

Itineraries Investments Images



# SOUTH AMERICA

1,500 Images. 700 Pages.

32 Itineraries. 13 Countries.

Events. Highlights. Investments.

## ECKHARDT

**Life knows no dress rehearsal. It is not rehearsed. There is no second chance. We cannot do better later. To really live means to act in today.**

# Important

Starting from Paraguay, we have traveled to the countries of South America to understand what politics is doing to the economy, what the cultural conditions are doing, whether the finances are solid and whether investments are possible. Our impressions, which are constantly updated in the form of travel reports, are supported by numerous photos, which should make you want to travel there yourself, to familiarize yourself with the conditions there.

All itineraries can be combined and can also start from the respective national capital (international airport).

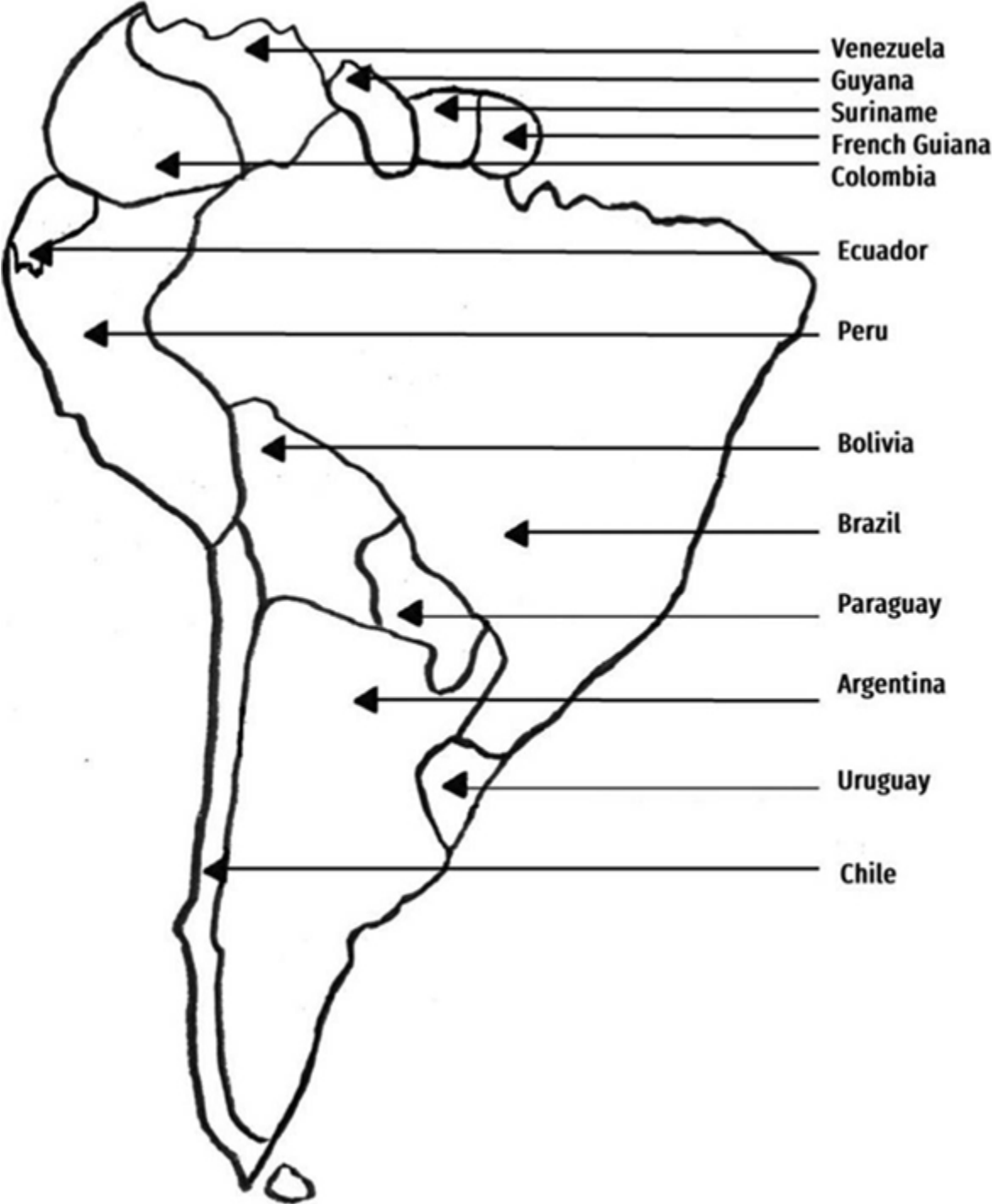
Nowadays, everyone can inform themselves about costs and risks on the relevant pages of the airlines, hotels, rental car and bus companies as well as the corresponding comparison portals without any problems and above all on a daily basis. We can therefore dispense with this in the interest of a handy travel companion.

