

Argentina (and Uruguay)

Sept. 5 - October 7, 2014

SV Jacaranda

Transportation

Reina del Camino bus from Bahia to Guayaquil on Sept. 5 at 2:30 pm. \$7 each.

Flew on LAN from Guayaquil to Buenos Aires direct, about 6 hours. The fare was \$812.66 each (ouch!)

Chuck went in on his Irish Passport and therefore avoided any Reciprocity fees. As an American, I had to pay \$160 in Reciprocity Fees before entering the country which I did online (Provincia Pagos Virtual <dnm@provinciapagos.com.ar>). This fee applies to Australians and Canadians as well. At the Buenos Aires airport, I gave Immigration the number of the payment rather than a copy of the receipt and that sufficed.

Our travel methodology to Argentina was a a bit of a departure for us. Because of the expense of the flights from Ecuador, we booked a round trip ticket on LAN rather than one-way, giving our trip an ending date which we usually avoid. We prefer to travel open-ended with some flexibility to the journey. The other departure from our norm was traveling internally in Argentina by air rather than by bus. In the end, bus travel is not so much terribly cheaper than airfares and the country is so large that most bus travel is easily 24 hours or more to any of the destinations we had in mind. We wouldn't have had the time to see as much as we did. Luckily we found Lupe at TravelBank in Recoleta- a wonderful travel agent who arranged all the internal Aerolineas Argentina flights in one fell swoop - in one sitting - as we followed her advice on the timing of our itineraries. We booked our own hotels, car rentals, and any side tours as we normally do.

Guadalupe Montserrat

TravelBank

Galeria Promenade Alvear (in Recoleta neighborhood)

Posadas 1562/64

Tel. 4809-3188

guadalupe@travelbank.com.ar

This is also across from our Cueva - the safe, reliable place to change money from US dollars to Argentinian pesos at the Blue rate. Official rate \$1= 8 ARS

Blue rate \$1= 14.30 (when we arrived) but rose to 16 ARS while we were there.

Upon leaving, on Oct. 6 we exchanged 1997 ARS for dollars at a rate of 15.25 and received \$131 US

Cueva

Posadas 1564

in between Callao and Ayacucho

Money - Bring lots of US dollars with you to exchange for the Argentinian Blue rate dollars - in denominations of \$100 bills. You cannot get US dollars from the banks in Argentina. We didn't bring enough and had to go to Uruguay to get more from the ATM's in Montevideo (see Uruguay section below).

Buenos Aires

Apartment - we LOVED this place, the location, and the surrounding neighborhood and would stay here again!! And the price was right!

A studio apartment at Billinghamurst in Barrio Norte on the border of Recoleta neighborhood. (2416 Billinghamurst 3B). This is a side street off the busy Las Heras Av. (betw. Las Heras Ave. and P. de Melo St.). We stayed for 6 nights (\$66 USD per night). We had to pay the balance (minus the \$60 deposit paid through Paypal) at check in in USD. We did not have to pay the refundable damage deposit they mentioned. They arranged a private transfer from the airport for \$50.00 (to be paid in USD at the apartment). Alternative is to take a bus to the center and a taxi to the apartment (ARS \$80-110).

Staff: Alex (owner), Mariela, Gaston (all very responsive)

6 nights - Sept. 6 - Sept. 12

\$60 downpayment

\$390 balance

Paid in US dollars only

Reservation # 1974086

[Luxury BILLINGHURST 1 Recoleta](#)

<http://perfectolugarapartments.com/>

alex@perfectolugarapartments.com

Tel. for emergencies 54911 3018 7686

[http://www.tripadvisor.com/VacationRentalReview-g312741-d2442573-or9-](http://www.tripadvisor.com/VacationRentalReview-g312741-d2442573-or9-Luxury_BILLINGHURST_1_Recoleta-Buenos_Aires_Capital_Federal_District.html#REVIEWS)

[Luxury BILLINGHURST 1 Recoleta-](#)

[Buenos Aires Capital Federal District.html#REVIEWS](#)

Hotels

Sileo Hotel - Sept. 14 (1 night) (Recoleta)

(thru hotels.com)

Azcuenaga 1968

+541148090001

Double with a fantastic view of the Recoleta Cemetery

USD \$144.58 (\$83 at the blue rate)

Loi Suites - Recoleta Hotel - Oct. 4-7

Vicente Lopez 1955

www.loisuites.com.ar

Total for 3 nights - 4440.00 ARS (about US\$103/night average)

A splurge for our last nights in Argentina!

