

November, 2017

Argentina



WHAT to DO – WHERE to STAY – WHERE to EAT
fun & luxury trips with your kids

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PLACES

Buenos Aires
San Antonio de Areco
Mendoza
Valle de Uco
Salta
Iguazú



ARGENTINA

Argentina, the largest Spanish speaking nation in the world. Land of the tango, Polo horses, Gauchos, wines, beef, football, our queen Maxima of the Netherlands. A large country with so many different landscapes and climates. A country that cannot be explored in just a few weeks but needs and deserves some time to be discovered to the fullest.

I had visited Argentina before, only Buenos Aires, and I loved it, so I wanted to go back with the kids. Argentinians love children so it's not a problem to travel with them through the country. Buenos Aires made me curious to discover more of Argentina. So we decided to travel a bit around the country and explore the Northern part and leave Southern Argentina for another time.

So we saw the capital, the Pampas, the Andes, the salt flats and the Iguazú falls. And there is still so much more to see and do. We met many nice and warm people inviting us for an assado at their home. We felt welcome, even if it meant having the six of us over for dinner. There was plenty of food and drinks and everyone was interested and kind

BUENOS AIRES

I always wanted to go to Buenos Aires with the children. The Paris of Latin America. And now, I was here, what were we going to do in such an amazing city? The first day we just wandered around town, visited the world famous La Recoleta Cemetery where Eva Peron and many other important families and celebrities are buried. Had some lunch at one of the restaurants in Puerto Madero waterfront on the Rio de la Plata riverbank and representing the latest architectural trends of the city. After lunch we visited the cathedral of Buenos Aires, which is located in the city center, overlooking Plaza de Mayo.

The next day we took a hop on, hop off bus and visited the cities highlights. My daughter loved "La Casa Rosada", in English "The Pink House", the official office of the President of Argentina. The weather was wonderful so we sat on top of the bus in open air, and watched the beautiful buildings and neighborhoods fly by. We just got off where we wanted. Not every neighborhood in Buenos Aires is safe, so be careful as where to get off, our bus driver was well informed and protective and warned us if we needed to take extra care in a certain area, but it's better to be knowledgeable beforehand.

During our shopping day we went to Palermo Soho where you can find many boutiques and nice little cafes to have lunch or a coffee while watching the locals stroll by.

The Intercontinental hotel, where we were staying, was an excellent choice for families. Luxurious, with a pool to splash around for the kids, a spa and fitness room for adults. The hotel offered excellent babysitting services so my husband and I had a wonderful date night here, something we honestly don't do everywhere.

BUENOS AIRES BUCKET LIST

- Visit La Recoleta cemetery at La Recoleta;
- The Hop On, Hop Off bus;
- Lunch at Puerto Madero;
- Watch a game of football at La Bombanera of La Boca Juniors;
- Shopping at the boutiques of Palermo Soho.

STAY

Intercontintal Hotel Buenos Aires

Address: 809 Moreno St.
Buenos Aires ,C1091AAQ,
Argentina
+(54)-11-43407100
www.ihg.com

- Price range: \$\$\$\$
- Location: Located in the city, close to the famous neighbourhood of San Telmo.
- Accommodation: As valued members of IHG we were upgraded to the Presidential Suite. However, we had originally booked two adjoining rooms, looking beautiful as well. For large families you can book rooms with two double beds. The rooms are clean, spacious and modern and offer all up to date facilities.
- Dining: The breakfast in the hotel is wonderful. The hotel offers an international restaurant as well and two bars.
- Facilities for kids: Please visit the "Travel in Style with Kids" website.
- Extra info: The hotel is located next to a Starbucks for a nice cup of Starbucks coffee. The concierge is very helpful in finding nice restaurants for lunch and/or dinner outside the hotel. The hotel provides a shuttle service to these restaurants as well upon request.

