



Essence of Argentina & Brazil

Classic Tour | 12 Days | Physical Level 1

Buenos Aires - Iguazu - Rio de Janeiro

A classic Latin America itinerary with a tango-worthy twist, travel between the vivacious cities of Buenos Aires and Rio de Janeiro and the spectacular Iguazu Falls. Explore Uruguay visiting the picture-perfect town of Colonia.

- Experience a traditional Estancia in Argentina
- Take a Tango dancing class
- Explore La Colonia in Uruguay
- Dine on a traditional asado
- Marvel at Iguazu Falls on both sides of the border
- Ascend Sugarloaf Mountain



Essence of Argentina & Brazil inclusions:

- Return international economy flights, taxes and current fuel surcharges (unless a 'land only' option is selected)
- All accommodation
- All meals
- All sightseeing and entrance fees
- All transportation and transfers
- English speaking National Escort (if your group is 10 or more passengers) or Local Guides
- Specialist advice from our experienced Reservations Consultants
- Comprehensive Travel Guides

The only thing you may have to pay for are personal expenditure e.g. drinks, optional excursions or shows, insurance of any kind, tipping, early check-in or late check-out and other items not specified on the itinerary.

Classic Tours:

These tours are designed for those who wish to see the iconic sites and magnificent treasures of Latin America on an excellent value group tour whilst travelling with like-minded people. The tours are on a fully inclusive basis so you will travel with the assurance that all your arrangements are taken care of. You will be accompanied by our dedicated and professional National Escort and local guides, whose unparalleled knowledge will turn your holiday into an unforgettable experience.

Physical Level 1:

All our tours feature a physical rating to help you select the right holiday for you. To travel on any of our tours requires unaided mobility and the ability to stroll around the sights.

'Essence of Argentina & Brazil' is rated as a physical level 1 tour. A reasonable level of fitness is required but it's more about spending time on your feet rather than covering large distances. You will be getting on and off coaches and boats, walking around the sights and climbing some steps.

Of course, our National Escorts and Local Guides will always endeavour to provide the highest level of service and assistance; however, they cannot be expected to cater for customers who are unfit to complete the itinerary.

Country Profiles: Argentina and Brazil

Argentina is a country full of pleasures – food, wine, tango. Fall for the charms of vibrant Buenos Aires, the roaring waters of Iguazu, the endless Pampas, wine of Mendoza and the glaciers within arms-reach in Patagonia. Embrace the profound zest for life - the Argentines are a passionate and spirited people, and you will find yourself jumping feet first into their enticing rhythm.

Brazilians live life to the max – follow the entrancing samba rhythms along gorgeous beaches, through vast expanses of mystic rainforest and biodiverse landscapes. Discover historic Salvador, once the capital of Portugal's New World colony, now a tropical city vibing to an infectious Afro-Brazilian beat. Delve deep into the Amazon to spot unusual wildlife and encounter the indigenous tribespeople. Stand before Iguazu, the largest waterfall system in the world, and take in Brazil's most exuberant city, Rio de Janeiro.

Joining Your Tour

The tour is 12 days in duration including international flights.

Travellers booked on 'Land Only', the price includes your arrival/departure airport transfers if arriving/departing on the start and conclusion date of your tour. Please advise your international flight times to Reservations.

Join the tour on Day 1 in Buenos Aires and end the tour on Day 10 in Rio de Janeiro. Please refer to your final itinerary for more specific meeting instructions pertaining to your departure.

Itinerary Changes

It is our intention to adhere to the day-to-day itinerary as printed; however, the order of events or sightseeing may change as we look to improve our tours or as local conditions dictate. In these circumstances we will make the best possible arrangements maintaining the integrity of your trip.

Itinerary – Essence of Argentina & Brazil

Day 1: Fly to Buenos Aires

Fly to Argentina's flamboyant capital city Buenos Aires, arriving the same day due to crossing the International Date Line. You will be met at the airport and transferred 45 minutes to your hotel. Enjoy the rest of the afternoon at leisure before your welcome dinner this evening.

