



Unveiling the Heartbeat of the Andes
NOA & PUNA EXPERIENCE
8 DAYS / 7 NIGHTS



TOMORROW'S AIR™

MEMBER
ADVENTURE TRAVEL
TRADE ASSOCIATION



Los Nogales 63, Tres Cerritos. Salta, Argentina (4400).



+54 9 3875 29-6290



ITINERARY AT A GLANCE

	EXPERIENCES	MEALS PLAN
Day 1	Salta - Cuesta del Obispo - Cachi - Molinos	L
	Hacienda Molinos - (1 - Night) Standard Room - Breakfast included	
Day 2	Molinos - Quebrada de las Flechas - Cafayate - Quebrada de las Conchas - Cafayate	B/L
	Viñas de Cafayate Wine Resort - (1 - Night) Classic room with panoramic garden view - Breakfast included	
Day 3	Cafayate - Quilmes - Hualfín - Cuesta de Randolpho - El Peñón	B/L/D
	El Peñón Hosteria de Altura - (1 - Night) Standard Room - Dinner included	
Day 4	El Peñón - Volcán & Laguna Carachi Pampa - Campo Piedra Pomez - Dunas Blancas - El Peñón	B/L/D
	El Peñón Hosteria de Altura - (1 - Night) Standard Room - Lunch & Dinner included	
Day 5	El Peñón - Antofagasta de la Sierra - Quebrada de Calalaste - Vega Colorada - Oasis Antofalla & Antofallita - Cono de Arita - Tolar Grande	B/L/D
	Casa Andina - (1 - Night) Standard Room	
Day 6	Tolar Grande - Desierto del Laberinto - San Antonio de los Cobres	B/L/D
	Hotel de las Nubes - (1 - Night) Standard Room - Breakfast included	
Day 7	San Antonio de los Cobres - Sey - Susques - Salinas Grandes - Purmamarca	B/L
	Manantial del Silencio - (1 - Night) Standard Room - Breakfast included	
Day 8	Purmamarca - Humahuaca - Serranías del Hornocal - Tilcara - Salta	B/L



TOUR BY DAY

DAY 1

Salta - Cuesta del Obispo - Cachi - Molinos (L)

Distance: 122 km paved road. 81 km earth track and gravel road.

Altitude: Highest point 3.457 m./ 11.342 feet. Molinos 2.020 m. / 6.627 feet.

Estimated driving time: 4 hs.

The road between Salta and Molinos is one of the most spectacular paths of the Argentinean Northwest. We will travel through four different ecosystems, from the green *yungas* forest (jungle) to the arid desert of the Calchaquí Valley. We take Route 33 for 33 km until we arrive at the highest point in our journey on the *Cuesta del Obispo*, called Paso Piedra del Molino, 3.457 meters above sea level. You may observe condors flying in the blue sky among thousands of *cardones*, the local species of giant cactus. We arrive at the white colonial village of Cachi, where the sun shines almost all year round, and where you can relax under a cosy *molle* tree. Leaving Cachi, we take the mystical Route 40 - which connects all of Argentina North to South. We will spend the night in the historical hotel, *Hacienda de Molinos*. This homestead once belonged to the colonial governors established by the Spanish crown in the late 18th century. One of the oldest and largest *molle* trees in the area is located in the middle of the property.

Included meals: Lunch in a local restaurant

Accommodation: Hacienda Molinos

Type of Standard Room with

Room: breakfast included

DAY 2

Molinos - Quebrada de las Flechas - Cafayate - Quebrada de las Conchas - Cafayate (B/L)

Distance: 100 km paved road. 115 km gravel road.

Altitude: Highest point 2.300 m./ 7.546 feet. Cafayate 1.683 m. / 5.522 feet

Estimated driving time: 5 hs.



