

ENJOY ROUTE 40 – FROM MENDOZA TO SALTA – SELF DRIVE

✓ DAY01: MENDOZA

Arrival at Mendoza airport and **Car rental – Pick up – Vehicle category to be selected.**

The city of Mendoza is the capital of the homonymous province and one of the most visited destinations in the region of Cuyo. The gateway to visit Mendoza's landscapes.



Suggested visit.

The tourist circuit of the city and its surroundings allows you to get in touch with a modern city, known for its trees, its wide paths and its cleanliness. This tour illustrates about the history and culture of a people with indigenous Huarpe and Inca origins, and the colonizers more than four centuries ago.

The tour includes places such as La Alameda, the Foundation Area (Pedro del Castillo Square), the Aquarium, the Serpentarium, the main avenues of the microcenter, Independence Square, the Memorial, the Civic Neighborhood and Emilio Civit Avenue, through which you can reach the General San Martín Park through the Gates, with its almost 600 forested hectares.



Return and overnight at the hotel.

✓ **DAY 02: MENDOZA**

Breakfast at the hotel.

Car rental.

Suggested visit.

Through the Wine Roads you can get to know the wineries of Mendoza and enjoy their excellent wines, which are the result of ecological viticulture and have -especially the reds- a high antioxidant capacity.

In the last twenty years there has been an important reconversion of vineyards, which allows Mendoza to have a greater quantity of high quality wines to satisfy the growing demand of the international market. During this period, more than 25,000 hectares of new vineyards of fine grape varieties were planted in the province. Among the red



varieties, the ranking is headed by the Malbec variety, followed by Cabernet, Merlot, Syrah and Bonarda; and among the white varieties, Chardonnay and Chenin predominate.

The wine roads, in the northern part of the province or first area, have been designed as midday walks, during which two wineries of very different characteristics are visited: small and large, old and modern. You will walk through their vineyards, and have a tasting session, with the possibility of buying wines in the winery itself.

Suggested visit. - In the afternoon, visit to Villavicencio.

This is the route that part of the Army of the Andes traveled with San Martin in his campaign for the liberation of Chile and Peru.

You take the old route to Chile, important for being the place where the Andes Army crossed in 1817. Then, you will pass by Cerro de la Cal, where the minerals that will be derived in Portland cement are extracted. You arrive at the Canota Monument, which symbolizes the separation of the Columns of the Army of Los Andes.

And you arrive at the Vaquerías post: Entrance Zone to the Villavicencio Natural Reserve. Here is an interpretation center that shows the flora and fauna of the place.

The excursion continues to the Term's Villavicencio Hotel where you can visit the beautiful gardens with their flora incorporated into the landscape and the picturesque Hotel Chapel.

To finish the excursion, you will go up to the viewpoint of the snails and the valley.



Return and overnight at the selected hotel.

✓ **DAY 03: MENDOZA / SAN JUAN**

Breakfast at the hotel.

Car rental.

Early in the morning, departure to San Juan, along Route 40.



Arrival to San Juan, and check in at the selected hotel.

Suggested visit- In the afternoon, visit to the city centre.

Attractive and welcoming, San Juan has the most positive natural aspects for tourism. Thus, its climate, which in summer combines days of intense heat and comfortable nights, and in winter presents variable temperatures between 13 ° C and 0 ° C, presents it as a tourist destination suitable throughout the year that, in addition, can ensure its visitors pleasant days without danger of rain.

An outstanding natural landscape, made up by mountain ranges, valleys, streams and ravines, frames the city of San Juan, turning it into one of the most beautiful and seductive cities for national and international tourism.

The city has a contemporary architecture, where wide streets, avenues and footpaths stand out excellently traced with a splendid and leafy vegetation of trees of different species irrigated by means of channels or ditches, being the reason why it is known with the pseudonym of "city oasis", since it surrounds it with an arid space.

✓ DAY04:SAN JUAN / VILLA UNIÓN

Breakfast at the hotel

Car Rental- Departure to Villa Union.

Suggested visit - Visit to Ischigualasto Provincial Park and Talampaya National Park.

The Ischigualasto Provincial Natural Park, with 62,000 hectares, is located 330 km from the capital of the province of San Juan in a northeasterly direction, bordering the province of La Rioja. Because of its exceptional geological and paleontological value and because it is a community with natural features of exceptional scientific interest, the Ischigualasto - Talampaya site has been declared by UNESCO NATURAL HERITAGE OF HUMANITY on November 29, 2000.

