

Kat's Great Adventures

Argentina - Wild and Natural Culture and Nature Tour 2023

Guided Tour

15 Days / 14 Nights



This tour is oriented for wild life, animals and nature lovers. Start by visiting the city of Buenos Aires, gateway for entering Argentina and its vast and diverse regions. Continue to Bahia Bustamante, a seaside village to enjoy wild life up close with boat rides, biking, trekking and 4WD rides in this private wildlife sanctuary. Continue to the city of Puerto Madryn, a small town facing the sea from which you will visit Peninsula Valdes to see the great star of the area, the Southern White Whale, and the rich wildlife all along the Peninsula (foxes, sea lions, sea elephants and more!). Also visit Punta Tombo penguin rookery to meet the lovely Magellan Penguins up close and learn all about them!

Finish this tour by visiting one of the Wonders of the World: Iguazu Falls! Natural Heritage by UNESCO and one of the most amazing places on earth, Iguazu Falls is the favorite of locals and foreigner travelers. Over 250 waterfalls, the jungle ambience and the magnificent Devil's Throat are some of the reasons to visit this National Park. The last highlight of this tour is visiting Esteros del Ibera, wildlife at its most! Enjoy your stay at an exclusive lodge surrounded by nature and try different activities to contemplate local flora and fauna in the unique environment of Esteros. Return to Buenos Aires and spend a night in the city before heading back home!

Kat's Great Adventures 1233 Tintern Drive, Greely, Ontario K4P 1R6 – Direct: 613-241-0111 Extension 6

katsgreatadventures@gmail.com Website: **www.katsgreatadventures.com**

TICO # 50022092

Itinerary Day to Day

Day 1: Arrival in Buenos Aires

Upon arrival, you will be welcomed at the international airport and taken to your hotel.

Optional: Buenos Aires City Tour 4 hours

Leave your hotel and drive along "9 de Julio", the widest avenue in the world, and pass by the Colón Theatre, a stunning opera house. Visit Plaza de Mayo, where the Government House and the first City Hall are located. Here, step inside the Metropolitan Cathedral to appreciate its towering ceilings, striking stained glass, marble columns, and paintings. Afterwards, in La Boca district, enjoy a short stroll along "Caminito" and admire the colorful streets filled with souvenir shops and tango dancers. Pass by the Boca Juniors soccer stadium before driving to the Puerto Madero area, a district made with recycled docks where some of the city's best restaurants are located. Then, drive by the beautiful parks and green spaces in Palermo as you head to Recoleta, one of the city's most glamorous spots. End your tour with a visit to the Recoleta cemetery. Founded in 1822, the cemetery is one of the most prominent in the world; many national heroes, presidents, well-known writers, scientists, and artists are buried here. Appreciate its ornate mausoleums, sculptures, and vaults made by local and international artists and visit Eva Perón's grave.



Day 2 - 3: Buenos Aires - Bahía Bustamante

You will be picked up at your hotel and taken to the domestic airport to board your flight to Comodoro Rivadavia. Upon arrival at Comodoro Rivadavia airport, private transfer to Bahía Bustamante (180 kilometers, about 2 hours and 30 minutes' drive). The Bahía Bustamante Lodge is open during the Argentinean summer between October and April. The opening and closure of the lodge coincides with the penguin season in Chubut, one of the most wonderful experiences for visitors of the area. The lodge offers a great selection of exploration activities in the surroundings, like boat rides to observe marine wildlife such as sea lions, Magellan penguins and sea birds.

They also offer biking or trekking adventures as well as touring in 4x4 trucks. There is even the opportunity to participate in the ranch's work of sustainable wool production for a day. Sustainability plays an important role in the lodge's operation. The eco-lodge and private wildlife sanctuary has been included in the Patagonia Austral National Park and Blue Patagonia UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. Furthermore, they use solar energy to generate electricity and heat water and use natural spring water for which reusable bottles are provided. Recently, the lodge also has planted more than 1000 trees and has a strict system of waste separation with a focus on "reduce-reuse-recycle". Activities included: Malaspina Cove Navigation to see marine wildlife, 4x4 or trekking around Graviña Peninsula, trekking to Penguin Island, visit to the Petrified Forest "La Pirámide", historic tour around the town, Aristizabal Cape visit, trekking around the Canyon. During the stay at Bahía Bustamante Lodge, clients can choose from a menu of activities in close contact with nature. Bustamante's land covers a large range of the seaside area and the steppe area too, providing a wide diversity of landscape views. Or you can just relax and enjoy the most exclusive sandy beaches and crystal clear water, surrounded by huge red rocks, in an atmosphere of incredibly different textures and colors. With its huge number of geographic accidents, sounds and quietness, Bahía Bustamante is a paradise to be discovered.

