

Our Glorious AFS Itinerary

Nov 10 – Depart USA

Depart the U.S. for an overnight flight south to Buenos Aires. All trip details with group air coming soon in our Trip Tips.

Day 1 – Nov 11 – Buenos Arrives D

Welcome to Beautiful Buenos Aires! We are met just outside customs and head to our hotel, the Kenton Palace, in the heart of the historic and fun **San Telmo District**. This beautiful hotel has everything, including a great spa, but its location is perfect to get out and see the funky, artistic district that is San Telmo. Named for the 13th Century Spanish Saint Pedro Gonzalez Telmo, this is the oldest and most artistic of Buenos Aires barrios and is known for its markets and galleries. Our rooms may not be ready when we arrive, but you can store your luggage and explore. (Check-in time varies from 2pm to 4pm). You'll have some free time to explore. Best places: Famous Recoleta Cemetery, La Boca neighborhood, shop San Calmo Market, 24 museums and more. Evenings Puerto Madero Port area comes alive at night.

In the evening, we'll celebrate with a welcome dinner at a local restaurant

Overnight: Kenton Palace Hotel (3 nights)

Day 2 – Nov 12 - Buenos Aires B

We head out after breakfast for a half day tour. The city is divided into distinctly different barrios and there is plenty to see. Enjoy Buenos Aires' most iconic highlights such as the impressive **National Congress** and its gorgeous grounds, **Plaza de Mayo** which is just across from **Casa Rosada** where Evita Peron notably gave her famous speech, the stunning **Metropolitan Cathedral**, and the distinctive Spanish colonial period city hall, the **Cabildo**. You will also see the famous **Colon Theatre**, considered one of the best Opera Houses in the world.

We'll tour our own historic **San Telmo** neighborhood before heading over to the colorful **La Boca** barrio. The first settlement for the Italian immigrants, it is known for its vibrant colors and architecture as well as people dancing the tango in the streets! Pass busy **Puerto Madero** on the way to **Palermo**, the largest residential neighborhood of the city. Here, we find the Palermo Parks, City Zoo and the Planetarium. Finally, it's on to **Recoleta**, the most elegant neighborhood of the city with its famous cemetery, boutiques, gourmet restaurants and sidewalk cafes. The tour ends back at our hotel and the rest of the day is ours to explore.

This evening, you may want to take in two Argentinian staples - dinner and a Tango show! Also called "Baille Con carte," meaning "Dance with the rest," the Tango is one of the most fascinating of all dances. Originating in Spain or Morocco, the Tango was introduced to the New World by the Spanish settlers, eventually coming back to Spain with Black and Creole influences. Enjoy this spectacle with a tasty dinner and beverages

Overnight: Kenton Palace Hotel (3 nights)

Day 3 – Nov 13 - Gaucho Time! Full day at Estancia Santa Susana B L

Today is all about fun and food. We spend an exhilarating full day with true gauchos on a working ranch or estancia outside of Buenos Aires. **Estancia Santa Susana** is an historic 3000-acre cattle ranch that introduces us to the lifestyle of the gaucho, giving us the opportunity to even try our hand at learning some of their skills. Our day includes carriage and horse riding, allowing us to fully experience the Argentine countryside charm amid Susana's cultivated fields.

And it's not a complete day without an authentic diet-busting "Asado" barbecue featuring every type of meat imaginable as well as homemade Argentinian dishes such as empanadas and lots of delicious regional wines. About the time we're to the point where we can't hardly move, folk music starts and we are entertained with a traditional dance show. The gauchos will also treat us to a show of their skills including the "sortija" horse racing.

Overnight: Kenton Palace Hotel (3 nights)

Day 4 – Nov 14 – Iguazu B

Head out in the morning to the airport where we fly to the town of Iguazu, Argentina. We'll go immediately to our hotel in **Puerto Iguazu**, the spectacular Panoramic Hotel. Surrounded by a lush garden, the hotel has wonderful views of the Iguazu River. It's also within walking distance to town.

Your evening is free, so take advantage of the hotel's close proximity and explore the quaint little downtown known for its shops and cafes. You could even wander down to Avenida Fronteras (Borders Avenue) and look across the river and see the meeting point of three countries - Brazil, Paraguay and Argentina.