Route 40 is one of the most famous and longest roads in the world. Originating in the southernmost tip of Argentina, Punta Loyola, Santa Cruz, one can travel over 5.000 km to the northernmost town, La Quiaca, Jujuy. Between the towns of Molinos and Cafayate there are many little villages populated by local winemakers and farmers. We drive across the *Quebrada de las Flechas*, a desert formed by dust of limestone and quartz, eroded by wind and water, creating the shape of thousands of Arrowhead Peaks. We arrive in Cafayate, which is the perfect place for lunch and to visit a winery. Just before the sunset with the best lighting of the day, we explore the *Quebrada de las Conchas*, a deep ravine formed millions of years ago full of ancient fossils. It contains huge deposits of clay and sandstone, molded by water and wind that comes from an age when the region was dominated by a humid and warm climate.

Included meals: Lunch at Bodega Amalaya Wine Bar

Accommodation: Viñas de Cafayate Wine Resort

Type of Room: Classic room with panoramic garden view with breakfast included

DAY 3

Cafayate - Quilmes - Hualfin - Cuesta de Randolpho - El Peñón (B/L/D)

Distance: 250 km paved road, 50 km gravel road
Altitude: Highest point 4.050 m./13.287 feet. El Peñón 3.400 m. / 11.155 feet.
Estimated driving time: 5 hs.

Continuing south on Route 40, we will explore one of the most deserted regions of Argentina. In the morning, we visit the sacred Ruins of Quilmes and the *Museo de Interpretación*, which displays the dramatic history and exile of this powerful Pre-Columbian population. After a few hours, we continue our journey and begin climbing the *Cuesta de Randolpho* until we reach the high altitude desert plateau, called the *Puna*. Between groups of *vicuñas*, giant white sand dunes, volcanos and lagoons, we will reach the sparsely-populated town, El Peñón, at 3,400 meters above sea level. It is one of the last remaining authentic *Puna* villages, with adobe houses where shepherds tend to their flocks of llamas, goats, and sheep. We spend the night at the cozy Hostería de Altura de El Peñón.

- **Entrance Fees:** Ruinas de Quilmes

Included meals: Lunch in a local restaurant. Dinner at Hostería El Peñón.

Accommodation: El Peñón Hosteria de Altura

Type of Room: Standard Room with breakfast and dinner included



DAY 4

El Peñon - Volcán & Laguna Carachi Pampa - Campo Piedra Pomez - Dunas Blancas - El Peñon (B/L/D)

Distance: 130 km of earth, gravel and salt tracks.

Altitude: Highest point 4.200 m./13.780 feet. El Peñón 3.400 m. / 11.155 feet.

Estimated driving time: 4:30 hs.

On this day, we work our way deeper into the remote vastness of the Andean *Puna*. Here you will see some of the highest peaks of the Andes. Our adventure begins with a stop at the Carachi Pampa lagoon at the base of the Volcano that shares the same name. One of the most notable characteristics of the landscape here is the contrast of colors between the midnight-black volcano, azure sky, and vermilion lagoon. The most famous inhabitants of this lagoon are the flamingos, which can be seen throughout the year, especially in the warm seasons. Here, we take some time to wander the sites and enjoy the surroundings on foot.

Later, our journey will continue into the Natural Reserve *Campo de Piedra Pómez*, a strange and stunning landscape carved into the rock that gives rise to its name: The Pumice stone field. The wave-like towers were formed by an ancient volcanic pyroclastic cloud, boasts a distinctive ivory-orange color, powdery characteristics and is easily sculpted by the arid and harsh winds of the Andean region. Adjacent to *Campo de Piedra Pómez*, we will make our way a few miles to the west and climb the impressive *dunas blancas* - white sand dunes, before returning to the hotel, just in time to enjoy the stunning sunset views from the village

- **Entrance Fees:** Campo de Piedra Pómez

Included meals: Pic Nic lunch. Dinner at Hostería El Peñón.

Accommodation: El Peñón Hosteria de Altura

Type of Room: Standard Room with breakfast included

DAY 5

El Peñon - Antofagasta de la Sierra - Quebrada de Calalaste - Vega Colorada - Oasis Antofalla & Antofallita - Cono de Arita - Tolar Grande (B/L/D)

Distance: 340 km earth track and salt road.

