



July 2026

Dear Travel Friends,

Some of the best sight-seeing anywhere is in **Argentina**, home to the great art and architecture of **Buenos Aires**, exceptional dishes of beef and cuisine from the country's Italian and Spanish heritage, and the vast landscapes of **Patagonia** and the **Andes Mountains**. We will travel to Argentina in February 2027, in the South American summer, with a **Travel Friends** excursion that offers you the best that the country has to offer. Our group will meet in Buenos Aires for three days of sightseeing in this city of parks and avenues on the River Plate, then fly south to Patagonia, where we'll explore Peninsula Valdés on the Atlantic Coast, and continue to **Mendoza**, to see the vineyards and to taste the country's famous Malbec and Merlot wines. We'll enjoy a leisurely trip to Colonia del Sacramento, Uruguay and time to walk its cobblestone streets before returning to Buenos Aires and departure for the United States. Join us early next year to see these highlights of South America in our friendly group of adventurers.

Buenos Aires is the national capital and home to a third of Argentina's population. Churches and convents remind us of the city's colonial past, but millions of European immigrants turned this backwater into a cultural juggernaut of art, architecture, cuisine, music and dance starting in the 1880s. We'll visit the great Colón Theater, an architectural masterpiece of Italian and Spanish craftsmen and one of the world's great opera houses, and walk through the Ateneo Bookstore, a famed movie palace from the heyday of Argentine cinema that was recently turned into the world's "most beautiful bookstore." We'll see the Casa Rosada, the famed Government House where Juan and Eva Perón saluted throngs of their adoring followers in the 1950s and enjoy some of the city's innumerable cafés, the real centers of the city's daily business and social life.

Next we'll fly to Trelew, in the province of Chubut, and visit the Península Valdés, a vast nature reserve on the Atlantic seaboard and a UNESCO World Heritage Site, to see the landscapes and wildlife of Patagonia, including rheas and guanacos on land, and sea lions, elephant seals and penguin colonies on the beaches. We'll visit the paleontological museum in Trelew (Argentina holds some of the world's most important dinosaur fossil beds) and spend part of a day at a ranch. Welsh settlers initiated the area's wool industry more than a century ago and the local culture--including the custom of tea in the afternoon--are reminders of the old British heritage. We'll depart by plane for Mendoza, at the foot of the Andes Mountains, where we'll have two full days exploring the winemaking region that turned the Malbec and Merlot grapes of France into some of the world's great red wines. We fly back to Buenos Aires and spend two nights, enjoying a one-day excursion across the River Plate to Colonia del Sacramento, Uruguay, a quaint town that preserves the colonial streets and buildings of the Portuguese Empire and is now preserved as a World Heritage Site. The ferry to Uruguay and domestic plane tickets in Argentina are included.

There is no one flight that our group will take heading to Argentina, but we'll put folks in touch with one another if someone prefers not to travel alone. As always, our group will be small, with no more than 15 people, allowing us to move around easily and to stop whenever we wish to take a break and enjoy the city and the natural areas around us.

Karl and I look forward to you joining us in February 2027. Please let us know if you have any questions about the program.

Mark McMeley

Karl Atkinson

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Argentina from Buenos Aires to Patagonia

February 15 - 26, 2027



Sunday, February 14

Participants depart the U.S. for Argentina. Most U.S. flights to Argentina travel overnight.

Monday, February 15

Flights arrive at the Ezeiza airport (EZE) in Buenos Aires. The program conductor will meet participants as they arrive at the airport and escort everyone to the hotel in central Buenos Aires. Transportation to the hotel is included. Argentina is two hours ahead of U.S. Eastern Time.

We'll spend the rest of the day relaxing, walking around the neighborhood and taking in the sights. Shorts and tennis shoes, t-shirts and sunglasses are welcome--it's mid-summer in the Southern Hemisphere! We'll relax in the rooms before heading out in the evening for a welcome dinner in the Puerto Madero area.

Hotel: Buenos Aires, Argentina



Tuesday, February 16

Breakfast is included today and each day of our stay in Argentina. We'll meet downstairs at 10 a.m. and take a half-day walking tour for an overview of the city. We'll tour the Colón Theater, the opera house built by Italian and Spanish immigrants in 1906 and one of the country's great contributions to the world of music. Nearby we'll see the Obelisk, the monument erected a century ago that became the centerpiece of the broad 9th of July Avenue--the world's widest. We'll take a break across the street at the Confitería Ideal, the historic café and restaurant that was recently refurbished to its early 1900s grandeur--and the spot where Madonna and Antonio Banderas danced a tango in the 1996 film version of "Evita." We'll take the subway a short distance to the Plaza de Mayo, the historic heart of public affairs in the city and the nation, to see the Cathedral, the colonial-era Cabildo (town hall) and the Casa Rosada, the Government House, where Juan and Eva Perón waved to throngs of their adoring supporters in the 1950s. Afterwards we'll spend time in the Boca neighborhood, the old port area where immigrant dock workers created a unique culture of language and art at the start of the 20th century. We'll continue to a much different part of town for lunch at the Palacio Paz, one of the city's grand mansions from the early 1900s, on the Plaza San Martín. We'll be back in the rooms, nearby, in mid-afternoon. Dinner near the hotel.