EAT

Gran Parilla del Plata - San Telmo

- Address: Chile 594
C1068AAB Buenos Aires, Argentina
+(54) 11 4300-8858
- Reservations: restorando.com.ar
- Website: <http://www.parrilladelplata.com>
- Cuisine: Steakhouse
- Kidsmenu: -
- Experience: This place used to be an old butcher. You still feel the antique surroundings when having dinner. The meat is fantastic, actually all the food is. There is no special kids menu but if your kids love good meat and fries, like most children do, they'll enjoy eating here. The staff is extremely friendly and speaks English quite well.

Cabaña Las Lilas - Puerto Madero

- Address: Av. Alicia Moreau de Justo 516
1107 CABA, Argentina
+(54) 11 4313-1336
- Reservations: restorando.com.ar
- Website: <http://www.restaurantlaslilas.com.ar>
- Cuisine: Steakhouse
- Kidsmenu: Yes
- Experience: We ate here twice! Once for lunch and we returned a day later for dinner. Both times the food was delicious. During lunch the children received balloons and coloring books.

The Argentinian meat was of high quality. If you're not a meat lover this would not be your first choice restaurant. The restaurant is casual and is absolutely perfect with the kids.

Osaka - Palermo

Address: Soler 5608
C1425BYH CABA, Argentina
+(54) 11 4775-6964

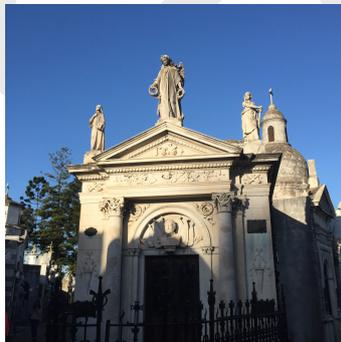
Reservations: restorando.com.ar

Website: <http://www.osaka.com.pe/palermo/>

Cuisine: Japanese - Peruvian

Kidsmenu: -

Experience: It was our date night so we didn't take the kids. The place was packed and hip and happening. I love the Japanese cuisine, but had never eaten Japanese- Peruvian before. The taste surprised me and it was really good. The restaurant is part of a chain at the moment of writing only located in cities across Latin America. Although the food was very good, I would not pick this restaurant to take the kids, unless you have very easy eaters.



SAN ANTONIO DE ARECO

It wasn't easy to find an estancia to learn to play polo in Argentina that allowed children. We had to do quite some homework to find a pretty and luxurious place for us to stay as a family. But we finally found one in San Andres de Gilles, a town really close to the colonial town of San Antonio de Areco.

There is not much to do in San Andres de Gilles but the main attraction in this area is San Antonio de Areco. San Antonio de Areco is a small colonial town 120km northwest or 1,5 hour drive of Buenos Aires. It is also known as the prettiest town in the pampas, filled with Gaucho traditions. In the town they sell a lot of fine silverwork. The streets are quiet and picturesque. It's a small town but big among the Gauchos that gather here in November for their

Traditional Day. Gauchos are the cowboys of Argentina but with a rich history. They are the symbol of life in the countryside and they have the image of pioneer and hero. They have their own traditions, clothing and language and are mostly employed by the estancias where they are responsible for the cattle of the farm.

SAN ANTONIO DE ARECO BUCKET LIST

- Horseback riding;
- Polo classes;
- Fishing;
- San Antonio de Areco;
- Relaxing and swimming.



STAY

Estancia La Sofía – Boutique Hotel & Polo Resort

Address: Cuartel 6, Azcuénaga (6720)
San Andrés de Giles
Buenos Aires
Argentina
+ (54) 9 2325 15 415980
+ (54) 9 2325 415999
<http://www.lasofiapolo.com>