Altitude: Highest point 4.500 m./14.764 feet. Tolar Grande 3.500 m. / 11.483 feet..

Estimated driving time: 7 hs.

Leaving El Peñón, we pass through Antofagasta de la Sierra, a large oasis that once connected the Argentinean side of the Andes to San Pedro de Atacama, Chile, as part of the Inca Trail. It



remains the largest settlement in the Puna region, with more than 2.000 people who still maintain their ancient traditions and culture. We continue our ascent through the gorge of Calalaste, reaching a maximum altitude of 4.667 meters, from which we descend into Vega Colorada. It is the only place with fresh spring water, and is a hotspot for wildlife, including *vicuñas*, llamas, donkeys, *suris* (small Andean ostriches), and if we are lucky, Andean pumas. We stop briefly at the lookout point, which boasts a 180° view of the Antofalla salt flat (the longest in Argentina) and its countless surrounding volcano peaks. The settlement of Antofalla is still inhabited by a tiny community of 60 people, a majority of whom are shepherds. As we continue our journey, we reach the *Salar de Arizaro* - one of the largest salt flats in the world. We stop at the eastern border to marvel at the mysterious *Cono de Arita*, a natural cone-shaped geologic formation, seemingly in the middle of nowhere. We traverse the salt flat, and we arrive at the small mining town, Tolar Grande, surrounded by bright red mountains where we turn in for the evening.

Note: Since we operate many of our tours in remote high altitude areas itineraries may be subject to change due to weather and road conditions or any other conditions of an operational nature throughout the year (such as: snow fall, heavy rain, strong winds, etc.), especially in places higher than 4000 meters. As such we reserve the right to alter, and/or cancel any section and/or parts of the itinerary which may result from conditions beyond our control.

Included meals: Lunch in the local community of Antofalla. Dinner in a community based tourism restaurant.

Accommodation: Casa Andina

Type of Standard Room

Room:

DAY 6

Tolar Grande - Desierto del Laberinto - San Antonio de los Cobres (B/L/D)

Distance: 65 km paved road. 180 km earth track and gravel road

Altitude: Highest point 4.500 m./ 14.764 feet. San Antonio de los Cobres 3700 mts

Estimated driving time: 4 hs.

The morning will be dedicated to the exploration of the surroundings of Tolar Grande, which offer chances of spectacular, short hikes, the best one being to the Hidden Sand Dune in the middle of the desert. From the top of the dune, travelers will be rewarded with a 360° view of the area, from the Sacred Macon Mountain to the west, to the Llullaillaco Volcano to the east. (In 1999, a National Geographic team discovered 3 Inca children mummified by the climatic conditions at Llullaillaco, which can be seen at the MAAM Museum in Salta.)

We take a short drive to Ojos de Mar, small salt formations filled with water containing ancient colonies of stromatolite bacteria, which give the little lakes their distinct aquamarine color.



We continue our journey, crossing the Labyrinth Desert, a 10 million-year-old dune desert formed by many small clay peaks, dusted with gypsum crystals. The highest point of our drive this day will be Abra Chorrillos, reaching over 4.500 m, and there we will learn about the *Apacheta* and its cultural importance to the Andean culture. Finally, we arrive at San Antonio de los Cobres, a quiet, dusty village where the famous Tren a las Nubes begins its journey. It is one of the highest towns in Argentina, with one of the largest populations in the Puna region.*

Included meals: lunch in a local restaurant. Dinner at Hotel de las Nubes

Accommodation: Hotel de las Nubes

Type of Room: Standard Room with breakfast included

DAY 7

San Antonio de los Cobres - Sey - Susques - Salinas Grandes - Purmamarca (B/L)

Distance: 140 km paved road. 120 km earth track and gravel road

Altitude: Highest point 4.500 m./ 14.764 feet. Purmamarca 2.192 m. / 7.192 feet

Estimated driving time: 6 Hs.

