A R G E N T I N A & U R U G U A Y

BUENOS AIRES AND COASTAL URUGUAY

Hip Cities, Historic Colonia and Chic Punta del Este

DURATION:	9 days / 8 nights
SEASON:	November through April
DEPARTURES:	Guaranteed with a minimum of 4 participants
TRIP RATING:	Easy/Moderate Nature, Cultural & Walking Tour, Grade (I) - A dream vacation ideal for families, couples and individuals who enjoy active days, quaint countryside scenery, warm sandy beaches, friendly locals, gourmet cuisine and superior accommodations
2026/27 DATES:	On request any week throughout the season.

INTRODUCTION:

Roughly the size of Florida, Uruguay is the smallest Spanish-speaking country in South America, yet it has allure and sophistication to match its larger neighbor Argentina. Find out why jetsetters from around the world (not to mention the glamorous city-dwellers of Buenos Aires) choose Uruguay as a refreshing summer getaway. Its population of only 3.5 million people enjoys a relatively high quality of life in South America. In fact, it ranks as a top ethical travel destination due to its progress in education, environmental protection and social welfare.

This nine-day itinerary flows smoothly from a slice of cosmopolitan life in Buenos Aires to a relaxed exploration of Uruguay's historic and modern cities, wineries, countryside ranches and vineyards, and sunny Atlantic coast. Like olives, cheeses, and a glass of fine wine, Buenos Aires and Uruguay pair perfectly together.

Upon arrival in Buenos Aires, a private guide will escort you to an elegant hotel – your base for exploring the city's grand boulevard (the widest in the world!), its sultry tango scene and nightlife, and its must-see landmarks, as well as an excursion to Tigre, a more tranquil and natural riverside delta town to the north. Then, a short international ferry ride will transport you across the 'Rio de la Plata' to Colonia del Sacramento, Uruguay. In this Colonial-style town, you'll get a first taste of Uruguayan cuisine, history and culture. From there, you'll follow a trail of traditional wineries and *Estancias* to the capital city of Montevideo. The adventure continues with horseback riding and lounging on the bohemian beaches of José Ignacio, and a foray into the chic and famous Punta del Este, a coastal resort city with a thriving art scene, before boarding an overnight flight home.

DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY:

DAY 01: TO ARGENTINA
Depart home on an overnight flight to Argentina's cosmopolitan capital, **Buenos Aires**.

DAY 02: BUENOS AIRES
Our local Southwind representative greets you this morning at the Ezeiza International Airport and brings you to the elegant and modern Emperador Hotel. Centrally located in the exclusive Recoleta neighborhood, the Emperador is near shopping centers, art galleries, and is a few blocks from Puerto Madero's restaurants and the city's landmark, the Obelisk. After a rest and lunch on your own, join your private guide for a tour of this vibrant, European-style city. On foot and by vehicle, we visit the Plaza de Mayo, the main square of the city where the Metropolitan Cathedral and the pink-hued *Casa Rosada* presidential palace are found. Next stop is the Recoleta Cemetery where Argentinian political icon Evita Peron was buried. Other highlights on the tour are San Telmo (**Buenos Aires**' oldest neighborhood featuring a Sunday antiques and souvenirs market at Plaza Dorrego), and a drive by the famous Colón Theater, which is regarded as one of the top three opera houses in the world, the 9 de Julio Avenue (the widest avenue in the world), also see other historical sites in the city. This evening, enjoy an Argentine welcome dinner, a glass of Malbec wine, and sultry tango show at one of the best venues in the city, **Gala Tango**.
(D)