Destination Information

Buenos Aires - The Paris of Latin America, Buenos Aires is a romantic and lively city. The culture of the city is extremely diverse and the asado (barbecue) restaurants are second to none. Most importantly of all, Buenos Aires is the home of Tango and performers can be seen dancing in restaurants, bars or even on the streets.

Day 2: Vibrant Buenos Aires

After breakfast, enjoy the irresistible combination of Latin flair and European elegance in a Buenos Aires city tour. Visit the vibrant districts of La Boca, San Telmo, Puerto Madero, Palermo and Recoleta. This evening participate in a quintessential Argentinian experience; the tango! Take a tango class before sitting down for dinner and a sultry tango show.



Destination Information

La Boca – A buzzing barrio of Buenos Aires packed with colourful shacks built from Zinc, La Boca is a popular area to see street artists and tango dancers. La Boca is also home to the world-famous Boca Juniors Football Club, who play at the intimidating La Bombonera stadium.

San Telmo – One of the oldest neighbourhoods of Buenos Aires filled with cobbled streets, cafes, restaurants, antique stores and the 19th century Central Market.

Recoleta – An affluent area of Buenos Aires and home to lavish former palaces, Paris-style townhouses and the famous Recoleta Cemetery.

Puerto Madero - Buenos Aires's revamped dockside. Today home to upscale steakhouses, hotels and an ecological Reserve that you can explore by foot or on bike.

Day 3: Buenos Aires – day trip to Uruguay

Enjoy a day trip to Uruguay, taking a ferry across the Rio de La Plata to Colonia del Sacramento. A picture-perfect colonial town, Colonia was founded by the Portuguese in 1680 and is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The beautiful Barrio Historico, which occupies a small peninsula that juts out into the river, is a maze of old cobbled streets that are a delight to wander. Admire the main square, see the ruins of San Francisco Church and visit the lighthouse amongst much more.



Destination Information

La Colonia – The historic quarter of Colonia del Sacramento, founded in 1680, evokes old Lisbon with its Portuguese-influenced architecture and winding streets. The area, located in southwestern Uruguay on the Rio de la Plata, was named a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1995.

Day 4: Buenos Aires - Estancia Experience

Travel approximately 1 hour 30 minutes by road just outside the city. Spend the day on the vast, fertile grasslands known as the pampas, on a traditional estancia (ranch). Here you'll get some insight into the life of the folk heroes, the gaucho, and after a typical Argentinian asado lunch, there will be a fun folklore show.



Day 5: Buenos Aires to Iguazu

Say farewell to Buenos Aires and transfer 30 minutes to the airport to board your plane over to Puerto Iguazu, the town closest to the incredible wonder that is Iguazu Falls. Your flight is just under 2 hours. Upon arrival you have the rest of the day to yourself before dinner this evening in a local restaurant.

Destination Information

Iguazu Falls - The incredible Iguazu Falls spans the border of Argentina and Brazil and features hundreds of rushing cascades, set in a lush rainforest scene. The region has been declared a world heritage site and received the status of one of the New Seven Wonders of Nature in 2011.

Day 6: Iguazu Falls (Argentina)

Today, transfer 25 minutes to the falls. You will wander along the Argentinian side of Iguazu, which offers a fantastic overview of the whole of the falls, and showcases its power and magnificence. Don't miss the viewpoint of one of the falls' most impressive sights, the Garganta del Diablo. Take the Ecological Jungle Train, a 15 minute journey, which takes you to the most impressive observation point – the Devil's Throat. Sightseeing today will be a full day with around 6 hours on foot. This afternoon, take a unique opportunity to learn about the indigenous culture of the *Mbororé Aldea* people, who open the doors to their community and share fascinating stories of their ancestors, rituals, myths and legends. Finish the day with an interactive craft experience.



Day 7: Iguazu (Brazil) to Rio de Janeiro

This morning, you will experience the Brazilian side of these spectacular falls. This side of Iguacu offers a completely different experience with paths and boardwalks to wander. These will lead you to some of the numerous smaller cascades that dance their way along gullies and through lush greenery. Afterwards, you will hop on a plane to Brazil's 'Cidade Maravilhosa', Rio de Janeiro. The flight is approximately 2 hours. On arrival, transfer to your hotel. You have the rest of the day at leisure. Perhaps head to the world-famous Copacabana or Ipanema beaches to soak up the sunshine.