Although every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information, it may change at any time due to a variety of reasons, such as political or economic developments, special weather conditions, restrictions on travel options, etc. For this reason, every reader should first obtain detailed information when planning a trip on the travel costs and risks. Neither the author, nor the editor, nor the publisher can be held liable for information in this book that no longer corresponds to the current situation. If you discover outdated or incorrect information, we would be pleased to hear from you.

The book is based on an updated and supplemented translation of three volumes published this year in

German as paperbacks and e-books.

# South America



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## [Route ARS 1](#)

Northern Argentina - The historical San Miguel de Tucumán, entrance gate to the Valle de Calchaquies, Tafi de Valle, OpenAir Museum Pachama in Amaicha de Valle, the old Ciudad Sagrada Quilmes, wineries and bodegas in Calafate, the Parque de Cordones on the way to Salta and the museums MAAM and Pajacha, Purmamarca with its Cerro de Siete de Colores, Tilcara with its Purcurá, Uquía with its Señoritas and Ángeles de Arabuceros, the Quebrada de Humahuaca, La Quiaca, gateway to Bolivia.

## [Route ARS 2](#)

Handicrafts and viticulture in Mendoza and Maipu, Jesuits in Córdoba and Che Guevara in Alta Gracia, the Immaculata Concepción in the grotto of the Argentine Lourdes, Resistencia, the city of sculptures, the provincial capital of Corrientes with its pink Casa de Gobierno, Posadas, once capital of the huge Provincia Grande de las Misiones and Ignacio Mini, the best preserved Jesuit reduction with its evening Espectáculo.

## [Route ARS 3](#)

Buenos Aires, the international financial, cultural, tango and shopping metropolis with daily demonstrations. Store in the Microcentro in the Galeria Pacifico, marvel at the frescoed dome and listen to opera performances in the Teatro Colon, experience street tango in San Telmo, drink a copa in Puerto Madera and admire the architecture of the Puente de la Mujer, stroll through the Paseo Internacional in La Boca, follow in the footsteps of Evita in chic Recoleta and walk through the Japanese garden in exclusive Palermo.

#### [Route ARS 4](#)

Argentina's center - dinosaurs in Neuquén, Bariloche chocolate and the Parque Nacional Nahuel Huapi, Inca character head in El Bolsón, Parque Temático Valle de los Gigantes in Sarmiento, the largest colony of Magallan penguins outside Antarctica in Punta Tombo, Trelew and its dinosaurs, Gaiman with its Welsh tea culture, the fashionable Puerto Madryn, gateway to the Península Valdéz World Heritage Site with its marine life.

#### [Route ARS 5](#)

Patagonia - El Calafate administrative center of the Parque Nacional de los Glaciares with its growing instead of melting glacier Perito Moreno, El Chaltén with its Miradores de Los Águilas y Los Cóndores and the base camp for fans of the Fitz Roy massif, the former penal colony of Ushuaia in the Tierra del Fuego on the Beagle Channel with the glacier Martial, today door to Antarctica.

