A Week in Buenos Aires

FEBRUARY 13-21, 2015
Dear Smith Alumnae, Family and Friends,

Ah, Buenos Aires, the passion, the dance, the music, the food, the romance—all well-deserved attributes to this city on the banks of the River Plate. Renowned for its geographic setting, grand avenues, old-time cafes, famed museums and distinctive architecture, the city is often called the “Paris of South America.” Our 7-day sojourn will offer you an opportunity to explore both with fellow alumnae and independently the many attractions of this exciting capital city. Immerse yourself in the gaucho tradition on a special visit to a private estancia in the Pampas, stroll down the River Plate waterfront and through beautiful parks, explore the city’s great museums, art galleries and architecture and observe the newly restored Teatro Colón opera house.

Our tour director will guide us through the bohemian neighborhoods; provide invaluable tips for good shopping, sidewalk cafés, excellent restaurants and ideas for self-exploration. Join us on an exploration of Mi Buenos Aires Querido!

Live, Learn, and Laugh together!

Elizabeth Bigwood
Director For Travel

Maria Helena Rueda is an Associate Professor in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese at Smith College, where she teaches courses on Latin American literature and culture since the 19th century, and on Latin American film. She holds a PhD from Stanford University, and is the author of La violencia y sus huellas: Una mirada desde la narrativa colombiana, published in 2011. She has published several articles on Latin American literature, and on film and visual culture in the region.

Highlights

• **Explore** the colorful neighborhoods of Buenos Aires.

• **Journey** to Aconcagua Mountain, one of the highest points in the Southern hemisphere

• **Spend** an afternoon strolling the Plaza De Mayo where you can see the Casa Rosada, the balconies where Eva and Juan Domingo Perón addressed the masses.

• **Visit** the Colón Opera House, it is acoustically considered amongst the 5 best concert venues in the world

• **Take** in a tango show and dinner at the Esquina Carlos Gardel.
Itinerary

Friday, February 13
DEPART U.S. / BUENOS AIRES
Depart on an overnight flight to Buenos Aires.
(Meals aloft)

Saturday, February 14
BUENOS AIRES
Upon arrival in Buenos Aires this morning, transfer to your hotel, Loi Suites Recoleta. Located in the most elegant area of the City, this hotel is located within walking distance from museums, art galleries, shopping areas, historical architecture and beautiful parks. Begin our journey with an exploration of the Recoleta neighborhood, one of the most fashionable and aristocratic areas of the city, which includes South America’s most opulent and extraordinary cemetery—the Recoleta Cemetery, the much revered resting place of patriarchs, presidents and the beloved Eva Perón.
Overnight: Loi Suites Recoleta (Meals aloft)

Sunday, February 15
BUENOS AIRES
Continue your exploration of Buenos Aires with a driving tour through the narrow streets of the old city and the broad avenues of the main city. Visit the Plaza de la República to see the iconic Obelisco, built to commemorate the fourth centenary of the first foundation of the city. Around the Plaza de Mayo see the Casa Rosada (pink colored Presidential Palace), with the balconies from which Eva and Juan Domingo Perón addressed the masses; and the Metropolitan Cathedral, the main Catholic church in Buenos Aires and resting place of General San Martín, Argentina’s independence hero. Along the Avenida de Mayo, pass Art Nouveau buildings, old hotels, theaters, and cafes. Visit San Telmo, a neighborhood of bohemians, artists, antiques shops, and cobbled streets. Pass Dorrego Square, where every Sunday an antique fair and flea market is held. Continue to the colorful neighborhood of La Boca, where artists open their studios and workshops. Walk along the famous street of Caminito and also visit Puerto Madero, the old port of Buenos Aires, formerly known as “The Docks”, which was totally redesigned in the 1990s and is now a chic area. Then visit the Colón Opera House, recently restored and reopened in 2010 it is acoustically considered to be amongst the five best concert venues in the world. The theater’s acoustics and beauty make this guided tour an everlasting memory.
Overnight: Loi Suites Recoleta (B, L)

Monday, February 16
TIGRE AND PARANA RIVER
Less than 20 miles north of the city there is an extraordinary ecological area: the Paraná River delta. The river, over 2,000 miles long, forms a very large delta before flowing into the Rio de la Plata. It resembles a subtropical labyrinth with over 5,000 islands. Along this promenade you will see rowing clubs, restaurants, and cafés where the upper classes used to spend their free time in the good old days. The remainder of the day is at leisure. This evening attend a Tango Show and Dinner at Esquina Carlos Gardel. This is one of the most elegant and prestigious tango houses in the city. Built over the location of “Chanta Cuatro”—a restaurant where Carlos Gardel, the famous tango singer, used to dine with his friends. The luxurious old-time-style dining room here features high-tech acoustics and superb dancers, creating a wonderful tango environment.
Overnight: Loi Suites Recoleta (B,D)