Overnight: Panoramic Hotel Iguazu (2 Nights)

Day 5 – Nov 15 – Iguazu Falls B L

It's a full day of exploring the Argentinian side of these amazing falls! (Visiting the Brazil side would require a prearranged visa.) Named by the Guarani natives who live on the river's edge, Iguazu means "Great Waters." We board a train near the Visitor's Center, traveling through thick, tropical jungle along the **Senero Verde** (Green Trail). You can hear the thunder of the falls as we stop **Garganta del Diablo** (Devil's Throat) Station. Walk via the catwalks out and over the river, reaching out to the goosebumps-inducing vista of the **Devil's Throat**, the highest of all of the mighty Iguazu Falls. There is a 230-foot drop to where several branches of the Iguazu River converge, churning together in a spectacular sight.

Return to the station and reboard the train back to the Visitor Center where we start the Upper Trail walk. The Upper Trail is a relatively easy half-hour walk up a small incline with no stairs, taking us deep into the Jungle and over the precipice of the many falls on the Argentinean side.

We will have earned our lunch, which will be at El Fortin Restaurant located inside the Iguazu Falls National Park.

Optional Gran Aventura Boat Safari - Those who want can take an optional boat tour among the falls. We'll travel by 4 wheel drive vehicle through the forested area of the park to the boat dock on the river. Once at the dock near Isla San Martin, we board a speed boat for our heart thumping trip across to the base of both the Brazil and Argentinean falls. Tour the Iguazu River with over a mile of rapids finally, reaching the base of the Garganta del Diablo falls covered in the obligatory mist! We will certainly get wet!! (\$90 and worth it).

Overnight: Panoramic Hotel Iguazu (2 Nights)

Day 6 – Nov 16 – Santiago B

We head to the airport after breakfast to fly back to Buenos Aires's domestic airport. A guide will meet us and help to transfer us to the International airport for our flight to Santiago.

The flights are just more than 2 hours. We arrive in Santiago and head to our hotel, the Atton El Bosque. Located in the El Golf neighborhood, the area is known as the financial district but is also known as being a gastronome's paradise because of the many nearby restaurants. Your evening is free to check out some of these fantastic eateries.

Overnight: Hotel Atton El Bosque (3 nights)

Day 7 – Nov 17 – City Tour Santiago B

After breakfast, we set out for a half day city tour to see the main sights of the city including being able to take in the vistas from **Cerro San Cristobal** high above the city. We'll visit the heart of Santiago and the historic **Plaza de Armas**, the stunning **Catedral de Santiago** and explore the amazing architecture of the **Correo Central**. We'll be dropped back at the hotel and the rest of the day is free. So much to do from cooking classes to Segway tours. If time allows visit Valpariso, colorful Bohemian town on the sea.

There are plenty of things to do including climbing to the top of Sky Costanera. Rising almost 1000 feet above the city. It is the highest viewpoint in South America and offers 360-degree views of the city. Or you could pay a visit to the Artisans Village where you can see artisans creating their works and learn about some of their traditional methods.

Overnight: Hotel Atton El Bosque (3 nights)

Day 8 – Nov 18 – Santa Rita Winery B L

Today, it's all about Chile's rich wine culture! We make our way to the nearby town of **Alto Jahuel** in the stunning **Maipo Valley**, known for its fertile soil – perfect for growing grapes. The **Santa Rita Winery** was founded in 1884 by Domingo Fernandez Concha and has become a premium destination for its historical interest and the quality of the wines they produce. Walk through sculpted gardens and learn not just about the region's viticulture and wine making, but about the history of Chile as well. Highlights we'll see include the winery's chapel, a visit to the historic "Bodega 1" building made of masonry as well as the famous "Bodega 120 Patriotas" – The Cellar of the 120 Patriots, considered a national monument. There's so much to see and do here, including the possibility of a the new Pedal Bar tour on a traveling wine bar.

A traditional Chilean lunch awaits at "Restaurant Dona Paula." Considered by many as one of the best restaurants in all of Chile, this landmark eatery changes its menu according to the season and pairs its food with Santa Rita Wines. Our tour ends with a tasting of 2 reserve wines. We return to Santiago for a free evening.

Overnight: Hotel Atton El Bosque (3 nights)

Day 9 - Nov 19 – Back to USA B

We'll transfer to the airport for our return flights to the U.S.