First night @ 1717 or \$122; second and third nights @ 1317 or \$94/night.

Fancy place with a pool and fountain above the dining area. Great breakfast buffet.

But can you believe they charge ARS\$45 extra for wifi in the room? Outrageous at this price.

Woke up at 5 am on Oct. 7 to get to the airport for our flight to Ecuador; really nice private car arranged through the hotel took us at 6 am (320 pesos or US\$23).

Ulises Recoleta Suites (Hotel Boutique) - we didn't stay here but a good contender

Ayacucho 2016

www.ulisesrecoleta.com.ar

Good location

Studio Superior

with breakfast US\$150 (ARS1290) (\$US90 at blue rate)

without breakfast US\$135 (ARS1161)

Entertainment

Teatro Colon

<http://www.teatrocolon.org.ar/en/calendar/october>

Definitely take the tour through the theater. It was newly restored and glittered. Our tour guide, a young musician was fabulous. They used to take you to the lower levels under the theater to see the costume and set design/construction workshops but they were not doing this at the time of our tour. Also, the main theater area was dark because they were preparing the lighting for a performance and couldn't turn on the house lights. On our last night in BsAs, we went to a performance - a Chamber Music Orchestra from Switzerland with a cello soloist. It was almost sold out and our seats did not afford a full view of the stage (you had to stand) but it was worth doing. That's how we also got to finally see the interior of the main stage.

Orquesta de Camara de Basilea (Chamber Orchestra of Basil, Switzerland) with Sol Gabetta, violonchelo soloist (she is Argentinian) Program: Bettina Skrzypczak, Camille Saint-Saens, Beethoven Symphony #7 en la Mayor, Op. 92

Fuerza Bruta

Junin 1930 - Centro Cultural Recoleta

<http://www.ozonoproducciones.com.ar/>

Charu Moya <carlam@ozonoproducciones.com.ar>

Cultural center next to Recoleta Cemetery

ARS \$160-170 during the week and ARS\$180-190 on the weekends

This is a Cirque du Soliel type of performance except that the audience stands the whole time and participates. Great fun!

El Viejo Almacén - Traditional Tango Show (Sept. 9)
Avenida Independencia 313 (corner of Balcarce) in San Telmo
www.viejoalmacen.com

Steak dinner and show without transportation.

Next time we would skip the dinner and only go to the show. The dinner was good but mediocre; the show was very good with several tango couples, musicians, and a singer in an intimate setting (tables around a stage).

Eating

Fervor

Posadas 1519 y Callao

My number one restaurant pick to eat at but we never got the chance - next time!

El Sanjuanino

Next to Fervor

Traditional Argentinian food highly recommended by Lupe, our Travel Agent who never steered us wrong. She said to try the locro and pastelitos.

Again we never got the chance!

Boutique de Jean Paul

in the Alvear Palacio Hotel building (on the side)

Lovely bakery and cafe - Great croissants (really really French)

**We hardly ate out at restaurants in BsAs because we shopped in the neighborhood stores and bought such things as empanadas, fresh handmade pasta with homemade sauces, fancy cheeses, etc. and ate in our apartment instead. We enjoyed this thoroughly and saved quite a bit of money.

Tours

Free City Tour (green shirts)

www.bafreetour.com

info@bafreetour.com

Plaza de Congreso @ Av. Rivadavia , 11 a.m.

A wonderful, enthusiastic young woman who also gave us the address of our Cueva for money exchange.

Also offered a free tour around Aristocratic Buenos Aires (which we did not take) - 5 pm

Buenos Aires Bus Turistico

www.buenosairesbus.com

25 stops

The canned tango music in the tour audio-pauses will drive you nuts!

