



# The Ultimate ARGENTINA



Travel Guide



## STOP 2: IGUAZU FALLS

*Natural Wonder*

## STOP 3: MENDOZA

*Wine Capital*

## STOP 1: BUENOS AIRES

*European Fusion*

## STOP 4: PATAGONIA

*Bottom of the World*



# Know Before You Go...

Argentina is a massive country with a rich history. Although it was once one of the most prosperous nations in South America, Argentina has experienced a long run of political corruption that has left its economy very unstable. For this reason, prices vary frequently, and it is recommended that visitors monitor the exchange rate for some time before your departure. If the Argentine peso starts to regularly increase in value, it would be best to exchange US dollars before you leave. On the other hand, if the peso continues to drop then it is better to exchange money once you arrive. With that being said, many ATMs have a relatively low maximum withdrawal amount and high usage fee, making it advisable to use a credit card whenever possible.

In terms of tipping, the standard for bars, restaurants, and cafes is 10%. When taking taxis, locals suggest that you simply pay an even amount and leave the drivers with the spare change.

Although Spanish is the primary language spoken in Argentina, in major destinations like Buenos Aires and the large cities in Patagonia, many people speak English. With that being said, when visiting the more remote areas, it is helpful to understand some basic Spanish. Specifically, try to learn how to say numbers in Spanish so that you can negotiate prices with vendors and understand and be able to compare prices of different tour outfitters.

Lastly, great advice when traveling anywhere, but seems especially relevant in Argentina, is to be patient and flexible. Things don't move as quickly as they would in the United States, so remind yourself to take things as they go, and simply enjoy the adventure!

# STOP 1: BUENOS AIRES



**Background:** This bustling capital offers something special for every type of traveler. It combines rich history with new development, emulating the spirit and attitude of its inhabitants. The city center is comprised of eight major neighborhoods: La Boca, Palermo, Recoleta, Retiro, Centro, Belgrano, Puerto Madero, and San Telmo. Each area provides a different take on the city, making Buenos Aires the perfect place to get lost.

## Top Attractions:



**Floralis Generica:** This landmark is a pleasant stop amongst the expansive parks within Recoleta and neighboring Palermo. The sculpture, donated in 2002 by its creator Eduardo Catalano, is especially interesting during dusk and dawn, as it opens and closes like a real flower.

**Puente de la Mujer:** Connecting the two walking paths of Puerto Madero, Puente de la Mujer is a prominent feature of Buenos Aires' newest neighborhood. You can walk across it as you stroll along the Rio de la Plata and admire the city's most impressive skyscrapers. Stop at one of the many bars or restaurants along either side to get a full view of the famous bridge.

