

Mysteries of the Plateau

7 days - 6 nights

Salta, Jujuy, Humahuaca, Purmamarca, Abra Pampa, Yavi, Santa Catalina Cusi-Cusi, Santa Catalina

Discovery, Adventure, Culture

This program is fully customizable and may be operated for individuals, pods and groups

High Andean plateau between earth and sky, the altiplano has its treasure: The Argentine northwest! This unusual trip to Argentina takes you to these highlands, far from men, on a wild and adventure. On this program, exceptional landscapes, emerald lagoons, silver salt mines, colorful canyons, dark volcanoes or golden dunes are the occasion for many walks. Below the grandiose "puna", Indian valleys, colonial villages and vineyards bring sweetness to this rare journey, cut out for the pioneers of new horizons!

Day 1: Salta

Arrival at the airport and transfer to the hotel. In the afternoon, visit the city of Salta that waits for us to explore its cobbled streets, abundant churches and colonial buildings. During the tour, we will visit the MAAM (Archaeological Museum of High Mountain), in charge of spreading and preserving one of the most relevant archaeological discovering of the latest decades, the mummies of the "Children of Llullaillaco".

Maximum altitude: 3.780 ft

Day 2: Salta, Purmamarca

Departure towards the Humahuaca Gorge, UNESCO's Mankind's Cultural and Natural Heritage, to share an experience of Community Tourism during which we will be both guests and actors. According to the availability of the seasonal crop, we will unveil different secrets of the Northern Andean gastronomy, alongside a local chef who will receive us at his own farm at the Cuesta de Lipán foothills to participate in a cooking lesson or to simply chat away the afternoon in the company of this very special local character. We will prepare and share some tea, blended with herbs that are native to the Gorge and the Puna, along homemade rolls and pastries that she will have taught us to prepare while letting us know of her story and that of the community she represents. Accommodation in Purmamarca. [B/L]

Total distance travelled: 98 miles | Travel time: 3 hours | Maximum Altitude: 7.545 ft

Day 3: Purmamarca, Abra Pampa

In due time, we start our transfer to Maimara, a tiny town in the Humahuaca Gorge, famous for its cemetery, the Painter's Palette formation on a nearby hillside, and the altitude wineries. We will visit Fernando DuPont's winery, at 8.200 feet above sea level, where we will enjoy lunch. In the afternoon, visit to the Hornocal Range, also known as the mountain of 14 colors. Totally worth a visit! Afterwards, we will continue to Abra Pampa to spend the night. [B/L/D]

Total distance travelled: 126 miles | Travel time: 6-7 hours | Maximum Altitude: 11.500 ft

Day 4: Abra Pampa, Cusi Cusi

In the morning, a short drive will take us to Cochinoca, a town once located on the Inca trail that passed by this place. We will walk by and learn about the history of this town, which in the 17th century had 600 to 800 inhabitants, used to possess 5 churches and was an important mining hub, but which over time lost its relevance. Moving on along Route 71, we will pass by the Peñas de Ascalte ravines, formations of volcanic origin that resemble animal shapes. After partaking in lunch at a local house, we will continue towards Cusi-Cusi, another small town, with less than 250 inhabitants devoted to sheep, lamas and donkeys breeding, small-scale mining, handicraft production, and most recently the production of quinoa. A short walk in the town will allow us to learn about its history and the everyday life of these people. Accommodation in Cusi-Cusi. [B/L/D]

Total distance travelled: 97 miles | Travel time: 6 hours | Maximum Altitude: 12.400 ft

Day 5 Cusi-Cusi, Santa Catalina

Some 5 kilometers from Cusi-Cusi is the so-called Moon Valley or Mars Valley, a site of volcanic rocks and scoria, with 330 feet high colorful rock walls where white, grey, and various shades of red are protagonists. At this point, those willing for activity will have the chance to descend towards the bottom of the valley (1-hour walk). In the afternoon, we continue along the mythical National Route 40 to Santa Catalina, passing by tiny towns such as Paicone, Misa Rumi, San Juan de Oros, Timón Cruz, Oratorio, among others. In Paicone, it is interesting to see the "sounding stones", igneous rocks which on being hit toll like a bell. The scientific name of these rocks is phonolite rock stone and they are very rare in the world. However, the most notable sight in the area is that of the surrounding mountain slopes that seem to be huge yellow, white, crime and purple claws. Afterwards, continue to Santa Catalina for the night. [B/L/D]

Total distance travelled: 64 miles | Travel time: 3/4 hours
| Maximum Altitude: 11.930 ft

Day 6 Santa Catalina

In the morning, we will visit El Angosto, the most northern town in Argentina. It is located at 11.750 ft, lain over the slope of the 13.200 foot-high Mt. Branqui,, on which summit we find the boundary marker of the border with Bolivia. After lunch, we will visit the Mirador del Morrito lookout, a hill of barely 10 meters with a dry lagoon on its summit and some pre-Hispanic rupestrian art. [B/L/D]

Total distance travelled: 56 miles | Travel time: 3/4 hours | Maximum Altitude: 12.470 ft