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#### [Route BOB 1](#)

Tupiza and the wine, Salar de Uyuni and the lithium, Potosí and the silver, Sucre capital and fashion city.

### [Route BOB 2](#)

Cochabamba - lively city with the world's second largest statue of Christ, Cristo de la Concordia.

La Paz - seat of government, witch market, Museo de Coca, music enjoyment in the concert hall of the Orquesta Sinfónica National, gondola rides over the hills of the city in the world's most extensive cable car network.

Copacabana on Lake Titicaca, the world's highest navigable lake, Cote d'Azur flair a la Bolivia and lake trout, excursions to the legendary islands of Isla del Sol and Isla de la Luna, the cradle of Inca culture.

[Brazil map with route overview](#)

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### [Route BRL 1](#)

The European part in the south of the country: German beer culture in Blumenau, architecture, gardening and art enjoyment, and the corruption jurisdiction in Curitiba, cachaça and barreado in colonial Morretes.

### [Route BRL 2 \(Part 1 Center/Part 2 Copacabana\)](#)

Rio de Janeiro - Magnificent colonial as well as modern buildings and coffeehouse culture in the center, Porto Maravilha with its Etnias and the Museu do Amanhã, Flavelas in the city center, the cradle of Bohemia carioca Santa Teresa and Lapa, a tram ride over the famous Arcos da Lapa and a visit to the colorful Escadéria Selaron, feel esperitú carioco on Copacabana, experience the sunset at Piedra de Arpoador, take the cogwheel train up to Cristo



and Sugarloaf Mountain and enjoy the fantastic view of Rio, a UNESCO World Heritage Cultural Landscape.

### [Route BRL 3](#)

Itaipú - the singing stone is a gigantic community project between Paraguay and Brazil, even one of the seven wonders of the modern world?

Cataratas de Iguazu - Experience the world natural heritage Cataratas de Iguazu, water masses thundering down, rising spray, rainbows in the water, a look into the devil's throat, coatis as companions.

### [Chile map with route overview](#)

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### [Route CLP 1](#)

The relaxed San Pedro de Atacama in the world's driest desert as a base for excursions into a fascinating landscape.

Valle de la Luna, Valle de la Muerte, the Altiplano lakes like the blue lagoons of Miscanti and Miñiques, the villages of Toconao and Socaire, the Laguna Chaxa with its flamingos, the Cordilleras de Sal, the rock paintings in Yervas Buenas, the Valle de Arcoiris with its colorful mountains and fantastic rock formations, the geysers del Tatio on the highest geyser field in the world.

The historical city of La Serena with its many neo-colonial buildings, the interesting Museo Arqueológico, many pretty squares and its colorful Mercado La Recova.

The mysterious Valle de Elqui, the heart of Chilean pisco production and birthplace of the Nobel Prize winner Gabriela Mistral.

Coquimbo, located on a steep slope, with its harbor besieged by pelicans, seagulls and sea lions, a wide range

of fresh fish and seafood, the colonial Barrio Inglés and long beaches.

## [Route CLP 2](#)

The culturally rich capital Santiago de Chile with its central Plaza de Armas and the impressive Museo Chileno Arte de Precolombino, the Museo Ralli with works of South American artists in the Vitacura district, in the Las Condes district the Pueblito Dominico with its huge Mercado Artesanal and the luxurious Parque Arauco, in the city center, the Barrio Paris-Londres, the Cerro Santa Lucía, the Parque Forestal with the baroque Museo de Bellas Artes, the Mercado Central, famous for its fish restaurants, and the Mapocho train station, built by Eiffel, with its Beaux-Art facade.

The hilly Valparaiso with its colorfully painted facades and the old funicular railroads, the Plaza Sotomayor with the palatial Edificio de la Comandancia Naval, the lively harbor, the phenomenal view from the Cerro Artillería, the Cerro Bellavista, popular with artists and writers, with its Museo a Cielo Abierto and the birthday house of Pablo Neruda.