At Stop #8 (in La Boca) where the bus waits for 20 minutes, make sure to buy some of the best empanadas in BsAs at Bar El Estano 1880

www.elestanio1880.com

A. del Valle 1100, La Boca

Miscellaneous

16 GB Thumb drive cost ARS \$210

Galleries/Shops

Artepampa - www.artepampa.com

Defensa 917, San Telmo

Contemporary collages reflecting culture of ancient Argentina inhabitants

Galeria Alvear, Av. Alvear 1777, has great shops:

La Hilacha (local 15) - woven ribbon shawls for 520 pesos or US\$37

matildemazzini@fibertel.com.ar; phone - 4812-5947

Yazmyn Garcia Pinto (Local 16) - butterfly pendants encased in glass and silver

Phone (54 11) 4813-3235

Price of pendants - ARS 3150 or US\$225 at blue rate or US\$366 at official rate

Maria Mateos (local 6) wonderful woven scarves of ribbons that the owner makes at good prices -large shawl for US\$45; flower painted shawls for US\$100

I bought a small shawl here.

Avenida Alvear 1761

www.mariamateos.com.ar

info@mariamateos.co.ar

Uruguay

Getting US dollars: one of the motivations for going to Uruguay was getting more US dollars to use in Argentina to convert to the blue rate pesos. We hadn't brought enough US dollars with us!!!! But we ended up really enjoying Uruguay!!!!

Unfortunately bank ATMs in Uruguay limit withdrawals to \$300 US with a \$5-\$6 ATM fee. Therefore between Chuck and me, we had many many ATM transactions with a big cost to get up to the \$4,000 we wanted to withdraw.

Money - exchange rate was \$1 = 21 Uruguayan Pesos

Transportation

BuqueBus (ferry from BsAs to Colonia del Sacramento, Montevideo) on Sept. 12.
Returned to BsAs from Montevideo on Sept. 14 by the Buquebus ferry (UP\$4680 or about \$111/each)

Colonia del Sacramento

18th century Portuguese town on the River de La Plata across from BsAs
City Gate - rebuilt 1968-1971 by the ruins of the old wall
Calle de Suspiros (Street of Sighs) - original pavement and drain; houses are from the first colonial period.
Lighthouse finished in 1857

Montevideo (Sept. 12 - 14)

Took a 3 hour bus from Colonia to Montevideo (UP\$598 for two or about US\$14 each) but we took a Buquebus ferry directly from Montevideo back to BsAs

Hotel

Hotel Palacio - Room 45
Great location 50 meters to Plaza Independencia
\$47/night for standard; \$57 for Superior
Bartolomé Mitre 1364
Phone: (598) 29163612
www.hotelpalacio.com.uy/blog

Family run, fantastic antique elevator; rooms are simple; the few top floor rooms have balconies with view of city harbor.

At the edge of the area where it is recommended to walk at night.

Don Boutique Hotel
Near Mercado del Puerto

Restaurants

Cafe Bacacay - Sept. 12
Bacacay 1306 - across from the Teatro Solis
www.bacacay.com.uy
Dinner UP\$1309 or US\$62 including tip
Very good chic cafe with nice atmosphere

El Peregrino (Sept. 13)
P. Mercado del Puerto - Castellano 1553
A total meat-fest (bra. "el peregrino") with wine was 2563 UP with 22% tax and 10% service.....or \$112 US

Expensive and the meat was not the highest quality we expected it to be. We wouldn't go back to this stall but would try a different place in the Mercado.

To do:

Plaza de Independencia

Tango shows

Mercado del Puerto - gastronomic center with meat-fests, many art galleries nearby (La Aduana neighborhood)

Carnival Museum (world's longest carnival they claim)

Teatro Solis - (restored 2004) performances and holds milongas (tango dances) on Sundays

Weekend flea Market in beautiful Constitution Park (Matriz Square)

Walk along the Rio de La Plata waterfront (Rambla)

Cool area - Tristan Narvaja/De Peñarol

Iguazu Falls (Sept. 15-18 -- 3 nights)

Hotels

La Cantera (Rm. 520 Forest)

Jungle Lodge Iguazu

Rt. 12 km 5

www.hotellacanteraiguazu.com

Total: ARS 1090

Dinners were \$350 for two

Very nice place.