In the morning, we leave San Antonio de los Cobres and continue climbing in altitude to Susques. Our first stop will be the Viaducto la Polvorilla, one of the tallest and longest bridges built above sea level, an iron and steel structure built in the beginning of the 20th century, still to this day considered to be an impressive feat of engineering, made famous by the Tren a las Nubes. We continue along the famous Route 40, which connects Argentina from north to south, stopping at La Juguetería - a fascinating rock formation formed by a volcanic eruption which ejected massive rocks, landing on barren land. Some say that these rocks look like dice thrown onto a gaming board, hence the name “La Juguetería” (the place of games).

We usually stop for lunch in Susques, a historic town with pre-colonial roots, and we continue to Salinas Grandes, arguably the whitest salt flats you can find in Argentina. With more than 212 km² of salt surrounded by volcanoes, the horizon seems endless. Here we stop to appreciate the salt pools and take photos that play with perspective.

Finally, crossing the highest point of the itinerary, we will enjoy the best view on the Eastern Cordillera of the Andes going down the Cuesta de Lipan. At sunset, we will arrive at the Andean village of Purmamarca, famous for its Cerro de Siete Colores.

Included meals: Lunch in a local restaurant.

Accommodation: Manantial del Silencio



Type of Room: Standard Room with breakfast included

DAY 8

Purmamarca - Humahuaca - Hornocal - Tilcara - Salta (B/L)

Distance: 320 km paved road, 70 km gravel road.

Altitude: Highest point 4.300 m. / 14.108 feet. Salta 1.200 m. / 3.937 feet.

Estimated driving time: 6 hs.

The Humahuaca Gorge is a large valley that ends at the border with Bolivia and it is located in the province of Jujuy in the far north of Argentina. It is quite a young Valley, given that its formation dates a million years. The Gorge is famous for its colorful mountains, its geological formations and its historical villages. During our trip we will visit the best places in the region in order to get a true feeling of this part of Argentina: the Humahuaca Market, a walk in the Colorado's Gorge, the sacred garden of the Cardones (cactus species) at 3200 meters, and the impressive 14 coloured mountains of Hornocal and the Pucara of Tilcara – a pre-Inca fortress. We will also visit the villages of Tilcara, Humahuaca and Purmamarca with their typical artisanal markets. In the afternoon we will return to Salta.

Included meals: lunch in a local restaurant.

- **Entrance Fees:** Hornocal
- **Entrance Fees:** Pucará de Tilcara

END OF OUR SERVICES

****Note: Since we operate many of our tours in remote high altitude areas, itineraries may be subject to change due to various conditions of an operational nature throughout the year (such as: snow fall, heavy rain, strong winds, road maintenance, workers' strikes, etc.), especially in places higher than 4000 meters. As such, we reserve the right to alter and/or cancel any part of the itinerary which may be affected by conditions beyond our control.***

The Itinerary is subject to weather conditions in the region to be visited, to flight schedule changes, roadblocks or any other unforeseen circumstances. In any of these cases last minute changes may take place in order to ensure a safe trip. Any expenses derived from these situations of force majeure must be paid by the passenger.

Food references: | B: Breakfast | L: Lunch |D: Dinner



WHERE WE STAY

ACCOMMODATION

Hacienda Molinos

Standard Room

Abraham Cornejo s/n

Molinos, Salta

Argentina

54 3868 494094 | 54 3868 494944

www.haciendademolinos.com.ar



Viñas de Cafayate Wine Resort

Classic room with panoramic garden view

25 de Mayo, Camino al Divisadero. Fca Calchaquí
S/N

Cafayate, Salta

Argentina

+54 9 3868 452845

<https://www.cafayatewineresort.com/>



El Peñón Hosteria de Altura

Standard Room

8-bedroom small Lodge. The rooms are spacious, all of them have a private bathroom, comfortable bed ware of pure cotton. The Hosteria offers restaurant services, Wi-Fi Internet connection (Satellite) and heating provided by stoves (wood) and electric heaters..

