Bike Argentina





14 Days from Buenos Aires **from NZ$5075**
Departs:
14May,10Sep 2021

- **Buenos Aires -Paris of the Americas**
- **Mendoza – wonderful vineyards & downhill bike**
- **Salta & the magical Argentine Northwest Circuit**
- **Cachi, Molinos, Cafayate, Humahuaca Gorge**

Latin Link Adventure
The South American Specialists
PO Box 352 Wanaka 9343 Tel: 03 4435036 Toll free:0800 528465
Email: info@latinlink.co.nz www.latinlink.co.nz
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Information Sheet – Bike Argentina

Fully Guided –14 days from Buenos Aires back to Buenos Aires

We start the tour in Buenos Aires with a pleasant bike tour of the city.Then to Mendoza at the foot of the Andes with some wonderful wine tasting, exploring the vineyards by bike and also enjoying a spectacular downhill ride in the mid-sierra of the Andes. We then pass through to Argentina's Colonial Northwest, the region of Salta and the Calchaqui Valley with it's amazing desert landscapes, wonderful colonial towns and hospitable people - the results of an ancient indigenous culture, mixed with colonial Spanish heritage. We spend 7 days biking through this region, with its dry spring climate (average 15-22 degrees centigrade), up to an altitude of 3000m.

The next stop is the scenic Humahuaca Gorge, with its fascinating landscape, especially the Cerro de los Siete Colores of Purmarmarca and the ruins of Tilcara.Return to Salta and fly back to Buenos Aires

Bike Argentina NZ$ 5075(single room supplement NZ$1100)

Cost is subject to currency fluctuations & based on a minimum of 6 people travelling – there are no hidden costs..

So no unpleasant surprises once you are in South America - you know before you leave exactly what this trip will cost and it is a bonus not having to dip into your money belt all the time to pay for 'EXTRAS'. We pride ourselves on being totally up front before you leave. Compare our inclusions for yourself, detailed on our Trip Dossier.

We want your adventure to be as hassle-free as possible, so you can expect the following whilst planning to explore "Bike Argentina ".

Cost Includes:

ALL transport (boats, buses, taxis, trains etc)	ALL accommodation 3 star hotels/lodges (twin/double share)
ALL entrance fees as per itinerary	ALL mountain bike hire, support vehicles
ALL national park entrance fees	ALL Bike hire
ALL sightseeing as per itinerary	ALL transfers as per itinerary
Breakfasts daily, 10 lunches	Flights Buenos Aires -Mendoza & Salta -Buenos Aires
Services of experienced Tour Leader	Services of English speaking local guides/bike mechanic

Does not include:

Tips (allow USD100), Insurance, Laundry, Personal Spending, Medical Expenses

NOTE ON FLIGHTS

****International flights Auckland – Buenos Aires – Auckland are in addition to costs stated above. As there can be seasonal specials on airfares these can vary between NZ$1000 and $2000 depending on when they are purchased. We will quote you the best airfares at the time of booking and keep you informed on any seasonal specials between time of booking and departure**

HOW TO BOOK:

Send us your Reservation form with your deposit of $500 to confirm your place

Group size limited to 14 plus Tour Manager

What our clients are saying …….

The trip was amazingly cheap for what was provided.It provided a fabulous combination of hard exercise and socialising. Riding through magnificent scenery, covered in dust at the end of the day-collapsing in the foyers of lovely hosterias with awaiting cervezas or G+Ts – a fantastic trip

Reta & Grant –Tauranga –Bike the Andes '10

An amazing trip . Thank you both for the superb organisation. "Camp Mother" – you were amazing!

Richard &Jan -Ashburton –Bike the Andes '13

Accommodation, organisation and everything exceeded our expectations

Charlie & Janet –Nelson -Bike the Andes '13

Accommodation well above expectations . Excellent bike guides

James –Timaru – Bike the Andes '13

All the guides were helpful and diplomatic and unruffled. This led to a very happy and satisfied group

Graham & Kay -Bike the Andes '15

The trip was a real adventure , just what we wanted

Bill& Adrienne -Auckland -Bike the Andes '17

We had a great trip to South America and loved Argentina.

The organisation was exceptional and we were well looked after e- thankyou!

People were so keen to provide good service that it made NZ look a bit average in comparison.

We always felt safe and appreciated the extra help making bus/train/flight connections which your guides provided.

