

Mendoza, Argentina 2027 Itinerary

ALL TEXT IN **BLUE** IS LINKED TO RELEVANT WEB SITES WITH ADDITIONAL INFORMATION. PLEASE NOTE THE ITINERARY IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE BASED ON AVAILABILITY AND OTHER FACTORS BEYOND OUR CONTROL. UNLESS NOTED, MEALS AT SPECIFICALLY NAMED RESTAURANTS ARE PRE-PAID AND INCLUDE WINE. WINE WITH MEALS WILL BE PROVIDED AT THE RATE OF ONE BOTTLE PER 4 PEOPLE BUT WINE WILL BE POURED FOR YOU AT CLUB TAPIZ AND BODEGA SANTA JULIA. WINE(S) AT THE LAUR OLIVE OIL AND GOUHER CHOCOLATE COMPANY TASTINGS WILL BE PROVIDED AT THE PROVIDERS' DISCRETION. YOU MAY PURCHASE ADDITIONAL WINE TO ACCOMPANY YOUR MEAL OR TO TAKE HOME AT ANY VENUE AT YOUR OWN EXPENSE. IF UNITED/COPA CHANGE THEIR SCHEDULES BEFORE WE DEPART OR WHILE WE ARE IN MENDOZA, THIS ITINERARY WILL BE CHANGED, AS NECESSARY, TO ACCOMMODATE OUR TRANSPORTATION TO AND FROM THE AIRPORT.

Saturday, March 20th

Full Day, very early start!	Travel to Mendoza, Argentina (via Houston and Panama City, Panama; 2 stops)
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Sunday, March 21st

12:10 am (approx.)	Arrive at El Plumerillo International Airport, Mendoza . Transit customs, retrieve luggage and travel to Portal Suites Hotel (https://www.portalplazasuites.com/) via private shuttle bus.
6:30 -11:00 am	Complimentary breakfast at Portal Suites Restaurant.
10:00 am	Currency exchange at Portal Suites. Meet in the lobby.
As soon as currency exchange is complete.	Mendoza central city orientation walk with Dr. Johnston. We'll visit the closest Carrefour (Walmart equivalent), the best local shopping district, the central city parks and dozens of restaurants.
2:00 pm	By this time, we will have selected a restaurant we would like to have lunch at. This meal will be Dutch treat.
3:30 pm	Return to Portal Suites. Optional wine on the rooftop patio (be sure to purchase at Carrefour or one of the many wine stores we will see!)
4:00 pm	Open air bus tour of Mendoza and visit to Cerro de la Gloria (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cerro_de_la_Gloria). Jose Mostafa will offer a brief historical explanation of the very large monument.
~6:00 pm	Return by bus to Portal Suites

7:15 pm	Meet in the lobby of Portal Suites to walk to Anna Bistro (a little more than 3 blocks).
7:30 pm	Orientation presentation and welcome dinner at Anna Bistro (https://annabistro.com.ar/) in the wine cellar.
10:30 pm	Return to Portal Suites on foot and retire for the night.

Monday, March 22nd

6:30 - 10:30 am	Complimentary breakfast at Portal Suites restaurant
10:45 am	Depart hotel via private coach for Maipu (one of Mendoza's three main agricultural regions about 15 miles southeast of the city that are known for their vineyards and olive groves). Meet in the hotel lobby to board.
11:30 am- 12:45 pm	Tour and Tasting at Laur Olive Oil Company (https://laur.ar/en/main-home-english/). This company grows olive trees and offers a tour of their oil and Balsamic Vinegar production facilities. A tasting of their olive oils and balsamic vinegar, with wine , is offered after the tour. This allows you to taste all their products and purchase as much as you want to take home.
1:00 – 3:30 pm	Lunch at Club Tapiz rural hotel, gourmet restaurant, winery and vineyard. (http://www.club-tapiz.com.ar) The chef here was named #1 in the Mendoza region in 2016.
3:30 pm	Return to Portal Suites
8:00 pm	Group dinner at La Marchigiana Centro (https://marchigiana.com.ar/), arguably the best Italian food restaurant in the city. We will meet in the hotel lobby about 7:45 pm and walk to the restaurant.
11:00 pm	Return to Portal Suites for a good night's sleep