- Location:** Approximately 100 km Northwest of Buenos Aires, near San Andres de Gilles and near to the Gaucho town of San Antonio de Areco.
- Accommodation:** We stayed in a little house outside the main house, which was perfect for us. We had a nice fireplace and lovely view from our little house on the pampas.
- Dining:** The Argentinian cook of La Sofia prepares breakfast, lunch and dinner for you and also afternoon tea with delicious sweets after polo classes. It is served in the main house or on the outside terrace. If you are lucky, like we were, Marco and Silke the owners of La Sofia will prepare a real Argentinian BBQ, Assado, for you.
- Facilities for kids:** For facilities for kids see "Travel in Style with Kids" website.
- Extra info:** Marco & Silke are the owners of Estancia La Sofía. Marco is a retired professional polo player and loves the sport. He and Silke, and their two children, live on the estancia with their dogs and do their utmost to make the guest feel pampered and welcome. The younger children can go horseback riding either with one of the parents or with one of the gauchos of the estancia. For the older children, from the age of 8, there are also polo lessons available. My eldest daughter and son loved the lessons and wished they could continue doing the sport in their home country. Near the estancia there is a fishing pond where the children went fishing.
- On some days there are polo matches to watch at the estancia or you are able to visit another neighboring estancia to watch them play against La Sofia Polo. We loved it so much at la Sofia that we wanted to stay a few extra days. The peace and quiet is really relaxing, when you are at the Estancia, you feel one with nature and are really away from the hustle and bustle of every day life.

MENDOZA

Mendoza is not the most appealing city of Argentina. But it is a great place to stop if you want to practice adventurous sports during summer in the Andes or in the winter for skiing. It's right on your way from Buenos Aires to Santiago de Chile as the major route from these two capital runs through Mendoza. Or you can visit Mendoza to explore the largest wine producing area in Latin America including Valle de Uco. We stayed here for 2 reasons, our way from Buenos Aires to Santiago de Chile and to explore from here the beautiful Valle de Uco with all its wine producing houses.

MENDOZA BUCKET LIST

- Visit Aconcagua, the second highest mountain in the world;
- Visit the wine making Bodegas;
- See the Potrerillos Dam and go rafting;
- Spend the day walking around Mendoza;
- Go to Neverland Mendoza for the smaller kids.

STAY**Intercontinental Mendoza**

- Address: Pérez Cuesta
Mendoza, Argentina
+(54)261 521-8800
<http://www.intercontinentalmendoza.com>
- Location: The hotel is located a little outside the city center next to Mendoza Plaza Shopping, the biggest mall in Mendoza. The hotel is also located next to the casino.
- Accommodation: We had a suite and a deluxe room connecting for the kids. The rooms were very spacious with two double beds in the deluxe room.
- Dining: There is one restaurant in the hotel, 'Olivas' serving breakfast and Mediterranean food.
Breakfast buffet for kids half price -
Special kids menu available - Yes
- Facilities for kids: Swimming pool – Yes, indoor
Kidsclub – Yes, for 3-12 years old open Friday and Saturday from 18 to 23 hours.
Cots – Yes, free available on request
- Suitable for: 0-4 years
4-12 years v
12-18 years v
- Extra info: The hotel is more a business hotel, although it does have a pool, spa, casino and kidsclub (only available in weekends). If you want to grab something quick to bite, you can go into the mall accross the street from the hotel.

VALLE DE UCO

The main route to the Valle de Uco is via the city of Mendoza. So after a bit boring stay in Mendoza we were happy to find a bodega in Valle de Uco that accepted children. There are many Bodegas in the Argentinian Wine country, one even more beautiful than the other, but few accept children.

The Uco Valley is named after the chief of the long disappeared Huarpes Indians. The valley in the province of Mendoza is responsible for 80% of the yearly Argentinian wine production. It feels like you are in the middle of nowhere but millions of bottles of wine are produced here every year. The wine region is still relatively young, only 15-20 years old. The fertile ground, climate, air and water are the perfect conditions to grow grapes. The region is known especially for Malbec, Merlot, Pinto Noir, Semillon and Torrontes production. As the natural scenery is really breathtaking it is one of the most picturesque regions in Mendoza.

One of our best experiences of our entire world trip was the horseback riding day with the gauchos of Estancia San Pablo. Each child had their own horse and our youngest sat on the horse with one of the gauchos. Immediately after leaving the ranch we went up the steep mountains. When we arrived at the top there was this incredible and unforgettable view of the Andes Mountains on one side and a tremendous plateau on the other side. While we rode the mountain tops, with the wind in our hair, passing cow carcasses, we saw Condors flying high above us and heard gauchos chasing the cattle to go back to the ranch. It was like being in a movie or a dream, nothing we had ever experienced before.

