



BARILOCHE LANDSCAPE

## ARGENTINA | Gardens, Tango, Wine, History & Nature

13 DAYS from \$6,330 | Choose your dates | Best season to travel: SEP–NOV, JAN–MAR

**STRETCHING** more than 2,200 miles from north to south, Argentina encompasses diverse landscapes and ecosystems, making for the perfect botanical exploration. Begin in the cosmopolitan capital of Buenos Aires to explore the parks and public gardens, some of which have been in operation for 100 years or more. Then explore the forests, dry Andean foothills, and wine-producing regions of Salta and Cafayate, before heading south to the mesmerizing Lake District of northern Patagonia, where the architecture and conifer-studded scenery are reminiscent of the Swiss Alps.

### PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Stroll through Buenos Aires' parks, plazas, and green spaces, including the Rose Garden, Japanese Garden, and Carlos Thays Botanical Garden.
- Visit several wholesale nurseries, where you will meet with the owners and discuss the challenges facing their industry.
- Explore the lush vegetation, streams, pools, and cliffs of the highly biodiverse Yungas ecosystem in Salta.
- Travel on foot and by boat through northern Patagonia, where you'll have the chance to see *Fitzroya cupressoides*, *Austrocedrus chilensis*, *Pilgerodendron uviferum*, and the rare arrayán trees (*Luma apiculata*), among others.
- Take in a tango show for a taste of the Buenos Aires nightlife.

### WHAT'S INCLUDED?

- Specialist guide
- Private transportation
- Accommodations
- Activities
- Meals
- Beverages with meals
- Bottled water on the bus
- Carbon offsetting



JARDÍN JAPONÉS



LOS ALERCES BY LISA WEICHEL

## ITINERARY

BLD = BREAKFAST, LUNCH, DINNER

### Day 1 | **Buenos Aires**

Upon arrival this morning in Buenos Aires, after clearing customs and collecting your luggage, meet your guide and transfer to the hotel. Early check-in is guaranteed for your comfort. This afternoon take a drive through the different areas of this incredibly interesting and exciting city. You will see the Plaza de Mayo, Obelisk, Casa Rosada, Avenida de Mayo with its incredible architecture, San Telmo, home of many of the Tango Parlors, La Boca, full of colorful homes and typical cantinas, Palermo with its mansions and tree lined streets, and La Recoleta, where your tour ends. This evening a welcome dinner will celebrate the first night of your tour. *Overnight at Casatur Bellini/Deluxe Suite (D)*

### Day 2 | **Buenos Aires**

Today you will explore Jardín Japonés, Rosedal, Jardín Botánico Carlos Thays, and Cementerio de la Recoleta. Japanese immigrants living in Buenos Aires constructed Jardín Japonés, a lovely five acre park, in 1967. It features landscaped ponds, topiaries, ornate arched red bridges, pattering mini rock waterfalls and zen-like stone and sculpture formations, black pine trees, ginkgo, sakura, and bonsai. Designed by French architect and landscape designer Carlos Thays, Jardín Botánico Carlos Thays was inaugurated on September 7, 1898. Thays and his family lived in an English-style mansion, located within the gardens, between 1892 and 1898, when he served as director of parks and walks in the city. The mansion, built in 1881, is currently the main building of the complex. Within the garden you will find cypresses, poplars, laurels, *Ginkgo biloba*, *Acacia spp.*, *Eucalyptus spp.*, *Casuarina spp.*, oaks, hazelnut trees, palms, sequoias, and *Chorisia speciosa*.