Sheraton International Iguazu Resort

Inside the National Park

Upscale - can see the Falls (we didn't stay here but checked it out)

www.sheraton.com.ar

Parque Nacional Iguazu (Sept. 16)

Unfortunately both San Martin island and the trail to the Garganta del Diablo were closed due to walkway damage.

Entry - \$215.00

You can go to the Falls the next day for 50% off if you keep your stub and get it stamped before you leave the Park on the first day.

Full Moon Walks to Garganta in the moonlight!

reservas@iguazuargentina.com

Guira Oga - off the main highway (between our hotel and the Iguazu National Park)

www.guiraoga.com.ar

Great nature reserve and wildlife refuge for rescued animals. Tours are in english or spanish and you board a truck which takes you into the jungle to the beginning of their refuge where you walk on boardwalks past the enclosures. Our guide was excellent.

Other things to do: Walk along the lower Iguazu River in Puerto Iguazu where it meets the Parana River and Hito Tres Fronteros (Monument to the 3 borders of Argentina, Brazil, and Paraguay) where there is a small artisan market; Ruins of San Ignacio; visit to Guarani indigenous villages; orchid gardens; Casa de las Botellas; Ice Bar; and other sites in City Tour and Jungle Adventures.

Salta (3838' elevation, pop: 550,000)

Hotel

Hotel El Relax (thru booking.com)

Pasaje Pedro J. Saravia 19 (entre Urquiza y Lavalle)

Across from Parque San Martin and the Teleferico

543874714691

el.relax@hotmail.com

Monica and Heinz (great folks!)

\$65/room or \$37 blue rate

Only 4 rooms so they book up fast

Our room had a little interior patio with a nice light well.

Wonderful breakfasts with Heinz's fresh bread

They also supply you with a good city map on which recommended restaurants are marked.

They helped us with the car rental.

Restaurants

Monaco Confeiteria and Bar - Av. España 512

Open air Cafe across from the main park (Plaza 9 de Julio) and on the same side as the Cathedral. Great people watching. Makes you feel like a local.

Great empanadas

Bartz/Tapas Mundiales (jefe Nestor)

Santiago del Estero 686

www.bartzsalta.com

contacto@bartzsalta.com

0387 4610160

Excellent and what a surprise!

Chef Bartz studied at the famous El Bulli in Spain. Each of the 9 tapas and 2 desserts were fantastic. Our favorite thing was the first! dessert which looked like a fried egg with french fries; the egg was a dollop of mango sorbet which looked exactly like a yolk in a coconut sauce for the white. The mango sorbet was coagulated in a type of agar or gelatin so it formed a membrane and acted like a yolk. The french fries were strips of apple drizzled with dulce de leche.

Mamma Mia (Italian)

Av. del Bicentenario de la Batalla de Salta 200

Recommended by our hotel but we thought it only fair. (I think we had pizza)

Shops

There is a small design movement in Salta - Churo Diseño - Cordoba 65 (near Caseros); there are several artist shops here. Facebook: Churo Diseño Multiespacio International Fashion Designer: Roxana Liendro (www.santosliendro.com); roxanaliendro@santosliendro.com

Silliones Sushi by Matias Vinograd

winegrad.mts@gmail.com

facebook.com/sillonessushi

Driving Travel Guide

This is an absolute MUST if you are going to drive in the area: download the 36 page self-drive travel guide written by Tracy Johnson of NW Nomads at northwestnomad@gmail.com called "Back.Yard Guide Salta".

www.backyardguides.com

What to Bring, When to Go, Legends and Tidbits, Salta and Jujuy trip Planner - itineraries with area map, Tips on Renting a Car and Money, Border Crossings, History and Sites with suggestions of local places to eat and sleep, cultural information. Gives you advice on where to go and what to expect. She explains local foods and gives you recipes.

Spiritofsouthamericatravel.com

<http://www.spiritofsouthamericatravel.com/product/driving-salta-argentina/>

Download Driving Guide for \$7.99 Download the Travel Guide Salta Argentina instantly for all the planning information you need for your self-drive tour of Salta Argentina including, maps, hotels and restaurants, history and cultural details.

