

San Diego Regional East County Chamber of Commerce
and East County Schools Federal Credit Union presents...

Essential South America

July 14 – 23, 2026



Book Now
& Save
\$300
Per Person

For more information, contact
Educator Tour Travel Coordinator
San Diego East County Chamber of Commerce
East County Schools Federal Credit Union
(619) 871-6725
ETTC@eastcountyschools.org





Small Group Travel rewards travelers with new perspectives. With just 12-24 passengers, these are the personal adventures that today's cultural explorers dream of.

10 Days • 14 Meals: 8 Breakfasts, 3 Lunches, 3 Dinners

HIGHLIGHTS... Santiago's Central Market & Cooking Class, Mendoza, Vineyard Tour & Tasting, Wine-Paired Lunch, Buenos Aires, Tango Lesson, San Antonio de Areco, Draghi Silversmith Museum, *Estancia* Visit with Traditional *Asado* Lunch

ITINERARY AT A GLANCE

Day 1	Overnight Flight
Days 2, 3	Renaissance Santiago Hotel, Santiago
Days 4, 5	Diplomatic Hotel Mendoza, Mendoza
Days 6 – 9	Palladio Hotel BA MGallery by Sofitel, Buenos Aires

On some dates alternate hotels may be used.

Day 1: Tuesday, July 14, 2026 Overnight Flight Set out to experience the sights, flavors, and rhythms of Chile and Argentina as you explore two countries, from bustling cities to sprawling ranches, vineyards, and natural landscapes. It all begins in Chile's cultural hub, Santiago.

Day 2: Wednesday, July 15, 2026 Santiago, Chile Arrive early this morning in Santiago, the vibrant capital city of Chile nestled in a valley of the Andes Mountains. Settle in at your hotel where you'll enjoy early access to your room to recoup after your flight. This afternoon, meet your fellow travelers and head out on a panoramic tour of Santiago, getting a look at the city's blend of modern and colonial architecture and learning about its diverse history. Tonight, toast to the beginning of your South American adventure at a local restaurant. (D)

Day 3: Thursday, July 16, 2026 Santiago Follow your curiosity about Chilean history and culture to a museum because **it's your choice!** Choose between the Chilean Museum of Pre-Columbian Art, dedicated to the study and display of pre-Columbian artworks and artifacts from Central and South America **-OR-** the Memory and Human Rights Museum, which commemorates the victims of human rights violations during the last Chilean military dictatorship. After, set out to discover market-fresh Chilean food with a visit to the *Mercado Central de Santiago*. Joined by a local chef, walk through the fish market, stopping along the way to learn about the local seafood and pick up some ingredients. Then join a hands-on cooking experience at the chef's restaurant and sit down to a fresh feast for lunch. Take the rest of the day to enjoy Santiago as you please. (B, L)

Day 4: Friday, July 17, 2026 Santiago - Mendoza, Argentina An early morning flight brings you to the desert region of Mendoza, known for its vineyards and Malbec wine, and the stunning views of the Andes Mountains. Upon arriving to a vineyard, a pick-me-up comes with a taste of yerba mate tea, a traditional South American caffeinated drink. As your guide demonstrates how to make a cup, learn about the cultural significance of this beverage that brings many Argentinean families together for daily "mate breaks." Enjoy a tour of the vineyard followed by a wine tasting and chef-prepared lunch. Later, settle into your hotel in the city of Mendoza for an evening at leisure.* (B, L)

Day 5: Saturday, July 18, 2026 Mendoza Enjoy a leisurely morning before continuing your taste of the region's renowned wines with a visit to a family winery. Sample wines selected to show the richness of the terroirs and come to appreciate the unique qualities of the Luján de Cuyo wine-producing sub-region with its dry, almost desert-like climate and irrigation from the Mendoza River's pure Andean meltwater. The rest of the day is yours to enjoy the laid-back city of Mendoza with its inviting restaurants and atmospheric plazas. (B)

Day 6: Sunday, July 19, 2026 Mendoza - Buenos Aires Say so long to Mendoza as you fly to Buenos Aires, a city that radiates Latin-infused rhythm mixed with European heritage. Set out on a guided tour of Buenos Aires, sampling the local eats along the way and exploring the fusion of flavors that comes with the city's Spanish, Italian, and Jewish influences. During a panoramic tour, discover the San Telmo, Puerto Madero, La Boca, and Recoleta neighborhoods. Then, settle in at your hotel in the elegant Recoleta neighborhood, full of historical and architectural charm. This evening, come together for dinner and indulge in savory Argentine flavors. (B, D)



Book Now & Save \$300 Per Person:

Double \$6,299

Single \$7,299

Triple \$6,199

Double \$5,999*

Single \$6,999

Triple \$5,899

For bookings made after Dec 15, 2025 call for rates.

