



**Northwest Argentina** is the region of high mountains, impressive colours and contrasts, salt, plains and deep blue sky. It includes **Jujuy, Salta, Catamarca and Tucumán** provinces. In **colonial** times, the densely populated northwest was the River Plate's link to the Viceroyalty of Peru and to Spain, and its **indigenous and colonial landmarks**—set among incomparable mountain and desert scenery—are the region's strongest assets. Northwest Argentina maintains the roots of the region's pre-Columbian cultures though influenced by the habits and customs of the Puna. This enormous plateau is located at an altitude of 3,500 metres and stretches beyond Argentina, to Chile and Bolivia. It was precisely these cultures from the north of the continent that converted this zone into pre-Hispanic Argentina's nerve centre, later transferred to Buenos Aires, where the emancipation of the country originated. The northwest has a rich legacy of this past, in the way of invaluable indigenous ruins, works of art, in which the influence of the pre- and post-Hispanic eras, form the special style of the region, and the colonial architecture, clearly evident in the buildings and particularly in some of the countless churches still in use. Its main attractions are the **Quebrada de Humahuaca, The Calchaquí Valleys, and Salta city.**

**Location:** Situated to the Northwest of Argentina. The Puna Region is crossed by big mountain ranges and volcanoes that rise to over 6,000 meters, with basins that have led to large gaps like Pozuelos, in the Province of Jujuy and numerous salt lakes like the Great Salinas.

**Getting Around:** By plane, with daily flights from Buenos Aires (2.20 hours), and many times a week from Iguazu (2 hours), Cordoba (1.25 hours), Mendoza (1.40 hours) and Lima 3 times a week (3 hours). By land, from San Pedro de Atacama (Chile): around 8 hours land transfer crossing the impressive Andes.

**When to go and Weather:** Summer is the rainy season and temperatures are extremely hot till 47°C. Spring is the best season with some cool nights and Autumn and Winter are not so rude during the day but yes at night when the temperature riches around 1°C.

# SALTA – BIKING PROGRAM

## DESERTS, HIGH ANDES AND PUNA

### Where to stay:

**Salta:**  
**First Class:** Legado Mitico Salta, House of Jasmines.  
**Superior Class:** Solar de la Plaza, Casa Real, Ayres de Salta, Design Hotel.

**Cafayate:**  
**First Class:** Grace Cafayate & Patios de Cafayate  
**Superior Class:** Viñas de Cafayate.

**Cachi / Molinos:**  
**Superior:** Hostal de Molinos, La Merced del Alto, Finca Santana

**Purmamarca:**  
**Superior Class:** El Manantial del Silencio and La Comarca.

**What to do:** Hiking, cooking classes, biking, estancia tourism, rafting, sightseeing and much more!



### ARGENTINA TRAVEL PARTNERS

Florida 890 4º piso - Buenos Aires, Argentina  
Tel: +54 11 4315 9222 Fax: +54 11 5274 2029  
www.atpdmc.com DNS# N°0612/06 Leg.12795



## BIKE TRIP – HIGHLIGHTS OF THE NORTHWEST

This area is still very much a hidden treasure of Argentina (and for sure our favorite area). The charm and the character of this area lies in the culture and folklore of its people, in the architecture of its small towns, in the traditions and customs present in its markets, its food, its music and its religious festivities. A mix of Pre-Columbian civilizations (it was the southernmost outpost of the Inca Empire) and Spanish colonial past (the city of Salta, the gateway city to visit this area, is the best preserved Spanish colonial city in Argentina). The landscapes are breathtaking, with the Andes as background. Desert, cactus, high altitude salt lakes, llamas crossing the Puna... An incredible variety of colors, climates, activities, that never leaves you indifferent.

### SUGGESTED ITINERARY: BIKING IN THE CALCHAQUIES VALLEY AND PUNA.

The importance of the Argentine Northwest is for the attractions that hold among its colorful mountains. It has a fantastic geography carved by wind and sun, colorful peppers dryers in Calchaquíes valleys with its churches, archaeological sites, museums and natural attractions. They are recognized for their high altitude wines grown to more than 3000 meters above sea level. The Altiplano located at 3,500 meters above sea level at the foot of the Andes offers mountain peaks with eternal snow, volcanoes and vast plains of salt as well as a variety of local fauna composed of vicuñas mimicked with the landscape.

