

SOUTH AMERICA - SALTA EXTENSION



INTRODUCTION

If you're looking to visit part of Argentina which offers something a little more authentic, then our Chimu Adventure's Salta Extension is the trip for you. While the region is gaining traction with tourists, its location in the far north of the country allows this destination to remain a little off the beaten track. And there is so, so much to explore. Your journey will start in the city of Salta and traverse both south and north of the city. To the south, highlights include passing through Parque Nacional Caldones, tasting wines in Cafayate and visiting the Gorge of the Shells. In the north, highlights include Purmamarca's Seven Colours Hill, the Salinas Grandes Salt Flats, Pucara de Tilcara pre-Inca Fortress and Humahuaca Gorge. Along the way you will experience Andean and Quechan culture in small townships and get a taste of what it's genuinely like to live in Argentina.

On this all-encompassing personalised itinerary, Chimu will provide travel logistics for your travel party for the duration of your journey, plus expert guides for all the major sightseeing as per itinerary. Each night you will stay in superior accommodation, handpicked by our experienced team for their creature comforts, convenient locations, and impeccable service.

ITINERARY

DAY 1: Arrival in Salta

You will arrive in Salta, the provincial capital of the mountainous north-western region of Argentina. Known as 'Salta la Linda' which means 'Salta the Pretty,' the city is known for its Spanish colonial and Andean heritage. Today is an arrival day and you are free to explore. Perhaps take one of the cobblestone streets to Parque San Martin and board the Teleferico to the top of Cerro San Bernardo for outstanding views of the city.



TRIP CODE

ARTSSC

DEPARTURE

Daily

DURATION

8 Days

LOCATIONS

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DAY 2: Salta city tour

Today you will enjoy a half day city tour of Salta. Highlights include Plaza 9 de Julio (the city's main square), the MAAM and the San Bernardo Convent. Plaza 9 de Julio is surrounded by the Cathedral Basilica de Salta, El Cabilido Historical Museum, El Palacio Gallerias Shopping Mall and the Teatro Provincial de Salta. The MAAM features the mummified remains of three Inca children who were sacrificed to the gods and later found on the Lulluallaco volcano. The San Bernardo Convent is Salta's oldest building and you can visit the external algarrobo door and purchase fresh pastries made by the convent's nuns. The afternoon is free to continue exploring Salta at your leisure.



DAY 3: Salta to Cafayate via the Calchaquies Valley

From Salta you will travel overland over the Piedra del Molino mountain pass, keeping watch for condors in the sky on your way towards Parque Nacional Caldones. Parque Nacional Caldones is known for its giant cactus groves which flank Cuesta del Obispo (or Bishop's Slope) high above the Calchaquies Valley. Continuing on the famous Ruta 40 you will make your way south from Molinos to Cafayate across the Quebrada de las Flechas, a desert valley with eroded limestone and quartz cliffs which resemble arrow heads that point towards the sky. Your day will end in the town of Cafayate, the Tuscany of Argentina.



DAY 4: Cafayate

Enjoy a free day to explore Cafayate. Set deep within the Calchaquies Valley, Cafayate is Argentina's second most famous wine growing region behind Mendoza. The area produces an aromatic dry white wine known as Torrentes named after the type of grape used. There are a number of bodegas within walking distance of the village to visit and enjoy a tasting, or you could head to the Museo de La Vid y El Vino to learn more about the areas wine industry.



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DAY 5: Cafayate to Salta via the Gorge of the Shells

You will depart Cafayate to head back to Salta. Enroute you will stop to explore the Quebrada de las Conchas, or the Gorge of the Shells. This natural rock formation was formed due to the collision of two tectonic plates and erosion by water creating sediment build up over ninety million years. The site has a number of marine fossils within the rock formations, hence the name of the gorge. Back in Salta, why not dine at one of the local parrilladas for some steak and pasta or try some local empanadas?



DAY 6: Salta to Purmamarca & the Salinas Grandes

Today you will travel to the town of Purmamarca. Located at the base of Seven Colours Hill, the village features a whitewashed adobe church and a handicraft market situated in the main square. You get a quick glimpse of the town, enjoying a walk up a rocky path behind the Seven Colours Hill before continuing to the Salinas Grandes salt flats. The drive to the Salt Flats along Ruta 52 will take you over Lipan Pass and zig zag to the white mirrored salt lakes that are surrounded by volcanoes and an endless horizon. Returning to Purmamarca, you will have the opportunity to visit the handicraft market to purchase souvenirs in the afternoon.



DAY 7: Purmamarca to Salta via Humahuaca Gorge

This morning you will explore Purmamarca's north, heading to Humahuaca Gorge. Enroute you will pass through a series of small towns and attractions including Maimara, the beautiful multicoloured rock formations of Paleta del Pintor, Tilcara, the pre-Inca fortress of Pucara de Tilcara and the towns of Huacalera, Uquia and Humahuaca. In Humahuaca you will visit a handicraft market before visiting the gorge. Humahuaca Gorge is series of broken mountains that dip into a ravine. There are layered colours through the rock in the gorge due to sedimentation that has occurred over thousands of years. After returning to Purmamarca you will continue back to Salta for the night.



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DAY 8: Depart Salta

You will be transferred to the airport to fly to your next destination.



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INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

Accommodation	Hotels
Inclusions	<p>Inclusions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Private airport transfers Accommodation with breakfast daily Other meals where stated Sightseeing with local English-speaking guide as detailed in the itinerary <p>Exclusions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> International and internal flights not indicated Visa and reciprocity fees (if applicable) Travel Insurance Beverages Personal expenses Gratuities for tour guides/drivers Any items not mentioned as included
Difficulty Rating	1 (easy adventure)
Single Surcharge	A single supplement surcharge applies and is subject to availability. Please contact us for more information.
Notes	<p>Prices are based on per person, twin share.</p> <p>Prices are correct at time of publishing but are subject to change at any time.</p> <p>All entrance fees are subject to change without prior notice.</p>
Price Dependent upon	Seasonality and availability at time of booking.



SUSTAINABILITY

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Being environmentally accountable is a crucial part of our organisation. Chimu is currently striving towards using less paper, taking several initiatives to do so and tracking our progress along the way. Our goal: A paperless organisation. For this reason, all information given to you will be sent electronically. We encourage those who choose to travel with us to support our aspirations and actions and ask that you reconsider printing out documentation. To view these documents, you can download them to your iPad or portable computer before and during your trip.

Chimu is passionate and dedicated to sustainability measures and understands the crucial part sustainability plays within the tourism industry.

We use local guides and office staff to both maximise local employment opportunities and minimise carbon footprint. Local guides also ensure you benefit from the intimate knowledge, passion and culture of the country you're visiting. Our guides are all highly qualified (most with university degrees) or equip with many years of experience and are paid above the standard wage. Whether it be our knowledgeable local guides, locally produced meals or the transport on tour, we do not use imported goods when local products are available. We aim to minimise our impact on the environment and give as much back as possible to the communities we work in.

While visiting the many national parks, heritage sites, museums and landmarks our travellers are encouraged to explore whilst remaining culturally aware and sensitive. We further encourage you to buy appropriate souvenirs and discourage the buying of anything wrongfully made or taken from the environment i.e. shells and endangered species products. Information on how you can be environmentally conscious, and travel responsibly will be made available in our Travellers Guides and provided during your travels by guides and staff.

For more information on our sustainability policies, including how we are striving towards being a paperless organisation, click [HERE](#)

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