will cross Los Cardones National Park to go quietly through red pepper plantations. We will get to Cachi Town, framed by the stunning snowy peaks of 6,384 m.a.s.l.).

In the narrow paved streets of this nice town you may still see the old church with adobe walls and cordon roofs, many pre-Hispanic establishments and mortuary urns. Watching the alfalfa, vegetables plantations and peppers dryers is a color spectacle that will make our bustling around worthwhile.



Train to the Clouds - Optional

Breakfast at the hotel. Train of the Clouds – transfers to the station included (the train is open all Saturdays from April to November. The rest of the year it is replaced by the Safari to the Clouds (4x4 trucks), Salinas Grandes y Purmamarca are included in the journey. We'll take the Train of the Clouds to go to the viaduct La Polvorilla, ascending up to 4,220 metres above the sea level.

This railroad of incredible engineering was created in 1941 to be used by heavy trains to carry minerals. It travels 220 km crossing valleys, canyons and the Puna and goes through places like the Quebrada del Toro, the zigzag of Alisal station and the La Polvorilla viaduct.

At the Alisal station, the train changes to a parallel track and the locomotive goes to the back of the train to lead it inside a tunnel. Once it crosses the tunnel the locomotive goes back to normal position. During the year, the aborigines sell their crafts, especially ponchos.

Note: In case of failure, Train to the Clouds will be replaced by the Safari to the Clouds (route similar to that carried out the train but in 4X4 vehicles)



Salta

Breakfast at the hotel. Day off.



Journey to the clouds – Salinas Grandes – Purmamarca

Breakfast at the hotel. We will take the Safari to the Clouds joining three critical paths of Argentinian Northwestern: first of all, "The Way to the Clouds", following the tracks of the railway of the well known "Train to the Clouds", by the Quebrada del Toro to San Antonio de los Cobres.

The second path is the crossing of the Puna by Route 40 reaching to the Salinas Grandes (Great Salt Flats) in Jujuy. And finally the descent down Lipán Hill, reaching to the vivid town of Purmamarca next to the Cerro de los Siete Colores (Seven Colours´ Hill). We will return to Salts by the afternoon.



Purmamarca – San Pedro de Atacama

Breakfast at the hotel. We will take a bus to the city of San Pedro de Atacama going through Jama Pass. Welcome at San Pedro de Atacama bus station and transfer to the hotel.



Atacama Salt Flat & Altiplanic Lagoons

Breakfast at the hotel. We will go to the Atacama Salt Flat, we will observe crusts of salt generated by the evaporation of salt water underground. We will visit Chaxa Lagoon (Natural Reserve of Flamingoes), surrounding of flamingoes, and other birds like the Caiti and the Andean Gull.

We will get to know Toconao, an oasis of fresh water and fruity trees, famous because of its bell tower of 1750. Along the Salt Flat we will reach to the town of Socaire, located at 3.250 meters and created with volcanic rocks, to finally arrive at the Altiplanic Lagoons of Miñiques & Miscanti, at 4.000 m.a.s.l. These lagoons were originated 1 million years ago due to the eruption of Miñiques volcano. We will have lunch at Socaire and then start our way back.



Tatio Geysers and Towns

Breakfast to the hotel. We pick you up at your Hotel to Tatio Geysers, the highest geysers field in the world, 95kms. North of San Pedro at 4300 m above sea level. We walk around Geothermic Field and then we have breakfast. Later we visit the Thermal swimmingpool to take a warm bath. Later we visit a series of charming oases and PreColumbian ruins. The first one is Caspana, beautiful and fertile valley at the foot of a steep cliff.

Later we go to Pukara de Lasana, fortress conserved as a National Monument. Then we see Petroglyphs near to the Loa river. Continuing we go to Inca Coya Lagoon, and Chiu Chiu town with the oldest church in our country built in 1674.



San Pedro de Atacama - Purmamarca

Breakfast at the hotel. We will take a bus from the city of San Pedro de Atacama going through Jama Pass to the city of Salta. Welcome at Salta bus station and transfer to the hotel.



Quebrada de Humahuaca

Breakfast at the hotel. We will see La Quebrada de Humahuaca and its pre-Hispanic town, which seem frozen in time. La Quebrada de Humahuaca was declared as World Culture and Natural Heritage in 2003. We will go from Jujuy up to the North, going through Yala, León, Lozano and Volcán up to Purmamarca.



Then we will set for Maimará, where we will stop over to watch the height cemetery and Paleta del Pintor (Painter's Palette) Hill. In Tilcara, we will visit the well-known Pucará, and in Humahuaca we will see the Independence Monument. In Uquía, we will visit the Church and the Tropic of Capricorn. We will spend the night in Humahuaca.



Iruya

Breakfast at the hotel. We will leave from Humahuaca up to Iruya (Salta). Then we will visit Jujuy Towns such as Iturbe, Chaupi Rodeo, Abra del Cóndor at 4,000 meters high.

Then we will start to go down up to 1,200 meters, where we will be captivated by the contrast of colors in the landscapes, from the rural green to the purple or violet, to the yellow in the Colanzuli River. We will get to Iruya, a beautiful mountainside town. In the afternoon, we will start our way back to Purmamarca.



Subtropical Yungas – Calilegua National Park

Breakfast at the hotel. We will go to the South of Jujuy province. We will visit Pálpala, San Pedro and Ledesma towns up to the National Park. We will visit three trails in Calilegua with a tourist guide. La Mamota, La Herradura (the Horseshoe) and La Lagunita (the Little Lagoon), where we will enjoy the local autochthonous flora and fauna.



Salta – Buenos Aires

Breakfast at the hotel. Transfer to domestic airport of Salta. Welcome at Jorge Newbery domestic airport in Buenos Aires. Transfer to Ezeiza International Airport.