The geology divides the history of the Earth in great stages called Eras: Paleozoic, Mesozoic and Cenozoic. The Mesozoic Era, which begins 225 to 250 million years ago, was characterized by the expansion of



reptiles, among which are the great dinosaurs. At the end of this era, 70 million years ago, there was a great extinction of these reptiles, leaving the hegemony of the Earth to the mammals. Ischigualasto represents the first of the periods into which this Mesozoic Era is divided. The triassic period lasts about 45 to 50 million years. The best and most complete representation of this moment in the history of life on Earth is in Ischigualasto, where numerous remains of the animals and plants that inhabited it at that time have been found. The discovery of the remains of one of the oldest known dinosaurs, the carnivore "Eoraptor lunensis" (a very ancient predator) will give new answers about the origin and evolution of those small primitive relatives (carnivores and herbivores) of the giants that populated the Earth during the Mesozoic era.



As a result of the differential wear and tear of the different rock classes, the landscape is made up of several geological formations. The softer ones are quickly eroded by water, wind, etc., while the hard ones, being resistant, keep their structure longer and the whole acquires these curious shapes. Some of them are: Cerro Morado, el Gusano, Valle Pintado, Cancha de Bochas, el Submarino, el Hongo, Barrancas Coloradas.



Talampaya National Park

Similar characteristics can be seen in Talampaya; moreover, the rock art of archaeological importance together with the landscapes make this area an irresistible temptation.

Here, the ancient cultures made more than a hundred engravings, whose themes were fauna, human figures and geometrical traces, all immortalized on the walls of ancient houses and on the rocks.

There is an incomparable archaeological and paleontological beauty that interests both tourists and nature specialists.



In the mountainous regions of western La Rioja is the Talampaya Canyon. This geological formation belongs to the Triassic period, that is, 200 to 230 million years ago. They are sandstone strata that, due to erosion, have given the most diverse forms and figures.



The park can be explored on various routes with authorized vehicles and park guides.

The tour begins "at the entrance" of the canyon where you will discover reddish walls from 80 to 150 meters high. The petroglyphs are the first stage where you can see the stone carvings made by the pre-Columbian cultures. These traces left by these cultures can also be found at Los Morteros. It's a gigantic carved stone with strange holes. Then, if you walk a few meters you will reach the Botanical Garden where typical trees of the region are planted, such as carob and tar. At the bottom of the garden, you will face the walls where La Chimenea is located. It looks like a vertical "gutter", very high, eroded and ground by the rain water.

In the third stage, the Gothic Cathedral, you will discover a magnificent landscape and imposing forms such as The Wizard King and The Stone Condor. The last stage will take you to the Monk. This is an isolated vertical column carved by the wind, which appears to be a monk guarding the canyon. You can also see The Tower, The Totem and The Bottle.

Continuation to Villa Union and night in the hotel.

✓ **DAY05: VILLA UNIÓN / BELÉN**

Breakfast at the hotel.

Car rental.

Departure to Belén, along the Adobe Route.

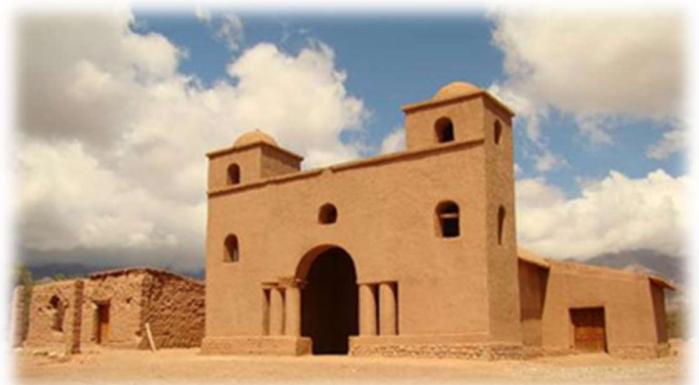
The Adobe Route is a route that crosses towns and villages that are over 300 years old and that the passing of time seems to have accentuated their



characteristics. From old houses and constructions to countless churches and buildings built with the same material and technique: adobe.

The adobe churches are the constructions that more call the attention of the visitor.

Their rounded domes, their shapes and lines, their arches and above all their colour, terracotta brown, make them unique.





Arrival to Belén.

The city of Bethlehem has been famous for centuries for its different loom weavings.

"Anascote, barchila, barracan y picote" are some of the best known "ponchos". The famous "belichos" ponchos are also worth mentioning.



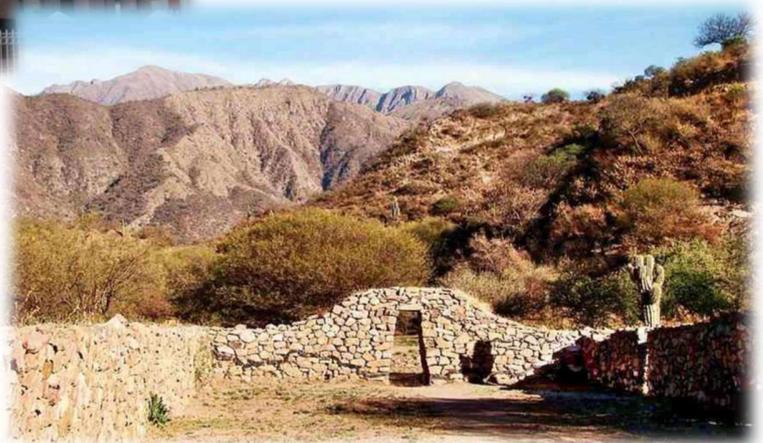
Overnight at the selected hotel.