DAY 03: TIGRE DELTA / BUENOS AIRES SURROUNDINGS
After breakfast, meet up with your guide for an easy-going excursion 30 min north to explore charming towns with a pleasant atmosphere and slower paced way of life. Buenos Aires is located on the Rio de la Plata, the widest river in the world. At the **Tigre Delta**, the Paraná and Uruguay rivers join to enter the Atlantic Ocean. In **San Isidro**, we visit the historic plaza with cobbled streets and a neo-gothic cathedral. Further upriver in the delta, we get a glimpse into a unique riverside lifestyle where locals get around by boat. During an hour shared boat ride, learn about local history and view small islands and homes built on stilts along leafy riverways. An al fresco lunch is included at Novo del Maria Lujan overlooking the river, offering an excellent menu of à la carte cuisine. Stroll along tree-lined streets where locals sip *mate*, the popular herbal tea-like beverage consumed in a gourd with a stainless straw. At the colorful Tigre **port market**, discover fruit and handmade products from wicker, leather and ceramic. Last stop is **Museo de Arte Tigre**, a stunning Belle Epoque palace and National Historic Monument containing artwork from 19th and 20th century Argentine masters, set among lovely grounds by the river. After a relaxed day of touring, return to the capital, where dinner is on your own this evening to explore different culinary options near the hotel. Overnight at the Emperador Hotel. (B,L)

DAY 04: COLONIA / URUGUAY
This morning, after an early breakfast at the hotel, we'll transfer to the Buquebus station and board the 8:30am **express ferry** for a comfortable 1 hour 15 min ride across the Rio de la Plata to **Uruguay**. Upon arriving to the port, you'll be greeted by our private guide and transported to the nearby Costa Colonia boutique Hotel. After settling in, there's time to relax a bit before the guide returns for a day of exploration in **Colonia** on foot and by vehicle. Start with lunch at Meson de la Plaza Restaurant in the center of old town to try the Uruguayan variations of regional cuisine – grilled meats (*asado*), fresh fish and seafood, and fine Italian-influenced pasta dishes. After lunch, we'll stroll the cobbled streets to Colonia's "Portón del Campo" (Country Gate), which leads into the historic center of town, a **UNESCO World Heritage site**. We'll find the Portuguese Museum, which sheds light on the city's colonial heritage, set in a 17th century settlement house. In the same area, we'll make our way over to other worthwhile historic sites, such as the Home of Admiral Guillermo Brown, a tile museum, and *Calle de los Suspiros,* meaning "Road of the Sighs". Finally, get a bird's eye view of town from atop its antique lighthouse tower. You'll return to the Costa Colonia Hotel, which gives panoramic views of the river, with leisure time in the evening to explore Colonia's local cuisine and laid-back nightlife on your own. (B,L)

DAY 05: FINCA PIEDRA / MONTEVIDEO
We'll travel by private vehicle for about 1 hour this morning to visit a special *estancia* called **Finca Piedra** about 50 miles inland from the coast. At this traditional country estate, working ranch and vineyard, take part in activities like horseback riding, a carriage ride, a walking tour of the vineyard, a short hike, a visit to the native animal reserve, or even a chance to milk a cow! We'll get hands-on with a demo/cooking class and learn a little bit about Uruguayan

gastronomy. Then, sitting down to lunch at the estancia's "Los Olivos" restaurant, try the entrée you just helped prepare. Afterwards, a two-hour drive takes us to the well-known **Bouza winery**, where we will join other guests to visit the grounds and winemaking facilities. The local staff will host a tasting in an ambience of grape terraces and classic vintage cars. Sample Bouza's award-winning Tannat, the Uruguayan trademark red wine. The final destination today is **Montevideo**, Uruguay's capital and most populous and modern city, located at the confluence of the Rio de la Plata and the Atlantic Ocean. Arriving in the evening, check in to the comfortable **Cala Di Volpe Hotel**, a boutique property located on an upscale area of the city and on the most beautiful section of the *rambla,* or main pedestrian walkway along the waterfront. Dinner is on your own this evening to try the hotel's Azzurro Ristorante or to peruse the *rambla* and its fine dining and nightlife. (B,L)

