

TUCUMÁN – TOURING THE CALCHAQUÍ VALLEY

DAY 01: SAN MIGUEL DE TUCUMÁN

Arrival at the airport. Pick up car rental.

The City of **San Miguel de Tucumán** is the capital of the Province of Tucumán, considered the metropolis of Northwest Argentina. Its historical importance is based on having been the cradle of the Declaration and signing of the Act of Independence of Argentina on July 9th, 1816, after the formation of the first patriotic government on May 25th, 1810. The Spanish monarchy came to an end in the Viceroyalty of the Rio de la Plata, which was a political-administrative entity established by Spain in 1776, during its colonial rule in America, and comprised the territories of Buenos Aires, Paraguay, Tucumán, Potosí, Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Charcas (Upper Peru) and Cuyo, constituting an extensive territory currently occupied by the states of Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay, Bolivia, southern Brazil and a strip on the tropical coast of Chile.

San Miguel de Tucumán was chosen as the venue for the Congress because it was geographically equidistant from all the provinces. It also meant a safe and neutral place, safe from royalist attack, since Buenos Aires was in dangerous circumstances due to the return of Ferdinand VII to the Spanish throne (who sought to obfuscate the Revolution and was a threat to the Río de la Plata with his ships) and far from the conflicts of the Litoral who opposed the leadership of Buenos Aires in the decision making of the Revolution.

The capital of Tucumán is also recognized in the national history for hosting characters who were protagonists such as Juan Bautista Alberdi, who was the author of the National Constitution; Nicolás Avellaneda and Julio Argentino Roca, presidents of the Argentine Republic, precursors in the railway industry and immigration; Bernardo de Monteagudo was one of the main promoters of the historical Assembly of the year XIII dominated by the lodge and was the main writer of the document signed by all the constituents; among other illustrious Tucumán citizens.



Suggested visit:

City tour - Half day.

This tour through the roots of modern Argentine history. We will help you to understand the foundations of those decisive moments of the Argentinean history: Independence Square and surroundings: Government House, San Francisco Temple, Cathedral Church, San Martín Street at 400, La Merced Church and Tucumán Historical House. We visit the 9 de Julio Park, and the Museum of the Sugar Industry Casa Obispo Colombes. Around Urquiza Square: the Legislature, the Casino, the San Martín Theatre and the National School. Belgraniana House.

Itinerary:

The Government House, the most important public building, is located at 90 25 de Mayo Street, in front of Independencia Square. In the surroundings of the square there is also the Cabildo, four convents with their churches and the houses. The Nougés House is located on 24 de Septiembre Street, and was built in 1911 by architect José de Bassols for the residence of Governor Luis F. Nougés. It marks the introduction of a new style of French architecture in the province 'Petit Hotel'. It has 4 floors that stratify the functional areas of the house. In 1972 it was acquired by the province to give place to the Secretary of Tourism.

In San Martín 469, the Plaza Hotel, one of the most distinguished places in the city, was located there for several years. The San Martín Theatre was inaugurated in 1912, under the name of Odeon Theatre. Today the theatre is the main venue for all kinds of shows. Alberto Rouges Cultural Centre Old Petit Hotel. Located at Laprida 31 and Samiento 601.

Operational information:

Duration 3 hours approx. NOT INCLUDING entrance fees. The historical centre is visited on foot.



Return and night at the hotel.

DAY 02: SAN MIGUEL DE TUCUMÁN - TAFÍ DEL VALLE:

Breakfast at the hotel.

Suggested visit:

Visit Tafí Del Valle - Full day.

Within the Calchaquí Valleys is the city of Tafí del Valle, in the northwest of Argentina. It is surrounded by high mountains with trails, it is located in the centre of the Tafí Valley in the province of Tucumán, 126 km from the provincial capital.

Itinerary: Jesuit Site of San José de Lules, Quebrada de Los Sosa, Los Menhires and Tafí del Valle. We visit the Jesuit Convent of San José de Lules where the chapel and the cloister are preserved. Route 307 marks the ascent to the Valleys. The road goes into the Quebrada del Río Los Sosa, which crosses the Natural Reserve of the same name. The Yunga dazzles and invites you to stop. Continuing on, we see the monument "El Indio". Further up, the entrance to the Tafí Valley is simply breathtaking. We go around the reservoir La Angostura and arrive at El Mollar to visit Los Menhires. Tafí del Valle is at 2.000m. Here the Jesuit complex of La Banda is preserved, the oldest part of which was built by the Jesuits in the first half of the 18th century. Free time for lunch. We continue along the RP 307 until we reach the viewpoint from where we get the best views of the valley.



Night in Tafí del Valle.

DAY 03: TAFÍ DEL VALLE - AMAICHA DEL VALLE - AMPIMPA:

Breakfast at the hotel.

Suggested visit:

Visit Amaicha del Valle Village.

The commune of Amaicha del Valle belongs to the Department of Tafi del Valle and as a region it is part of the Calchaqui Valleys. It is located in the northwest of the province, 164 kilometres away from San Miguel de Tucumán and at an altitude of approximately 2000 metres above sea level. Its surface area is estimated to be approximately 6000 square kilometres and it has a population of 7000 inhabitants.