<http://www.spiritofsouthamericatravel.com>

You may contact me directly at northwestnomad@gmail.com - I am happy to provide you with any guidance you may need whether you travel with me or not.

Our trip would be much diminished without it. I would have a question and then turn the page and there would be an answer – like about the indigenous flag and the red roadside shrines.”

Car Rental

WCR Car Rental

Contact: Noelia Guemes

www.wcrrentacar.com

wcrrentacar@hotmail.com

Buenos Aires #88, Local #45, Salta

54-387-4210468

54-9-387-156130804

Sept. 19 (early - 9 am) - 22 (late - until 9 pm)

Recommended by Monica and Heinz of Hostel El Relax who helped organize this---

WCR were superb! We highly recommend them! They brought the car to us, sat and did the paperwork, gave us maps and told us where we could and could not drive and helped us plan the itinerary.

The car was in Excellent shape (esp. check the tires).

We brought the car back to the Hostel at the end of the trip where they came over and did the check-out.

Very easy, very accommodating, very affordable - good rates.

2014 Renault Clio

2200 ARS plus 80 ARS for a car wash (about \$162 or \$40/day in blue pesos) Rate was 550 ARS per day for 4 days, unlimited mileage; no extra charge for another driver.

Cafayate (5510'; pop: 12,000)

Second in wine-growing only to Mendoza; highest vineyards in the world up to 8200'

19 bodegas

Hostal del Arbol

Ruinas de Quilmes - 20ARS/person

Helados Miranda - the original creator of wine ice creams - red (cabernet) and white (torrontes)

Av. Guemes Norte #170

Casa de Empenadas

Purmamarca

Hotel

El Manantial del Silencio - hotel and spa - one night: Sept. 21

Ruta Nacional 52 km. 3.5

(0388) 490-8080/81

www.hotelmanantialdelsilencio.com

We stayed in Room 02;

Shared fish dinner in their restaurant was 293 ARS

Room was 1100 ARS (with tax)

Payogasta

Hotel (Sept. 20)

Sala De Payogasta

Ruta Nacional 40, Km 4509

www.saladepayogasta.com

+54 3868 49-6052

cel. 54 387 154527061

Room 8 - \$69/night (Booking.com)

A unique experience and the price is right. Simple and originally restored farmhouse with rooms around a central courtyard; get a room with a fireplace that overlooks the splendid Nevado de Cachi mountains (and look for all the hawks). Great for one night going to or from Cafayate.

The food is very good. We were the only ones there that night. Grilled lamb and potato dinner for ARS\$264.

Tilcara

Nice little center and fun to walk around town. Very indigenous - the most we have seen in Argentina.

We walked through town across the bridge and up a hill to get a panoramic view of the Pucara and valley but didn't actually walk through it. Also went to the little central market that had some indigenous influences in food and dress.

Restaurant:

A La Payla - it was only fair (owners also owned the cafe Ma'koka on Bolivar

Rivadavia betw. La Valle and Belgrano, across from Plaza Chica

El Calafate (9/23-9/27)

La Cantera Boutique Hotel (Sept. 23-27)

Calle 306 No.173

15-20 minute walk into the center downhill.

www.hotellacantera.com

reservas@hotellacantera.com

Superior room #116 with great view of the lake and mountains. Rate set by booking.com
Room rate: 4 nights @ 772 ARS/night ----US \$90/night at official rate and US \$55 /night at the blue rate)

Panoramic views of the lake and mountains, great restaurant, tour desk, close to the center, shuttle bus to/from town restaurants in the evening.

Total was 5,562.29 for 4 nights including some dinners, coffee, laundry, and 2 tours.

This is \$397 total or \$99/night at the blue dollar rate (14). Or \$650 at the official rate (8.55) or \$162/night.

Vespatagonia - transportation from airport to hotel (23 km) in a van that stopped at a lot of hotels, giving us an interesting tour of the area (and other hotels too)

ARS \$340 (rt for two) if purchased at the airport (100 one way, 170 each rt)

Taxi would have been ARS \$400 for two (300 one way/person, 200 each rt)

Tours

Tour to view Moreno Glacier (Sept. 24)

Through the Hotel with Tandem Tours

\$290/person or US\$21 at blue rate.