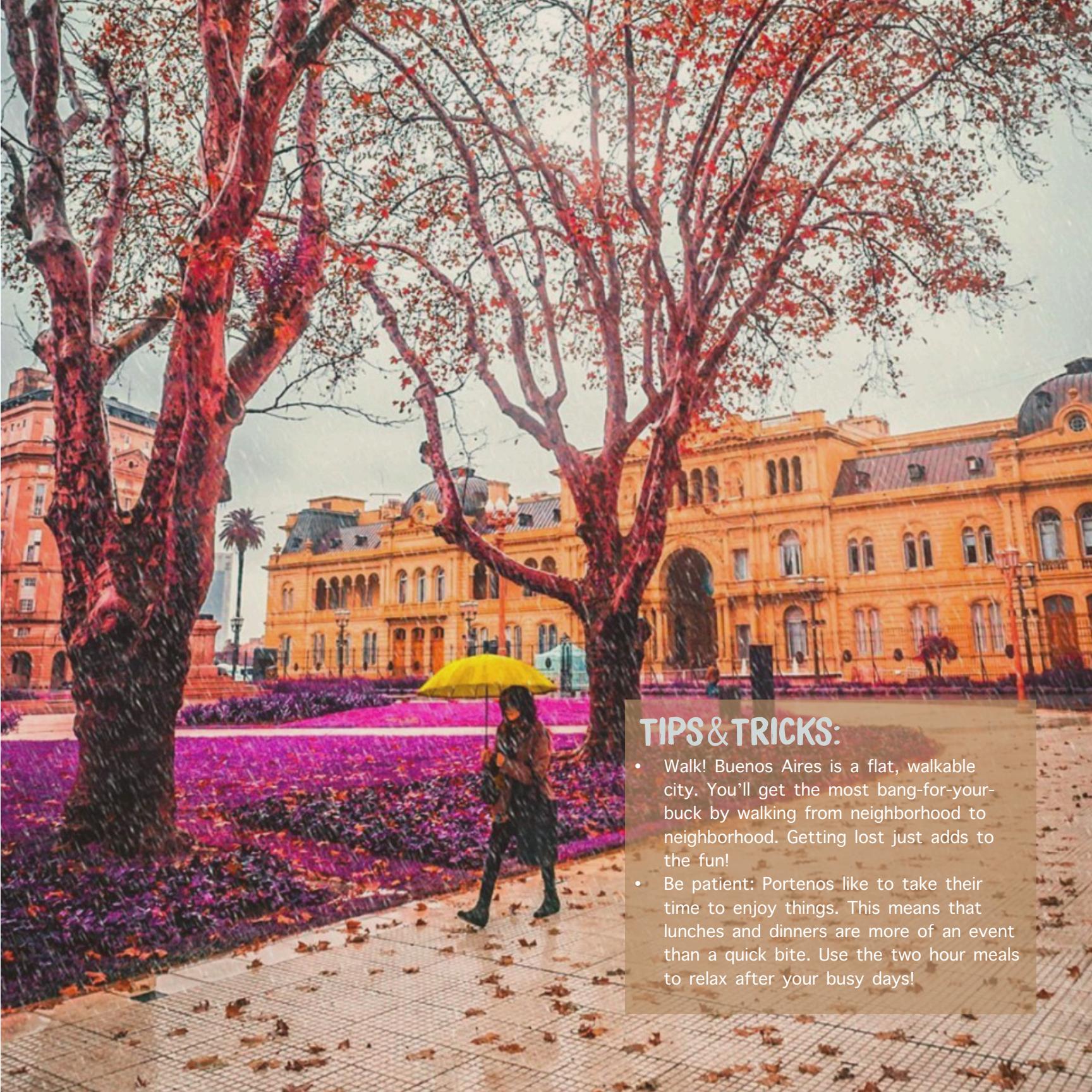
**Teatro Colón:** This theatre is over a century old, and has achieved a world-renowned status for its impressive acoustics, in addition to being the hosting venue of the 2018 G20 Summit. Visitors can experience the incredible sound during the many operas and ballets that are held throughout the year. If you're short on time, take the one-hour guided tour throughout the entire facility, in which you will learn about its history, construction, and the hidden orchestra built into the theatre's ceiling.

**Cemetario de Recoleta:** Situated in the middle of Recoleta, this cemetery holds many of Argentina's most distinguished. With that being said, many tourists go to the Cemetario de Recoleta to visit the grave of Eva "Evita" Peron. Her mausoleum is somewhat tucked away, and can be tricky to locate amidst the expansive cemetery. It is recommended to take a guided tour of the grounds to gain a better appreciation of the many important people that are buried there, as well as the work that goes into maintaining the extravagant mausoleums.

**Casa Rosada:** Home to the office of the President of Argentina, Casa Rosada has been the site of several major events throughout Argentina's history, including the famous addresses of Juan and Eva Peron. Located at the base of Plaza de Mayo, this site is an important part of Argentina's history, and must-visit for many tourists (if only for its distinctive pink color!).

