

Socompa Adventure Travel

# Salta Adventure Week



**Socompa**

ADVENTURE TRAVEL  
ESTABLISHED 2004

**Travel Itinerary**

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The natural environment of the Argentine Northwest is among the most wonderful in the world : streams that represent the gateway to the sacred mountains of the Andes, surrounded by an exuberant yungas jungle and bordered to the west by the imposing high-altitude desert that, in Argentina, is called Puna. These lands, which are still inhabited today by natives of the American continent, preserving their traditions and culture, will connect you again with the transcendental.

### **Itinerary Day by Day**

#### **Day 1: Salta | Arrival (D)**

Distance: 8 km paved road.

Altitude: Salta 1.200 m. / 3.937 feet

Estimated driving time: 15 min

Our guide will welcome you at the airport upon arrival to the colonial city of Salta in Northwest Argentina, surrounded by mountains and the green *Valle de Lerma* valley. Salta is a town well known for the friendliness of its people and for having the best conserved hispanic architecture in the country. Transfer to Finca Valentina, a charming country house at the foothills of the Andes. According to the time of arrival of your flight you can enjoy the activities that the hotel has to offer, or simply spend the afternoon at the beautiful garden with pool. Gourmet dinner is included.

#### **Day 2: Salta | National Park Los Cardones | Cuesta del Obispo | Cachi (B|L)**

Distance: 132 km paved road. 40 km gravel road.

Altitude: 3.457 m. / 11.342 feet. Cachi 2.500 m. / 8.200 feet.

Estimated driving time: 4 hs

The road between Salta and Cachi is one of the most spectacular routes in Northwest Argentina, it crosses four different ecosystems, going from a green jungle area (the Yungas) to a semi-desert area that characterizes the Calchaquí Valleys. The mountain path will bring us closer to Piedra del Molino pass, a massive granite rock formation reaching a height of 11,811 feet (3,600 m). During the trip, you can see the condor flying over the blue mountain sky, guanacos and wild donkeys among thousands of cardones, the local species of giant cactus. We will have time for a walk in *Los*



Colorados desert and in Los Cardones National Park. We will spend the night at the foot of the Nevado de Cachi, where La Merced del Alto Hotel stands out over the picturesque valley surrounded by hills, rivers and streams. Dominating from the top, its views invite you to explore the Calchaquíes Valleys or simply to enjoy the tranquility and silence of the place.

**Optional trekking activity (not included in the price):**



**Trekking "El Torreón de la Cuesta"**

Distance: 18 km (6 hs.), +/- 740 mts /656 feet

Altitude at the base: 2.310 m. Altitude at the top: 3.100 m.

Terrain details: uphill trail

Difficulty level: moderate to demanding.

Important Note: Not suitable for children.

At the start we will walk along the ancient inca trail or *Capaq Ñam*, followed by a chain of colorful mountains and green grass in an isolated basin. The charm of the valley can be glimpsed from the foot of the Cuesta del Obispo when you look at the Torreón de la Cuesta (3,280 meters), a kind of guardian of the site. When you reach the summit of this mountain you have a panoramic view of the valley that is amazing. Along the interior route of the Enchanted Valley you can see the condors when they drink water in natural drinking fountains (huge stones that have cracks where rainwater is stored). If you lean to one side of the stones you can marvel at the majestic flight of the king of the Andes, just a few meters high.

**What to bring**

- Trekking or sports shoes with socks (with a good sole, it cannot be a smooth sole);
- Long pants (preferably detachable);
- A warm jacket (even in summer);
- Backpack of minimum 30 liters. which must contain: a windbreaker, insect repellent for summer days, sunscreen;
- hat and sunglasses;



## The trekking includes

- Trekking poles
- 2 liters of water per person
- Snacks and pic nic
- Security brief
- Trekking guide

### **Day 3: Cachi | Cuevas de Acsibi | Road of the Artisans | Siilu Wasi (B|Pic Nic|D)**

Distance: 100 km gravel road.

Altitude: Highest point 2.400 m / 7.874 feet. Payogastilla 1.980 m. / 6.496 feet.

Estimated driving time: 3 hs



#### **Hiking to "Cuevas de Acsibi Canyon"**

Distance: 5 km (4 hs.), +/- 250 mts / 820 feet

Terrain details: earth path – moderate uphill. Difficulty level: moderate. Notes: Suitable for children older than 6 years old.