But this does not include fee for Glaciers National Park (ARS \$215 each or US\$15 blue rate) - this is normal for most tours so it can add quite a lot to the cost.

Hielo y Aventura

www.hieloyaventura.com

Minitrekking - moderate trekking on the glacier -1100/person (Sept. 25) (US \$78/ person with blue rate).

Hielo Express boat tour - 1,000 ARS/person (Sept. 26) (\$US72/person at blue rate)

Also called Rios de Hielo Tour - see Upsala and Spegazzini glaciers

Restaurants

Dinner at the hotel was very good and we liked the chef very much but a bit expensive for what it was - dinner was 660 ARS or US\$47 for two at blue rate. We had one dinner for free because of an advertised promotion that they gave us (because I asked). Chef Augustin Vazquez worked at legendary El Bulli Restaurant in Spain

Ananda Cafe

Eat at the bright green cafe in front of Laguna Nimez on Av. Leandro Alem 653

Mi Rancho

Small restaurant but excellent (lamb and risotto)

Ate there twice.

Laguna Nimez Reserva Natural (Bird Sanctuary) - Sept. 24

Excellent facility on Lago Argentina (with icebergs floating by)!!

Entrance Fee - ARS\$50 each (US\$4); you can also rent binoculars

02902.495536

Boardwalks through many types of habitats, breeding areas, blinds for observation - Flamingos, hawks, ibis among the wonderful variety there.

Bariloche

Biggest ski area in South America

Seven Lakes Drive

Airport is 15 km east of the city - 70 pesos for taxi

Prices for hotels drop drastically after ski season closes on Oct. 1

Hotels

Hostel 41 Below

Juramento 94

info@hostel41below.com

ARS\$190 per person (US\$13.50) - Double with a lake view and shared bathroom, breakfast included

Staff: Sylvia (fantastic - we are still in touch) and Leo (proprietor)

Peninsula Petit Hotel

Av. Campanario 493 - Peninsula San Pedro

www.peninsulapetithotel.com.ar

54 (0294) 4448968

consulta@peninsulapetithotel.com

Beautiful boutique hotel on the Lake with a beach and great views from the room; good restaurant. (our splurge)

Really good value - The prices drop drastically after the close of the ski season which was Oct. 1

Total stay - \$91 for two nights and dinner and 2 drinks

Penthouse 1004
10th floor Bariloche Center Building
San Martin 127 (corner of Pagano)
www.penthouse1004.com.ar

Really different hostel!

Stopped in to have a look and the panoramic views of the lake from the 10th floor are incredible. Very friendly staff. Cooking activity in the kitchen looked a bit crowded.

Restaurants

Chocolate candy places are everywhere

Chiado - Restaurant/patisserie
Av. Bustillo KM 17.933 - right on the highway
Terrace on the Lake Nahuel Huapi
Didn't get to try it but would like to

Dias de Zapata - Mexican restaurant
Pretty good - not the best but enjoyed the food

Girula
Av. San Martin
Great pizza

La Quesería del Sur - wonderful cheese shop with a great selection of gourmet foods
Palacios 294
Tel. 02944422398
laqueseriadelsur@gmail.com

Colonia Suiza
Criadero Truchas Colonia Suiza (Trout Fish Hatchery and Restaurant with a guided tour) - fresh trout
Located on the old property of the pioneering Beveraggi family on Lake Moreno
(294) 4448360 - Omnibus 10

Shops

FitzRoy - Our friend Alex's cousin, Kati, owns this store - in her family since 1949. Has all the regional crafts/items you could want to buy.

fitzroyregionales@yahoo.com.ar

Mitre 18
(0294) 4422335

Car Rental

Correntoso

Mitre 106 upstairs - Office 5

info@correntosorentacar.com

Tel. (294) 442 7737

Driving Trips:

Day 1 -Circuito Chico: includes Colonia Suiza, Trout Farm, iconic Hotel Llao Llao and the Llao Llao Peninsula. Stopped for coffee at Llao Llao Hotel. High tea looked super but very expensive.