Included in Price: Round Trip Air from San Diego Intl Airport, Inter-flights from Santiago SCL, Air Taxes and Fees/Surcharges, Hotel Transfers

Not included in price: Cancellation Waiver and Insurance of \$549 per person

*** All Rates are Per Person and are subject to change, based on air inclusive package from SAN**

IMPORTANT CONDITIONS: Your price is guaranteed once deposit is received and booking confirmed by Collette. Your price is not subject to increase after the deposit is received and booking confirmed, except for charges resulting from increases in government-imposed taxes or fees. (See registration form for consent.)

Day 7: Monday, July 20, 2026 Buenos Aires Today begins with an **Impact Moment** focused on the work of the *Abuelas de Plaza de Mayo*, a human rights organization that has helped to restore the identities of children taken during Argentina's military coup from 1976 to 1983. Meet with someone who was personally impacted and learn about *los desaparecidos* ("the disappeared") and this time in Argentina's history. This afternoon, **it's your choice** how you see more of the city. Choose between two walking tours, either exploring the captivating Recoleta Cemetery **-OR-** discovering the colorful murals of the Palermo neighborhood. This evening, it's time to live like the locals! Take a lesson from a professional tango dancer, then take your moves to the dance floor at a local milongas social club. (B)

Day 8: Tuesday, July 21, 2026 Buenos Aires Today is yours to explore Buenos Aires as you wish, taking your time to wander through neighborhoods, savor Argentine cuisine, or maybe visit the city's fantastic opera house. Add another stamp to your passport during a full day optional excursion to one of Uruguay's oldest towns. Take an early morning ferry across the Rio de Plata to Colonia del Sacramento** with its picturesque cobblestone streets and charming cafes. Travel into the Uruguayan countryside for an included lunch, followed by free time to explore the city's Historic Quarter before returning to Buenos

Aires by ferry. Tonight, perhaps you'll decide to join an optional tango show and dinner at a popular tango house. (B)

Day 9: Wednesday, July 22, 2026 Buenos Aires - San Antonio de Areco - Buenos Aires Set out into the countryside to explore Argentina's Pampas region. In San Antonio de Areco, discover the small town's strong connection with silversmithing and *gaucho* culture. A visit to *Museo Draghi* offers the chance to see silversmiths at work and admire a private collection of silverware. Then, it's on to experience a true taste of *gaucho* life by spending the rest of the day on a traditional *estancia*, following a bumpy, unpaved road to the gates of the ranch's sprawling land and inviting, rustic house. You may decide to explore the property by horse drawn carriage or head inside the main house to relax and take in views from the porch. Gather for a traditional *asado* lunch, with flame-cooked meats served at the table along with sides and wine. Later, sit back and enjoy a folk performance of *gaucho* traditions with singing, dancing, and displays of horsemanship – topping off an unforgettable encounter with this South American way of life. This evening back in Buenos Aires, gather for dinner at a local restaurant and toast to the end of a grand adventure. (B, L, D)

Day 10: Thursday, July 23, 2026 Buenos Aires - Tour Ends Your tour comes to an end today. Transfer to the airport for your flight home later today. (B)

Experience It! Mendoza

Traveling to Mendoza, Argentina, is a journey into the heart of wine country, where desert landscape and vineyards stretch out against the backdrop of the majestic Andes Mountains. The Mendoza wine region comprises several renowned sub-regions like Luján de Cuyo, known for its Malbec, Maipú with its mix of traditional and boutique wineries, and Valle de Uco, celebrated for high-altitude vineyards producing top-quality wines. The San Rafael and General Alvear regions, situated even further south, feature a desert-like climate with sandy soils. In Mendoza city, discover a blend of colonial architecture in a city known for its laid-back atmosphere. From exploring the vineyards to simply taking in the breathtaking landscape, Mendoza promises a blend of relaxation and culture in Argentina's renowned wine country.

For more information visit <https://gateway.gocollette.com/link/1323324>

Important Tour Information:

Book Now rates valid until Dec 15, 2025, valid on air inclusive packages only.

The overall activity level of this tour is a level 3. This means you're an on-the-go traveler. You don't want to miss a thing, so walking and standing for longer periods of time (2-3 hours) isn't a big deal. A moderately paced two-and-a-half-hour walking tour, covering several miles, hills, and uneven surfaces, is no problem for you. Walking four miles over the course of a day is very doable, as is climbing into and out of various modes of transportation (tuk-tuk, cable car, zodiac, etc.). You can climb three flights of stairs easily and handle altitudes between 6,000 and 9,000 feet. Expect some longer days with early mornings or late nights balanced with free time to recharge or set out on your own adventure. This level is not a fit for travelers who require mobility assistance devices.

