

Beaver Creek Hiking Center – Argentina sampler
(Buenos Aires, Mendoza, Patagonia)
October 8 – 17, 2010

Itinerary

Hotels/lodging

Loi Suites Recoleta, Buenos Aires (2 nights) / www.loisuites.com.ar

Kau Yatun, El Calafate (2 nights) / www.kauyatun.com

El Puma, El Chaltén (2 nights) / www.hosteriaelpuma.com.ar

Cavas Wine Lodge, Mendoza (3 nights) / www.cavaswinelodge.com

Total nights 09

Day1 – Friday October 08

Buenos Aires

Arrival at EZE Buenos Aires International Airport.

Private transfer to Loi Suites Recoleta Hotel.

English-speaking guide on bus.

Buenos Aires is an elegant and cosmopolitan city with a European flavor and friendly atmosphere. There is a very active cultural and social life, special themes being tango, and the city's sleepless nightlife, sports at their best soccer, polo and turf and the famed Argentinean beef and excellent wines. The Gaucho tradition and the Pampas, the River Plate, great museums, good shopping, and sidewalk cafes – all these activities enhanced by the unmatched Argentinean hospitality a quality of its people and open to all cultures since the big immigration waves.

Afternoon walk around the Recoleta neighborhood.

Welcome dinner in Fervor – BBQ Resto, located in Recoleta district – *Soft drinks and coffee included.*

Fervor walking distance from Loi Suites Recoleta.

www.fervorbrasas.com.ar

Meal included: Dinner

Day 2 – Saturday October 09

Buenos Aires

City Tour – 5 hours English-speaking guide.

The sightseeing tour will last approximately five hours and will start with a brief introduction on Argentina's history and an explanation throughout the visit on why and how each of these neighborhoods actually originated.

Through its architecture, green spaces, monuments, history and anecdotes the visitor will understand Buenos Aires of today.

We will be getting off the VAN at various points during our visit, in Recoleta to visit Our Lady of Pilar church, and Recoleta Cemetery. Another stop will be Plaza de Mayo, where we will visit Buenos Aires' main Cathedral, La Manzana de las Luces and San Ignacio de Loyola's church.

Also in San Telmo and La Boca you will get a chance to stroll along the most picturesque areas. Retiro, Puerto Madero & where the work of Spaniard Calatrava is located, the Woman's bridge, and last but not least driving through Palermo Woods towards the Polo Field where every year the best Argentine teams meet for the big Polo Open located across from the city's race track.

Lunch at Florida Garden.

This mythical cafe in Buenos Aires is a real attraction just after you walk through its typical door.

Press the F and G engraved on the door and get into a place that witnessed a great part of the city's history. Its tables were and are visited by famous writers, plastic artists and politicians.

All this historical and mundane vibration combines with its high quality products and services.

Shopping time on own – Florida Steet (pedestrian street) full of shops and Galerias Pacifico Mall.

Evening dedicated to Tango.

The Tango is part of the background music of Buenos Aires. You will enjoy special porteña music night at one of the best tango places, where typical songs and dances are performed.

Transfer from Loi Suites to Faena Hotel + Universe

Faena Hotel + Universe

Alan Faena and Philippe Starck design inspired by early 20th century transatlantic ships.

El Mercado

Inspired by the old European markets and the legendary cantinas of Buenos Aires, El Mercado offers sophisticated, top-quality natural fare. Enjoy appetizing traditional Argentinean cuisine by the warmth of a rustic adobe mud oven.

Rojo Tango

The Faena Hotel's Award Nominated Tango Show

The history of Tango. From its beginnings in the cabarets of turn-of-the-century Buenos Aires to Piazzolla's avant-garde vision. Love, passion, madness, glamour. A show of international standing in which history becomes legend.

Dinner at El Mercado – *Soft drinks and coffee included.*

Rojo Tango show, dance & music (drinks included).

Transfer back to Loi Suites Recoleta Hotel.

Meal included: Breakfast, lunch & Dinner

Day 3 – Sunday October 10

Buenos Aires to El Calafate (3 hour flight)

Private transfer from Loi Suites to Buenos Aires Domestic airport to board the flight to El Calafate
English-speaking guide on bus.

Private transfer from El Calafate airport to Kau Yatun Hotel (20 minutes).

Welcome to Patagonia

Southern Patagonia is still today quite unexplored and it offers real wilderness. Nature at it's best, the wild mountains, rough weather, and desolate landscapes rule the land. Unique beauty, unforgettable scenery, amazing calving glaciers like Perito Moreno and Upsala and the huge plateau of the Ice Field and the endless barren steppes, that's what Patagonia is made of.

El Calafate is the gateway to the Glaciers National Park.

It has almost 18.000 inhabitants, and tourism is its main activity.

The city takes its name from a bush called Calafate (Berberis Buxifolia), typical from the steppe, characteristic for the bright yellow flowers in springtime and dark blue berry fruits, which are used to elaborate jam, liquors and other regional products.