Day 2 - 7 Lakes Circuit: Left Bariloche at 9 am on Route 40. Villa de Angostura (Parque Los Arrayanes), Lago Correntoso, Lago Espejo Chico, Lago Escondido, San Martin de Los Andes, take Route 63 south (ripio or gravel road), reached Confluencia & Ruta 40 - really beautiful here at 5:30 pm. Returned to rainy Bariloche at 7 pm

Day 3 (Tues., Sept.30) - El Bolson

Trelew

Hostel El Agora

Owner is Emilio

Edwin Roberts 33

10280 4426899

hostelelagora@hotmail.com

The only hostel in town - a little rough

150 pesos/person (US\$10) - we had a dorm with bath to ourselves

Our luggage, which had not arrived with us, was delivered here the next morning early (9:15 am) as we were preparing to leave for Punta Tombo.

Punta Tombo

Magellan Penguin Colony

Punta Tombo Area Natural Protegida

Entrance Fee - \$100 ARS

www.chubutpatagonia.gob.ar

Puerto Madryn

Shuttle from Puerto Madryn to airport in Trelew was \$130/ea.

Hotel

Australis Yene Hue

Av. Julio A. Roca 33

Near the pier, overlooking the water.

\$1336 with tax from Expedia (US\$95 at blue rate)

I wanted a hotel where we could watch the whales from the window since we were going to be there such a short time. With binoculars it was terrific from our window! Bad customer service - wouldn't cancel Expedia booking (charged credit card) since I made another reservation wanting to pay in cash instead.

Restaurants

Unamesa Restaurant - very enjoyable meal and atmosphere

Belgrano 346

www.facebook.com/unamesa

(0280) 4474479

Activities

Car Rental

Centauro Rent a Car (Mariano)

Av. Roca 7333

0280 447 5747

cel. 0280 15 4340 400

be sure to get their "Tips for the Road"

www.centaurorentacar.com.ar

info@centaurorentacar.com.ar

gasoline (combustible): nafta super

Oct. 2-4 - We rented a Nissan Versa for two days

Daily rate was \$850 ARS; had a 1000 kms. for mileage allowance.

Total cost was \$2450: 1700 for the car and a ARS \$750 (US\$53) transport fee for picking up/dropping off in Trelew instead of Puerto Madryn (\$375 each way). At the end of the trip, we picked Mariano up at his PM office and let him drive us to Trelew when we left so he could avoid taking a bus up to the airport and meeting us there to get the car and then drive it back to PM; two bus tickets for us would have cost about the same as his drop off fee.

Mariano met us in Trelew with the car (he is based in Puerto Madryn) since we flew into Trelew and wanted to go to Punta Tombo first. Mariano was a great guy - he met us at the Trelew Airport at 10 pm and helped us navigate through our lost luggage problem;

we picked him up at 6:15 and had him drive us back to Trelew to catch our plane to BsAs. We're still in touch with him.

Peninsula Valdes

Patrimony of Humanity

Entry Fee of ARS\$12 per car up to 4 passengers and ARS\$160 per person (US\$11/person)

Did not go to the Visitor's Center

Las Restingas Hotel de Mar - Puerto Piramides

www.lasrestingas.com

On the Golfo Nuevo across from whale boat tours

104 km from Puerto Madryn; 170 km from Trelew airport

54 0280 4495101/2/3

12 rooms on the beach with ocean-views and views of whales. Glass roof spa with pool.

We didn't stay here but we had lunch in their restaurant next to the lobby. Looked like a wonderful place to stay; food was very good. Looks a bit pricey but I don't know the rates.

www.sentirvaldes.com : consortium of quality hotels worth looking into. Las Restingas, The Paradise, Jorge Schmidt, Estancia San Lorenzo, Villa Piren, La Posada

Puerto Piramides

(about 90 km from Puerto Madryn on the paved roads)

Whale Watching Boat Tour

Puerto Piramides

Route 42 - 37 km of ripio (gravel) road along the beach - incredible whale watching with no need for a boat! You can stop at high beach bluffs for an aerial view or walk along the pebble beaches alongside the whales within yards!!