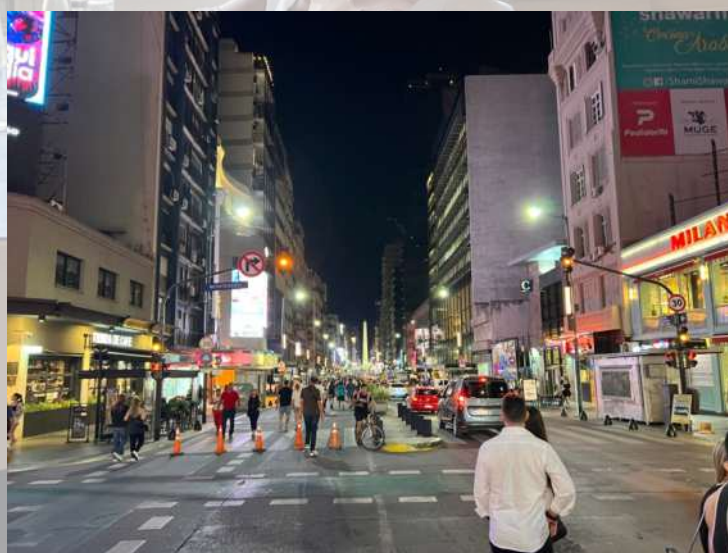
Hotel: Buenos Aires, Argentina



Wednesday, February 17

This morning we'll visit the Recoleta Cemetery, a local landmark with ornate mausolea surrounded with stories of intrigue, tragedy and lost loves. We'll stop at the nearby Palacio Errázuriz-Alvear, another grand residence from the city's golden era, now the National Decorative Arts Museum, and will enjoy lunch in an outdoor café nearby. Those who wish may continue to the nearby Museum of Latin American Art of Buenos Aires (the MALBA), opened in 2001, to see works by artists such as Diego Rivera, Frida Kahlo and Cándido Portinari. This evening we'll enjoy dinner with a tango show in one of the theaters downtown. Tango originated in the bars and streets of Buenos Aires a century ago and became acceptable and fashionable in the city after the dance acquired popularity in Paris. Tango music and dance are still part of local culture. Many milongas (dance events) take place here every night.

Hotel: Buenos Aires, Argentina



Thursday, February 18

We'll head to the airport this morning for a flight to Trelew, the largest of the communities founded by Welsh settlers in Patagonia in the late 1800s. The town is still the center of Argentina's wool industry, with much of the production leaving on ships from the port at nearby Rawson. We'll take private transportation to Puerto Madryn, an hour away, where we'll check into our hotel and have time to walk along the coast of the Golfo Nuevo (New Gulf), on the Atlantic Ocean, before dinner. Dinner near the hotel.

Hotel: Puerto Madryn, Argentina



Friday, February 19

After breakfast we'll take our private transportation into the Península Valdés Nature Preserve, a protected UNESCO World Heritage Site for a day of sightseeing in one of the great natural destinations in Patagonia. We'll see guanacos (smaller, undomesticated cousins of llamas) and rheas (South American ostriches) on land, and penguins, sea lions and elephant seals along the coast. We'll walk some of the park's easy trails, across the grasslands, along the coast and the salt pans, and take a lunch break in one of the small eateries within the park. We'll return to Puerto Madryn in the late afternoon. Dinner near the hotel.

Hotel: Puerto Madryn, Argentina



Saturday, February 20

We'll take time today to explore Trelew and some of the area's Welsh traditions. We'll spend part of the day at a ranch to learn about the immigrants who turned this remote stretch of the Patagonian coast into one of the world's leading producers of wool. Afterwards we'll stop in town and visit the Egidio Feruglio Paleontological Museum, to see some of the discoveries of the vast fossil beds of Patagonia, including the largest dinosaurs ever discovered and the species that marked the transition from reptiles to birds. We'll take a break in one of the area's Welsh tea houses before returning to Puerto Madryn in the late afternoon. This evening we'll have dinner at a restaurant near the hotel.