## Must-do Activities:

- Museums: Buenos Aires hosts a wide variety of museums, ranging from MALBA (museum of modern art) to the Museo Evita, where you can explore the home where Evita grew up.
- Markets: If you are in Buenos Aires on the weekend, it will be hard to go into any neighborhood without running into a market, especially on Sundays. For example, every Sunday in San Telmo there is a large Antiques Market spanning multiple blocks, where you can find a great, untraditional souvenir. If you're looking for something more typical, check out the Saturday market in Recoleta, located right in front of the Recoleta Cultural Center.
- Night Life: Portenos (people who live in Buenos Aires) tend to come alive once the sun goes down. To start, young people often don't eat dinner until 10 or 11 p.m. Unlike in the United States, many clubs (or boliches) are open until 5 or 6 a.m. The perfect place to try a variety of bars is Plaza Serrano in Palermo.
- Tango: In the birthplace of tango, you don't have to look hard to find somewhere to watch it, or learn it! Many restaurants bring performers in nightly to entertain the diners while they eat. If you're looking for an authentic tango experience, grab a hot chocolate and catch a show at Cafe Tortoni, the oldest tango bar in the city.



## WRITER'S PICK: Buller Brewing Co.

Get their famous Honey Beer and head to the rooftop bar to enjoy a great, nighttime view of the Recoleta Cemetery.



### Where to eat:

- La Cocina: This hole-in-wall in Recoleta is known for the best empanadas in town.
- El Cuartito: Portenos take their pizza seriously. Follow the locals and head to El Cuartito for the city's favorite pizza.
- Bodegon Don Carlitos: Like most places in Argentina, when it comes to food, parrilla (steak) is king. You can get great parrilla anywhere in the city, but many regard Bodegon Don Carlitos in La Boca to be the best, including Anthony Bourdain.
- Osaka: Although Japanese food isn't very common in Buenos Aires, Osaka in Palermo is a great spot to grab sushi when you just can't eat anymore empanadas.



## S TAMP YOUR PASSPORT!

*Day trip to Colonia:* Located right across the Rio Plata, Colonia, Uruguay is a quaint coastal town that can be easily reached by a quick ferry ride. Take an afternoon to grab lunch and walk around the old military port.



## TIPS & TRICKS:

- Walk! Buenos Aires is a flat, walkable city. You'll get the most bang-for-your-buck by walking from neighborhood to neighborhood. Getting lost just adds to the fun!
- Be patient: Portenos like to take their time to enjoy things. This means that lunches and dinners are more of an event than a quick bite. Use the two hour meals to relax after your busy days!

# STOP 2: IGUAZU FALLS



**Background:** A UNESCO World Heritage site, Iguazu Falls should be on everyone's bucket list. These awe-inspiring falls are encompassed by an expansive National Park that provides access to the best views of the natural wonder. Although the main park is located in Argentina, Iguazu expands into both Paraguay and Brazil. Visitors come from all over the world to take in the falls, and escape into the dense rainforest.

## Top Attractions:



**Circuito Superior:** One of four main walking trails in Iguazu National Park, Circuito Superior is about an hour-long walk that takes you along the top of the falls. Along this path you will witness spectacular views of the entirety of the falls. Get a glimpse of the rainbows that form in the mist of the crashing water, and the several tropical birds that occupy this part of the jungle.