The Acsibi Caves are a stone and clay formations in a canyon located in one of the biggest private Finca's of Salta in the surroundings of the little town of Seclantás, known for its textile artisans. The trekking is lead by local guides that know the area very well and that have created an amazing trail in the wilderness. The history of the land of Acsibi goes back to Pre-Inca times when the mountains were the home of the *Malcachiscos* natives who fought bravely against the Spanish conquerors. The area of Acsibi also became part of the Inca Trail known as *Capac Ñam* during the short occupation of this region by the Inca Empire just before colonial times. To reach the starting point of the trekking we will drive 16 km on the river bed to *Valle de las Cuevas* and from there start a five hour hike among the most spectacular shaped rocks of an intense red color, climbing up a river canyon.

We will enjoy a picnic in a nice spot with a view of the surrounding mountains and return to Seclantás in the afternoon to visit the Road of Artisans, a few "ranchos" of local handcrafters and weavers that make the best *Argentine Ponchos* with natural dyes for the wool, all handmade in craft looms. They also have beautiful shawls and covers. Night at Siilu Wasi glamping site in the small location of Payogastilla.



## What to bring

- Trekking or sports shoes with socks (with a good sole, it cannot be a smooth sole);
- Long pants (preferably detachable);
- A warm jacket (even in summer);
- Backpack of minimum 30 liters. which must contain: a windbreaker, insect repellent for summer days, sunscreen;
- hat and sunglasses;

## The trekking includes

- Trekking poles
- 2 liters of water per person
- Snacks and pic nic
- Security brief
- Trekking guide

### **Day 4: Siilu Wasi | Quebrada de las Flechas | Cafayate (B|L)**

*Distance: 52 km paved road. 20 km gravel road.*

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

*Estimated driving time: 2 hs*

Along the mythical route 40 is possible to find little villages populated by local winemakers and farmers. Today we will drive across *Quebrada de las Flechas*, a desert formed by dust of limestone and quartz, eroded by wind and water creating the shape of thousands of Arrow Peaks. In Cafayate, we'll enjoy a visit to Burbujas de Altura winery including a homemade lunch paired with wines of local boutique production. After lunch check in at the Viñas de Cafayate Wine Resort Hotel. At Sunset, we recommend an optional photo safari to Quebrada de las Conchas or to the sand dunes.

### **Day 5: Cafayate | Quebrada de las Conchas | Salta (B|L)**

*Distance: 180 km paved road.*

*Altitude: Highest point 1700 m/5.577 feet. Salta 1.200 m. / 3.937 feet*

*Estimated driving time: 3 hs*



### **Hiking "Quebrada de las Conchas"**

Distance: 3 km (2 hs.), +/-300 mts /984 feet

Terrain details: earth track – uphill/downhill. Difficulty level: easy to moderate. Note: Suitable for children older than 6 years old.

The Canyon of Quebrada de las Conchas is a Natural Heritage Site formed by sediments from the Mesozoic and Cenozoic Eras (90 to 60 million years ago). The intense red color is present due to the ferric oxide contained in its mineral basins. The name of the gorge is given by the marine fossils found along the region in the oldest formation of the region known as "Formación Yacoraite". To appreciate the rich geology of the formation we will take a walk along a path that is well known by the local villagers. We will be in the heart of the gorge and enjoy amazing views of the colorful geological strata. We will have a nice picnic for lunch and afterwards we'll drive to Salta and visit the northern region of the Canyon.

### **Day 6: Salta | Purmamarca | Cuesta de Lipán | Salinas Grandes | Purmamarca (B|L)**

Distance: 365 km paved road.

Altitude: Highest point 4.170 m / 13.681 feet. Purmamarca 2.192 m. / 7.192 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 old. The Gorge is famous for its colorful mountains, its geological formations and its historical villages. At Sunset, we will drive towards the intriguing Salinas Grandes (Salt Flats), one of the most beautiful landscapes in the Puna. The shiny white surface of the salt flats contrasts with the blue sky, and the horizon disappears providing the opportunity for taking fun perspective photos. The salt flat extends over 30,000 acres and it is surrounded by some of the most impressive peaks of the Andean Volcanoes and Mountains, such as Tuzgle and Chañi. We will visit the small salt mines and pools and learn about the local culture.