After a long ride we had to go down the mountain again. This was kind of a scary ride. And even though the gaucho tried to reassure me that the horses ride the same path every day, I was extremely glad when we reached the resting spot at the foot of the mountain safe and sound. Not only for myself but also for the children, who didn't really seem to be scared at all by the way. They actually found the slipping of the horses down the hill, pretty funny!

At the foot of the mountain near a small running and ice-cold stream, the children played while the gauchos prepared our lunch on an open fire. A five star restaurant couldn't ever beat this wonderful meal in the setting sun of the Andes mountains. We stayed there for a couple of hours before commencing our way back through all kinds of streams, now looking up to the mountains in stead.



VALLE DE UCO BUCKET LIST

- Horseback riding in the Andes;
- Visit the different wineries in the Uco Valley;
- Fishing at the pond of Bodega Atamisque;
- Wander the streets of the small town Tupungato;
- Visit the Killka art gallery at Bodega Salentein.

STAY

Atamisque Lodge

Address: RP86,
Tupungato, Mendoza
Argentina
+ (54) 9 261 699 1166
<https://www.atamisque.com>

Location: Outside the town of Tupungato, in the middle of the wine fields, apple orchards and many other fruits, with a view on the Andes mountains. Like in a dream.

- Accommodation: There are several lodge suites, each with its own style and concept. I call it minimalistic chic. The bedrooms all have a chimney and an outdoor Jacuzzi with a view of the mountain range. For families they have interconnecting lodge suites. The rooms are very spacious so extra beds can be accommodated.
- Dining: Breakfast is included in the room price and served every morning in the lobby. The restaurant offers an authentic regional and delicious cuisine
Special kids menu available - No, but they can make something simple upon request for the kids.
- Facilities for kids: See "Travel in Style with Kids" website.
- Extra info: This winery/lodge is not specifically designed for children but it is one of the few that welcome them. The staff is very kind for children and when we were there they did their best to accommodate us and find nice activities together with their partner Vin@lto for us to do with the kids.
At the hotel you can visit their winery. See how the wine is made and taste their wonderful wines. You can explore the rest of the wine region, if you are there in autumn, see how the harvesting is done, go horseback riding, visit the Atamisque Trout farm or go on trekking tours with the family.

SALTA

Salta La Linda, which means Salta the Beautiful. Indeed a beautiful old city with colonial architecture in the northwest region of Argentina. Very Spanish looking, with buildings dating back to the 18th, 19th and early 20th centuries. The old town center is situated around the 9th of July square. A square with several of the cities highlights.

A great place to visit with the children is the Museum of High Mountain Archeology. In the museum the mummies of three perfectly preserved, around 500 year old bodies of Inca children are exposed that were found at a height of 6000 meters on a volcano high in the mountains of the Andes, as they were sacrificed to the Inca gods. They are this well preserved because of the lack of oxygen and the low temperatures at that height. Not all three Inca children are exposed at the same time. To conserve the mummies they expose only one mummy at the time. At the time we were there the body of the 6 year old girl, hit by lightning, was on exposure. The kids were so impressed by what they saw, they couldn't stop talking about it for days.

Something else of interest located at the square is the neoclassical Cathedral Shrine and the Cabildo (a historical museum). Around the square some other museums, cafes and restaurants can be found. But if you walk away from the square there is also the beautiful Saint Francis Church and the city's three pedestrian streets, Alberdi, Florida and "Caseros".

What we wanted to do is take 'El Tren a las Nubes', Spanish for 'The Train to the Clouds' taking you through the beautiful landscape of Northwest Argentine region with the Chilean border. The train departs from Salta every Saturday early in the morning and returns around midnight. There are numerous stops along the way, some with markets selling artifacts or locals offering typical regional food. But unfortunately the railway was closed for maintenance while we were there.

