

Optional Pre-Trip Extension: Chile: Santiago & the Colchagua Countryside

Begin your South American discoveries in Santiago, Chile's lively capital. Then head south to the stunning Colchagua Valley where Chilean *huasos* (cowboys) and their horses still roam the countryside. We'll learn more about the traditions of Chile's heartland during visits to local villages where we'll meet artisans and observe them at work. We'll also discover renowned Chilean wines when we visit a vineyard and sample its award-winning vintages.

What's Included in Your Pre-Trip Cost

- **Accommodations** as specified on your final hotel list (included with your final documents package)
- **5 meals**—3 breakfasts, 1 lunches, and 1 dinner
- 1 sightseeing tours—Colchagua Museum
- Exclusive Discovery Series visit to homemade liqueur maker, vineyard visit with wine-tasting, Lolol artisan village visit
- Exclusive services of a resident Overseas Adventure Travel Trip Leader
- All transfers

Not Included

- Meals not specified in this itinerary
- Optional sightseeing tours
- Tips to your Trip Leader, motorcoach drivers, and local guides
- Items of a personal nature, including laundry, wines, liquors, mineral waters, etc.
- Any domestic or foreign taxes, airline taxes, or government fees and taxes (shown separately on your invoice)

Your Itinerary

Day 1 Depart U.S.

Depart today on your flight to Santiago.

Day 2 Arrive Santiago, Chile

- Welcome Dinner

All Day:

Arrive on the morning of Day 2 and an Overseas Adventure Travel representative meets you at the airport and arranges for your transfer to your hotel. The balance of the day is at leisure to relax after your flight or to do some exploring on your own. You are invited to join your Trip Leader in the afternoon for a guided walk to acquaint you with the neighborhood near your hotel.

Meet early this evening with your Trip Leader and fellow travelers for a briefing on your upcoming trip. Then get to know each other better as we feast on a typical Chilean meal during a welcome dinner at a local restaurant.

Included Meals: Dinner

Day 3 Santiago/Santa Cruz

- Overland to Colchagua Valley
- Visit Colchagua Museum

All day

This morning we depart for Santa Cruz, a picturesque town in the heart of Chile's Colchagua Valley. As we drive, we'll pass lush landscapes filled with verdant vineyards and fragrant fruit plantations.

After checking in at our hotel, we'll enjoy an included tour of the Colchagua Museum. This fascinating museum houses the largest collection of Pre-Columbian art in Chile, and we'll encounter a diverse array of exhibits here, from prehistoric trilobite fossils to handcrafted indigenous jewelry to 18th-century wine presses and decanting machines.

Later, we head to a historic country home to learn about *mistelas*, homemade liquors made from fruit and herbs. The most popular varieties are *licor de miel*, which is made from honey, and *pisco*, a grape liquor similar to the famous Peruvian brandy of the same name. The owner will explain the distillation process and offer us some samples.

Dinner tonight is on your own.

Included Meals: Breakfast

Day 4 **Santa Cruz**

- **Santa Cruz vineyard visit & wine-tasting**
 - **Visit with artisans in Lolol**
 - **Home-Hosted Dinner**

Morning:

We begin today with a wine-tasting at Viña Santa Cruz, the local vineyard that produces the highly-awarded Chamán wine. Then we take a cable car to an open-air museum chronicling the history of indigenous Chilean groups like the Mapuche and Rapa Nui.

Afternoon & Evening

After lunch at a local restaurant, we visit Lolol, a small town whose streets are lined with adobe houses. While here, we'll observe artisans at work weaving fine *chupallas* (straw hats) and making adobe bricks. We'll also learn about the lifestyle and traditions of the *huasos*, Chilean cowboys.

Dinner tonight is on your own.

Included Meal: Breakfast, Lunch

Day 5 **Santa Cruz/Santiago**

- **Overland to Santiago**
 - **Begin Chilean Fjords & Patagonian Wilderness Adventure**

Morning:

After breakfast, we head overland to Santiago to meet our fellow travelers and begin our Chilean Fjords & Patagonian Wilderness trip.

Included Meal: Breakfast

Optional Post-Trip Extension: Buenos Aires, Argentina & Iguassu Falls, Brazil

Set down in Buenos Aires, Argentina's vibrant capital, with a combination of old world ambiance, culture and a burgeoning sense of its own unique traditions. Then take in one of South America's greatest natural wonders by extending your trip with a foray to Iguassu Falls. We'll explore both the Argentinean and Brazilian sides of this astonishing array of 275 separate cascades and waterfalls, whose total extent spans more than two miles. Lush forests of bamboo, palm, and fern trees, populated by parrots and macaws, surround the falls.