### **Day 7: Purmamarca | Uquía | Hornocal | Salta (B|L)**

Distance: 390 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.



Driving North on Route N9 we will come across the picturesque town of Uquia, often known for its art series "Arcángeles Arcabuceros" of the "Escuela Cusqueña" located in the local Church of San Francisco de Paula (1691). However, a hidden treasure lies just a few kilometers behind the village of which can only be discovered on foot; the stunning landscape known as 'Las Señoritas Gorge'. After the hike we will enjoy a homemade lunch made with locally grown products in a regional restaurant. Later, we will head off on another adventure, off the beaten track to Serranías del Hornocal, a hidden gem and impressive Mountain Range located in a secluded Valley by the town of Humahuaca. There we will find a viewpoint to enjoy the amazing rainbow colored mountains before returning to Salta in the late afternoon.



### **Hiking "Las Señoritas" (Uquía, Quebrada de Humahuaca)**

Distance: 5 km (2 1/2hs.), +/-200 mts /656 feet

Altitude at starting point: 2.800 m. Altitude at the highest point: 3.000 m.

Terrain details: earth track – uphill/downhill. 200m. incline.

Difficulty level: easy to moderate.

Note: Suitable for children older than 6 years old.

It's a 5km hike from the edge of town passing through red desert landscapes until you reach the red rock formations that form the gorge. Behind the little town of Uquía you can see a dream landscape: the "ladies' ravine", with its imposing colored walls. According to local legends, at the time of the Inca Empire, a group of ladies who carried large amounts of gold departed from Peru. Persecuted by the Spanish invaders, they fled and were trapped in the ravines. It is said that somewhere in the Quebrada de Humahuaca lies hidden that precious treasure. Then they offered their life to Pachamama and this one, as thanks, formed those colored peaks that are known today as *Las señoritas* creek.

*End of our services.*

***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.***



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

### **The Tour Includes**

#### **Accommodation**

2 nights in Finca Valentina [www.finca-valentina.com.ar](http://www.finca-valentina.com.ar)  
1 night in La Merced del Alto [www.lamerceddelalto.com](http://www.lamerceddelalto.com)  
1 night in Siilu Wasi Glamping  
1 night in Viñas de Cafayate Wine Resort [www.cafayatewineresort.com](http://www.cafayatewineresort.com)  
1 night in Manantial del Silencio [www.hotelmanantialdelsilencio.com](http://www.hotelmanantialdelsilencio.com)

#### **Notes:**

1. *Breakfast is included in every hotel.*
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.*

#### **Meals**

- Day 1: Dinner in Finca Valentina.
- Day 2: Breakfast at the Hotel. Lunch in a local restaurant.
- Day 3: Breakfast at the Hotel. Pic Nic. Dinner at Siilu Wasi Glamping.
- Day 4: Breakfast at the Hotel. Lunch in Bodega Burbujas de Altura.
- Day 5: Breakfast at the Hotel. Pic Nic.
- Day 6: Breakfast at the Hotel. Lunch in a local restaurant.
- Day 7: Breakfast at the Hotel. Lunch in a local restaurant.

#### **Notes:**

1. *Soft drinks are included with every meal.*
2. *Please be patient with the timing for the services.*

#### **Entrance Fees**





- Entry ticket to archeological site "*Pucará de Tilcara*".
- Visit fee to "*Serranías del Hornocal*" viewpoint.



### **Logistical Support**

Pick up 4WD vehicle of Socompa comprising of:

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

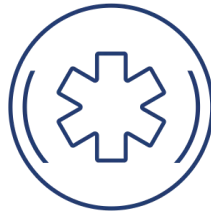


### **Suggested packing list**

- Water bottle (1lt) to avoid the use of plastic bottles for mineral water. Our guide will make sure to refill your bottle whenever necessary. All year round!
- Sunblock and sunglasses (protection against UV) All year round!
- Hat. All year round!
- Gloves (made of wool or similar material). In winter



- In autumn/winter (May to August), clothes must be reinforced: winter jacket, sweatshirts, polar long-sleeve shirt, scarf, etc.).
- Windproof Jacket (it's important because the area is windy). In winter only
- Waterproof jacket during Summer (Mid-December to Mid-March)
- Trekking shoes (comfortable). All year round!
- Moisturizing cream. All year round!



### **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.

### **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-shows charges.



### **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 circumstances.
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.
4. **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.