Day 4: Bahia Bustamante - Puerto Madryn Punta Tombo Penguin Colony 8 hours ending at Puerto Madryn

Drive to the Punta Tombo Reserve, located 129 kilometers south of the Trelew airport. Here, explore the area that is home to varied seabird colonies including three species of protected cormorants, ñandues, guanacos, seals, and Patagonian hares. The reserve is also home to a large amount of penguins: there are over one million Magellan penguins that migrate every year from mid-September. As you walk along the boardwalks, get up close and personal with these aquatic flightless birds. The tour operates from mid-September to March.



Day 5: Puerto Madryn Valdes Peninsula Natural Reserve - Southern circuit 10 hours Optional: Whale Watching Tour 1 hour

Leave Puerto Madryn and drive to the Valdés Peninsula. Stop at Puerto Pirámides, the starting point for your optional whale-watching tour. You will have free time at Puerto Piramides (optional lunch, not included). You will visit the sea lion colony of Punta Piramides. Continue to Punta Cantor, the southern point of Caleta Valdés where you can observe sea elephants on the shore. On the way back, drive along a strip of land that connects to the continent: the Ameghino Isthmus, with its interesting interpretation center. During the day, stop at different viewpoints to observe local fauna like guanacos, rheas, foxes, maras, armadillos, choiques, skunks, and more. The Natural Reserve tour operates from July-March. Whale-watching tour is available from June to early December; from January to March navigations do operate and sea lions and cormorants can be seen.

Optional Whale watching:

At Puerto Pirámides embark a boat to start your whale watching tour. The weather and climate are ideal early in the morning, making this the best time to whale watch. Between June and early December, see the Southern White Whales that come to breed in the Valdés Peninsula. From January to March navigations do operate and sea lions and cormorants can be seen. The whale tour is only possible from June to mid-December. Sea lions and cormorants can be seen from January to March. Navigations do not operate on April and May.

Day 6: Puerto Madryn-Puerto Iguazu

You will be picked up at your hotel and taken from Puerto Madryn Hotel to the airport in Trelew (about 50 minutes 67 kilometers) for your flight to your next destination. Puerto Iguazú is a small, quiet town located at the confluence of the Iguazú and Paraná Rivers. With many hotels, restaurants, travel agencies, and transport facilities, everyone here is either traveling or working in the tourism industry: it is your gateway to the famous Iguazú Falls. Upon arrival, you will be welcomed at Puerto Iguazu airport and taken to your hotel in the Argentinean side.

Day 7: Puerto Iguazu Argentine Side of the Falls 6 hours

Leave your hotel and drive to the Iguazú National Park in Argentina. From the visitor's center, take the train and go to the Upper Circuit as you appreciate the panoramic views of the falls. Arrive at the Devil's Throat, the park's most impressive and immense waterfalls. Measuring 150 meters long and 80 meters high; its horseshoe shape creates a stunning waterfall you will remember forever. From here, walk along the Iguazú River canyon for about 3 kilometers to the lower circuit as you admire the regional fauna and flora and feel the constant presence of the waterfalls.



Day 8 - 9: Puerto Iguazu

You will be picked up at your hotel and taken to Yacutinga Lodge, the meeting point to take your transfer to the hotel. Yacutinga Experience 3 days / 2 nights is the basic itinerary offered at Yacutinga Lodge which includes a 2:30 p.m. transfer to IGR meeting point/Yacutinga Lodge, noon transfer to Yacutinga Lodge / IGR meeting point (estimate arrival back at IGR by 1:00 p.m.), transfers in van + 4 wheels special truck (combination of both) and activities around the lodge: navigation on the upper Iguazu river, floating trips, interpretation trails, naturalist guides, observation towers, pool in gardening setting with bar facility.



Day 10: Puerto Iguazu Optional: Brazilian Side of the Falls 4.5 hours

Transfer to meeting point for your transfer to Puerto Iguazu. Drive through the National Park until you reach the Brazilian side of the falls. From here, walk along the paths and appreciate the lush vegetation, butterflies, and cascades. Take the 1.5 kilometer path that leads you to an amazing panoramic view of the Devil's Throat. From here, appreciate the incredible scene that includes other iconic sites in Argentina like the Two Sisters and Bozzeti waterfalls, the Superior Circuit, and San Martin Island, where the movie "The Mission" was filmed. For the border crossing, travelers need their passports.