DAY 06: MONTEVIDEO / JOSE IGNACIO

Get to know **Montevideo** this morning with a guided walking tour of old town for an overview of the city's history and its collage of colonial and modern architecture. The centerpiece is Constitution Square, with its two buildings raised in the year the city was founded (1726) – the Cabildo government hall and the Metropolitan Cathedral. On Independence Square you find the landmark 56-foot-high statue of Uruguay's national hero, Jose Gervasio Artigas, on horseback. As part of the cityscape, artisans and craftsmen sell their wares and buskers entertain passers-by. With a stop at the Port Market, you'll bear witness to Uruguayans' love affair with grilling fine cuts of meat. But save your appetite, because a drive east of about two hours will lead us to Maldonado and famed **Punta del Este**, where the first stop will be a lavish lunch at the L'incanto, one of the finest restaurants in this classy coastal resort town. Afterwards, a short drive will take us to **José Ignacio**, a neighboring seaside town with a bohemian-chic vibe. This will be our base for exploring the coast over the next two days. Here, you'll check in to the **Casa Suaya**, a boutique hotel set in an ideal and quiet location at the edge of town and not far from the beach. The rest of the afternoon is yours to enjoy the hotel grounds and pool or take a sunset walk along the beach and pick out a spot for dinner on your own this evening, such as Parador La Huella, a breezy seaside grill with an impressive menu of top-quality wines. (B,L)

DAY 07: JOSE IGNACIO

Today we'll take in the landscapes around **José Ignacio** Uruguayan *gaucho*-style – on horseback! Accompanied by the equestrian guides from **Haras Godiva ranch**, trot through deserted beaches to the iconic lighthouse, and ride to Garzón lagoon which is home to a smattering of resident and migratory birds such as Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Brown pintail, Chilean Flamingo, Neotropic Cormorant, American Kestrel, Maguari Stork and Roadside Hawk among others. Return to Haras Godiva on quiet back roads that pass over dunes and along gorges. After the ride and a refreshment, a short drive takes us to the **Colinas de Garzón** olive plantation to enjoy an extra-virgin quality olive oil tasting, complemented by a sampling of delicious homemade bread and select cheeses, followed by a classy picnic lunch. Later on, we'll have a firsthand look at the olive oil-making craft, a hallmark of Uruguay's Mediterranean-style culture, before strolling among the trees and windmills in the lovingly-tended fields of the plantation. Heading back to José Ignacio and the **Casa Suaya** hotel in the afternoon, the remainder of the day is open for beach lounging and seeking out another gourmet seaside dining experience. (B,L)

DAY 08: PUNTA DEL ESTE / MONTEVIDEO / DEPARTURE

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast at the hotel, taking in one last dose of sun and sand before saying goodbye to charming **José Ignacio**. A special farewell meal awaits us in **Punta del Este** – lunch at the elegant Lo De Tere restaurant overlooking the sea, for one final pairing of top-notch Uruguayan grilled steak and wine. This afternoon is dedicated to the unique art scene, culture, and coastline of Punta del Este, where sophisticated residential areas in the city are surrounded by pine and eucalyptus trees. Enjoy a short walk along the beautiful seaport. Then, driving from the harbor to the east, you will see the Peninsula, Brava Beach, and the open-air collection of sculptures at Square of Americas, among which "The Hand" has become a city icon. Next stop is the Ralli Museum, which houses a collection of Latin American painters and sculptors as well as European artists such as Salvador Dali. The final visit is the Pablo Atchugarry Foundation, a tribute to a Uruguayan sculptor and home to his impressive marble works. We may encounter artists in action in their workshops. This afternoon, depart on a two-hour drive to **Montevideo** in time to check in at the Carrasco international airport for your **overnight flight home**. (B,L)

DAY 09: ARRIVE HOME

Arrive back in your gateway city this morning and make onward connections home.

NOTES ON THE ITINERARY: A flexible attitude and good physical condition are required for participation on this trip. Walking segments may vary according to group pace and interest, trail, roads or weather conditions. Depending on local flight schedules, some activities may change and be adjusted at the beginning or end of the program. This trip is suitable for physically fit participants accustomed to traveling and outdoor activities age 7 and up. Driving and walking distances are approximate, and times indicated are NET. They do not include lunch breaks, rest stops or time to explore the area, take photographs, etc. In José Ignacio we may also use the **Posada del Faro Hotel,** a 12-room cozy inn in town that features a light food restaurant and bar at the nearby Playa Mansa beach.