We stayed in a hotel outside of the center because we wanted a pool and some peace with the kids. We were very happy with our choice. It gave us the best of both worlds. We could go and explore Salta but in the afternoons we just had some quiet time at the by the pool, while the children had cooking classes or ran in the huge garden of the hotel.

We came to Salta from San Pedro de Atacama, Chile by car. An adventurous, wonderful, and very long journey. A trip we did by private transfer. Something I hadn't thought of beforehand was that it was kind of difficult to arrange. Most tourists either fly to Argentina, or take a tourist bus to cross the border. But as we wanted to have a private transfer this was more difficult. A Chilean car is not allowed to cross the border without a permit. This permit has to be requested a few weeks in advance. Thus, a "so called" friend from Argentina, came to pick us up and take us back with him to Argentina. I was very happy I knew somebody to call in Argentina, if not we wouldn't have been able to experience this beautiful road across the Andean Pass.

Please keep in mind when driving that you have to leave early morning to reach Salta, driving at night is not very wise, not only can you not see anything of the extraordinary scenery, the border also closes around 10.30 pm and if you haven't made it up to the border in time, you can either wait in your car the entire night at a height of 4,200 meter (it also gets really cold up there) or drive all the way back to San Pedro de Atacama, about a 4 hour drive.

SALTA BUCKET LIST

- Museum of High Mountain Archeology;
- Cathedral Shrine on the 9th of July square;
- Saint Francis church;
- Do the winetour of the Salta region;
- Visit the Andean craft markets;
- Visit the hill of seven colours;
- Visit Cafayate;
- Horseback riding;
- Tren a las nubes.

STAY

House of Jasmines

Address: Ruta Nacional N 51 km 6
La Merced Chica, Salta
Argentina
+(54) 387 497-2005
<http://www.houseofjasmines.com/en/>

Location: Nineteen kilometers outside the town of Salta, a beautiful estancia with a magical view of the Andes mountains.

Accommodation: We rented a junior suite with a superior room interconnecting, located in a small house separated from the main building. The rooms are tastefully decorated with a feeling for tradition and are very clean.

Dining: The house offers excellent dining at 'The table of the House of Jasmines'. With a typical Argentinian BBQ (locals call it *assado*) on selected nights. All ingredients are fresh and local.

The hotel offers cooking classes both for adults and for children. Breakfast included in room rate.

Facilities for kids: See "Travel in Style with Kids" website.

Extra info: I absolutely love this hotel with its warm and romantic atmosphere and would go back any day if I had the chance. Everything is well taken care of. The hotel can arrange all kinds of activities in the environments of the hotel. Something I would recommend is go horseback riding.
You can also take a mountain bike and bike around the environments or just from your room to the Spa, as this is a 15 minute walk. I just loved the massage they gave! The children very much enjoyed the pasta cooking class. Of course we had the pasta they made for lunch and naturally this was the best pasta they had ever tasted 😊.



IGUAZÚ

'Big water', that is the meaning of the from Indian derived name of the biggest complex of waterfalls in the world. "Poor Niagara", said Eleanor Roosevelt when she saw the waterfalls for the first time. Because the Niagara falls can in no way compete with this natural wonder on the border of Argentina and Brazil.

When we arrived at the Cataratas del Iguazú International Airport from Salta we stayed the first night at the Argentinian side. The biggest part of the waterfalls are on this side, but as the water flows away from Argentina the most complete view is seen from the Brazilian side.

Take your time to visit the falls on the Argentinian side, there is so much to see and you can take wonderful walks along the waterfalls. The biggest fall, 'The Devil's Throat' can be reached from the Argentinian side at the top. While you can visit 'The Devil's Throat' for a refreshing spray at the bottom, on the Brazilian side. The border of the two countries runs straight through the middle of this giant waterfall.

The Iguazu waterfalls arose 200.000 years ago when the earth collapsed on what is now the border of Argentina, Brazil and Paraguay. There are in total between 250-300 waterfalls depending on the height of the water. 'The Devil's Throat' with 82 meters is the highest in the world. The children loved looking at the falls, with its many rainbows and butterflies. When you first reach the fall the water placement is so massive it's unreal. There are many raccoons - or as the locals call them - Coatis in the park as well, but beware as they are very forward and can be aggressive if they want to eat something.