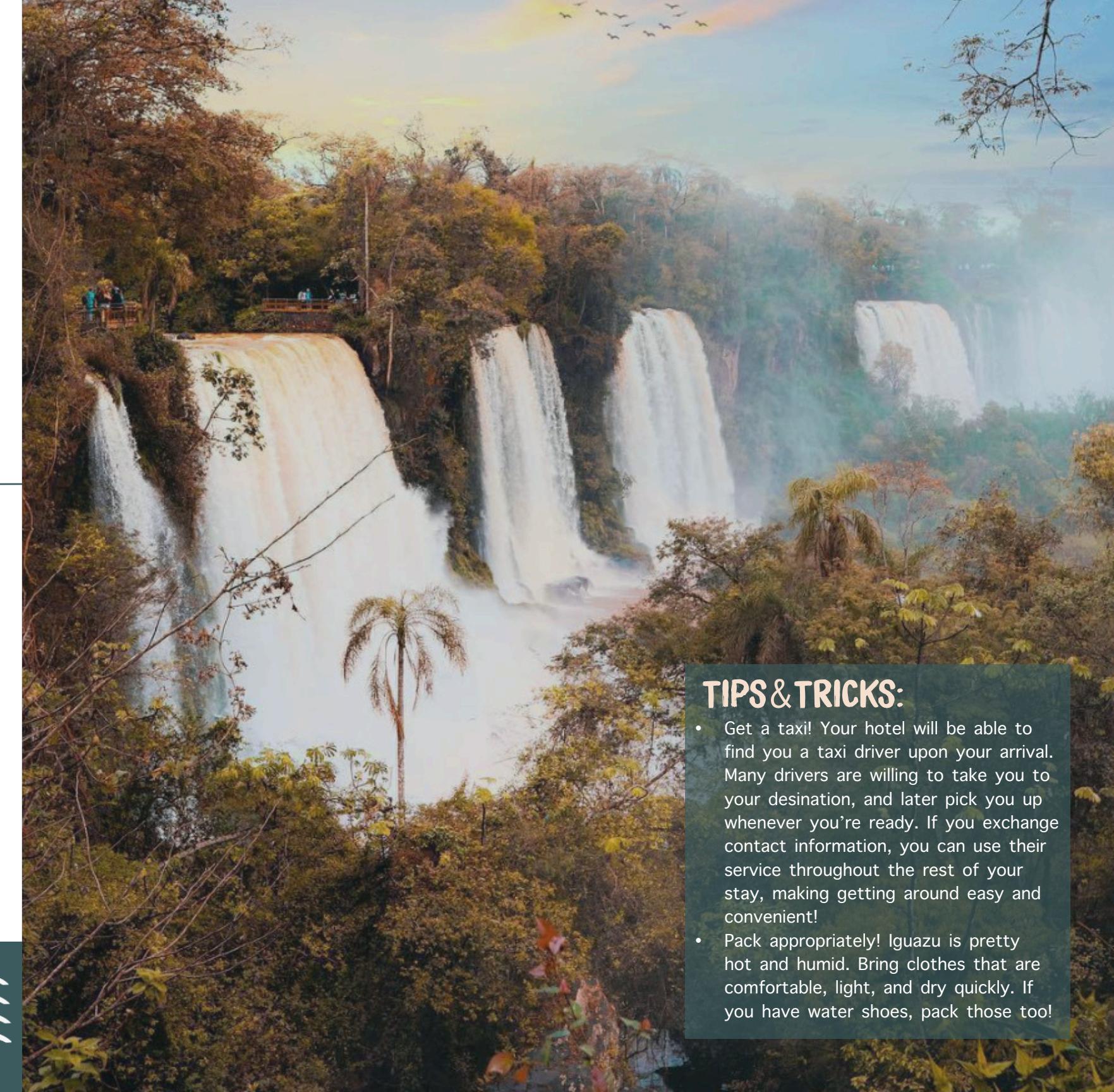
**Circuito Inferior:** Similarly to Circuito Superior, Circuito Inferior takes about one hour to complete. The lower path allows you to get closer to the falls where you can appreciate the pure magnitude of water that spills into Iguazu River. The circuit also takes you deeper into the rainforest and submerges you into the natural wonder.

**Garganta del Diablo:** Only reachable by the eco-train that spans the length of the park, Garganta del Diablo is the largest of the cataratas (falls) within the wider Iguazu Falls. After you take the ecotrain to the last stop, you can cross a 1.4 mile walkway to the top of the river to the mouth of the "Devil's Throat." It's advised to wear waterproof clothing and bring plastic bags to protect your clothing from the spray coming off of the 260 foot falls!

**Sendero Macuco:** This trail is tucked away inside the outer edge of the park. Unlike the often busy Superior and Inferior Circuitos, Sendero Macuco is a lot quieter, and leads away from the main attractions. The longer path takes you deep into the forest and offers the best chances of seeing the spectacular flora and fauna of the area. It ends at the base of Salto Arrechea, a waterfall hidden deep in the jungle. The natural pool that it pours into is also a great spot to cool off after the hike!