2026 LAND COST:

4-5 participants:	from $7,600 p.p.d.
6-9 participants:	from $7,000 p.p.d.
10-12 participants:	from $6,600 p.p.d.
Single Supplement:	from $1,700

2026 Land Costs are valid for departures through April 2027.
p.p.d. = per person based on double or triple occupancy not including airfare.

Peak Season Departures: For departures during Christmas (Dec 19-26) and New Year (Dec 26-Jan 02), there is a higher land cost, and restrictions apply for minimum stays at most hotels. Different deposits, cancellation fees and payments procedures apply for these departures. For the end-of-the-year holidays, reservations a year in advance & for the summer months (January-March), reservations 4 to 5 months prior are highly recommended.

OPTIONAL HOTEL UPGRADES:

On a Southwind trip, you will always have comfortable, unique first-class four-start and boutique-style lodging with private bath. We usually include Superior level rooms, or a category up from Standard rooms. For added amenities and luxury, we offer the following five-star upgrades:

- In Buenos Aires, upgrade to the historic **Alvear Palace** or the lavish **Palacio Duhau** - Park Hyatt Buenos Aires
- In Colonia, upgrade to the spacious and modern **Sheraton Colonia Golf & Spa Resort**
- In Montevideo, consider the luxurious **Hotel Sofitel Montevideo** Casino Carrasco and Spa
- In José Ignacio, upgrade to the exclusive hotel **Playa Vik**, an upscale oceanfront property with contemporary architecture and artwork décor or **Hotel Fasano** Punta del Este in a lovely countryside estate. An option is also to stay at **The Grand Hotel** across from Playa Brava in Punta del Este.

Due to high demand these reservations are recommended at least 4 months in advance. These and other possible hotel upgrades are subject to availability and cannot be guaranteed. Please contact your Southwind Travel Specialist for details.

ESTIMATED AIRFARE:

International and in-country airfare is not included in the land cost. You can arrange any of the flights yourself or redeem award travel directly through your airline program. Tickets should only be purchased after Southwind advises that your trip is confirmed. Southwind can help coordinate all your flights (or just the in-country flights) with our ticketing partner to match your tour itinerary. You'll benefit from having a personal agent to arrange seats/cabin preference, monitor schedule changes and work directly with the airline on your behalf, if adjustments are needed after ticketing. Airlines request that your tickets match your full name in your passport (including middle name if shown). Round-trip **international** air from US gateway cities is approximately $1,000-$1,250 per person. Dec 15-Jan 15 is a peak travel time so higher fares may apply. International carriers offering non-stop service from US gateways include; **American** (Dallas & Miami but not daily from Montevideo), **United** (Houston or Newark to Buenos Aires) and **Delta** (Atlanta to Buenos Aires). Airfares are subject to change at any time before tickets are issued. Upon receipt of your deposit, Southwind provides flight booking details for your travel dates.

SERVICES INCLUDED:

- Comprehensive **pre-departure planning packet** and expert travel advice.
- All **in-country transfers** as scheduled. Ground transportation in spacious and comfortable private vehicles with professional drivers.
- Boat transportation where applicable on a seat-in-boat basis (other travelers will be aboard, but our group will be privately escorted).
- Ferry to Colonia, Uruguay from Buenos Aires operated on a seat-in-boat basis (unguided as it's an international crossing but we'll have VIP seating)
- Local and return flight reconfirmation, **in-country airport check-in and luggage assistance**
- All **accommodations in first-class (4-5 star) hotels** as listed (or at similar hotels, the best available in smaller towns) on a shared basis with private bath. Advanced bookings are recommended if you require double beds (king/queen) for couples, or plan to arrive early or extend your stay.
- Single Supplement provides single room accommodations in all hotels.
- All **meals** indicated on the itinerary (B=breakfast; L=lunch; D=dinner). **Vegetarian diets accommodated** on request (advance notification required). For other diets, consult your travel specialist before making a reservation.
- All **guided tours and excursions** (as listed) conducted on a private basis by knowledgeable, English-speaking resident guides in each region (includes applicable entrance fees). The visits at Finca Piedra, Bouza winery and Colinas de Garzon will be on a group tour basis with other guests at the property but will be privately escorted.
- There will be two main guides throughout the trip (one from Argentina and the other from Uruguay). Southwind's travel style is to utilize professional guides who are experts in each region in an effort to enhance your overall learning experience and support Sustainable Tourism efforts.
- First-aid kit.