Destination Information

Rio de Janeiro – Founded in 1565, the city became the capital of the Portuguese Empire from 1815 – 1822 after the royal family fled their homeland following the conquests of Napoleon. Nowadays, this city is famous for its beaches, lush scenery and samba-fuelled nightlife. Rio is also home to Christ the Redeemer and the impressive Sugar Loaf Mountain, both of which you will experience on this tour.

Day 8: Christ the Redeemer, Rio

Climb onboard a jeep to venture to some of Rio's many wonders! Drive about 20 minutes to Cosme Velho Street, then in Paineras station transfer into a van to ascend the Corcovado, on the peak of which Christ the Redeemer watches over the city, on the way you will pass through the lush vegetation of the Tijuca Forest. You can take the steps at the final stage to Christ the Redeemer; however, there is an escalator if you prefer. Next, explore the 19th-century hillside neighbourhood of Santa Teresa, an area with a wonderfully bohemian atmosphere, where you'll also have lunch in a traditional restaurant.



Destination Information

Corcovado - Originally known as *Pinaculo da Tentacao*, or Pinnacle of Temptation, Corcovado mountain is a 710m granite peak overlooking Rio, and is easily one of Brazil's most iconic landmarks. It is surrounded by the Tijuca Forest and is home to Christ the Redeemer.

Tijuca Forest – Arguably the world's largest urban forest, Tijuca Forest is blessed with many hiking trails, lush tropical plantlife, a wealth of wildlife and birdlife, and multiple scenic spots including caves, waterfalls and mountain peaks. In the 18th century much of the forest was cut down to make way for coffee plantations, but in the 19th century a conservation effort was launched and the forest is now responsible for much of the fresh water that runs into the city of Rio de Janeiro. Tijuca was designated a national park in 1961.

Santa Teresa - An area of Rio with a wonderfully bohemian atmosphere known for as the arts centre of the city with lots of craftsmanship galleries.

Day 9: Explore Rio de Janeiro

After breakfast, tour the city through downtown Rio, passing by the Sambadrome and the Metropolitan Cathedral. Get to know the traditional Cinelandia square with its historical buildings, the Municipal Theatre, the National Library, and the National Museum of Fine Arts. Then, via Aterro do Flamengo, transfer about 20 minutes to the neighbourhood of Urca where you will ascend to the heights of Sugarloaf Mountain by cable cars. The first cable car will take you 215 metres high. From there, board the second one which will lead you to breath taking views at the top of the Sugar Loaf Mountain, 395 metres



high. Take in the incredible sights of the Guanabara Bay and its islands, Rio-Niterói Bridge and Corcovado. Later in the evening, transfer back to Copacabana to visit a samba club, where you can simply tap your foot to the infectious beat and watch the dancing, or dance the night away yourself!

Destination Information

Sugar Loaf Mountain – Known as *Pao de Acucar* in Portuguese, Sugarloaf Mountain sits at the entrance of Guanabara Bay and is named for its unusual shape as it resembles a traditional form of sugar widely used two centuries ago. Your cable car journey will take you to the summit of the mountain, where you will take in the magnificent views from a height of 395 metres. This is an awe-inspiring site, and one that is popular not just with locals and tourists but rock climbers also, as the mountain is one of the largest and most popular urban rock-climbing destinations in the world, featuring over 270 different routes to the top.

Days 10 - 12: Depart Rio de Janeiro

Transfer about 1 hour to the airport according to your international flight time and fly to New Zealand. Arrive home in 2 days due to crossing the International Date Line once again.

Essence of Argentina & Brazil Travel Information

Visas

New Zealand passport holders currently do not require a visa to enter Argentina or Brazil. Please be advised that your passport must have at least six months validity left on it when you arrive back into New Zealand. At the time of booking Visa conditions may have changed, currently no visa is required for New Zealand Passport holders. Your travel consultant will inform you if any changes are applicable prior to your departure.