Tuesday, February 17
SAN ANTONIO DE ARECO
Spend today immersed in gaucho culture as we travel to the area of the pampas plains. Visit the town of San Antonio de Areco and learn about the gaucho’s history and way of life. Meet with a local silversmith who will talk to us about the traditional methods of the silver trade. Continue on to a private estancia or Argentinean ranch. As guests at this authentic and historic estancia we will discover what goes into the preparation of a traditional Argentinean asado lunch, or Argentine barbecue including empanadas (meat pies) and wine. After lunch, the amateur gauchos among us will have the opportunity to go for a horseback ride across the pampas with its huge empty skies, endless horizons and pastures spotted with cattle.
Wednesday, February 18
PALERMO AND RECOLETA
Today visit the traditional neighborhood of Palermo, strolling along its large parks, rose gardens and lakes; this is the porteños (residents of Buenos Aires) favorite place to practice sports or take long walks. End the tour in the Recoleta district and visit the Eva Peron Museum. Inaugurated in 2002 on the fiftieth anniversary of Eva’s death. The museum reviews the history of Eva Duarte’s childhood, her youth as an actress, and then her life as the First Lady.
Overnight: Loi Suites Recoleta (B)

Thursday, February 19
BUENOS AIRES
The whole day is at your leisure for independent exploration. Buenos Aires offers a myriad of cultural activities and excellent shopping. Your leaders will be able to assist you. Tonight there will be a farewell dinner at La Cabrera Restaurant.
Overnight: Loi Suites Recoleta (B, D)

Friday, February 20
BUENOS AIRES
The day is free until the time to transfer to the airport. There are various options for returning to the U.S. today. Flights generally depart in the evening arriving the U.S the following day. Those continuing on the Iguazu Extension fly to Iguazu Falls this afternoon. (B)

Saturday, February 21
ARRIVAL IN THE USA
Arrive in the U.S. this morning and connect with flights homeward

What to Expect

This exclusive expedition is designed for Smith College Alumnae, family and friends who are interested in learning about the arts, history and culture of the cosmopolitan city of Buenos Aires. This is a mildly active program. Daily programs include: 1 to 2 miles of walking at a leisurely pace, sometimes on uneven terrain. Participants should be physically fit and in good health. Flexibility is essential as the order of the activities in Buenos Aires might change, since local conditions may require alterations in the schedule. We will be staying at Loi Suites Recoleta located in the Recoleta Cemetery District with a wealth of cultural highlights. Loi Suites is surrounded by exquisite French-style architecture, and the best restaurants, bars, art galleries and beautiful town squares. Loi Suites offers luxurious rooms with Evita Peron’s final resting place opposite the hotel as well as views of the Rio de la Plata and surrounding neighborhood. Afternoon tea is served in the English atrium of the hotel. Typically the weather in Buenos Aires is humid and ranges from 70°F-80°F degrees during the day with a chance of sporadic showers. At night, temperatures drop down to the mid to upper 60’s. On the post-trip extension to Iguazu Falls, the weather is tropical and rain is not uncommon. Expect temperatures to be between 75°F-85°F. Travel is by regular scheduled jet aircraft and motor coach.
**Costs**

**LAND PROGRAM COST:**
(Per person based on double occupancy) . . . $3,945*
*single supplement $910

*Sample Airfare: Roundtrip from Miami $1,498

**OPTIONAL POST-TRIP IGUAZÚ FALLS:**
(Per person based on double occupancy) . . . $1,675*
*single supplement $545

Airfare to Iguazu Falls is additional ($425 approx.)
2 nights in Iguazu, 1 night in Buenos Aires, visit to Brazil (Brazilian Visa additional)
Price based on a group of 10 pax

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**Terms & Conditions**

**PROGRAM COST INCLUDES:** 5-star accommodations, meals as specified in the itinerary; all land transportation; airport transfers for participants on recommended flights; itinerary; entrance fees; baggage handling; specialized local guides at all locations; pre-departure information; coordination and administration.

**PROGRAM COST DOES NOT INCLUDE:** U.S. domestic and international airfare (quoted separately); meals not specified in the itinerary; personal items such as laundry, fax or telephone calls, liquor, room service, passport and visa fees (visa required to see Brazilian side of Iguazu Falls), reciprocity fee into Argentina (approx. $160), all baggage charges, individual transfers, medical expenses, travel insurance, optional extension or any deviations from the scheduled tour. Any increases in the in-tour airfare (included as part of the program cost), airport taxes, security, or fuel surcharges imposed after the initial pricing of this program are not included. Tip to tour director is at the passenger’s discretion.

**RESERVATIONS, DEPOSITS & FINAL PAYMENT:** To reserve a space on this tour, please mail a deposit of $800 per person payable to “ROYAL ADVENTURES”, along with completed the reservation form to: SMITH TRAVEL, ALUMNAE HOUSE, 33 ELM ST. NORTHAMPTON, MA 01063. Reservations are acknowledged in order of receipt. Final payment is due NOVEMBER 15, 2014 and must be paid by check. Royal Adventures handles all ticketing and invoicing CST #2009579-40.