Viña del Mar, the Ciudad de Jardín, with its Museo de Arqueología e Historia Francisco Fonck specializing in the history of the Easter Islands, the spacious landscape park Parque Quinta Vergara and Castillo Wulff, located directly on the Pacific Ocean.

[Ecuador map with route overview](#)

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## [Route USD 1](#)

Experience Ecuador's largest city Guayaquil - the Parque Bolívar with its free-roaming iguanas in the city center,

the prestigious Malecón 2000, the three-kilometer-long secured beach promenade with high entertainment value, the picturesque old town Las Peñas on the hill Cerro Santa, the tourist-safe area around the Malecón El Salado, the eighthectare Parque Histórico in the Cantón Samborondón.

The relaxed fishing village of Puerto López with its long beach, along the Ruta Spondylus the coastal towns of Olón and the surfer's paradise of Montañita, in the Parque Nacional Machalilla the Isla de la Plata with its fantastic fauna and flora, the Comunidad Ancestral Agua Blanca with its informative museum and the mud lagoon, Los Frailes, one of the most beautiful beaches in Ecuador.

### Route USD 2

The eco-city of Loja, capital of music, with its historic Castillo at the city gate, its pretty squares, Calle de Lourdes, the Jipiro amusement park.

The magical village of the centenarians Vilcabamba with its sacred local mountain Mandango.

Cuenca with its old town, declared a World Heritage Site, its approximately 50 churches, the excellent Museo Pumapungo, the informative Museo del Sombrero de Paja Toquilla and its lively market halls.

The colorful Sunday markets of Gualaceo, the gold and silver town of Chordeleg and Sigsig.

The historic site of Ingapirca, second only to Machu Picchu as the most important ceremonial site of the Incas and a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

The tranquil Alausí, starting point for the ride with the Tren de Diablo over the Devil's Nose on the supposedly most dangerous railroad line in the world to Sibambe.

### Route USD 3

Riobamba, the Sultana of the Andes, surrounded by volcanoes, with its excellent Museo de Arte Religioso, its

impressive churches and squares.

The touristic Baños with its pretty center, the steaming thermal baths, a generously laid out Parque Zoológico, the nearby spectacular waterfall El Pailón and the Casa de Árbol with a view of the house volcano Tungurahua.

Puyo, gateway to the Ecuadorian rainforest, with its ethnobotanical Parque Omaere worth seeing.

Latacunga, gateway to the Parque Nacional Cotopaxi and the Quilotoa Loop, with its pretty colonial corners and the large Plaza El Salto.

Saquisilí with its colorful, eclectic Thursday market, one of the most important indigenous markets in the country.

#### [Route USD 4](#)

The capital Quito with its colonial old town with magnificent churches and monasteries, the Cerro El Panecillo with its Virgen de Quito, its cable car going up to the Cruz Loma of the volcano Pichincha, the new town with its museums and the entertainment district La Mariscal.

The Equator Monument Mitad del Mundo, place of the measurement of the equator line, a tourist area with many activities.

Otavalo, with its famous indigenous Saturday market, the vast Parque de los Cóndores with its bird of prey flight shows.

Cotacachi, village of musicians and poets, famous for its leatherwork.

Mindo, city of hummingbirds, orchids, butterflies and artisanal chocolate making, gateway for tours into the cloud forest.

[The Guyana States map with route overview](#)

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## [Route EUR](#)

French Guiana - a piece of the EU in South America, the tropical multicultural capital Cayenne, a modern spaceport in Kourou, the agricultural Cacao, new home of the Hmong, the border town St. Laurent du Maroni on the Rio Maroni with historical former prison camp.

## [Route SRD](#)

Suriname - formerly the last colony of the great Dutch colonial empire, the capital Paramaribo (UNESCO World Heritage Site) with its cosmopolitan, ethnically and religiously colorfully mixed inhabitants, its old Fort Zeelandia, its lively market hustle and bustle, and the Sunday songbird competition, the agricultural Nieuw-Amsterdam with its old canals and plantations along the Commewijne River, sea turtles in the Matapica nature reserve, the town of Atjoni as a gateway to the villages of the Maroons and the upper reaches of the Rio Suriname with its pristine river landscape and wildlife, Guyana dolphins in the estuary.

