



## Atacama to Sugar Loaf

15 Nights



### Summary

Discover the spirit of the south on this enriching journey from Santiago to Rio de Janeiro. Kick back in picturesque Mendoza, sample culinary delights in Buenos Aires, experience the might of Iguazu Falls and live it up in beachside Rio. This trip delivers adventure and discovery as well as a healthy dose of indulgence, comfort and relaxation. Be immersed in the culture and traditions of these countries, which are rich in natural beauty and history. Rub shoulders with locals living a passionate life and see how this enthusiasm for living is infectious! If you want to experience the best of Chile, Argentina and Brazil then this trip is for you.

### Wild Discovery Advantages

- A proven expertise in organizing successful holidays
- Experienced and knowledgeable staff
- High quality service & strong commitment to customer satisfaction
- Permanent assistance from Wild Discovery Head office at any moment
- Attention to details that make the difference

### Overview

**Interest:** group – family – seniors

**Level of Comfort:** 4/5

**Minimum # of passengers:** 2

**Maximum # of passengers:** none

### Information about the destination

**Currency:** Argentinean Nuevo Peso ARS

**Language:** Spanish - English

**Transportation:** Private car or bus

**Dialing Code:** 54

**Recommended vaccines:** None but beware of Dengue Fever in the subtropical north

**Banks & currency exchange:** Money can be exchanged in hotels, exchange bureau (Casas de cambio) and banks

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- Day 01: Santiago de Chile**  
Upon arrival in Santiago, meet great and transfer to the hotel
- Day 02: Santiago de Chile – Calama – San Pedro de Atacama**  
Transfer to the airport for the flight to Calama. Arrival and reception by a local tour guide, transfer to San Pedro de Atacama
- In the afternoon you will do a half day city walk through San Pedro. San Pedro has been the center of a Palaeolithic civilization with its narrow streets that have preserved of its old style dating back to the Spanish Conquerors and its beautiful colonial church that was built in 1577. Afterwards, you will visit the beautiful white church of the town, with an inside construction of cactus.
- Right in time for the beautiful sunset, you will drive to the Moon Valley in the late afternoon. It fascinates with silence, moonscape and the snow-capped volcanoes in the background. The last sun rays reaching the ground color the valley in shining orange, red and purple hues. Don't miss this unique experience!
- Day 03: San Pedro de Atacama**  
Today you will start your tour visiting the huge Atacama Salt Lake, an inland sea dating back millions of years. Enjoy a unique experience viewing this doubtlessly driest desert in the world. The flatness, clearness and emptiness here are overwhelming.
- Following the road in direction to Argentina, you will get to know the Lagunas Miscanti & Meñiques, set at the base of two immense volcanoes. These alti-plane lakes are fringed with salt deposits and surrounded by brilliantly colored clumps of "paja brava", creating a singular visual experience.
- Afterwards you continue to the small Indian village of Toconao. The inhabitants of Toconao are producing beautiful small sculptures out of a white volcanic stone that can be found in a quarry near the village. Lunch is included
- Day 04: San Pedro de Atacama**  
Today is at leisure
- Day 05: Santiago de Chile**  
Transfer to Calama airport for the departure flight. Arrival in Santiago and transfer to the hotel
- At the beginning of the city tour you will see the San Francisco church, which was built between 1572 and 1618. You will pass through the Barrio Paris & London which is characterized by its European architectural style and its' narrow cobbled streets. Then you will visit the area of the Club Hípico, one of the most beautiful horseracing tracks in South America, privileged by its architecture of the late 19th century.
- Continuing your tour towards the Barrio Concha y Toro, you will immediately notice that the constructions of the buildings here are very similar to those in the Barrio Paris y London. While walking through the main street you will recover vestiges of the aristocratic past of the capital. In 1989 this district was declared as "Zona Típica" (Typical zone). You will be impressed by the gothic, neo-colonial and Bauhaus constructions. After that you will visit the Plaza de Armas and see the cathedral. Just around the corner, you will find the main post office, the National History museum and the town hall of Santiago. From here you head along the famous Alameda, Santiago's colorful main avenue, towards the heart of the city, seeing the "Palacio de la Moneda" (seat of government), various monuments and public buildings on the way. Afterwards, you continue the tour by driving up to the top of the San Cristóbal Hill. From one of the hill's view points, you will have the finest views of Santiago and the Andes Mountains. To round off the tour, you will pass through the modern residential areas of the city with their daring architecture and, finally, the bustling Providencia shopping zone.
- Day 06: Santiago de Chile**  
Day at leisure
- Day 07: Santiago de Chile – Mendoza**

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Today you are going on a full day panoramic bus journey crossing the majestic Andes and the border to Argentina. After breakfast, you will be picked up at the hotel and transferred to the bus terminal in Santiago downtown. Board the comfortable public bus to Mendoza. Enjoy an impressive drive offering spectacular mountain views. Passing the city of Los Andes, your bus continues upwards on "Ruta 60" along the hillside of the Andean Mountains, offering you panoramic views on the way.