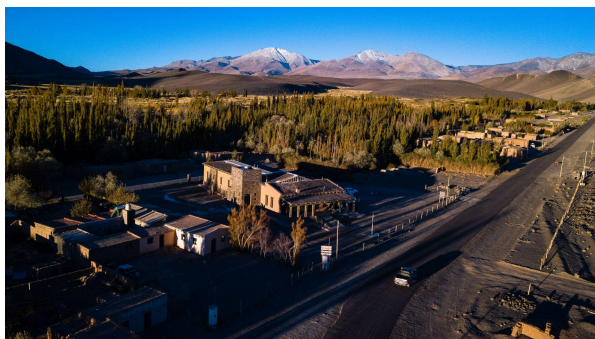
Ruta provincial 43

El peñon, Catamarca

Argentina

+54 9 387 5171252

<http://hosteriaelpeñon.com/>





Casa Andina

Standard Room

Casa Andina is a small 6-bedroom Hotel managed by the local community of Tolar Grande. All the rooms have private bathrooms and the facilities are comfortable and clean. The Hosteria does not include breakfast service; it has a common seating area, with a coffee maker and electric kettle to prepare tea at any time.

Belgrano y los Mineros

Tolar Grande, Salta

Argentina



Hotel de las Nubes

Standard Room

Rta Nac 51 Km 163

San Antonio de los Cobres, Salta

Argentina

+54 387 4423536 / +54 387 413 7544

<https://www.hoteldelasnubes.com/?cur=ARS>



Manantial del Silencio

Standard Room

Ruta Nacional N° 52, Km 3.5

Purmamarca, Jujuy

Argentina



Notes in regards to accommodation

1. *Breakfast is included in every hotel, except Casa Andina (Tolar Grande); in this case it will be served in a local restaurant or our guide will prepare breakfast.*
2. *Accommodation in Standard Category, upgrade can be quoted upon request.*
3. *Accommodation in these properties is subject to availability. If there is no availability, we will suggest options of the same category.*
4. *As an alternative, if there is no availability in Casa Andina (only hotel in town), there are Family Homes that receive guests and there is also a Refuge with shared bedrooms.*

Notes in regards to included meals:

1. *Soft drinks are included with every meal.*
2. *In the Puna the provision of supplies is limited, so the meals are mostly based on local products.*
3. *Please be patient with the timing for the services.*



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

HIGH ALTITUDE TRIPS

Because of its altitude (average 3,500 / 3,700 metres above sea level) the Puna is in contact with rare layers of the atmosphere. When the share of gas in the air changes, the human body manages the new environmental situation, compensating the lower presence of oxygen with a rapid breathing, to provide



more air into the lungs, and a faster heart rate to pump more blood and oxygenate more. All of this can cause some agitation and a feeling of lack of oxygen. In addition, the altitude causes a substantial difference in air pressure. A person at sea level is below a column of air equivalent to a difference of almost 4,000 metres with respect to the same person in the Puna.

Therefore, these conditions require special attention during our trips, when spending one or more nights in the Puna. It is particularly important:

TRAVEL TIPS

- Travel to the Puna only after a period of rest in Salta (one day is fine), and avoid travelling under physical or mental fatigue.
- Drink at least two litres of water per day.
- Protect yourself from the sun/UV radiation with a hat, sunblock and sunglasses.
- Do not consume tap water.
- Travel with your own medication and bring extra doses.
- Respect the local cultures and wildlife.
- Keep your eating habits; avoid eating or drinking in excess, before and during the journey.
- Important: follow instructions from our guide.
- Our trips with an itinerary of one or more nights in Puna are exclusively unadvised to people with cardiovascular problems and people with high / low blood pressure.



PASSENGER INFORMATION FORM

- All passengers must fill in the Information Form and it is compulsory for them to inform about health conditions and/or any other relevant information regarding health. The form must be sent through email before the departure date.



LOGISTICS

- Pick up 4WD vehicles equipped for overlanding trips.