## [Route GYD](#)

Guyana - rich in rainforest, economically poor on its way to becoming an oil nation, the Caribbean vibrant capital Georgetown with its heritage of Dutch, French and English colonial past.

## [Colombia map with route overview](#)

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## [Route COP 1](#)

Medellin - former center of the world drug trade, today a modern, green, safe and economically prosperous city, the colonial Centro Cívico with its imposing Botero bronze

sculptures, the impressive Palacio de la Cultura and its pretty plazas, Santo Domingo and a cable car ride up the hills to Parque Arvi, Cerro Nutibara with a fantastic panoramic view and the pretty Pueblito Paisa, the entertainment, commercial and financial center El Poblado with its Milla Oro and its magnificent Castillo, the Jardín Botánico with its different vegetation zones, the orchid and butterfly house as well as free-roaming monitor lizards, San Javier with the world's first open-air electric escalator, Complejo Ruta N, an ultramodern center for innovation and commerce.

Guatapé - a picturesque traditional village with its famouszócalas, panoramic view of Embalse de Peñol from the top of Piedra del Peñol.

### Route COP 2

Salento - small town flair, local trout, panoramic view from Alto Cerro at sunset, horseback ride to a coffee plantation, four wheel drive tour to the beautiful Valle Cocorca with its huge wax palms.

Popayán - the elegant white colonial city in the south with its central plaza, the sacred Cerro El Morro de Tulcán and the Pueblito Payanes, colorful market hustle and bustle of the indigenous Guambino in the mountain village of Silvia.

San Agustín - on the traces of the heritage of a vanished cultural people, monumental menhirs, sculpture forest in the Parque Arqueológico, sugar cane plantations and gold seekers along the Rio Magdalena, Cultura San Agustín in Alto de los Idolos.

Cali - the Afro-Colombian influenced old working class city, hotspot of inspiring loud salsa music.

### Route COP 3

Cartagena de Indias - Colombia's most beautiful colonial city with morbid charm, the old town as a World Heritage Site,

golden art in the Museo del Oro, the lively Plaza Santa Domingo with Boteros Gorda Gertrudis, Plaza San Pedro Claver with its sculptures, Plaza de Los Coches with its Portal de los Dulces, arts and crafts in the old dungeons Las Bovédas, Sunset on the old fortifications, India Catalina and the mighty Fortaleza San Felipe de Barajas, evening scene in the Plaza de la Trinidad in Getsémani, the green lung of the city, the Parque Centenario, luxury hotels, casinos and beach life in the modern district of Bocagrande, excursion to the National Park Islas del Rosario in the Caribbean Sea.

#### [Route COP 4](#)

Bogotá - the high, culturally rich capital of Colombia with its historic center La Candelería, a sea of doves on the central Plaza Bolivar, changing of the guard in front of the Palacio Nariño, gold treasures in the unique Museo del Oro at the Parque de Santander, Emeralds in the Museo Internacional de la Esmeralda, handicrafts in the colorful Mercado Artesanal, paintings and sculptures in the Museo Botero, police and drug history in the interesting Museo Histórico Nacional de la Policía, evening meeting place of the younger generation the Plazoleta de Chorro de Quevedo.

Zipaquirá - the mining town with its huge imposing underground salt cathedral.

Villa de Leyva - tranquil colonial and market town with probably the largest Plaza Mayor in South America.

Raquira - the pottery town with its life-size clay figures.

[Paraguay map with route overview](#)

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#### [Route PYG 1](#)

History. European immigrants in Paraguay, from Asunción to Colonia Independencia, to Villarrica, and Ciudad del Este.