IGUAZÚ BUCKET LIST

- Visit from Argentina side;
- Visit from Brazil side;
- Take a boat up to 'The Devil's throat';
- Go to the cloud maker;
- Swim near the falls.

STAY

Melia Iguazu Resort & Spa

Address: Parque Nacional Iguazú
3370 Iguazu
Misiones, Argentina
+(54) 3757 49-1800
<https://www.melia.com>

Location: Near Puerto Iguazú on the Argentinian side in Parque Nacional de Iguazú. When arriving from either the Brazilian

or Argentinian airport you have to pay a park fee to get to the hotel as the hotel is inside the national park.

Accommodation: We had a suite with a connecting room with two double beds and a large balcony with view on the falls. The rooms are clean and spacious and offer all modern facilities but they are not really classy. There are also rooms on the other side of the building offering a jungle view.

Dining: The hotel offers a restaurant, 'Garganta del Diablo' with buffet style cuisine. If you book a special family package kids under 12 eat for free with an adult purchasing a meal. There is also a Pool Bar – Jeriba Bar with pool snacks.

Facilities for kids: See "Travel in Style with Kids" website.

Extra info: The hotel is a modern building, not really charming but it serves the purpose. It does have a wonderful spa where we both had a great massage. The food was not really good although staff was friendly and trying their best to make things possible. But the hotel is definitely worthwhile as it has without a doubt the best view of all the lodges and hotels in the area. And that's what you are here for.. to visit the falls!!



ITINERARY

We didn't drive around much in Argentina, only from Buenos Aires to San Antonio de Areco. We hesitated a bit whether we should've driven from San Antonio de Areco to Mendoza, but locals told us it is a pretty dull high way. As it's a large country we took the plane several times and flew with the national airline, Aerolineas Argentinas.

A sample itinerary is:

Buenos Aires – San Antonio de Areco – Mendoza – Salta – Iguazu – Buenos Aires.

You could extend your trip to neighbouring country Chile or Brazil. We combined Argentina with both of them. If you would like to know more about the combination trip, just send me an email.



TIPS

- The most important things to take with you are layered clothes. In the mountains you might need a jacket and long pants while in the city a short and t-shirt is more than enough.
- Plan your trip well if you want to take the kids to estancias where they can learn to play polo or when travelling through Mendoza wine country. Many of the estancias and bodegas are adults-only.
- Do not drive at night; roads are not well lit and thus dangerous.
- You cannot visit Argentina without riding a horse, so bring your horse riding pants with you. It's not necessary to bring your boots or cap, most if not all the estancias can provide you with these accessories.
- Argentina is not a cheap country to travel, plan your transport and accommodation in advance.
- Bring your bank card and withdraw pesos from the ATM, it's the best way to get local money as exchanging at the bank (at home or in Argentina) offers you a very bad exchange rate. Do try to withdraw cash during the week as sometimes the machines are empty during the weekend and it takes some time before they are refilled.
- Take dollar bills with you as many people prefer to be paid in dollars in stead of pesos.
- Do not exchange your dollars with anyone on the street. You will be a better rate but it can get pretty creepy and it is illegal.

WHEN TO GO

Argentina is a year-round destination. But the most beautiful seasons overall are Spring, Summer and Autumn. Beware that the southern hemisphere's seasons are opposite of the northern hemisphere's:

Sept-Nov is Spring
 Dec-Feb is Summer
 Mar-May is Autumn
 Jun-Aug is Winter

Important notice! Before planning your trip, ALWAYS check out the latest information on up to date websites. Hotels and restaurants may change name, close down, policies may be adjusted. The guide is to be used as a reference for helping you plan your trip. No rights or claims can be made based on information provided to you in this guide or on the travelinstylewithkids.com website.

“TAKE THE KIDS, GO PLACES, MAKE MEMORIES”

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