Once we drive past the city, we will see the Bahia Redonda that freezes during the winter, a perfect place to practice ice-skating.

Check in at Kau Yatun Hotel.

Located 6 blocks from El Calafate downtown, in the 25 de Mayo Ranch, Kau Yatun is one of the traditional hotels in El Calafate. Surrounded by aspens, pines and willows, Kau Yatun preserves the hospitality of its first settlers and it's an ideal place to rest and connect with the country style of the far south.

Glaciology talk at Kau Yatun.

Picada (light dinner) with wine and soft drinks included during the glaciology talk.

A plentiful selection of appetizers and local wine will be served during the presentation.

Meal included: Breakfast & Picada

Day 4 – Monday October 11

El Calafate – Los Glaciares National Park

Full day at the Perito Moreno Glacier, hiking on the ice.

Entrance fee to the National Park (Los Glaciares National Park).

Visit the famous Perito Moreno Glacier

The bus ride takes about 2 hours through the vast Patagonian Steppe with great views of the Argentino Lake and after the steppe; we will get into the magellanic forest. (Bosque Andino-Magallánico o Patagónico).

Hopefully we can watch Chelean Flamingos, Andean Condors, Black -chested Buzzard-Eagle, choiques (lesser rhea) and other species of birds, fauna and flora.

Our private VAN and guide will take us to the Catwalks, where we can enjoy this unique and amazing calving glacier.

At the viewpoint enjoy the fabulous vistas of the glacier's face and if lucky watch huge chunks of ice calving into the lake.

Hiking on the Ice:

The excursion begins in a little pier called Bajo de las Sombras, where we will embark for 20 minutes navigation, a short sightseeing cruise along the three-mile-long face of the glacier.

Once we disembark, the mountain guide will welcome us and after checking the last details, we will have the opportunity to hike on the glacier; the hike takes between 1 and 2 hours.

We will then strap on crampons (metal spikes that attached to the bottom of our shoes). And begin our hike, which is easy; it goes up and down but it is very safe and we will enjoy a fascinating landscape of glaciers, streams, small lagoons, gullies and many moulens (grietas).

Important: gloves are needed to protect the hands from the rough ice.

Dinner at La Tablita – *Soft drinks and coffee included.*

Traditional place to test the famous Patagonian lamb and BBQ. There is also a vegetarian menu.

La Tablita is a simple Resto but food is good and the atmosphere is very nice.

Meal included: Breakfast, lunch box & Dinner

Day 5 – Tuesday October 12

El Calafate to El Chaltén (from Calafate city 3 hours bus ride)

Private transfer from El Calafate to El Chaltén.

Stop at La Leona (Estancia) – *alfajor and coffee included.*

El Chaltén is a small village with only 2.000 inhabitants; it is located inside Los Glaciares National Park, 200 km north of El Calafate.

It offers a true wilderness trekking experience in a vast landscape populated by condors and guanacos and also climbers from different continents whom arrive every summer/season looking for the amazing peaks.

El Chaltén provides a breathtaking panoramic view of the Fitz Roy massif and Cerro Torre.

Enjoy this amazing destination and remember that southern Patagonia is still today quite unexplored and it offers real wilderness. Nature at its best, the wild mountains, rough weather, and desolate landscapes rule the land. Strong westerly winds blow today as they did when the first explorers and climbers arrived not long ago. A few things have changed, but the feeling of adventure has certainly survived.

Arrival at El Puma – welcome picada.

Located in the heart of Argentina's Glacier National Park is the town of El Chalten, the gateway to the finest climbing, trekking and horse riding trails in Patagonia. Set at the foot of Monte Fitz Roy and Cerro Torre, and the convergence of the area's trailheads, is Hosteria El Puma, the perfect accommodations for visitors to Patagonia who appreciate a relaxing and comfortable place to call home while in the area.

Half day hike to Cerro Torre View Point.
Dinner at El Puma – Terray Resto.

Meal included: Breakfast, picada & Dinner

Day 6 – Wednesday October 13

El Chaltén

Transfer from El Puma to El Pilar – trailhead to Laguna de los Tres hike.
Transfer to FRAC (Fitz Roy Adventure Camp).
Dinner at FRAC – *Drinks included (water, beer and wine).*

The Fitz Roy Adventure Camp.

A recently opened wilderness and adventure camp, located 17 km north of el Chalten. The cozy timber lodge is built on the shore of Rio de Las Vueltas at it has unique views of Mt. Fitz Roy's north face. The lodge has a fabulous dining room, surrounded by the warmth of its beautiful timber, where we will enjoy our early supper by the fireplace and with views of the magellanic forest.

The kitchen is always working to provide the best possible local cuisine, and of course lovely argentine wine is never absent.

Meal included: Breakfast, lunch box & Dinner

Day 7 – Thursday October 14

El Chaltén to Mendoza *via Buenos Aires*

Private transfer from El Chaltén to El Calafate airport to board the flight to Buenos Aires and connect with the flight to Mendoza.

Lunch on own at the airport.