✓ **DAY06: BELÉN / AMAICHÁ DEL VALLE**

Breakfast at the hotel.

Car rental.

Departure to Amaicha del Valle.



Suggested Visit - Shinkal Ruins, Tafi del Valle and Pachamama Museum.

The ruins of the Shinkal or Shincal de Quimivil are the remains of the southernmost provincial capital of the Inca Empire. It is located in London, Catamarca near Route 40.

Because of its magnitude and the quality of the buildings and archaeological remains recovered, it is known that it was a regional administrative center and capital of a province (Wamani) during the period of Inca domination of the northwestern region of the country between 1471 and 1536.



Continuation to Tafí del Valle.

The Diaguitas called it a "splendid entrance village". Tafí del Valle is one of the most paradisiacal destinations that Tucumán has. The valleys receive the visitor with their green and brown landscape that cuts the blue of the sky, with a dam that reflects the sun and with dirt roads that give testimony of years of history.

Tafí is about 2000 meters above sea level. It has a very pleasant climate so it can be visited all year round.



Continuation to Amaicha del Valle to visit Pachamama Museum.



Departure to Cafayate.

Suggested visit: Quilmes Ruins.

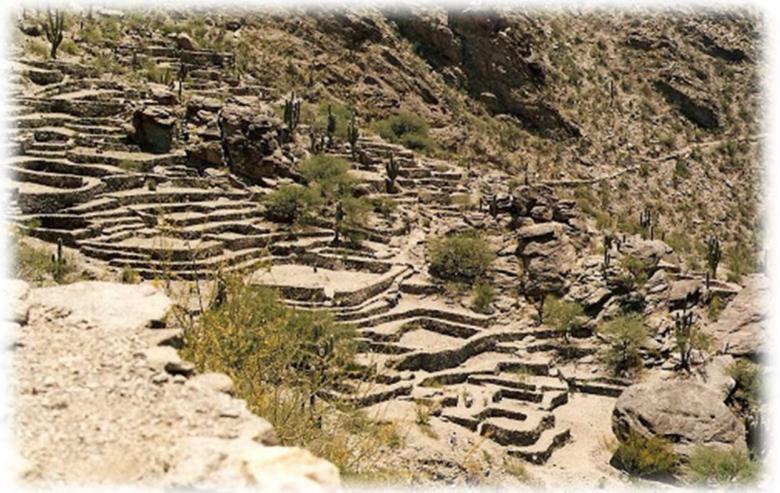
The Sacred City of Quilmes is located in the Calchaquí valley, in the province of Tucumán. They are the remains of the most extensive pre-Columbian settlement in Argentina. They occupy approximately thirty hectares and are located at the foot of the Alto del Rey hill.

The place was owned by the indigenous people. These ruins have been partially reconstructed, so they can now be visited by tourists. They were first studied in 1897 by the archaeologist Juan Bautista Ambrosetti.

The ruins of the Quilmes are a group of houses, where you can see rectangular and circular remains of the foundations of the construction.

This settlement served as a home for the Quilmes families, which was not well seen by their neighbors, the Calchaquies, with whom they had bloody confrontations. Finally they allied to fight the Spaniards, who defeated them in the 17th century.

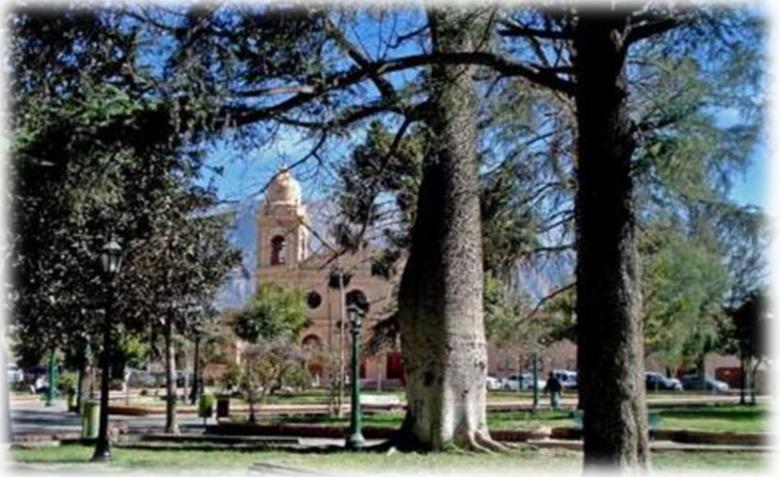
The fortress remained standing from the years 800 to the 17th century, with a stable population of three thousand people, until finally they were forced to move on foot 1200 km to the area where today is the city of Quilmes in the province of Buenos Aires on January 2, 1667. In the remains of the citadel you can see stone houses, old rock walls and also cactus. The original city also included a chapel built by the Spaniards in order to evangelize the population, which is estimated at five thousand inhabitants. Another striking element of these ruins are the outstanding constructions of water dams and the large amount of crops, mainly corn, which were the food base of these Indians. It is believed that the strategy applied by the Spaniards to defeat this warlike people was to cut off their access to the reserve sources of resources, both water and food.