What's Included in Your Pre-Trip Cost

- **Round-trip airfare** between Buenos Aires & Iguassu Falls
- **Accommodations** as specified on your final hotel list (included with your final documents package)
- **7 meals**—4 breakfasts, 2 lunches, and 1 dinner
- 4 sightseeing tours— Buenos Aires city tour; Iguassu Falls from both sides, Argentina and Brazil
- Exclusive services of a resident Overseas Adventure Travel Trip Leader
- All transfers

Not Included

- Meals not specified in this itinerary
- Optional sightseeing tours
- Tips to your Trip Leader, motorcoach drivers, and local guides
- Items of a personal nature, including laundry, wines, liquors, mineral waters, etc.
- Any domestic or foreign taxes, airline taxes, or government fees and taxes (shown separately on your invoice)

Your Itinerary

Day 15 **Depart Santiago/Arrive Buenos Aires**

We'll fly from Santiago to Buenos Aires with our Trip Leader, arriving in the early afternoon. After an orientation walk with our Trip Leader, you'll have the remainder of the day to explore Argentina's cosmopolitan capital on your own.

Day 16 **Buenos Aires, Argentina**

- **Discover Buenos Aires**
- **Optional *tango* show & dinner**

All Day:

After breakfast, we set off on a tour of Buenos Aires, an elegant mixture of Spanish colonial architecture and several traditional European styles. We'll visit Avenida de Mayo, which runs into Plaza de Mayo, where many buildings important to Argentine history are centered. See the *Casa Rosada* (Government House), the Metropolitan Cathedral, and the *Cabildo*, the first City Hall built during Spanish rule.

Then visit La Boca, Buenos Aires's first merchant and fishing port. We'll have time to visit the famous Caminito, an outdoor museum and art show where painters offer their *tango* pictures, or stroll along the renovated waterfront promenade. Our tour passes by the beautiful Colon Theater. Built in 1908, this is one of the world's most famous opera houses, and international stars vie to perform here as they do at Milan's La Scala and Vienna's State Opera House. We'll also visit the Recoleta District with its elegant homes, fashionable restaurants and shops, and famous cemetery where Eva Peron is buried. Then learn all about the many fine leathers the country is justly famous for. Afterwards, we'll discover the flavors of Argentina during lunch at a local restaurant.

The rest of our afternoon is at leisure to relax or revisit places you saw this morning. If you like, join us this evening for a taste of local culture, at an additional cost. This optional outing includes dinner at a local restaurant and performances by dancers who show how the dramatic *tango* should be done. The cost of this optional show is \$95 per person and includes dinner.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Day 17 **Buenos Aires/Iguassu Falls**

- Fly to Iguassu Falls
- Discover Argentinean side of Falls
- Optional Dinner & Folklore Show

Morning & Afternoon:

After breakfast, we fly to Iguassu Falls. Please plan to pack a small bag for our two-night stay at Iguassu Falls and store the rest of your luggage at your Buenos Aires hotel, where you can retrieve it before your return to the U.S.

Located on the Argentina/Brazil border, the falls at Iguassu are among the world's most impressive sights—twice as high as Niagara Falls and 65 feet wider. We spend the bulk of the afternoon on a guided walk along the Argentinean side. Here the falls can be approached, viewed, felt, and experienced from a number of angles. We'll also enjoy a dramatic walk along the *Garganta del Diablo* ("Devil's Throat"), where the water plunges 230 feet into a roiling cauldron. With the spray flying up to 50 feet above your head and rainbows dancing in it, the view here can only be described as breathtaking!

Afterwards, we'll continue on to our hotel.

Evening:

Dinner tonight is on your own. Or you can join us for an optional Dinner & Folklore Show. We'll dine on local specialties while watching a performance of traditional South American dances from Argentina, Brazil, and Paraguay. The cost of this optional tour is \$50 per person and includes dinner.

Included Meals: Breakfast

Day 18 **Iguassu Falls**

- Discover Brazilian side of Falls
- Farewell dinner

All day

After breakfast today we'll survey the Falls from the Brazilian side after crossing the border. A stone path leads to several platforms with fine views from different angles. You can get close enough to the thundering torrents to feel the spray again, and you may glimpse the park's resident *coatis* (raccoon-like animals). After a buffet lunch, you'll have the remainder of the afternoon to spend at leisure.

Tonight we'll enjoy a farewell dinner at our hotel.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 19 Iguassu Falls/Transfer to Buenos Aires/Return Home

Morning:

After a morning at leisure, we fly to Buenos Aires. We stop to collect our luggage at the hotel, then transfer to the airport to board our overnight flight back to the U.S.

Included Meal: Breakfast

Day 20 Arrive in U.S.

You arrive in the U.S. this morning, and continue on connecting flights as needed to return home.