### [Route PYG 2](#)

Yerba Mate and Bella Vista, Hohenau and the Rutas Jesuíticas, Carnival and Encarnación, Textile Industry and Pilar.

### [Route PYG 3](#)

Asunción - In the heart of South America.

### [Route PYG 4](#)

Around Asunción.

### [Route PYG 5](#)

Chaco - the Pearl of the North Concepción, crocodiles, tapirs, monkeys and turtles cross the Trans-Chaco Route, the Mennonite colony of Fernheim and the main town of Filadelfia, the Menno colony in Loma Plata.

### [Peru map with route overview](#)

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### [Route PEN 1](#)

Puno, starting point to the Islas Uros, the incomparable floating reed islands in Lake Titicaca.

Cusco, the archaeological capital of South America, World Heritage Site with its remains from the glorious times of the Inca Empire and the magnificent palaces and churches from colonial times around the Plaza de Armas, the famous twelve-cornered stone in Calle Hatunrumiyoc, the Museo de Arte Precolombino in Plazoleta Nazarenas, the Museo de Coca and the Museo de Mendivil in Plaza San Blas, the lively Mercado San Pedro in Plazoleta San Pedro.



Ollantaytambo in the Valle Sagrado with its proud Inca fortress and the village layout that has been preserved since Inca times and its railroad connection to Machu Picchu.

Machu Picchu, the legendary well-preserved ancient Inca city situated high up in the middle of the rainforest, at its feet Machu Picchu Pueblo with its train station, a large Mercado Artesanal, a pretty church and lots of gastronomy and hotellery.

Pisac in the Valle Sagrado with its Inca ruins, the daily handicraft market, the Sunday indigenous market and a church service in Quechua.

## [Route PEN 2](#)

The capital Lima with its Centro Histórico declared as World Heritage Site around the Plaza de Armas, the Barrio Chino, the pretty neighborhood of Miraflores with its cliff, the green coastal walk, the Larco Mar shopping complex built into the rock and the Huaca Pucllana, an old clay pyramid from the Lime culture, the colonial district of Barranco with its Puente de los Suspiros and its beaches, the Parque de la Reserva with its Circuito Mágico del Agua.

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## [Route UYU 1](#)

Nostalgia in Colonia de Sacramento, ice cream in Mercedes, meat extract in Fray Bentos, German organ in Paysandú, Termas de Dayman, tango in Valle Eden, Fiesta de la Pátria de Gaucho in Tacurembó, Valle de Lunarejo as you continue through Gaucholand to Melo, history in Treinta y Tres, shopping in the double border town of Chuy/Chui.

## [Route UYU 2](#)

Montevideo, the lively yet tranquil capital - history, architecture, culture, relaxed people and lots of tango included.

## [Route UYU 3](#)

Hippie feeling in Punta del Diablo, the fishing village and surfer's paradise La Paloma, the sea lion colony of Cap Polonio, sculpture park near Manantiales, the sophisticated Punta del Este, art in Punta Ballena.

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## [Route VES 1](#)