Continuation to Cafayate.

Arrival to Cafayate and check in at the selected hotel.

The small town founded around 1826 stands out as a centre of wine production. Its dry climate, characterized by good sunshine, places Cafayate among the best production areas, from which the most delicate wines are made from vines such as Torrontés, Malbec, Merlot, Cabernet and Tanat, among others.



In Cafayate you can also visit its Cathedral Church and walk around the beautiful square with its neocolonial features, craft shops, art galleries, craft market, etc.

Overnight at the selected hotel.

✓ **DAY08: CAFAYATE / CACHI**

Breakfast at the hotel

Suggested visit: - Wineries with regional wine tasting, visit to Molinos and continue to Cachi.

Cachi, in the Quechua language means "salt". It is a wonderful colonial city of 1500 inhabitants at 2280 meters above sea level, overlooking the snowy peaks of the Nevado de Palermo and Cachi. The landscape is vast, you can see crops, poplars, peach trees, apple trees and walnut trees. In the arcaded square is the church of San José, which dates back to the 18th century, with its whitewashed walls.





Overnight at the selected

hotel.

✓ **DAY9: CACHI / SALTA**

Breakfast at the hotel

Car rental.

Early in the morning, departure to Salta, via Cuesta del Obispo.



Arrival in Salta and installation in the hotel.

The city of Salta, capital of the province, was founded in 1582. It is located in a fertile valley, the Valle de Lerma. Known as "Salta la linda", it is one of the Argentine cities that has preserved its colonial architectural aspect.

You can see the mixture of colonial buildings with white walls, red tile roofs and modern style buildings with multiple green spaces.



Overnight at the selected hotel.

✓ **DAY10: SALTA / HUMAHUACA / SALTA**

Breakfast at the hotel.

Car rental.

Suggested visit. - In the morning departure to Humahuaca, visiting Purmamarca and Tilcara.

Through the access to Yala, start the ascent and visit the very famous Quebrada. Little by little the vegetation will disappear to show the Quebrada landscape, defined by its singular stratifications that fill the view with its colors and forms.

In Purmamarca you can take a stop of about 30 minutes, to take a walk through the town and its attractions. It is a small town in La Quebrada, with its famous "Cerro de los Siete Colores" (Hill of the Seven Colours). There is a small chapel dedicated to Santa Rosa de Lima, in colonial style made of adobe, and a small craft market. In the shady plaza, vendors offer wooden sculptures, hand-woven rugs, and all kinds of medicinal herbs.

Then continue to Maimará and Tilcara, where you will arrive at the famous Pucará.

This ancient Indian fortress is framed by beautiful polychrome mountains that, will allow you to contemplate the thistles of the archaeological site. Afterwards, you can visit the Archaeological Museum of the village.



Return to Salta.

Overnight at the selected hotel.



✓ **DAY11: SALTA**

Breakfast at the hotel.

Car rental.

In the morning, visit to Salta City.



The foundation of the city of Salta dates back to 1582, carried out by a Spaniard who arrived from Peru. You can find there a well preserved colonial architecture. This city seduces by the vigorous contrast between its colonial buildings and its modern architecture. It is the largest city in the north of the country, and offers itself as an attractive base to radiate in the surroundings or to practice adventure sports.

Salta is home to some of the jewels of colonial architecture such as the Convent of San Bernardo, the Church of San Francisco and the Cabildo (former seat of the Spanish colonial authorities) which houses the Museo Histórico del Norte. From the top of San Bernardo Hill you can enjoy a panoramic view of the city, with its residential areas and also the monument to General Martín Miguel de Güemes.

In the surroundings of the centre, you can visit an interesting Craftsmen's Market, where all kinds of crafts converge with a singular variety. This building was once a Jesuit estancia.

For all these reasons, it is undoubtedly one of the most dazzling cities in Argentina. Salta in Aymara Sagta means "the most beautiful".

In the afternoon departure to the airport and return **(DROP OFF)** of the rental car.

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