NOT INCLUDED:

- US domestic, international flights, nor local flights within Argentina or Uruguay.
- Tours, meals (at about $40-60 each per person) or other services not listed on the itinerary.
- Early arrivals, dayrooms or late check-outs at hotels.
- Alcoholic beverages nor items of a personal nature; such as clothing, equipment, laundry and phone calls.
- Tips to the local staff.
- Expenses incurred in preparation, such as, but not limited to, non-refundable airline tickets, travel insurance, nor additional expenses resulting from flight delays, schedule changes, cancellations, or missed connections.

OPTIONAL TRIP EXTENSIONS: Participants with a few extra days may wish to extend their vacation and visit some of Argentina's impressive destinations. We suggest a 4 days/3nights visit of Bariloche and the Lake District, a 4 days/3nights pre-extension to Mendoza and a 3 days/2 nights at Iguazú Falls. Extensions require a minimum of 2 participants and an additional deposit. Contact your Southwind Travel Specialist for details.

TRAVEL INSURANCE: We strongly recommend purchasing coverage to protect your trip investment. Travel insurance is important in case of unexpected events prior to departure causing the need to cancel or change your dates. Weather, natural events, medical reason, quarantine, local strikes, personal injury/illness (for you, your traveling companion or family members at home), could require itinerary interruption or changes. Missed connections, delayed arrival, lost/delayed baggage or the need for medical attention or evacuation are also reasons why coverage is important. Southwind recommends **Travel Insured International** which offers coverage options at a good value. If you, your traveling companion or a family member has a pre-existing medical condition, you can still receive coverage if a recurrence of the condition forces you to cancel your trip, but you do need to purchase a plan **within 21 days of your deposit**. Southwind can provide eQuote for insurance to review upon receipt of your deposit and Trip Reservation eForm.
Learn more about coverage offered by Travel Insured International

BUENOS AIRES AND COASTAL URUGUAY WEATHER:

Buenos Aires can be expected to be hot and humid during the months of December, January, and February with daytime temperatures of 85-95°F and up to 70-75% humidity. Nighttime lows in the summer average 65-70°F. Uruguay enjoys a humid subtropical climate. Near the coast, the summer season (December-March) is warm and excellent for beach-going, with high temperatures in the upper 80s and some humidity. Rainfall is distributed fairly evenly throughout the year. Farther inland, humidity decreases, and the climate is drier, making summers warmer.

NEXT STEPS: Please contact Southwind to speak with a personal Travel Advisor to help fine tune your travel plans and to receive a custom itinerary with a land cost quote based on your travel dates. You can reach us by filling out our Private Trip Request form, by email at info@southwindadventures.com, by phone at 800-377-9463 or by text to 303-972-0701.

Reservations can be made up to 60 days before departure, provided tour services and hotels are available. Due to the popularity of Punta del Este, we recommend making reservations at least 4-5 months in advance for non-holiday or about 1 year prior for holiday departures. Once your trip is confirmed to operate, you will receive pre-departure planning materials, flight booking assistance and advice to help prepare for your exciting vacation in South America.

We look forward to having you travel with us in Argentina & Uruguay!

Southwind Adventures, Inc

Your Latin America Travel Specialist since 1990
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