JARDÍN BOTÁNICO CARLOS THAYS BY SANDY SCHMIDT

There are also multiple statues, ponds, and other pieces of art. The famous Cementerio de la Recoleta contains the graves of notable people, including Eva Perón, presidents of Argentina, Nobel Prize winners, the founder of the Argentine Navy, and a granddaughter of Napoleon. In 2011, the BBC hailed it as one of the world's best cemeteries, and in 2013, CNN listed it among the 10 most beautiful cemeteries in the world. Enjoy a café lunch during the tour. This evening you will have at leisure to sample the incredible food, wine, and entertainment of Buenos Aires. *Overnight at Casatur Bellini/Deluxe Suite (BL)*

### Day 3 | **Buenos Aires**

This morning travel to several plant nurseries in the outskirts of Buenos Aires. Ruta de la Flor, Escobar, Buenos Aires, is home to over seven excellent wholesale nurseries such as Orquideas Saito, Vivero Hisaki, and Vivero Sawatani. Spend time with the owners and managers of these nurseries, learning of their type of operations, exportation, and the challenges facing the industry. This evening, witness an amazing performance of music and

tango at Esquena Carlos Gardel, one the most exquisite Tango Parlors in Buenos Aires. *Overnight at Casasur Bellini/Deluxe Suite (BLD)*

## Day 4 | **Cafayate**

This morning transfer to the Buenos Aires Municipal Airport and fly to Salta. Upon arrival, you will be met and transferred to a local restaurant for lunch. Following, travel to the city of Cafayate – a stunning, scenic drive. Your journey crosses the towns of Cerrillos, El Carril, a typical village of the Lerma Valley, Ampascachi, Talapampa, Germany and, finally, the Gorge of the Rio de las Conchas, also called Quebrada de Cafayate, whose reddish limestone walls, eroded by wind and water, carve capricious forms that will surprise the traveler at every curve of the road. The formations have been named by local residents according to their curious shapes: the amphitheatre, the Garganta del Diablo, or devils's throat, the obelisk, the castles. Surrounded by rivers and within a belt of vineyards, the town of Cafayate is one of the most beautiful of the province. There you can see the lovely homes that gracefully combine colonial and Baroque styles. The region is characterized by its wine production; one of the most outstanding is the Torrontes variety. *Overnight at Viñas de Cafayate Wine Resort/Vineyard View (BLD)*

## Day 5 | **Salta**

After a morning of leisure at the resort, and after lunch, you will transfer back to Salta. Salta is nicknamed Salta la Linda; it has become a major tourist destination due to its old, colonial architecture, tourism friendliness, excellent weather, and natural scenery of the valleys westward. Dinner is on own this evening. *Overnight at Alejandro 1 Hotel/Executive (BL)*

## Day 6 | **Salta**

Spend today in Parque Nacional Calilegua, located north of Salta and featuring the most accessible hiking trails in this well-protected area of Yungas ecosystem. Yungas forests are extremely diverse, ranging from moist lowland forest to evergreen montane forest and cloud forests. The terrain, formed by valleys, fluvial mountain trails, and streams, is extremely rugged and varied, contributing to the ecological diversity and richness. Your guided walks along the forest paths will lead you to pristine areas of lush vegetation, streams, pools, and cliffs. The park's beautiful landscape can be seen when transiting the Provincial Route 83 that runs through it. The park is home to 270 species of birds, which makes Calilegua the home of 50% of all bird

species in the country and a paradise for birdwatching. It is also home to the jaguar, the largest South American predator, along with other cats like the jaguarundi, the ocelot, the puma, and the pampas cat. The largest mammal in the Yungas, the tapir, also inhabits the reserve. Dinner is on own this evening. *Overnight at Alejandro 1 Hotel/Executive (B Boxed Lunch)*

## Day 7 | **Esquel**

Early this morning you will be transferred to the Salta airport and your flight to Esquel in Northern Patagonia, via the Buenos Aires Municipal Airport. You will have time at the airport to have breakfast at leisure (on own) before departing on your flight to Esquel. Upon arrival in Esquel, you will be met and transferred to Cumbres Blancas Hosteria, an authentic Patagonian Inn. Esquel is a tranquil town with wide avenues divided by densely planted medians, and is the gateway to Parque Nacional Los Alerces. The late afternoon and evening are at leisure to relax and enjoy the amenities at Cumbres Blancas. *Overnight at Cumbres Blancas Hosteria/Superior (D)*