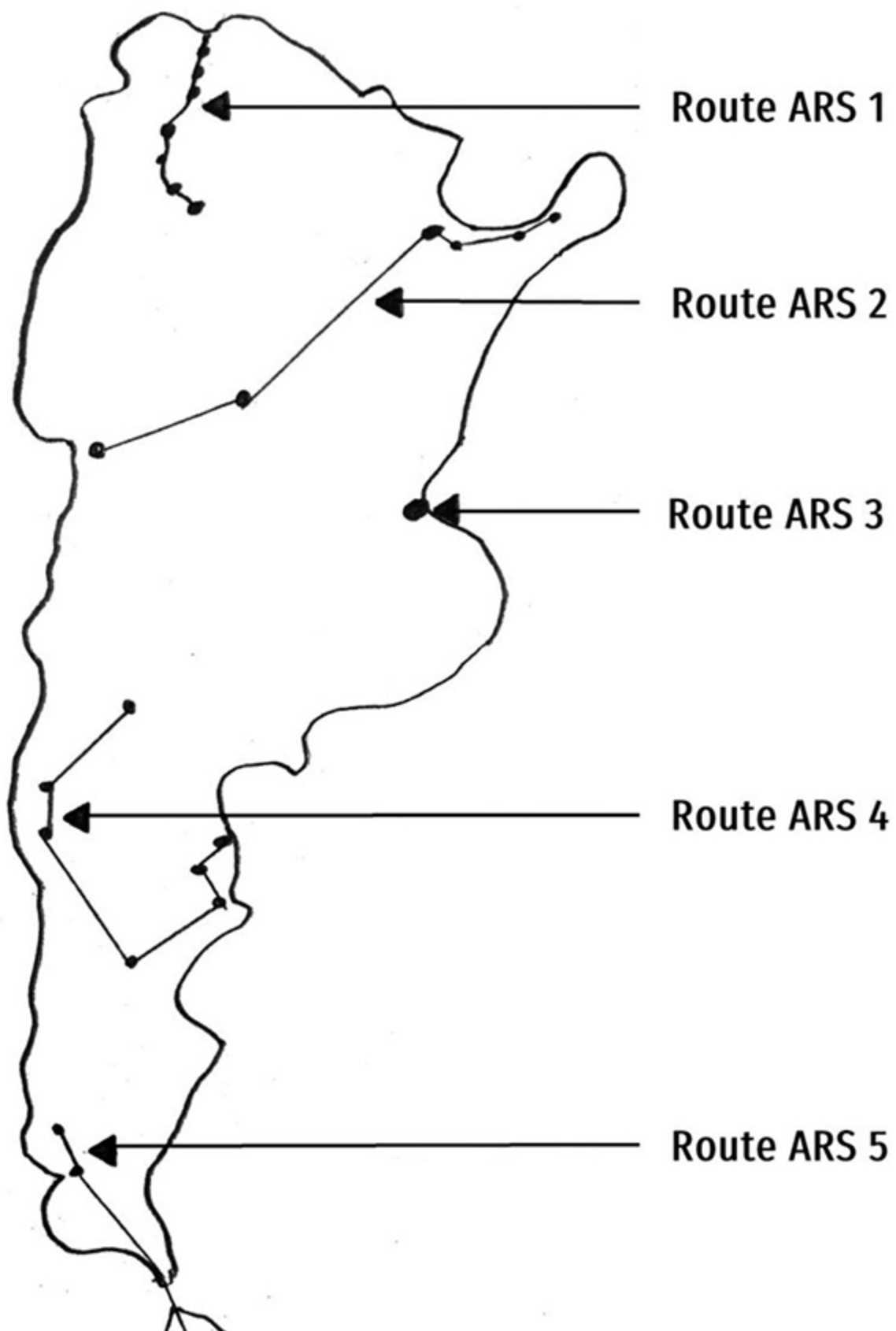
Historical and current political situation, Caracas, Parque Nacional Henri Pittier with Puerto Colombia, Parque Nacional Médanos with Coro, Mérida, Los Ulanos, Catatumbo.

## [Route VES 2](#)

Isla Margarita, Ciudad Bolívar, Canaima, Salto Ángel.

[Author and Editor](#)

**Argentina**



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## Five Highlights

Salta (Route ARS 1), called La Linda, with a consistently pleasant climate and the MAAM and Pajacha museums.

Ignacio Mini (Route ARS 2), the best preserved Jesuit reduction with its evening Espectáculo de Imagen y Sonido.

Buenos Aires (Route ARS 3): In the cosmopolitan metropolis live in every respect stunning people. Elegance next to patchwork. Gourmet restaurants next to Chinese buffets that price the selected food by weight. Classic cafes next to takeaway chains. Shopping temples next to backyard stores. Sensual tango next to exciting soccer. European-style Belle Epoque streets next to seedy neighborhoods and ghettos. A unique city, seductive and frustrating.

