



Argentina & the Life of Pope Francis

Day 1 Arrival in Buenos Aires, Argentina

Upon arrival in Buenos Aires meet your Tour Director at the airport and transfer to your hotel. Later an orientation walk acquaints you with the “Paris of South America” and its wide boulevards and outdoor cafés. Enjoy the evening at leisure.

Day 2 Buenos Aires

Your sightseeing starts in La Boca, a colorful district and site of the city’s first port. Take a short walking tour of this unique neighborhood and then on to San Telmo, famous for its late-colonial buildings and a popular gathering spot for artists. At Plaza de Mayo, see La Casa Rosada (the President’s Pink House). Celebrate Mass at the METROPOLITAN CATHEDRAL; the seat of the Archdiocese which Francis oversaw as cardinal before being elected the seat of the Archdiocese which Francis oversaw as cardinal before being elected Pope. Walk past the ornate Colon Opera house before reaching the CEMETERY OF THE RECOLETA, burial site of Eva Peron. Return to the hotel and enjoy the afternoon at leisure. Top off the evening at a famous TANGO CLUB. Start with a DANCE LESSON followed by dinner of Argentine steaks and other local specialties and end with a show featuring flawless performances of Latin America’s most sensuous dance—the Tango!

Day 3 Buenos Aires

Visit the “hidden neighborhoods of Buenos Aires,” including the important sites related to Jorge Mario Bergoglio and his life. Visit “SAN CARLOS BORROMENO CHURCH” considered the nicest church in Buenos Aires because of its imposing architecture. Jorge Mario Bergoglio was baptized here. See the church when he took his First Communion. Visit SAN JOSE DE FLORES “The Call of God”. Next to the Pope’s home and playing court during his childhood. We will also see the Primary Public school Pope Francisco attended. (If available, the school director will welcome you and will explain about the importance of public and free education in Argentina. A voluntary donation to the school is welcomed). Learn unique stories about Pope Francisco’s life, and also get to know the curiosities of the non-touristic neighbourhoods of Buenos Aires such as Almagro, Caballito, Flores and Floresta. Return to the hotel and enjoy your evening at leisure.

Day 4 Buenos Aires. Excursion to the Pampas.

Today, head into the heart of the pampas (grasslands) and immerse yourself in the atmosphere of rural, country life at a working ARGENTINE ESTANCIA (ranch). After a traditional welcome with empanadas and local beverages, get acquainted with the lifestyle of real gauchos (cowboys) on a horseback ride or carriage ride through the pampas. Later, at lunch, enjoy a colorful feast, complete with world-renowned Argentine beef, salad, desserts, local wine, and live music and dance by the gauchos themselves. Top off the day with a horsemanship show by the gauchos before saying adios to the countryside and heading back to the city.

Day 5 Buenos Aires. Excursion to Lujan

Depart today for the city of Lujan. Every year, more than six million people make pilgrimages to the Basilica. Your guide will explain why this became the most important pilgrimage center of the country. Celebrate Mass and visit the LUJAN BASILICA, dedicated to the patron Saint of Argentina, the virgin of Lujan. The **Basilica's** elaborate facade is one of Argentina's most recognizable images, with its majestic towers reaching heights of 350-feet. Enjoy a traditional lunch at a local restaurant and some time to explore this pilgrimage town at leisure. This afternoon we'll enjoy a WINE TASTING and learn about the local wines that this area is famous for. Your evening is free.

Day 6 Buenos Aires. Excursion to Tigre.

The Tigre Delta with its rivers, streams and numerous green islands is one of the most attractive areas in Buenos Aires. The continuous sediment of the Parana River, which gives the river and estuary their particular brownish-red color, forms the Delta islands. Drive through the northern district and outskirts of the city to get to Tigre, a charming resort where a great number of summer residences, yachting and rowing clubs concentrate the weekend activities of many "portenos." Visit the SAN ISIDRO CATHEDRAL. You will also enjoy a relaxing CRUISE along the innumerable channels of the Parana-Delta to see some of the hundreds of islands covered with luxuriant vegetation. Return to the hotel.

Day 7 Buenos Aires. Excursion to Colonia, Uruguay

Board the FERRY for Argentina's neighboring country, Uruguay, and see the historic city of Colonia, founded in 1680 by the Portuguese. Join your local guide and walk along the cobbled, winding streets past colorful houses reminiscent of old Lisbon. Visit the historic center of Colonia Del Sacramento and the ancient CHURCH OF THE SACRED SAINT, the oldest church in Uruguay. Celebrate Mass and then drive to the scenic beach of *Playa Ferrando for some time to relax*. Return to Buenos Aires this evening and celebrate your final evening with a farewell dinner with local wine and traditional cuisine.

Day 8 Departure from Buenos Aires