Day: 11 – 12 - 13: Puerto Iguazu-Esteros Del Ibera

Private transfer to Posadas city with English speaking guide assistance (297 kilometers, about 4.5 hours' drive without stops. On the way optional stop (entrance fee not included) to San Ignacio Miní Jesuit Mission Ruins, declared World Heritage Site by UNESCO. Once in Posadas, change vehicle private driver only - no guide, and drive to Puerto Valle. The Iberá Wetlands are the second biggest marshlands in the world. Located in the province of Corrientes, the area is home to a vast variety of fauna and flora. Nature lovers, scientists, and photographers will be overwhelmed with this wildlife-filled paradise. Immerse completely in untouched nature and spot many species of birds, caimans, capybaras, marsh deer, otters, maned wolves, wild cats, howling monkeys, anacondas, piranhas, and more. The hotel offers different activities included at the rate: in the estancia - The Tree Nursery, Exploring the Ribera trail, horseback riding, free use of bicycles and access to the swimming pool, in the river - boat trip in the Paraná River, kayaking, in the wetlands - discovering Esteros del Iberá, tour to Laguna Valle.



Day 14: Esteros del Ibera - Buenos Aires

Transfer from Puerto Valle Lodge to Posadas airport to board your flight to Buenos Aires. Upon arrival, you will be welcomed at the airport and taken to your hotel. *Optional:* Dinner and Tango Show at El Viejo Almacén 4 hours
Visiting a Tango Show is a MUST when you are in Buenos Aires. The tango tradition started at the end of the last century, developed from a mixture of various rhythms, which were originally danced in the poorer quarters. In the beginning, tango was only danced by men, accompanied by flutes, violins and guitars. The flutes were later replaced by the "bandoneón" (a type of accordion), which gave the tango its distinctive flavor. Reflecting the nostalgia and melancholy of mostly European immigrants, the tango brought up some great musicians, such as Astor Piazzolla and Anibal Troilo.

Transfer from the hotel and drive to one of the famous tango houses for dinner including drinks. Then enjoy tango show with its music, singing and dancing. Dinner includes entrée / main course / dessert & drinks. After tango show, return to the hotel.

Day 15: Departure

At the given time, you will be picked up and taken to the international airport to board your international flight.



Route



Technical Characteristics:

Route Profile: Easy. Sightseeing and cultural activities designed for people who are generally fit and are comfortable walking up to 6 hours per day.

Travel Season: Any date on request from January 2 to December 31, 2023

Blackout dates Carnival (February 18-21); Easter (April 6-9); Winter Holidays (July); Christmas (December 24-25) and New Year December 31 – January 1, 2024)



Price per Person

Double Occupancy January - April	\$ 6995.00 USD
Double Occupancy May - December	\$ 7595.00 USD
Single Occupancy January - April	\$ 8635.00 USD
Single Occupancy May - December	\$ 9225.00 USD
Optional Excursion City Tour Day 1 January - April	\$ 90.00 USD
Optional Excursion City Tour Day 1 May - December	\$ 100.00 USD
Optional Excursion Whale Watching Navigation Day 5 January - April	\$ 130.00 USD
Optional Excursion Whale Watching Navigation Day 5 June - December	\$ 140.00 USD
Optional Excursion Tour to Brazilian Falls_Day 10 January - April	\$ 55.00 USD
Optional Excursion Tour to Brazilian Falls_Day 10 May - December	\$ 60.00 USD
Optional Excursion Dinner & Tango Show El Viejo Almacen Day 14 January - April	\$ 105.00 USD
Optional Excursion Dinner & Tango Show El Viejo Almacen Day 14 May - December	\$ 114.00 USD

*Group rates available for this tour. As this is a guided tour, the pricing improves with more people participating. Please ask us for details

Accommodation:

3* and 4* hotels and lodges

Included:

- 14 nights' accommodation
- Meals according to program (14 x breakfast, 4 x lunch and 7 x dinner)
- All services
- Taxes
- Entrance fees
- Tax and service charge at the hotels as well as the mandatory luggage handling fees

Not Included:

- Visitors tax
- Optional tours
- Airport taxes
- Personal expenses
- Extras at the hotels
- Drinks during meals if not otherwise mentioned
- Non-mandatory tips