The commune of Amaicha del Valle is a land of singers and copleras, of looms and producers of patero wine. As an indigenous community, they have uninterruptedly maintained their traditional government, composed of an Assembly, a Council of Elders and a Cacique. The community also has a Communal Delegate, who represents the people before the authorities and institutions of the Province and the Nation.

Amaicha has numerous attractions, many of them hidden:

Visit to Los Amaichas Community Winery

The Bodega Comunitaria "Los Amaichas" is recognised for being the third winery belonging to an indigenous community in the world. It is a collective enterprise of the indigenous community of Amaicha del Valle that combines social economy and solidarity with respect for the land and ancestral cultures. Around 60 families from Amaicha del Valle live on the basis of this community enterprise. They produce Sumak Kawsay wine, the "good way of living", based on self-development in balance with Mother Earth. It is a high-end, "high altitude" wine, which requires a very particular and careful process.



Night at the AMPIMPA Observatory.

Located at 2500 metres above sea level, this picturesque town of Tucumán is also known for its privileged clear skies, ideal for astronomical observations.

Its climate is recommended by the locals for being one of the best, as it has 360 days of sunshine.

The astronomical observatory of Ampimpa: "A window to the universe", as a sign at the entrance says, invites you to live a unique experience in tourism. You can see the sun or the moon thanks to a telescope that reflects the image on a white screen.



Itinerary:

Afternoon:

Thematic trail from the Big Bang to Man (audio-guided)

Visit to the Intihuatana Theme Park. (self-guided)

During the night:

Projection of an introductory video on astronomy and 3D astro-cinema.

Open-air talk.

First stage of Astronomical Observations with Telescope, subject to weather conditions.

During the early morning:

Second stage of Astronomical Observations with Telescope, subject to weather conditions.

During the morning:

Observation of sunrise with a telescope.

Observations of sunspots and flares with a Coronado telescope.

DAY 04: AMPIMPA - SAN MIGUEL DE TUCUMÁN:

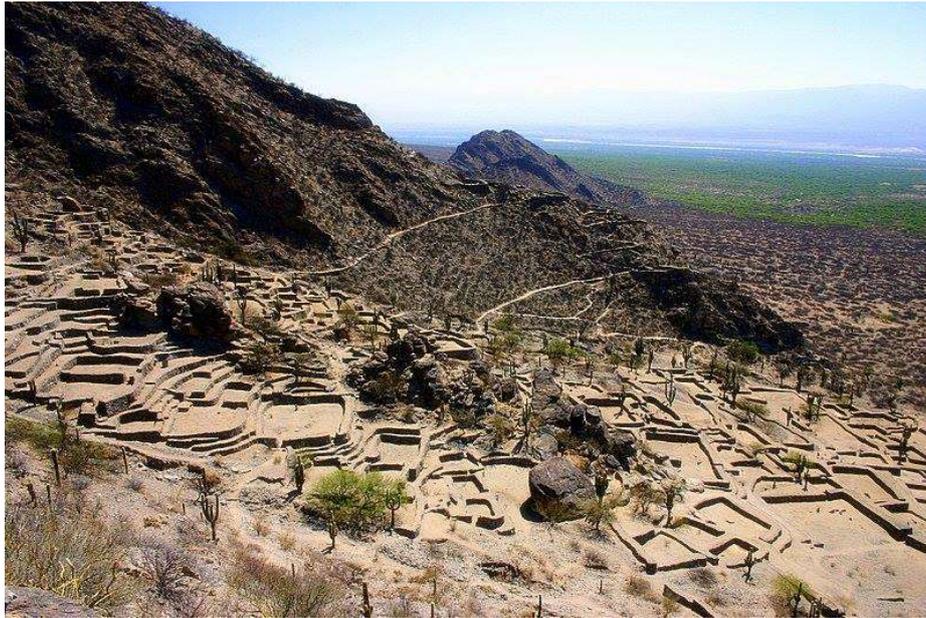
Breakfast at the observatory.

Suggested visit:

Visit Quilmes Ruins.

The indigenous people known as Quilmes, the first inhabitants of this place, had a very high population density, which allowed them a better distribution of tasks and a better exploitation of the ecosystem. In the Calchaquí Valleys as a whole, cities were formed with such a high density that specialists now consider them to be the first pre-Hispanic cities in Argentina. These settlements began their existence in the 10th century A.D., reaching a great socio-cultural development and a good management of complex agro-pastoral, cultivation and irrigation systems. This continuous progress was only interrupted in 1667 when the Quilmes suffered their most important military defeat at the hands of the Spaniards, led in this case by Alonso Mercado y Villacorta, through the siege of their main forts. Some 400 Spaniards laid siege to a town of over 6000 Indians, first by preventing them from accessing their crops on the fertile plain of the Santa Maria River and then by poisoning the water supply from the mountains. While the Spaniards had armour and firearms, they used bows and arrows, slingshots, spears and stone-tipped axes.

Itinerary: After joining the RN 40, the Sacred City of Quilmes bursts in on the left. On the slope of the hill we can see the reconstructions of the defensive zone, topped by a fortress located on the summit and two forts on both sides. We walk along what was the last bastion of the aboriginal resistance against the Spanish advance.



Return to San Miguel de Tucumán and night at the hotel.

DAY 05: SAN MIGUEL DEL TUCUMÁN:

Breakfast at the hotel.

Drop off car rental.

END OF OUR SERVICES