**CANCELLATIONS & REFUNDS:** Refunds, less a cancellation fee of $400 per person, are made if we are notified in writing on or before November 15, 2014. No refunds are made after that date. There are no refunds for unused meals, accommodations, or other trip features.

**TRAVEL INSURANCE:** Trip cancellation insurance is highly recommended. An application for trip cancellation insurance will be available upon confirmation. Neither Smith College nor Royal Adventures accept liability for any airline cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a non-refundable airline ticket or other expenses incurred by tour participants in preparing for the tour.

**QUESTIONS:** Please call Liz Bigwood at Smith Travel, 33 Elm Street, Northampton, MA 01063. Phone: (800) 225-2029, or Katie Howe, Royal Adventures (925) 820-6260 or 1-800-453-4754.

**RESPONSIBILITY:** Royal Adventures, its owners and employees act only as agents for the various independent suppliers and contractors providing transportation, hotel accommodations, restaurant and other services connected with this tour. Such travel and services are subject to the terms and conditions under which such accommodations, services and transportation are offered or provided, and Smith College and Royal Adventures and their respective, employees, agents, representatives, and assigns, accept no liability therefor. Smith College and Royal Adventures, assume no liability for any injury, damage, loss, accident, delay or other irregularity which may be caused by the defect of any aircraft or vehicle or the negligence or default of any company or person engaged in carrying out or performing any of the services involved. Additionally, responsibility is not accepted for losses, injury, damages or expenses of any kind due to sickness, weather, strikes, local laws, hostilities, wars, terrorist acts, acts of nature or other such causes. All services and accommodations are subject to the laws of the country in which they are provided. Smith College and Royal Adventures reserve the right to make changes in the published itinerary whenever, in their sole judgment, conditions warrant, or if they deem it necessary for the comfort, convenience or safety of the tour participants. They reserve the right to withdraw this tour without penalty. The right is also reserved to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of the tour, or to substitute another qualified leader or special guest. Baggage and personal effects are the sole responsibility of the owners at all times. The price of the program is given in good faith based on current tariffs and rates, and is subject to change. Any tariff, exchange rate, airfare, or fuel increases will be passed onto participants. Neither Smith College nor Royal Adventures accept the liability for any airline cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a non-refundable airline ticket. The air ticket when issued shall constitute the sole contract between the passenger and the airline concerned. As part of the consideration and right to participate in this tour, each participant will be asked to sign a liability release.
**Optional Post-Trip**

**IGUAZÚ FALLS – February 20-24, 2014**

--On November 11, 2011, Iguazú Falls was announced as one of the seven winners of the New Seven Wonders of Nature by the New Seven Wonders of the World Foundation.

Roaring out of the jungle and hurtling over cliffs between Brazil and Argentina, the Iguazú Falls are one of the natural wonders of the world. The two nights at this extraordinary place offer ample time to relax and see the cataracts surrounded by luxuriant rain forest, beautiful exotic birds (toucans, caracas and parrots), and intriguing bromeliads and butterflies. Walk along the upper and lower trails for close-up views of the many different falls. Exploration from the Brazilian side is thrilling. Take a Zodiac boat to see the falls from the lower river, approaching the base of the falls. Fly back to Buenos Aires and overnight there to enjoy the next day in the captivating city before returning home. Extension includes three night’s accommodations (taxes included), round trip flights to Iguazú Falls, buffet breakfast every day, special lunch in Brazil, entrance fees, transfers and leadership. The visit to the Brazilian side of the falls requires a visa.

**Reservation Form**

Please accept my credit card authorization for _____ ($800 deposit per person) to hold _____ place(s) on the "A Week in Buenos Aires" tour, February 13 - 21, 2015. Final Payment is due November 15, 2015 by check.

Please make your deposit payment to reserve a space on this trip by calling Smith Travel toll-free at 1-800-225-2029

Or you may also complete and fax this form to them at 1-413-585-2015

Name* ____________________________________________ DOB ____________

Name* ____________________________________________ DOB ____________

* All names should be exactly as on passport.

Address __________________________________________ City ____________ State _____ Zip ____________

Phone Number/s: ________________________________ E-mail/s: ________________________________

Please charge my deposit of $800 per person to:

Mastercard  Visa  AMEX  Card # ________________________________ Exp. Date: _______ / _______

Name as it appears on card ________________________________ Sec. Code ________________

I will require single accommodations (supplemental fee of $910; limited availability)

I will share accommodations with: ____________________________

I/We wish to join the Iguazú Falls post-trip optional extension at an additional cost of $1,675. Single supplement $545.

I/We will take care of our own international flight arrangements

Please make round-trip international flight arrangements from: ____________________________

I/We have carefully read the Costs, Terms & Conditions sections of this brochure and agree to their terms on behalf of myself and the members of my party named above.

Signature(s) __________________________________________ Date ____________

Signature(s) __________________________________________ Date ____________