Insurance

We strongly recommend that you take out a policy as soon as you pay your deposit. Wendy Wu Tours cannot in any way be made liable for any additional cost incurred by the customer on any tour due to the customer not having adequate travel insurance.

We also encourage all customers to take a copy of their travel insurance documents (especially relevant international contact numbers) with them while on tour. We advise that you check the inclusions and procedures for lodging claims prior to your departure. These documents should be stored separately from the original.

Eating in Argentina & Brazil

Argentinian food incorporates many European influences predominantly from Italy and Spain. The Argentinian barbecue (asado) with steak and ribs is widely recognised as the country's national dish; however, in Patagonia lamb, goat and seafood are popular. Empanadas, stuffed pastry parcels, are a traditional snack and Dulce de leche (similar to caramel) features heavily in desserts throughout the country. Lunch is usually seen as the main meal of the day in Argentina with dinner being a lighter dish.

Brazilian food is strongly influenced by European and African cuisines, whilst there is not a single national cuisine there is an assortment of regional traditional dishes. In Rio and Sao Paulo the Brazilian Feijoada is the traditional dish, being a stew made from meat and black beans. In Northern Brazil Cassava (a root vegetable) features heavily in meals. Popular dishes throughout the country include rice and beans, served with meat and salad, fresh tropical fruit is a common dessert. Typical snacks include Pao de Queijo (cheese bread), Coxinha which is a chicken croquette, and Kibe which is a bulgar wheat and beef croquette.

Whilst we strongly recommend trying as many local dishes as possible, Argentina and Brazil also have a wide range of international foods available.

Drinking bottled water and eating well-cooked food is strongly recommended. It's much safer to stick to bottled, treated or boiled water. Ice, along with salads or fruits washed in tap water should likewise be avoided.

Those with dietary requirements will be well catered for - just make sure to inform your booking agent of any specific requirements well in advance of your trip.

All the restaurants we visit will be researched and inspected regularly to ensure that they follow the strictest health, cleanliness, and safety guidelines. All waiting staff will wear face masks and gloves and self-service buffets will be avoided in favour of à la carte dining, waiter-served meals, or waiter-assisted buffets. Hand sanitiser will be provided to the group before and after every food and beverage service.

Accommodation

Your accommodation is selected for convenience of location, comfort or character, and can range from business hotels to rainforest lodges. Hotels are generally rated as local three to four-star standard, but please note that there is no international classification system for hotels and differences in facilities and quality may exist between New Zealand and South America. All group tour hotels have private bathroom facilities and air conditioning where needed. If you experience any difficulty, please speak to your National Escort. Rest assured that all hotels used by Wendy Wu Tours are regularly inspected by our staff and our partners to ensure that standards meet your needs.

Transport

Coaches: Coaches with air conditioning are used on our group tours for city short excursions to the countryside and longer transfers between destinations. Roads in Argentina and Brazil have generally been improved over recent years, but please be aware traffic and/or weather conditions may extend driving times. There may be sections of road where the surface may be comparatively bumpy, but our drivers will do their utmost best to lessen the impact.

Planes: Internal flights are based on economy class, with reputable airlines. Within Latin America flights are often changed multiple times before departure, both timings and flight numbers. The utmost care will be taken to ensure that your final documents will have the latest information; however, your local guide will confirm this in the destination. Boarding passes can be collected directly at the airport. The flights booked as part of your itinerary will always reflect the best timings to suit the touring itinerary, with direct flights wherever possible; however due to limited schedules some flights may require a fairly early departure or late arrival.

Souvenirs

There are plenty of interesting bits and pieces to buy as souvenirs in Argentina and Brazil, such as indigenous textiles, handicrafts and artworks. There will be some opportunities during your tour to pick up souvenirs.

Group Size

Most of our groups consist of 10 travellers or more, there will usually be no more than 18 travellers in each group. All our departures are guaranteed to operate with a minimum of 8 travellers booked (unless cancelled due to factors beyond our control). However, at our discretion we may operate departures with a smaller group size as we try to operate advertised departures wherever it is viable to do so.