## *Must-do Activities:*

- Hike: Aside from the national park, there isn't much to do in the actual city of Iguazu. For this reason, most of your stay will be spent hiking around the falls, so pack your walking shoes!
- Look for wildlife: Iguazu's location inside a dense rainforest means that there are many opportunities to observe a wide range of wildlife. Inside the park specifically, you can't go far without seeing coatis and capuchin monkeys. Keep yours eyes towards the trees as you walk along the trails, and maybe you'll see a toucan as well!
- "Gran Aventura" Tour: This boat tour is a must! Buy your tickets when you enter the park in the morning, and prepare for the powerboat ride of a lifetime! "Gran Aventura" is an hour-long trip that includes the open-truck drive to the foot of the river. The boat will take you shockingly close to the base of Salto San Martin. Wear a bathing suit, because you're going to get wet!



## **WRITER'S PICK:** *La Aldea de la Selva*

In this hotel, each room is a private cabin that immerses you into the jungle, hence the name La Aldea de la Selva (Escape in the Jungle). Not only is the setting relaxing, but you can rest easy knowing that this hotel is very dedicated to sustainability!



### *Where to eat:*

- Gran Malia: This hotel is located right on the edge of the national park. Unlike the other options inside of the park that are typical concession stands, the Gran Malia has some of the best food in the area. Take your time with a nice lunch after a long morning of hiking! Although it is a bit more expensive than the stands inside of the park, the food and service is definitely worth it.
- Aqva: Going out for dinner is the best opportunity to see some of Iguazu city. Aqva is a popular restaurant that has great service and awesome food. Try the Surubi, which is caught locally in Iguazu River!



## **TIPS & TRICKS:**

- Get a taxi! Your hotel will be able to find you a taxi driver upon your arrival. Many drivers are willing to take you to your destination, and later pick you up whenever you're ready. If you exchange contact information, you can use their service throughout the rest of your stay, making getting around easy and convenient!
- Pack appropriately! Iguazu is pretty hot and humid. Bring clothes that are comfortable, light, and dry quickly. If you have water shoes, pack those too!

## **S TAMP YOUR PASSPORT!** *Day trip to Brazil:*

Because Iguazu Falls connect Argentina, Brazil, and Paraguay, it is very easy to cross the border and get a different view of the falls. Catch a taxi and head across the Brazilian border!

Because the park is significantly smaller in Brazil, you only need a few hours to explore its entirety!



# STOP 3: MENDOZA



**Background:** Wine enthusiasts come from far and wide to experience the world-class wineries of Mendoza. Located amongst the Andes Mountain Range, Mendoza is the perfect getaway. Visitors elect to stay in the city, or venture to the outer regions to be closer to the wineries. Aside from wine tasting, many enjoy the outdoor activities that are available throughout the year, whether it be rafting in the summer or skiing in the winter!

## Top Attractions:



**Parque Provincial Aconcagua:** An easy day trip from the city of Mendoza, Parque Provincial Aconcagua is a host to beautiful Andean scenery. There are several hiking trails at for people at every level. Go on a clear day to make sure you can get a view of Aconcagua, the tallest peak in all of the Americas!



**Rio Mendoza:** After back-to-back days of wine-tasting, rest your palate with an afternoon of white water rafting! Argentina Rafting Expediations will pick you up from your hotel and bring you to their base camp next to Rio Mendoza. A guide will help you navigate the rapids while you enjoy the surrounding mountain views. When you're done rafting, enjoy lunch and drink in front of the river.



**Lujan de Cuyo:** If you're looking to try wine and lots of it, Lujan de Cuyo is the region to stay in. It is about a 45 minute taxi ride from the Mendoza airport, but once you get there you won't need to leave. The bodegas (wineries) are scattered across the area, ranging from small, family-owned boutiques to large scale producers. Avoid driving all together and rent bikes to go from vineyard to vineyard.



