



**Argentinian  
Explorer**

## JUJUY - Puna & Quebrada

Discovering Jujuy leaving San Salvador de Jujuy and journeying through the Quebrada de Humahuaca, Iruya, Laguna de los Pozuelos, la Quiaca, Yavi, Casabindo and Barrancas.



**7 days - 6 nights**

- ✓ Accommodation and breakfast- Double Room
- ✓ Transfer IN OUT APT/HTL/APT
- ✓ Regular Tours with Spanish & English Guide.
- ✓ Permanent Coordination

### Itinerary

**Jujuy in Dry Season - From April to November.**

1

#### Jujuy - City Tour

Transfer from Airport to San Salvador de Jujuy Hotel. In the afternoon we visit the historic remains of the town, including the San Francisco church, the Lavalle Museum, the Government House and the room of the flag. The Government House is a beautiful French style palace. We also pass the old railway station, the artisanal way and the residential areas like the Perales and the old rough streets with large colonial houses and their typical windows and central patios with wells. We finish our excursion in Alto La Viña where we find the Jorge Pasquini López Archeological Museum which has a unique viewpoint where we can enjoy the marvelous landscape that this northern city has.

2

#### Quebrada de Humahuaca desde Jujuy

Breakfast in the hotel. We leave from San Salvador de Jujuy in the northern direction to La Quebrada de Humahuaca, a national patrimonial and cultural humanity site. The entrance to La Quebrada is León and our journey runs alongside the Rio Grande (big river). On the way we pass the towns of Yala, Lozano, León, Tumbaya and Volcán. In the world famous picturesque town of Purmamarca we encounter the mountain of the seven colours.

Here we go to the walk way of Los Colorados, the fair and the church. Leaving Purmamarca we then go Maimará where we see the Cementerio de Altura (high cemetery) and the mountain Paleta del Pintor (painter's pallet). Following on our route goes by the historical monument of La Posta de Hornillos and arrives at Tilcara where we visit el Pucara. Our sleepover destination is Humahuaca where we also visit the Monument to the Heroes of Independence, the church with its cuzqueñas paintings and optionally can go to the Benediction of San Francisco Solano.



3

### **Iruya - Humahuaca**

Breakfast in the hotel. In the morning we leave Humahuaca to go to Iruya, passing by the typical picturesque Jujuy towns of Iturbe, Chaupi Rodeo and Abra del Cóndor that is at 4000 metres. We then descend to 1200m over the next 19kms where we can observe the changes in colours that mother nature offers, passing from rustic green to a royal purple or violet. The road follows the river Colanzuli until we arrive at our destination Iruya, a beautiful town that seems to emerge from the mountain. Later we return to Humahuaca.

4

### **Laguna de los Pozuelos, Casabindo, Barrancas, Salinas Grandes, Purmamarca**

Breakfast in the hotel. We begin a full day in order to arrive to the north of Jujuy. We take the road to Abra Pampa where we divert to enter the Lake Pozuelos. This lake is in the Puna Jujeña and stretches over 30,000 acres.

It is a natural reservoir with innumerable birds and was added to list of world important wetlands during the Ramsar Convention. In this journey we can appreciate the "vicuñas and guanacos", animals of the region. La Puna is on a plateau at an altitude of 3,500m and it is unique with its desolate landscape, profound salt deposits, lakes and mountains which go together to form an unrepeatable and mysterious combination of the silence playing with the immense loneliness.

We leave la Laguna de los Pozuelos to go to Casabindo known for its solid and robust stone church and that is denominated the Church of La Puna. Inside we find the Virgen de la Asunción to whom they celebrate the 15th August. This is a popular festivity with dances of the Samilantes together with the famous 'Toreo de la Vicha', bullfight, where the object is to retrieve from the spears a belt containing silver money to offer to the Virgin.

The dance of the Samilantes is local to the 'puna jujeña' and has very old antecedents. The dance imitates the 'ñandú', a small ostrich.

We leave Casabindo to go to the region of Barrancas that is 42kms to the south and visit the town of Abdon Castro Tolay that is particularly interesting because of its archeological reserve of ancient stone carvings and paintings and pictography pre-Columbian. The stone art is engraved or painted and can be seen in pure or mixed form. The major part of this art can be found in the caves and rock ceilings.

Our itinerary takes us to las Salinas Grandes (salt flats) that are over an expanse of 25,000 acres on the border between Jujuy and Salta. This depression produces an incandescent effect with the sun shining on the white salt surface. The salts have a volcanic origin and over 10 million years have suffered constant evaporation of salt waters that now result in a salt covering of more than 30cms. We then arrive to an altitude of 3,400 metres in central Puna and can see separately the Quebrada of Humahuaca and the hills of Chañi. We arrive to Purmamarca.