## Day 8 | **Esquel**

Spend the day in Parque Nacional Los Alerces, home of *Fitzroya cupressoides*, *Austrocedrus chilensis*, and *Pilgerodendron uviferum*. The park has the largest Alerce forest of Argentina. *Fitzroya cupressoides* is one of the longest-living trees in the world; some in the park are around 3,000 years old, with many of

them over 1,000 years old. Travel through the park by vehicle, enjoy boat rides across mountain lakes, and hiking some of the trails. *Overnight at Cumbres Blancas Hosteria/Superior (BLD)*

## Day 9 | **Bariloche**

Travel north to San Carlos de Bariloche, a most breathtaking, beautiful drive. Enjoy lunch en route. You will have the late afternoon at leisure to explore your new surroundings. *Overnight at Cacique Inacayal Lake & Spa Hotel/Superior or Grand Comfort (BL)*

## Day 10 | **Bariloche**

Your tour today begins by navigating Lake Nahuel Huapi. After an hour and a half you will arrive at Puerto Quetihue, situated on the northern side of Lake Nahuel Huapi and disembark there to walk through the inner paths of the famous Arrayanes Forest, the only woods in the world declared a Natural Monument. Los Arrayanes was created in 1971 to protect its forest of the rare arrayán trees *Luma apiculata*, *Nothofagus dombeyi*, *Nothofagus pumilio*, *Nothofagus antarctica*, and colorful flowering



shrubs such as *Embothrium coccineum* and the beautiful “chilco” *Fuchsia magellanica* are also found in these forests. At the end of the walk, travel about an hour by boat, arriving at Puerto Anchorena, on Victoria Island, where there will be time for lunch (cost not included). After lunch you will be able to walk through the conifer area, where you will see sequoias, abedules, *Vachellia aroma* and pines, among others. In the afternoon, return to Puerto Pañuelo, and then back your hotel. *Overnight at Cacique Inacayal Lake & Spa Hotel/Superior or Grand Comfort (B)*

### Day 11 | **Bariloche**

Today is at leisure in order to relax and take advantage of the amenities and natural areas of Cacique Inancayal Lake & Spa Hotel, and the town of Bariloche. *Overnight at Cacique Inacayal Lake & Spa Hotel/Superior or Grand Comfort (B)*

### Day 12 | **Buenos Aires**

After a leisurely breakfast, you will be transferred to the Bariloche Airport for your flight to the Buenos Aires Municipal Airport. You will be met and transferred to your hotel, with time this afternoon at leisure before your farewell dinner at a special restaurant in Palermo. *Overnight at Casasar Bellini/Deluxe Suite (BD)*

### Day 13 | **Buenos Aires / Depart**

Early this morning you will be transferred to Buenos Aires International Airport for your departure flight.



## LAND PRICING

**\$6,330** per person, double occupancy, based on 18 participants (plus 1 complimentary from Los Angeles, single occupancy). *Single supplement: \$1350.*

**Cost includes:** Accommodations, meals as indicated, specialist guide, transportation, gratuities for guide & driver, activities per itinerary, carbon offset, bottled water on bus.

**Cost does not include:** International & internal airfare, items of personal nature, optional activities.

*Price valid until Dec. 2018.*

## THE FINE PRINT

*A \$200 per person deposit and enrollment form is due to secure your reservation. This deposit is refundable until 95 days prior to departure excluding a \$100 cancellation fee. Final payments are due no later than 95 days prior to departure. Non-refundable final payment is due at 95 days prior to departure. Travel/trip cancellation insurance is strongly recommended. For more information call Travel Insured at 800-243-3174 or visit [travelinsured.com](http://travelinsured.com). Holbrook Travel's agency number is 15849.*

## MORE FROM HOLBROOK

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