



# **Buenos Aires to Mendoza: A Culinary Tango Through Argentina**

**February 1 - 9, 2025**

**Optional Extension to El Calafate February 9 - 12, 2025**

*Sponsored by*

*The International Caterers Association Educational Foundation*

**Producer's Note: In February 2023, we visited Argentina and were astounded by everything the country had to offer. From the vibrant local community to the delectable empanadas and other gastronomic delights, not to mention the exceptional wine, we were pleasantly taken aback and knew that it had to be included on our CLJ destination list. We are confident that you will share our enthusiasm!**

Enjoy the culinary delights, cultural experiences, Tango and fine Argentinian wine on this charming tour of Buenos Aires and Mendoza! We'll be enjoying warm temperatures while it is chilly in the USA, exploring all Argentina has to offer.

Prices are all inclusive: Everything is taken care of so you can sit back, relax and enjoy your trip stress-free! Your package includes breakfast, lunch, dinner, beverages, internal flights to Mendoza, transportation, activities and gratuities (unless noted in the body of this brochure).



### **DAY 1/SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1ST – ARRIVAL IN BUENOS AIRES**

We welcome you to the vibrant Capital City of Buenos Aires on Saturday, February 1st, 2025. We'll be staying at the lovely Casa Sur Palermo, located in a wonderful neighborhood. Our trip will begin with an evening welcome reception, offering an opportunity to reconnect and get acquainted with each other, on top of a lovely rooftop restaurant in the historic San Telmo neighborhood.

### **DAY 2/SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2ND – EXPLORING BUENO AIRES**

Day 2 is an exploration of the city. We'll visit the political epicenter in Plaza de Mayo; the historic and oldest neighborhood of San Telmo; the brightly painted houses of La Boca; Puerto Madera, the city's youngest neighborhood and gastronomy hub; Recoleta, famous for the picturesque cemetery; and Palermo, the largest neighborhood in BA.

Lunch will be at Piegari Restaurant, known for their quality dishes and excellent service.

Dinner will be a special treat at El Fogón in Palermo. Here, we can savor Argentina's iconic barbecue, asado, while seated around an open kitchen, allowing us to witness the chefs expertly grilling meat on the parrilla (grill) while explaining their techniques.



### **DAY 3/MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3RD – HANDS ON COOKING CLASS AT MONTECARLO BAR**

Montecarlo is a remarkable bar, 100 years old, where Che Guevara organized his motorcycle trips, where the largest cup of coffee with milk is served, and where the first public telephone was installed in the neighborhood.

We'll experience a master class of Empanadas and the elaboration of typical recipes of Argentina. Lunch begins with us enjoying the fruits of our labor as an appetizer, paired with Torrontes wine from the Calchaquies Valleys in Salta.

That evening, we'll further explore the Palermo neighborhood with a robust food tour. We will enjoy more than 10 dishes and drinks that show the best of Argentine cuisine, including a wine tasting. We will walk through impressive streets and learn about the history of the neighborhood, street art, and the deep-rooted culture of Palermo.



### **DAY 4/TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4TH – DAY TRIP TO TIGRE DELTA & TANGO SHOW**

In the morning, we will be picked up from the hotel and head to the port in the Puerto Madero neighborhood, where the boat journey along the Rio de la Plata to the Tigre Delta will begin. We'll have the opportunity to admire the skyline of Buenos Aires city until we reach the natural beauty of the Paraná River Delta. Upon arrival, we'll disembark, enjoy lunch, and then explore the Puerto de Frutos market.

Afterward, we'll visit some of the neighborhoods in the northern area of Buenos Aires province before returning to hotel in the afternoon.

For a special evening treat we have a short trip to San Telmo, among the oldest barrios in Buenos Aires, and it's an ideal place to experience authentic tango. We will be taken to a restored conventillo (tenement) and the La Ventana dinner theater, for an Argentinian meal paired with tango. Get ready for a private tango lesson and the basic steps for this beautiful dance.



## **DAY 5/WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5TH – SOUTH OF BUENOS AIRES TOUR**

Today we will enjoy a bit of rest and a late morning start, if that is your fancy! We'll have time during the morning and early afternoon to shop, walk, ride a bike or whatever suits you. Today's lunch is not included, so feel free to wander on your own or eat a large breakfast to tide you over until dinner.



We'll reconvene in the late afternoon for a tour of South Buenos Aires, where we'll discover the beauty, flavors, and history of San Telmo and La Boca. As we explore the cobblestone streets and centennial marketplaces, we will get to try the most iconic dishes of Argentina and learn about the quirks, history, and traditions of the portenos. We will meet the locals behind the food parlors and learn their stories of food, traditions, and emotions.

## **DAY 6/THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6TH – WELCOME TO MENDOZA + CENTAURO RESTAURANT**

After breakfast, we will be transferred to the domestic airport for our flight to Mendoza.

Mendoza is a famous wine region in Argentina. A particularly famous specialty is the tasty red Malbec that the surrounding valleys are known for producing. More than 1,200 bodegas (wine cellars) welcome us!



After a short day of travel, In the evening, we will enjoy a 4-course dinner at El Centauro restaurant, which is just a few blocks from our hotel.

### **DAY 7/FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7TH – UCO VALLEY WINE EXPERIENCE**

The mountains and beautiful landscapes of the Uco Valley prepare our senses to experience the characteristic flavors and aromas of these high-altitude wines.

Uco Valley's high-altitude wines are known worldwide, and its mountain setting provides a relaxed environment to visit the area's best-known wineries.



We will visit some of the best wineries in this area, such as Salentein, where we will have a wine tasting. After that, we will head to Bodega Andeluna, where we will enjoy a cooking class.