5

### **Lagunas de Yala & Termas de Reyes**

Breakfast in the hotel. We journey from San Salvador to the Yala lakes that are some 20km from the city. Here there is an imposing group of six small lakes situated at an altitude of 2000m surrounded by the exuberant green of the alder and pine forests. We ascend by the mountain pass to a trout fishing area.

The lakes are in the Provincial Park. Potrero de Yala, and are classed as a Biospheric Reserve that is a protected part of Jujuy and the North East. Yala is an ideal place to practice adventure sports, fishing and ecotourism. This region is part of the Jujuy Valleys and is similar to the National Park



of Calilegua. Later we leave Yala to go to Reyes by an isolated very picturesque route where we find the panoramic viewpoint of la Quebrada, a giant mountain fissure.



#### **Optional: Valleys and Dams: Los Alisos, La Ciénaga, Las Maderas**

We pass by the dams of La Ciénaga and Las Maderas and then return by the town of San Antonio, one of the best conserved settlements of the valley distinguished by its artisanal cheeses and a manufacturer of dulces in La Almona. Finally we go to the Los Alisos dam before returning to San Salvador de Jujuy.



#### **Jujuy - Buenos Aires**

Breakfast at the hotel. Transfer to Salta Airport. Reception and transfer from domestic airport (Buenos Aires) to Ministro Pistarini (Ezeiza) International Airport in Buenos Aires. End of our services.

### **Jujuy - All year**



#### **Jujuy - City Tour**

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#### **Salinas Grandes, Purmamarca, Quebrada de Humahuaca, Tilcara**

Breakfast at the hotel. We will tour the road that the Train to the Clouds does, even visiting the Big Salts (Salinas Grandes) to Purmamarca. Campo Quijano will be the first village that we are going to cross, it is a peaceful town in which we have to highlight Las Lomitas Dike, where we are going to get beautiful views of its farms and green hills such as the Arenales river landscape in El Encón, it is a traditional town in the Lerma Valley, very well known for being the entrance door to the Puna, where the Train to the Clouds railway tracks go past.

We will continue our tour going through Río Blanco, which is surrounded by pure nature, we will get to Quebrada del Toro, which stretches to Puerta Tastil, a small precolumbian city which has its higher development in the XIV century and then, it strangely disappeared, in this very same village it appears the Río Blanco again that goes along the way. The prehispanic city of Tastil represents the entrance "door" to Quebrada de las Cuevas, where we will find the archaeological Ruins of Tastil. We will continue by Abra Blanca which is located at 4080 metres over the level of the sea to San Antonio de los Cobres, a small village that is found at 4000 metres over the level of the sea and it is famous because the Pachamama (Madre Tierra) National Festivity takes place there. Besides, it is the best spot in the Train to the Clouds.

We will continue on the Route 40 to the Big Salts (Salinas Grandes), now in Jujuy, which are at 3450 metres over the level of the sea, approximately. These stretch through the Puna Jujeña region. The origin of the salts date from 5 and 10 millions years ago, in which period this salt's basin was covered with water with a great quantity of salts because of the volcanic activity, and little by little, the evaporation of these waters gave rise to this big salt, which is an spectacle to



enjoy and its contrast with the sky. We will descend the Cuesta de Lipán and we will get to Purmamarca town, located at the foot of Cerro de los Siete Colores. We will return to Salta.



#### **Walking with Llamas in Tilcara**

Breakfast in the hotel. This begins a special day because we encounter the llamas. The llama is a true companion of the local peasants. They are used, like donkeys, to transport goods across the puna, valleys and the jungles. In Tilcara they use a system of 'positive stimulation' to tame them and this results in them becoming docile and perfectly domesticated.

Called the 'camel of the heights', the llama became a sacred animal for distinct ancient cultures and was an emblem of richness or nobleness. It is identified with Jujuy and its cultural legacy. Here we can go walking to rural houses and panoramic points to enjoy visiting the local inhabitants and experience the spectacular views. Also we will be able to perceive the ancestral wisdom that the Jujuy men incorporate in whichever cultural activity they realize. In the afternoon we begin our trip to La Quiaca following the rest of La Quebrada de Humahuaca to arrive at the extreme north of Argentina.



#### **La Quiaca - Yavi - Villazón - Jujuy**

Breakfast in the hotel. We visit the city and after go Yavi, known for its historic chapel. La Quiaca is on the Bolivian border with its sister Bolivian town of Villazón and they are connected by an international bridge. At the beginning of the 20th century a railroad was built from La Puna to La Quiaca and here it crosses the river Quiaca by a viaduct of three arches.

La Quiaca has developed over time and became important from the middle of the last century. There is an incessant transfer of people from the Altiplano Andino, typified by their puneña clothing. We also visit the Yavi, another important north eastern town due to its historical routes and then cross the bridge to get to know the Bolivian town of Villazón. We will return to San Salvador de Jujuy.



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**Jujuy - Buenos Aires**

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