Tuesday, March 23rd

6:30 -10:30 am	Complimentary breakfast at Portal Suites restaurant
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10:30 am	Depart Portal Suites for Cerro Arco , the closest high point in Mendoza province a short drive out of Mendoza, proper. Meet in the lobby to board.
11:00 am – 3:00 pm	Enjoy a cooking lesson and traditional Asado (meats cooked in a traditional clay oven) at Puerta de la Quebrada . There is no website for this family operated business but Tripadvisor, Facebook, Instagram, and other social media offer pictures, comments and information. All will be invited to assist in the making of Argentine empanadas and the dessert pastries served after the asado.
3:30 pm	Return to Portal Suites
8:00 – 11:00 pm	Group dinner at Fuente y Fonda (translates as Fountain and Restaurant); https://fuenteyfonda.com/ . Without a doubt, this is the best place to experience a traditional, home-style Argentine meal in Mendoza. Complete with traditional dishes and serving pieces, the meal is served family style. Meet in the lobby at 7:45 pm to walk to the restaurant.
11:30 pm	Return to Portal Suites

Wednesday, March 24th

6:30 -10:30 am	Complimentary breakfast at Portal Suites Restaurant
9:00 am	Depart hotel for the eastern part of the Maipu district. Meet in the lobby to board.
9:30 - 10:45 am	Tour Productora Nursery (https://viveroproductora.com.ar/). This nursery produces high quality grapevines and olive, walnut and peach trees for the ever-expanding Argentine agricultural industries. The tour will include discussion of variety selection, rootstocks, and clones, which are finding their way into new and established farm operations.
11:30 am- 3:00 pm	Bodega Santa Julia (Zuccardi) Winery tour and gourmet lunch at their Casa del Visitante (https://santajulia.com.ar/). We'll enjoy lunch on the lawn rather than inside, and the weather should be perfect. This is the original Zuccardi winery, which has been renamed because Zuccardi has now built a new flagship facility in the Uco Valley.

4:00 pm	Return to Portal Suites
8:30 pm	No group dinner is planned but there are many great restaurants close by and the city is easily navigated if you find yourself hungry. Dr. Johnston will be glad to advise.

Thursday, March 25th

6:30 -10:30 am	Complimentary breakfast at Portal Suites restaurant
10:00 am – 6:00 pm	This is a “free day” to enjoy Mendoza at your own pace. You may choose to visit San Martin Park (we drove through it on Sunday; remember the large, ornate metal gates), which is a +/- 20-minute walk from Portal Suites, go to the Museum of Modern Art in Plaza Independencia (free admission), or simply shop till you drop. Be sure to be back at Portal Suites by 6 pm so you can board our shuttle for the next event!
6:15- 8:15 pm	Reception at Jose Mostafa’s apartment. We’ll enjoy empanadas, finger sandwiches, and red and white wines of top quality. You’ll also be introduced to Fernet and Coke, the national mixed drink of Argentina. Everyone needs to try it!
8:30 pm	Return to Portal Suites. Optional wine on the roof.

Friday, March 26th

6:30 -10:30 am	Complimentary Breakfast at Portal Suites restaurant
10:15 am	Meet in the lobby to walk to Gouher Chocolate Company for a chocolate tasting and wine pairing experience. Gouher is owned and operated by its founders and all chocolates are made in house. Different chocolates will be paired by a sommelier with wines for your consideration and enjoyment!
11:45 am – 4:30 pm	Catch private bus near Gouher and travel to Alta Vista Winery (https://altavistawines.com/en/home/) for a tour, tasting and three-course lunch on the lawn.
4:30 pm	Return to Portal Suites

9:30 pm	Walk to Group Dinner at Ahijuna Show Folclorico Dinner Theater . Combining traditional music, dance and food, this experience is the distillation of Argentine culture. Only Spanish is spoken in the show, but the music, food and dance need no translation. Even if you do not speak Spanish, you will be dazzled and inspired!
11:45 pm	Return to Portal Suites for a good night's sleep.

Saturday, March 26th

6:30 -11:00 am	Complimentary Breakfast at Portal Suites restaurant
Shopping day! No specific plans other than dinner tonight. Dr. Johnston will be available to advise on shopping locations, etc. Consider a day in a spa, a visit to the casino, or just relaxing in one of the beautiful parks in the city with a glass of wine and some empanadas	
11:00 am	Check out of your room and leave your luggage with the hotel for pickup later. Consult at the hotel desk as to where to deposit your luggage.
8:00 pm	Meet in the Portal Suites lobby to walk to group dinner at Estancia la Florencia Restaurant. Before we board our very early morning flight home we'll enjoy one last traditional Argentine dinner. This now former white tablecloth restaurant (not sure why they've eliminated them) is one of the finest in the city center and the food never fails to impress. We'll enjoy a last bottle of wine with our final dinner for the trip.
10:45 pm	Return to Portal Suites to pick up luggage and depart for airport.
11:15 pm	Board shuttle to El Plumerillo International Airport and check in.

Sunday, March 27th

~1:00 am	Board flight back to the US
Late Afternoon	Arrive at your home airport