- Professional guide/driver.
- National Permit for passenger's transportation.
- Insurance for transported passengers and drivers.
- Water (1 ½ litres per day per person) and snacks on board.
- Special equipment for overland trips (first aid kit, satellite communication, extra tools, fuel and extra tyre).
- Oxygen tube.
- 24/7 Logistics support from the Salta office with daily monitoring.



PACKING LIST

WHAT TO BRING

- Sunblock and sunglasses (UV protection).
- Sunhat.
- Windbreaker jacket (It's important because the area is windy) and a warm sweater.
- Warm socks (made of wool or cotton).
- Trekking shoes (comfortable).
- Moisturizing cream.
- Thermal underwear is advisable (long johns) and winter clothes: winter jacket, sweatshirts, long-sleeve fleece shirt, scarf, gloves, etc. In Winter.

WHAT WE PROVIDE

- Water bottle (1lt) to avoid the use of plastic bottles for mineral water. Our guide will make sure to refill your bottle whenever necessary.
- Socompa baseball hat

GENERAL CONDITIONS

1. All services were quoted as per the itinerary above described; the rates are Net, expressed in US Dollars and include Taxes (VAT).
2. The accommodation does not include early check in or late check out.
3. The itinerary proposed can be modified according to changes in flight schedules or weather conditions in the area to be visited.



4. The rates do not include air fares.
5. Extras and tips of any kind are not included in the rate.
6. The meals included in the itinerary include one soft drink. Alcoholic Beverages are not included.
7. The rates are subject to modification due to changes in the policies of our suppliers or due to unforeseen circumstance
8. For tours on the 25th December or 1st January there is an extra fee of USD 100. -- per tour and per guide.

CANCELLATION POLICY

1. Cancellation 7 days before departure: 100% penalty for services provided directly by Socompa. As for the accommodation and rent a car services, the penalty amount will be informed according to the cancellation policy of each local supplier.
2. Cancellation 15 days to 8 days before departure: 50% penalty for services provided directly by Socompa. As for the accommodation and rent a car services, the penalty amount will be informed according to the cancellation policy of each local supplier.
3. Cancellation 16 days or more before departure: 25% penalty for services provided directly by Socompa. As for the accommodation and rent a car services, the penalty amount will be informed according to the cancellation policy of each local supplier.

Important: VAT Refund benefit will not be applicable in case of cancellation or no-show fees and charges. If cancellation is subject to charges, the VAT tax will be calculated and invoiced at the time of receiving the cancellation.

VAT REFUND REGULATIONS (APPLIES TO ACCOMMODATION AND BREAKFAST ONLY)

1. This quote is only valid if guests are eligible for the VAT reimbursement benefit.
2. The VAT Refund benefit is exclusive for foreign visitors with proven residence outside Argentina. A copy of each passport is required to confirm reservations. If the country of residence is different from the country of citizenship, please confirm details by email. Bookings with no passports provided will be re-quoted to add the applicable VAT rate.
3. When passports are not provided at time of booking, the accommodations with breakfast will be re-quoted to include applicable VAT (currently 21 %) to be collected with payment.
4. VAT Refund applies only to accommodation and breakfast (if included in the room rate). Other services provided by the hotel are excluded from the VAT Refund policy.
5. VAT Refund will not be applicable in the event of cancellation fees or no-show's charges.

CANCELLATION POLICY FOR HOTEL BOOKINGS

The deadline for Hotel Bookings is subject to the policies of each Hotel. In General, the deadline to hold rooms without penalty fee ranges between 60 and 30 days prior to arrival. For this contingency, many hotels are applying a flexible cancellation policy and we will inform the details with each booking.



For VAT refund purposes, a scan of each participant's Passport is required to be sent at least 25 days prior to arrival date. Such Passports must be valid for at least 6 months since the arrival date.

Important: VAT Refund benefit will not be applicable **in case of cancellation** or no-show fees and charges. If cancellation is subject to charges, the VAT tax will be calculated and invoiced at the time of receiving the cancellation.