Along with a harmonious 4-course gourmet lunch at Bodega Andeluna: The Cabernet Franc Experience, this will be a truly delightful and immersive culinary journey in this beautiful location.

After a full day, dinner will be enjoyed in close proximity to our hotel.



## **DAY 8/SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8TH – PECORINO IN PIENZA**

Today we have a special treat and full day to explore Estancia Alejandra, which is a property owned by a traditional Mendocinian family.

The vast estate, spanning over 500 hectares, is dedicated to both agricultural activities—potatoes are the main crop in the area—and the raising of cattle and horses. Situated at the foot of the Cordón del Plata, with breathtaking views of the Andes' snow-capped peaks, it offers the opportunity to immerse oneself in a true Argentine ranch experience against the backdrop of the majestic Andes.



On this day, we can enjoy horseback riding, trekking, and savoring a delicious lunch, all while experiencing the cultural richness of Mendoza's nature and its people. We'll also enjoy a lunch at Casa Gaucha, a menu of delicious Argentinian dishes paired with wines from the Serbal Line of Atamisque.

Our special farewell dinner will be at Isidirs Restaurant, located in the foothills at a charming venue with an impressive sunset backdrop. We will enjoy a spectacular dinner with stunning views of the city at sunset.

## **DAY 9/SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9TH – DEPARTURE**

At the appropriate time, meet our driver at the hotel and transfer to the airport for our flights to Buenos Aires or return to the USA. Buen Viaje! We hope you enjoyed a fantastic trip!

**PRODUCERS' NOTE: Itinerary is accurate at the time of this printing, but the producer reserves the right to make any changes they feel will enhance the trip or make it more enjoyable for all involved.**



# **Optional Extension to El Calafate: The Glacier Region of Argentina**

**February 9 - 12, 2025**

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Discovering Argentina's glacier region is a unique opportunity that should not be missed. The town of El Calafate is located close to the Southern Patagonian Ice Field, and serves as a gateway to the renowned Los Glaciares National Park, which is home to the awe-inspiring Perito Moreno Glacier. The glacier's constantly changing icy environment is perfect for hiking and sightseeing, making it a popular destination for adventurers and nature lovers alike.

Prices are all inclusive: Everything is taken care of so you can sit back, relax and enjoy your trip stress-free! Your package includes breakfast, lunch, dinner, beverages, internal flights to El Calafate & back to Buenos Aires, transportation, activities and gratuities (unless noted in the body of this brochure).

### **DAY 1/SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9TH – TRAVEL TO EL CALAFATE & TOUR OF LAKES & CAVES**

We will depart the hotel in Mendoza and be transferred to the airport for a flight to El Calafate with a stop in Buenos Aires (at the time of print there are no direct flights from Mendoza to El Calafate). Upon arrival in El Calafate, we will be greeted and transferred to our hotel.

In the evening we will begin our tour with the pickup at our hotel. We will take our vehicle to start the 4x4 trip to the Lakes & Caves with the visit of the coast of the Argentino Lake. While we travel, the guide will tell us about the history of these lands. In addition, we will have the opportunity to make stops to take pictures and take advantage of the views given by the Argentine Patagonia. Our dinner will be enjoyed the way.

### **DAY 2/ MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10TH – PERITO MORENO GLACIER + NAUTICAL SAFARI**

After breakfast, we will go to Los Glaciares National Park with a guide. We will skirt the main body of Argentino Lake, and we will go to Brazo Rico, where we will go on to "Curva de Los Suspiros", where we will get off the vehicle to have a first view of Perito Moreno Glacier. Later, we will stop at the Bajo Las Sombras Pier so that those who are ready to sail can get near the Glacier's northern wall (optional.)

Return to El Calafate for dinner in Mora Restaurant.





### **DAY 3/TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11TH – ESTANCIA CRISTINA DISCOVERY**

A driver will meet us at the hotel for a private transfer to the embarking port. We will then explore Estancia Cristina, one of the oldest Patagonian Ranch in the area.

Having set sail from Punta Bandera harbor, we will glide over the waters of Lake Argentino's Northern Arm to reach the furthest possible point of navigation in the Upsala Channel, where we can enjoy an incredible panoramic view of the Upsala Glacier immense front.

We will then disembark and board sturdy 4WDs, which will then venture up into the Feruglio Mountains, a 9.5km ride that offers great views of our surroundings and takes us ultimately to an elevated area. Once there, we'll begin a 20-minute trek over terrain characterized by glacial erosion until reaching the Upsala Glacier Lookout, an exclusive vantage point to appreciate this immense glacier, which can only be accessed from Estancia Cristina. There will be plenty of time to enjoy views of Lake Guillermo, the eastern side of the Upsala Glacier, and the Southern Patagonian Ice Field.

Afterwards, the groups will head back to the lodge in our 4x4 vehicles, for a break for lunch. Then a guided tour will take us around Estancia Cristina's estate – up to the Caterina River, the waterwheel, chapel and the lodge. After this, get back on board again for a return to El Calafate.

Dinner will be enjoyed in El Calafate.



### **DAY 4/ WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12TH – BACK IN BUENOS AIRES**

Today a driver will pick you up at the hotel to take you to the local airport, where we will catch a domestic flight back to Buenos Aires. We will be transferred to the international airport for evening departures back to the US. Your flight from El Calafate to Buenos Aires is included in the itinerary. Your flight back to the US is not included.

**\*\*\*NOTE:** This extension requires a minimum of ten (10) attendees. We will notify you by May 31st if we have met the minimum requirement and the trip will proceed.

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