Arrival at Mendoza – private transfer to Cavas Wine Lodge.
Welcome cocktail and welcome BBQ dinner at Al Fresco Resto at the Cavas Wine Lodge – *Soft drinks included.*

Mendoza

Blessed by rich sunlight and a panorama of snow-filled mountains, Mendoza dominates Argentina's winemaking industry and is one of the most successful wine regions on earth.

Surrounding the beautiful city of Mendoza and lying just to the east of the towering Andes, the province accounts for over 70% of the nation's wine production and is the world's sixth largest producer of grapes. Not only is Mendoza the perfect place to be based while you take your journey in wine but the surrounding areas offer a host of different opportunities.

Remember the frontier with Chile is extremely close and the Andean landscapes are gorgeous.

The very well known "Ruta de los Vinos" deserves a special mention because voyagers can visit ancient cellars and taste excellent yields which is product of carefully chosen grapes.

Cavas Wine Lodge is one of the first lodges of its kind in South America, blessed by the natural beauty of Mendoza, an idyllic wine-growing region at the foot of the Andes. The wonderful atmosphere and the knowledge of all things in Mendoza will make it one of the most delightful and memorable experiences you'll ever have.

Each of the 14 rooms at Cavas Wine Lodge is freestanding, with natural comfortable exteriors and relaxed décor, a true indoor-outdoor living experience. Space is the real luxury, the suite an apartment, the bathroom a spa, the epitome of refinement in a distant corner of the world. All rooms have a large master bath and dual vanities; the bedroom connects to a private outdoor terrace and also leads to a separate indoor living room featuring warm furnishings and unique artwork.

Meal included: Breakfast, Cocktail & Dinner

Day 8 – Friday October 15 **Mendoza**

Full day hike in Vallecitos.

We set the compass to the West and take route N° 7, towards the mountains. The first Andean mountain range we will come across is called the Pre Mountain Range, and the snowy peaks to the west are part of the Cordillera Frontal. We will drive through the Potrerillos Valley, which lies between these two ranges, and drive pass by Potrerillos Lake to then take the SW bearing into the Cordillera Frontal. We get off the asphalt into a dirt road, going towards the Vallecitos Ski Resort, where we will be dropped off.

Leaving the ski resort behind us, we start hiking into a gorge and we'll be able to see on our left mount Franke (16.400 ft – 5.000 m) and on the right the San Bernardo (14.400 ft – 4.400 m). The path goes up along a water stream and at the first flat land, we come to a very fertile tract where the water table approaches the surface and a few water springs can be seen. Ahead of us, the majestic mount Vallecitos (19.000 ft – 5.800 m) is the perfect spot to have lunch. Eventually, packs of guanacos and some condors can be added to the scenery.

Dinner in 1884-Francis Mallmann Restaurante, or similar in Mendoza City – *Soft drinks included.*

Meal included: Breakfast, lunch box & Dinner

Day 9 – Saturday October 16 **Mendoza**

Full day visiting 2 exclusive wineries and wine tasting.

Lunch at Melipal Winery – www.bodegamelipal.com

Melipal offers excellent gourmet cuisine with amazing views.

Dinner at the Wine Cellar at Cavas Wine Lodge – *Soft drinks included.*

Meal included: Breakfast, lunch & Dinner

Day 10 – Sunday October 17 **Mendoza to Buenos Aires (EZE international airport)**

Private transfer from Cavas Wine Lodge to Mendoza airport.

Arrival at Ezeiza International Airport.

Note: if the plane lands in Buenos Aires domestic airport we will have a bus to connect airports, included.

Meal included: Breakfast

**** All activities and restaurants are subject to change**
******* End of arrangements *******

Please be advised:

Beginning on December 28th 2009, American Citizens traveling to Argentina for tourism or business will have to pay a "Tasa de Solicitud de Ingreso al Pais" for the amount of 131 dollars, when entering the country.

This fee is paid once every ten years, and there are no restrictions on the number of trips within that period of time.

American tourists and businessmen are allowed to stay in the country for up to 90 days. An extension for the same time can be requested at the Immigration Offices.

American Citizens who were born in Argentina are exempted.

If you need further details, please contact (323) 954-9155

Domestic Flights

Flight AR 2890 / 10OCT BA -El Calafate / 14.50 – 18.03

Flight AR 1803 / 14OCT Calafate - BA / 11.06 – 14.02

Flight AR 1430 / 14OCT BA - Mendoza / 17.25 – 19.15

Flight AR 1419 / 17OCT Mendoza - **Ezeiza** / 15.05 – 18.00

Trip price (US dollars):

8-9ppl \$6875pp

10-11ppl \$6675pp

12-16ppl \$6475 pp

(Single suplement \$1800pp)

Note: price does not include international flight.

CANCELLATION FEES

Number of Days Prior to Trip Start	Cancellation Fees per person)	Trip Dates
96+ days	\$200	October 8 – 17, 2010
61-95 days	30%	
31-60 days	60%	
0-30 days	100%	

Trip/travel insurance recommended.

Check www.quotewright.com for a quote.