Hotel: Puerto Madryn, Argentina



Sunday, February 21

After breakfast we'll head to the airport in Trelew for the connecting flight through Buenos Aires for Mendoza, at the foot of the Andes Mountains. We'll have dinner near our hotel.

Hotel: Mendoza, Argentina



Monday, February 22

After breakfast we'll enjoy a short tour of Mendoza city, with its parks, plazas and the José de San Martín statue, commemorating the Argentinian general's daring military expedition across the Andes during the Wars of Independence. In the late morning we'll drive through the hills and vineyards south of the city, near Tupungato and Tunuyán, stopping at some of the area's small wineries. Return to the hotel in the late afternoon. Dinner near the hotel.

Hotel: Mendoza, Argentina



Photo in the public domain courtesy Ricardo Martins, Wikimedia Commons, 2014

Tuesday, February 23

This morning we'll head to the Catena Zapata Winery, one of the country's most storied wineries founded by Italian immigrant Nicola Catena in 1902. Spanish colonizers in the imperial era had cultivated grapes on the sunny, dry eastern slopes of the Andes, but it wasn't until French and Italian immigrants introduced new techniques and varieties--such as the now famous Malbec grapes--that Mendoza took its place among the major wine-producing regions of the world. After a vineyard and winery tour and wine tasting, we'll enjoy lunch here. We'll go back to the hotel in Mendoza in the mid-afternoon. Dinner near the hotel.

Hotel: Mendoza, Argentina

Wednesday, February 24

We pack our bags this morning and depart at mid-day for the two-hour flight back to Buenos Aires. We'll check into the hotel and enjoy the evening with dinner nearby.

Hotel: Buenos Aires, Argentina



Thursday, February 25

This morning we'll take a one-day excursion across the River Plate to Colonia del Sacramento, Uruguay, founded by the Portuguese in the late 1600s. The cobblestone streets, colonial buildings and ramparts of this quaint little town bear witness to the struggle with the Spanish over access to the continent's riches. The ferry trip is one hour each way, and we'll have lunch in Colonia before returning to Buenos Aires in the afternoon. We'll celebrate our discoveries with a farewell dinner this evening.

Hotel: Buenos Aires, Argentina

Friday, February 26

We'll pack our bags this morning and check out of the hotel in time



for departure to the airport in the late afternoon. Most return flights depart Ezeiza Airport in the evening and arrive at U.S. airports the following morning.

Fees and payments

Fee for the eleven-night Argentina from Buenos Aires to Patagonia program is \$4295.00 per person, in a double-occupancy room. The fee includes:

- Tourist-class, double-occupancy lodging for five nights in central Buenos Aires, for three nights in Puerto Madryn and for three nights in Mendoza, with buffet-style breakfast each morning.
- Incoming and outgoing transportation between the Ezeiza International Airport (EZE) and the Buenos Aires hotel, and the airports of Trelew and Mendoza and hotels in those cities, private minivan transportation to the Península Valdés Nature Reserve, Trelew-area ranch, Feruglio Paleontological Museum and Mendoza wineries.
- Entrances for the tango show and dinner, Recoleta Cemetery, Península Valdés Nature Preserve, Trelew ranch visit, Feruglio Paleontological Museum, Catena Zapata Winery tour and wine tasting, round-trip ferry tickets to Uruguay and museum entrances in Colonia del Sacramento.
- Roundtrip economy-class airfare between Buenos Aires, Trelew and Mendoza airports.
- Gratuities to drivers and hotel staff.

Fee does not include international airfare from the United States, lunches or dinners (except where indicated as included), public transport in Buenos Aires (which is inexpensive, about \$1 per trip, with a virtual or physical debit or credit card), entrances not specified in the program or travel insurance. As of July 2026, no visa is required for Argentina or Uruguay for tourists holding U.S. passports.

Supplement for a single room is \$1100.00.

This fee is based on a minimum of six paying passengers.

Payments are due on the following schedule:

September 30, 2026:	\$ 500.00 deposit due
October 31, 2026:	\$ 3795.00 due (plus \$1100 single-room supplement if applicable)

Payments should be made to River Plate Seminars by check at this address: Mark McMeley, 1001 Brynlor Lane, Orlando, Florida 32818, or though Venmo at Mark-McMeley-1, or through Zelle at phone number 321-977-1389, or by wire transfer to the following account:

Chase Bank
7674 Dr. Phillips Blvd., Orlando, Florida 32819
account: 800 153 553
routing number: 021000021
attn: Mark McMeley, River Plate Seminars