**Uco Valley:** This region is a bit further away from the city center, but the architecture, views, and wine are well worth the trip. If you're staying in Lujan de Cuyo, the drive is even shorter! Uco Valley is considered the best wine region in all of Argentina. For this reason, book reservations before you arrive. The bodegas are a bit more spread out compared to Lujan de Cuyo, so it's best to hire a driver for the day.

## Must-do Activities:

- Drink Malbec! Although a variety of wines are produced in province, people come to Mendoza for the Malbec, which is why you're likely to see it in your local wine store in the United States.
- Tour Wineries: Almost every bodega will offer a free tour and wine tasting. Take advantage of this. It is especially interesting to see how smaller boutiques operate compared to the mass producers. You will definitely learn something new at each stop, and try a lot of great wine along the way!
- Explore the Andes: By day three, you will be needing a break from all of the wine tasting. Refresh in the great outdoors! Whether it's hiking, rafting, rappelling, or taking a dip in a hot spring, you will be remiss to not spend some time taking in the Andean vistas.
- Take in the Architecture: As previously mentioned, many of the bodegas are not only known for their wine. Many visitors come to Mendoza to simply witness the wide variety of both modern and classic architecture, that makes the entire experience even more enjoyable.



## Where to eat:

- Bodega Renacer: Renacer is the definition of picturesque. Escape into the grounds for a 5-course lunch in front of a tranquil reflective pond.
- Casarena Restaurante: Unlike the classic Argentine dishes that you will get at most bodegas, Casarena offers a wide variety of dishes, that is best described as Japanese and Chilean fusion.
- Bodega La Azul: With a quirky aesthetic and large outdoor dining area, La Azul feels like something out of a painting. Similarly to most bodegas, you will receive a fantastic 5-course lunch, with a different wine perfectly paired for each plate. It all tastes even better when you're sitting at the foot of the snow-capped Andes.

## WRITER'S PICK: Carmello Patti

An internationally renowned winemaker, Carmello Patti is the charming owner and operator of a small boutique, which comes in the form of his own garage! A visit includes a tour and tasting with the legend himself, who is likely to sign your bottle!



## TIPS & TRICKS:

- Get a driver! With all of the wine that you will be consuming, your safest bet is to hire a driver to take you to and from each tour. Your hotel will be able to find you a service, and give them your day's itinerary, making your only job to eat huge lunches and drink amazing wine.
- Make reservations! Many of the more popular bodegas fill up weeks in advance. For this reason, choose a few wineries that you definitely want to visit, and reserve your lunches and tastings before you arrive. With that said, leave some time available to follow the recommendations of the very knowledgeable hotel staff (wherever you stay).

# STOP 4: PATAGONIA



**Background:** In the Southern tip of Argentina, it is hard to come by as many awe-inspiring, natural wonders as those located in Patagonia. For any outdoorists, Patagonia is a region that must be visited. From glaciers and lakes, to mountains and valleys, you can't go far in Patagonia without reaching for your camera. The region's vastness makes it difficult to narrow down your travel itinerary, so allocate as much time as you can to explore what National Geographic describes as one of the world's last "Wild Places."

## Top Attractions:



**Calafate:** A direct flight from Buenos Aires, Calafate is a central starting point when traveling to the country's southern tip. If you're looking to visit Parque Nacional Los Glaciares, this is the place to stay. With a massive tourist presence, there's no shortage of bars, restaurants, shops, and hotels. The city is situated on the shore of Lago Argentino, offering picturesque views from almost anywhere you go. For any bird watchers, take a walk towards the water to get an upclose glimpse of flamingos!



**Perito Moreno Glacier:** About a 45 minute taxi drive from Calafate, Perito Moreno Glacier is the one of the only glaciers left on the planet that is still growing in size. The park offers an extensive catwalk network that allows you to view the glacier from every angle. Take a boat tour to the glacier's front wall, and feel the massive wave that follows the breaking off of an ice chunk. On the opposite end of the park sign up for a one-hour glacier trek, in which you will actually traverse the glacier! Each trip concludes with a glass of whiskey topped with ice straight from Perito Moreno.