Special moments:

Exceptional service was provided in Salta by the two guides Nacho and Daniela for our 5 day mountain bike. We loved them both and they were great company. They added the extra that made Argentina special for us

Alistair & Juliann '18

Day	Date	Program	Overnight
1	**Fri**	**<u>Buenos Aires</u>** For those travelling from NZ you can travel on Air New Zealand direct to Buenos Aires or LATAM Airlines via Santiago with a connection to Buenos Aires . On arrival you will be transferred to your hotel . Accommodation: Intersur Recoleta Hotel www.intersurrecoleta.com.ar	Buenos Aires
2	**Sat**	**<u>The Ultimate Buenos Aires Day Bike Tour</u>** There are many stops for historical information from our expert guides as well plenty of time for photos and exploration. A fantastic way to get to know the city in one day, the tour starts in historic San Telmo before going to La Boca, Caminito, Puerto Madero, the Women's Bridge, the Ecological Reserve, Retiro, Recoleta Cemetery, the Metal Flower, Plaza San Martín, and Plaza de Mayo. The tour includes bicycle, guide, helmet, water bottle, lunch and other extras *this is a easy biking day , flat terrain* Optional dinner & tango show at El Querandi	Buenos Aires (B,L)
3	**Sun**	**<u>Buenos Aires-Mendoza</u>** You will be transferred to the airport for your flight to Mendoza On arrival you will be transferred to your hotel. Accommodation: Huentala Hotel https://huentala.com *Mendoza, nestled in the foothills of the Andes Mountain Range,famous for nearby Mount Aconcagua, for its Malbec wines and for being the cradle of the heroic deeds of Liberator General San Martín, Father of this nation, it is one of the most beautiful and neat cities in the country. The climate in Mendoza is moderate-temperate, though its mountains provide a certain degree of aridity. Argentina is the fifth largest wine producing country in the world and the city of Mendoza itself is the hub of the Argentinean wine industry. The city life and busy plazas are surrounded by thousands of bodegas (wineries) that lie on the outskirts of town with over 350,000 acres of vines.* Enjoy a leisurely walk around Mendoza and some wine tasting this afternoon	Mendoza (B)
4	**Mon**	**<u>Mendoza</u>** This is a full day excursion into the mountainous landscape of Mendoza Province. The journey begins along route Nº7 going by Potrerillos Dam, Uspallata, las Bovedas, Mt Tunduqueral and the Ghost City of Paramillos. After arrival at Cruz de Paramillos and after our guide gives technical and security explanations, mount your bike for some uphill then a 29 km descent through the historical 365 curved road down to the Villavicencio Hotel, which opened its gates in 1940 and closed again in 1978. Affluent families from all round the country and from abroad would stay at the hotel to spend an entire season and enjoy the hot springs and their healing properties. Board our vehicle to begin the way back to Mendoza. 29 km of dirt & paved roads	Mendoza (B,L)

5	**Tues**	**Mendoza – Salta** A late morning start to tour around some of the bodegas (wineries) by bike. First stop the Nieto y Senetiner Winery which produces superb Malbecs. Then by bike to the Chacueta area, enjoying the scenery of the Andes riding along the Mendoza River Canyon. Enjoy a late leisurely lunch of Argentinian specialities then bike back to our lodge .Time to freshen up before travelling by overnight bus (fully reclining aircraft type seats, bus equipped with video & toilet on board) and even a little bingo played with a bottle of Malbec as a prize 25 km of dirt & paved roads *(Should you prefer to fly to Salta we can arrange a flight for you at a surcharge of aprox NZ$250)*	Overnight bus (B,L)
6	**Wed**	**Salta** Our bus journey continues north this morning through vast olive, lemon and grape plantations to Salta. Transfer to our comfortable centrally located hotel. Afternoon at leisure. Accommodation: Hotel Virrey *The Hispanic architecture of the city makes it stand out from the other cities in the country. The colonial spirit from its inception is evident in its houses, streets, hundred-year-old monuments and narrow sidewalks surrounded by the mountains nearby.* *Winter is warm and dry, with records of an annual average temperature of 22ºC.*	Salta (B)
7	**Thurs**	**Salta** Mountain biking tour by the lush vegetation surrounding the town of San Lorenzo. There are several trails of varying degrees of difficulty ranging from easy-medium level to strenuous. San Lorenzo is a village near Salta, located in the foothills to the west of the Andes, which are known as Pre-cordillera or Cordillera Oriental. The architecture, in the main part of the city, is testimony to it's colonial history. Its environs retain one of the most complete biomes of northwestern Argentina, called Yungas or Selva Montana (Jungle that grows in the mountains). 35km of paved and dirt roads, a mix of easy, medium, strenuous This afternoon explore Salta at your leisure. The Museum in the main plaza is excellent!	Salta (B)
8	**Fri**	**Salta- Cachi** Travel to the south of the city to the village that produces Virginia tobacco, El Carril. From there, we enter the Escoipe Gorge. After climbing the Cuesta del Obispo (Bishop Slope), we reach the Piedra Del Molino (3,348 m). After admiring the views at the top, we mount our bikes and descend riding along Route 33 and then Route 40. We cycle through the Cardones National Park, the name given to the huge cacti that grow in the region. The cardones are protected. We arrive in Cachi, sleeping in a cozy hosteria. Accommodation: El Cortijo Hosteria 50 km of dirt roads. Elevation gain: 230m Uphill 1390m downhill.	Cachi (B,L)