You drive past Portillo, Chile's most important centre of winter sports. It is located at the foot of the Aconcagua, the highest mountain of South America. You are going to leave Chile crossing the Argentinean Border through a tunnel which was built in 1980. Now, the road starts to lead downhill. You see the "Puente del Inca" ("Inca Bridge"), a strange rock formation resembling a bridge crossing the Mendoza River. Your bus passes Los Penitentes, Argentina's best-known ski resort, before reaching Mendoza, your final destination for today.

Arrival at the bus terminal in Mendoza and transfer to the hotel

**Day 08: Mendoza**

Mendoza, possessing the 70% of the vineyards of the country and same percentage of wine production is the main oenological centre of South America.

Depart to Mendoza's agricultural oasis where you have the opportunity to visit a vineyard to understand the complete wine making process and to enjoy a wine tasting.

The afternoon is free at leisure

**Day 09: Mendoza – Buenos Aires**

Transfer from the hotel in Mendoza to the airport for your flight to Buenos Aires. Upon arrival in Buenos Aires transfer from the airport to the hotel

In the afternoon you will visit the most important sites during a city tour. You will drive to the Plaza de Mayo, with the Casa Rosada, the pink house, seat of the government, the Cabildo (town hall) and the Metropolitan Cathedral, home of the Archbishop of Buenos Aires.

The tour goes onto the district San Telmo.

The worker district La Boca is famous for its colourful tin-houses and its history as living district of Italian seamen and dock workers in the 19th century. The Barrio Norte called Recoleta is the quarter of the rich of Buenos Aires. On the cemetery of Recoleta one will find the grave of Eva Duarte who became famous as Evita Perón. Continue along the widest avenue in the world, the Avenida 9 de Julio, to the Plaza Lavalle with the Federal Court of Justice and the Teatro Colón, to Palermo with its parks and gardens. Return to the hotel.

**Day 10: Buenos Aires**

Day at leisure

**Day 11: Buenos Aires**

Today you will enjoy a half day Tigre Tour. Drive along the Northern residential districts of the city, until getting to San Isidro, a colonial and aristocratic area. You will see the mansions and houses in front of the River Plate. You will continue the driving to Tigre, a charming area near Buenos Aires city where a great number of summer residences, yacht clubs and rowing clubs attract the week-end activity of many "porteños". The Tigre Delta with its rivers, streams and numerous green islands is one of the most attractive areas for visitors. The continuous sediment of the Paraná River, which gives the river and estuary their particular brownish-red colour, forms the Delta islands.

Enjoy a boat excursion along the innumerable channels of the Paraná-Delta to see some of the hundreds of islands covered with luxuriant vegetation.

Drive back to the city via the Panamericana highway.

**Day 12: Buenos Aires – Iguassu**

Transfer to the domestic airport for the flight to Iguassu.

Upon arrival in Iguassu pick-up at the airport and transfer to the Argentinean National Park towards the Argentinean side of the falls.

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You will make a short stop at the Visitor's Centre and proceed from there along the Inferior Circuit, the down-river falls, to the Superior Circuit, the up-river cascades. The Ecological Jungle Train leads you to the most impressive observation point of the falls – The Devil's Throat. After visit transfer to the hotel on the Brazilian side of the falls.

**Day 13:**

**Iguassu**

In the morning visit of the Brazilian side of the falls. Walk along the paths following cascades and then along the catwalk that leads very close to the bottom of the Devil's Throat to enjoy magnificent views. Take an elevator to go up to the road in order to board the coach which will bring back to the hotel.

**Day 14:**

**Iguassu – Rio de Janeiro**

Transfer from the hotel to the airport for the flight to Rio de Janeiro  
Arrival in Rio and transfer to the hotel

**Day 15:**

**Rio de Janeiro**

Leave the hotel and proceed as far as Cosme Velho Station to board a cog-train for the ride through Tijuca Forest up Corcovado Mountain at 748 m (2.454 ft) high. The train ride takes 20 minutes and is a wonderful opportunity for a closer look at the forest's lush tropical vegetation and to enjoy scenic landscapes of the beaches and city. Disembarking at the top of Corcovado and then proceeding up the steps that lead to the top lookout where the towering statue of Christ the Redeemer stands. After appreciating the breathtaking view unfolding below, passengers will descend by train. The tour proceeds passing by Rio's world-famous beaches as far as Urca District to board a cable car for a two-staged ascent up Sugar Loaf Mountain at 390 m (1.280 ft) high. Then coming down and proceeding along Guanabara Bay and Flamengo Park as far as downtown. Visit downtown area, passing by the financial and business centre and by other attractions such as the Candelaria Church, Saint Sebastian Cathedral, Lapa Arches, Municipal Theatre, National Library, Fine Arts Museum, and by the Sambadrome, site of Rio's famous Carnival parade.

**Day 16:**

**Rio de Janeiro**

Transfer to the airport for your departure flight

This is a product sheet elaborated in order to give you a quick overview of package suggestions our destination specialists can propose. Make an appointment to order to customize it as per your needs and get a detailed quotation

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