Travel with no more than 22 travelers on this tour where a smaller group setting means a more personal travel experience.

If you require any special assistance while on tour, please make us aware at time of reservation so the necessary request form can be sent to your attention.

*Restaurants in Mendoza do not open for dinner until 8:00 p.m.

**The optional tour to Colonia del Sacramento, Uruguay must be booked at least 60 days prior to departure.

Single accommodations are limited and are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Single rate subject to change based on availability. Triple rooms are not available.

To complete your tour, we include roundtrip airport-to-hotel transfers when purchasing our airfare with your tour. If you have arranged for your own air, we are pleased to provide you the option of purchasing these transfers. Please note that all transfers will leave at pre-scheduled times.

For air-inclusive reservations, the name provided at time of booking must match your government-issued ID that will be used during travel. Name changes are subject to penalties.

Please be advised many airlines do not provide advance seat assignments until check-in at the airport. Advance seating will be subject to the airline's terms and conditions.

Arrival flights should arrive before noon in order to participate in the Santiago city tour.

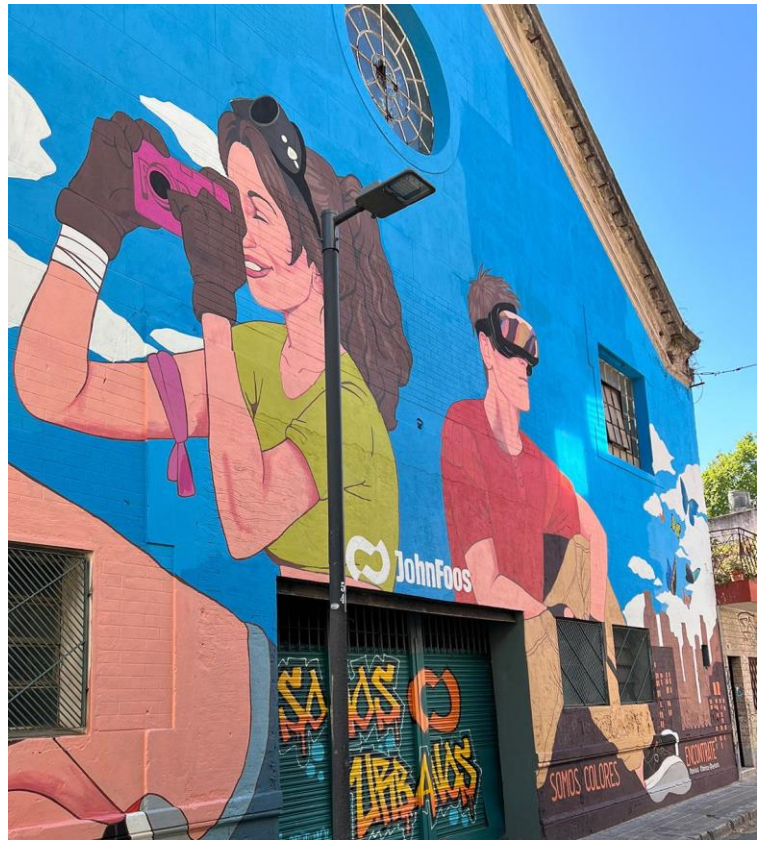
Internal flights are required in order to participate on this tour and are included in the final price, quoted at time of booking.

Book Now rates valid until Dec 15, 2025, valid on air inclusive packages only.

Economy air rate and schedule are applicable for groups of 10 or more traveling on the same flights and dates.

Travel Requirements:

Passports are required for this tour at your expense. Certain countries require that your passport be valid at least 6 months beyond the dates of your travel. You are strongly urged to contact the appropriate consulate for



details. Visit www.travel.state.gov for the U.S. State Department for the latest details about passports and visa requirements. **IMPORTANT:** We recommend that travelers take a photocopy of their passport and applicable visas. It should be packed separately from your actual passport and visa. We also recommend leaving a copy at home with your emergency contact.

Upon entry into and exit from Argentina, all travelers, regardless of their citizenship, are submitted to biometrics checks, such as digital fingerprints and a digital photograph, at the immigration counter.

Each traveler is responsible for proper documentation and inoculations that may be required and/or recommended to participate on this tour. Please contact your local travel clinic or personal physician for specific details on the destinations you are traveling to and from.

A deposit of \$698 per person is due upon reservation. Reservations are made on a first come, first served basis. Reservations made after the seat reduction date of December 08, 2025 are based upon availability. Final payment due by April 15, 2026. Deposits are refundable up until December 15, 2025.

CST#2006766-20 UBN#601220855 Nevada Sellers of Travel Registration No. 2003-0279

**For important reservation information visit
<https://gateway.gocollette.com/link/1323324>.
You can also find this information on your tour documents.**