**El Chalten:** If you truly want to escape into the wilderness, El Chalten is the place to go. A young, little town, Chalten attracts tourist from around the world to hike or climb the base of Mount Fitz Roy. Whether you want to trek for an afternoon or a weekend, experiencing this area is something to check off of a bucketlist. Each corner turned offers a new view that makes you feel like you're living in a postcard. From turquoise lakes to towering peaks, any trail is sure to impress. Fill up your reusable bottle straight from the glacial river and taste water in its purest form!



**Bariloche:** An area with heavy German influence, Bariloche feels unique to any other part of Argentina. For this reason, if you're looking to get some of the best beer and chocolate in Argentina, Bariloche is the place to go. Located at the center of the Lake District, tourists come year-round to bask in the landscapes and participate in the variety of outdoor activities that the area offers. If you're into skiing, visit Bariloche between July and September and join the many Argentines at Cerro Catedral Ski Resort!



**Ushuaia:** Take a flight from Calafate to el fin del mundo (end of the world). Located just across the Atlantic Ocean from Antarctica, Ushuaia is a base camp to witness the natural wonders of the Beagle Channel and Parque Nacional Tierra del Fuego. Take a boat tour through the icy Canal Begal and to see colonies of penguins and sea lions, or get a panoramic view of the city by taking a chairlift up to Glaciar Martial. Looking to go even further south? Many outfitters depart from Ushuaia for a ten or twenty-day cruise through Antarctica!

## Must-do Activities:

- Trek: You shouldn't go to Patagonia without your hiking boots. Every area that you visit offers a variety of trails for trekkers of every level. Because this region is so expansive, certain views can't be reached without literally trekking there. With that being said, it's always, always worth it.
- See wildlife: For animal enthusiasts, Patagonia offers many opportunities to get up close and personal with a wide range of wildlife. Go to Peninsula Valdes in Northern Patagonia to see Southern Right Whales, and Ushuaia to march with Magellanic penguins.
- Take photos: As previously mentioned, the vistas of Patagonia are straight out of a postcard. Although photos sometimes don't do these places justice, it doesn't hurt to attempt to capture the beauty.
- Look for fossils: Whether you're seeking them out yourself or witnessing them from a museum, go back in time to discover some of the largest prehistoric creatures that once roamed Patagonia. Although the largest fossils are found in a museum, visitors can search themselves in certain areas like El Chalten.



## WRITER'S PICK: *Hotel Patagonia Blanca*

With amazing views of Lago Argentino, awesome breakfasts, and incredible staff, Hotel Patagonia Blanca in Calafate is the perfect place to recoup after your long, active days.



## Where to eat:

- Pura Vida (El Calafate): Warm up with homemade stews and potpies made from traditional pumpkin and rabbit, or opt for their several vegetarian options. Regardless you'll enjoy the eclectic decor and lakeside view.
- Casis (Bariloche): This elegant dining experience is topped by the warm, Alpine setting that overlooks the lake and mountains.
- Estepa (El Chalten): Snuggle up in this little cabin and indulge in locally sourced Surf'n'Turf.
- La Casa de los Mariscos (Ushuaia): An inexpensive option, get the area's classic King Crab in any form you could possibly imagine.



## STAMP YOUR PASSPORT! *Day trip to Torres del Paine*

A two hour journey from Calafate, Torres del Paine is regularly listed as a must-visit. Serious trekkers should stay for multiple days to do the W or O Circuits, but those who are short on time can still experience the wonder of the National Park in an afternoon.



## TIPS & TRICKS:

- Hire a guide: Many of the treks in Patagonia are popular enough that you won't need a guide, but for less experienced hikers or those who have limited time, hiring a guide in places like Torres del Paine or El Chalten can ensure that you won't miss the best views, and make the whole experience a lot more educational.
- Pack layers: The nature of this region means that there can be big temperature changes between the city centers and mountains. Packing layers makes it easy to adjust to these changes accordingly.