9	**Thurs**	**Cachi – Molinos** After breakfast, we ride a circuit in the environs of Cachi known as the Airport and Cemetery Circuit. We then prepare for the 55 km ride to Molinos. We transit the right side of the Calchaqui River, visiting places such as La Paya and El Colte, to the birthplace of the handcraft of Salta, called The Way of the Artisans. In Seclantas, we stop to gather the troops and tackle the hill to Molinos together, where we spend another night in the magical Calchaqui Valley, in a beautifully restored hacienda . Accommodation: Hacienda Molinos 55 km of dirt roads.	Molinos (B,L)
10	**Fri**	**Molinos – Cafayate** After breakfast, we make a city tour of Molinos by bike, then travel by bus, 40 km to the village of Angastaco, along the legendary Route 40 which stretches the length of Argentina along the spine of the Andes, from the border with Bolivia down to Ushuaia, on the southern edge of the continent. This part of the journey gives us the opportunity to see the best examples of agricultural production in the Calchaqui Valley. The silence in the Valley and the spectacular scenery will captivate. In Angastaco we start pedaling through the narrow Gorge of the Arrows (Quebrada de Las Flechas),one of the most amazing sites in the Argentine Northwest. The eroded cliffs and slopes, with the high Andes off in the distance; create an almost surreal landscape, dazzling all that come through here. We arrived in San Carlos and continue by bus to the desert oasis of Cafayate, famous for its high altitude vineyards. The town of Cafayate is another highlight, the friendly inhabitants will make you welcome, as is the tradition of the Northwestern culture. Accomodation: Hotel Asturias 53 km of dirt & paved roads.	Cafayate (B,L)
11	**Sat**	**Cafayate** This morning an optional ride to the ruins of Quilmes. The ruins were inhabited by the Calchaquí natives who settled on the hillsides and on the mountain range called Calchaquí, from which the tribes got their name: Quilmes and Calchaquí. This indigenous fortress is surprising, as the Quilmes Indians resisted the Inca and Spanish invaders for many years, from this location. This afternoon we explore the town and visit some of the wineries by bike. 50 km of dirt & paved road.	Cafayate (B)

12	**Sun**	**<u>Cafayate – Purmamarca</u>** Cycle through the Quebrada de las Conchas, another magical canyon offering enchanting landscapes of strange rock formations and eroded slopes exposing innumerable bands of colors. Similar to the US Western deserts, there are many rock formations to discover and the colours will change as the sun arches over and behind the canyon. We then continue by bus through the Lermas Valley and bypass Salta north, experiencing many changes in vegetation, to ascend into the Humahuaca Gorge region . Overnight in the picturesque small town of Purmamarca in a nice hosteria. Accommodation: Refugio de Cocquena Hosteria 50 km of paved roads	Purmamarca (B,L)
13	**Mon**	**<u>Purmamarca –Tilcara -Salta</u>** Another stunning day – we take an early morning ride around the 7 Colours Gorge with its amazing rock formations and explore the town by bike. Then by bus to Tilcara for another ride and a visit to the archaeological museum and Indian fortess .Tilcara lies at 2,465 ml on the banks of the Grande River. Its main square, pays homage to Colonel Manuel Álvarez Prado, is the meeting point for all the inhabitants of town. It is also the venue for a permanent market of local craftsmen from the entire Humahuaca Ravine, who offer visitors a wide variety of products and souvenirs. Surrounded by small restaurants, coffee-shops and handicrafts workshops, the square is the congregation point where concerts and peñas are often held.Later this afternoon we return to Salta Accommodation : Hotel Virrey 25km of dirt roads☹ 12km circuit Purmamarca easy,13km Tilcara medium uphill	Salta (B,L)
14	**Tues**	**<u>Salta -Buenos Aires</u>** You will be transferred to the airport for your flight back to Buenos Aires. Options available to continue on to Iguassu Falls or other destinations in South America	(B)