Tipping Policy

Local tipping is customary in Latin America; however, this can often lead to awkwardness in knowing when it is appropriate to tip and how much, as well as ensuring you have a suitable amount of change available at the time. For your convenience, with years of experiences in providing the best customer service, Wendy Wu Tours operates a kitty system on our Group Tours so your National Escort will look after this aspect of your trip for you. It also ensures that the amounts paid are reasonable for you but still fair for the local people. The amount is stated on each Group Tour page and will be advised again on your final documentation. Tipping is in US Dollars and will be collected by your National Escort on arrival and distributed throughout the tour on your behalf. Any additional tipping on any of our tours is welcomed at your discretion. Further guidance for tipping contributions will be outlined in your final documentation.

We generally find that most customers appreciate the convenience of our tipping policy, but we do recognise that it may not suit everyone. As this is a group tour we ask that everyone follows the same protocol to be fair to other group members and to ensure smooth operation of your tour.

Climate

On this tour, you will be travelling through various regions of Argentina and Brazil with quite diverse climates especially in whilst in Argentina and the Brazil Coastal area of Rio. It is recommended to bring lots of layers including the following: T-Shirts made of breathable materials, hiking trousers, with the option to turn into shorts, a fleece jacket for colder parts and the evenings and a waterproof jacket as shell layer or a light rain jacket. We recommend packing a light fleece jacket for those colder afternoons in Buenos Aires. A small backpack that fits into your main hand luggage to carry your daily essentials should also be taken.

Luggage

All travellers are limited to two items of luggage each, a suitcase with a maximum weight of 20kg and one piece of hand luggage with a maximum weight of five kilograms. It is essential that your luggage is lockable. Please note that authorities will only allow bottles onto the aircraft if they have been checked in as main baggage. Bottles in hand luggage may be confiscated.

Exchanging Cash

The unit of currency in Argentina is the Argentinian Peso (ARS) and in Brazil it is the Brazilian Real (BRL). US Dollars can be easily exchanged provided notes are new and undamaged. We suggest exchanging your money before travelling to remote areas and smaller towns, as exchange facilities can be limited. Try and keep some small notes and coins on you, as on street stalls and in small shops they may not have the change to break up a high denomination note. If you decide to use US dollars, make sure they are in a good state (not ripped etc) or they will not be accepted. ATMs are common across Latin America and we recommend using an ATM inside a bank where possible. Please note, currently there are restrictions on how much cash you can withdraw from ATMs in Argentina. Most major credit cards are widely accepted across the continent; please bear in mind the charges of your provider. Debit cards are also widely accepted but may have a limit to the amount of cash you can withdraw so consult your bank about this before travelling.

Personal Expenses & Optional Tours

Personal Expense - You will need to take some extra money to cover drinks, laundry and souvenirs, plus any additional sightseeing that may be offered to you. Based on the advice of previous customers an approximate amount of NZ\$250 per person, per week should be sufficient; however, for those that cannot resist a bargain or may wish to participate in all of the optional excursions, consider allocating a higher amount.

Optional Tours – Optional tours may be offered in each city you visit during your tour at an additional cost. These are not included in the standard itinerary and will only be available if time permits. Each option will be arranged locally by your National Escort/Local Guide

Vaccinations and Your Health

We recommend that you contact either your Doctor or Health Center for advice on vaccinations and travel health. Holiday Health has a comprehensive website that you may also find useful www.holidayhealth.co.nz

Before You Leave

We strongly recommend registering your travel plans with www.safetravel.govt.nz as in the event of an emergency, New Zealand Consular assistance will be more readily available. You can also access the New Zealand Government's travel advisory service for up-to-date information about your destination on the same website.

After Your Booking

Once you have booked with Wendy Wu Tours, you will receive a confirmation invoice followed by deposit documentation, which includes a visa application form (if applicable). Your final documentation pack will be sent to you approximately 2-3 weeks prior to departure.

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