#### Day 1: Salta – Purmamarca

Morning arrival to Salta, meet and greet at the airport to start with the journey.

Northern mountains of Salta are covered by a subtropical jungle known as **Yungas**, where our adventure begins.

After 30 min of driving we reach the starting point of biking along the path of corniza that crosses the Salto-Jujeña jungle, ending at the dam **La Cienega**. Then we continue our journey on our vehicle to the village of **Purmamarca** where the **Seven Colors Peak** is located in the **Humahuaca Gorge** (World Heritage). **Overnight in Purmamarca.**

**Km biking:** 60 km

**Difficulty:** Medium

**Distance:** 160 km

### Day 2: Purmamarca - Salinas Grandes - Salta

After breakfast, we leave on our bikes to take the westbound **rising up to 4170 meters**. Here we start the descent into **salt flats** located in the **Altiplano Jujeño** (puna), crossing these high plains and enjoy a picnic lunch beside the salt pools located within the same, then by vehicle back to the city of Salta. **Overnight in Salta**

**Km biking:** 70km

**Difficulty:** High/Demanding

**Total distance:** 260 km

### Day 3: Salta - Cafayate

We start heading south through small towns that have particular characteristics that identify them, after 2 hour trip we arrive at **La Quebrada de las Conchas**, famous for its capricious geological formations formed by erosion of millions of years, the abandoned village known as **Alemania** will be our start point for biking, here we set up our team bikes and tour the Quebrada de las Conchas up to the formation of the castles where biking ends. We continue by car 30 mins for reaching the town of **Cafayate**, visit and wine tasting at local winery.

**Overnight in Cafayate**

**Km biking:** 65 km

**Difficulty:** Medium

**Total distance:** 190 km

### Day 4: Cafayate - Quebrada de las Flechas - Cachi

After breakfast, we begin our day with link path for 1 hour, until we reach our starting point of biking, once there will visit the **Quebrada de las Flechas** an extraordinary place with formations that are eroded by wind and rain, culminating our adventure with a delicious lunch in a local restaurant. After lunch we continue in our vehicle to the village of **Cachi**.

**Overnight in Cachi**

**Km biking:** 30 km

**Difficulty:** High (challenge day)

**Total distance:** 100 km

### Day 5: Cachi - Salta (airport)

Start the adrenaline day linking path for 1 hour to reach the peak height, **Piedra del Molino (3453 meters above sea level)** there we prepare our bikes to start the descent of 21 km along the **Cuesta del Obispo**, and then continue along the **Quebrada del Escoipe** and arrive at the town of **Chicoana** for lunch. End of biking.

**Km biking:** 60 km

**Difficulty:** Medium

**Total distance:** 160 km

### Suggested equipment to bring:

Solar and lip balm, glasses, biker jacket, polar fleece sweatshirt, windbreaker jacket, warm jacket, warm gloves, fleece collar or bandana buff type, shim short and long cyclist, synthetic and warm socks, sneakers, spare change of clothes.

**Fact Sheet:**

**Services Included:**

- Accommodations
- Airport reception
- Vehicle at disposal for the complete journey / 5 Days
- English Speaker Guide at disposal for the complete journey / 5 Days
- Entrance fees
- Bikes
- Snack during the trip
- Ongoing coordination
- Meals detailed on the itinerary
- All our vehicles are licensed by the relevant state supervisory agency

**Services Not Included:**

- Meals not detailed on the itinerary
- Flights
- Tips
- Medical insurance



**Your Contact:**

ATP Argentina Travel Partners, Ms. Merina A. Begg: Email: [mbegg@atpdmc.com](mailto:mbegg@atpdmc.com)

In Germany: Eva Muminovic, Phone: +49 5130 928 63 22, Email: [eva.muminovic@tourism-affairs.com](mailto:eva.muminovic@tourism-affairs.com)