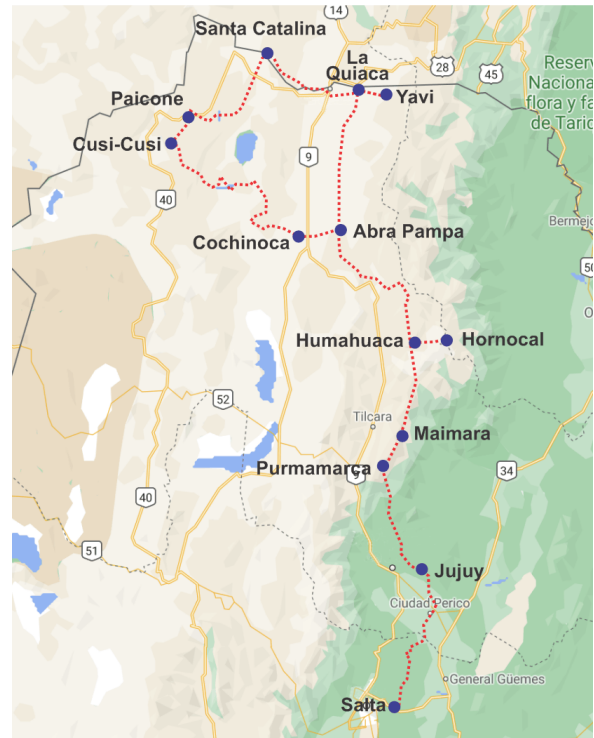
Day 7 Santa Catalina, Jujuy, USA

Early departure towards La Quiaca passing by Casira, a well-known town due to the excellence of its pottery. After a short visit to La Quiaca, we will continue to Yavi, declared National Historic Town due to its general architecture, its church and the famous Marquis' House, seat of the only marquisate ever existing in Argentina. Continuation to Jujuy to board your connecting flight back home. [B/L]

Total distance travelled: 126 miles | Travel time: 6/7 hours | Maximum Altitude: 11.480 ft

Note: The tour can either start or end in the cities of Salta or Jujuy. In the case of starting in Jujuy, the only change in the itinerary will be that the Salta city tour will not be included.

[B/L] = Breakfast and Lunch | [B/L/D] = Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner



Your Tour includes:

- Airfare New York/Buenos Aires/Salta//Jujuy/Buenos Aires/New York
- Arrivals and departure transfers
- 6 nights' accommodation:
 - Salta 1 night
 - Purmamarca 1 night
 - Abra Pampa 1 night
 - Cusi Cusi 1 night
 - Santa Catalina 2
- Meals:
 - 6 breakfast
 - 6 lunches
 - 4 dinners
- Salta City tour with MAAM
- Humahuaca Gorge
- Hornocal Range
- Cochinoca on the Inca trail
- Peñas de Ascalte ravines
- Tour of Cusi-Cusi

- Valley of the Moon
- El Angosto
- Visit La Quiaca
- Marquis' House of Yavi
- Entrance fees for sites visited
- English-speaking guides
- Transportation by deluxe vehicle
- All local taxes

Tour does not include:

- Taxes and surcharges related to airline tickets
- Travel Insurance
- Visa charges if applicable
- Early check-in or late check-out at hotels
- Services and food not listed in the itinerary
- Beverages during the meals
- Hotel extras, and personal expenses.
- Tips for guides, drivers and in restaurant

Hotels in your Tour:

City	Category	Hotel Name	Room Type	Tripadvisor
Salta	Tourist	Del Vino Boutique Hotel	Superior	4
Purmamarca	Tourist	Casa De Adobe	Standard	4
Abra Pampa	Inn	Cesarito	Standard	NA
Cusi Cusi	Inn	Rincon De Cusi	Standard	NA
Santa Catalina	Inn	Don Clemente	Standard	4

Hotels will be confirmed at time of booking

Tour Prices:

Seasons	1 Pax	2 Pax		3 Pax		
		Single	Double	Single	Double	Triple
Mixed Cathegories						
Jan 3-Dec 31	\$6,199	\$4,229	\$4,029	\$3,545	\$3,345	\$3,305

Rates are minimum per person sharing a room and may change without notice.

Rates may change depending on the date of travel.

These programs can be customized for individuals and for groups

Changes to this program may be requested by phone (1855-55-TOURS) or using the web FIT Quote Request

• **Airfare**

We also be glad to add the necessary airfare from your gateway so you take advantage of our special discounted leisure fares

• **Program**

You may add or remove;

- Trip days
- Cities and sites
- Meals

• **Other options**

- The program was designed with private services, however, we may substitute shared sightseeing where available
- If you prefer deluxe services we may operate this program including private driver, private

guide and concierge service.

- **Quotation**

Once we have designed the program the way you want we'll give you a quote within 2 business days.

Prices are minimum for low season. Please call for other periods

Tour Code: AR05SLA2IETA

Options:

- Lunches and dinners can be arranged for individuals, families and groups at top restaurants or any restaurant requested by you.
- We can revise the itinerary to spend more time and provide more depth in those areas that you are interested on.
- Any other changes to the itinerary will be accommodated depending on the facilities available in the area.
- Car can be upgraded upon request

Group Quotations

- If you wish to use these programs for your group or as the basis for a customized journey please either call us (1-855-55-TOURS or use the web Group Quote Request.
- In either case our specialists will work with to refine all the details and they will get you a quote with 2 business days. Quotes may be obtained for the air and land portions of just for the land journey.
- Booking both air and land with us will represent savings for you because of our buying power and longtime relationship with the airlines.

We will also may have the choice between regular fares and special leisure fares not available to the public.