Punta Tombo (Route ARS 4), the largest colony of Magellan penguins outside Antarctica, and fashionable Puerto Madryn, gateway to the Península Valdéz World Heritage Site with its marine life.

Perito Moreno Glacier (Route ARS 5): The probably most dynamic glacier of the earth advances well and gladly also two meters in one day. The subsequent break-off, the calving, is an outstanding spectacle. The glacier is easily accessible via a large network of footbridges and paths. There you stand in the midst of numerous other observers and wait until the next house-sized chunk splits off, sometimes thundering and fast, sometimes slow and

crunching into the water, colliding with other floes and creating huge waves. A spektakel.

## **Climate and travel time**

Argentina's north-south extension of almost 3,500 kilometers results in several climate zones. In the southern hemisphere it is summer when it is winter in the northern hemisphere and winter when it is summer in the northern hemisphere.

The Argentine summer, from December to February, is probably the best time to travel to Patagonia (Route ARS 5) and for beach vacations.

Autumn and spring, i.e. March to May and September to November, are climatically ideal for the center of the country, i.e. for Mendoza and Route ARS 2, for Buenos Aires (Route ARS 3) and also for Route ARS 4.

The Argentine winter, from June to August, can be spent in the north (Route ARS 1), it is the ski season and the beaches remain deserted.



## **Events**

At the end of January the most famous and biggest Argentine folklore festival takes place in Cosquín near Cordoba.

Holy Week is celebrated fervently, as everywhere else in South America. And in March, the five-day Harvest Festival in Mendoza features fireworks, folklore and a royal coronation.

In August, the world's best tango dancer is chosen in Buenos Aires during the two-week Festival y Mundial de Balle.

And in December, Buenos Aires hosts the International Jazz Festival.

**Route ARS 1:  
Northern Argentina -  
San Miguel de Tucumán,  
Valle de Tafi, Amaicha de Valle,  
Quilmes,  
Calafate,  
Salta,  
Tilcara,  
Uquía,  
Humahuaca,  
La Quiaca**

Let's start with San Miguel de Tucumán, which is almost 800 kilometers by air or 1,100 kilometers by car from Asunción. The city can be reached by car in about 14 hours via the RN11 and RN89. As everywhere in South America, there are also frequent buses. Flights are hardly shorter due to a stopover of about nine hours plus arrival and departure to the airport and waiting time at the airport. We stay directly at the Plaza Independencia with the cathedral, the Casa de Gobierno and other colonial buildings, which look fantastic when illuminated at night. In the center of the square is a large park.



The tourist information office provides us with a good map and tips. The Casa de Gobierno offers a guided tour on request. In front of the main entrance, heavily armed police or militia have been deployed, because once again demonstrators have gathered in front of the building with demands for more work and financial support. This is a typical theme in Argentina, which can only be explained by a mentality that has been learned over generations. There is little work, as companies do not make sufficient profits despite numerous tax and social security avoidance measures. It does not seem worthwhile to set up a company. And if one has nevertheless created a smaller or medium-size company, then this one counts already on the bankruptcy in approximately five years, since at the latest then it becomes clear that the taxes and the social security contributions for the employees were not paid correctly. A follow-up company under a similar name is then already in the starting blocks and if you yourself are banned from working for a while because of the bankruptcy, the new company will belong to a family member. It is also not

helpful for a company foundation that the wages are high. But without high wages, employees would rather be pampered by the state in the social security system. We hear the same stories over and over again: Of families who have been a burden on the social security system for several generations, and who have been unable to make a fresh start even under the current economic reforms. Companies whose production is often not in line with the global market due to a lack of employee training and bureaucratic organization, and is therefore poor in terms of quality or too expensive due to a lack of machinery and excessively high wages. The sluggishness that has set in under the socially romantic regime and has already led to state bankruptcy cannot be stopped.



Nor can the level of education be raised quickly. If teachers in schools have been told for years that they are bad, if there are high failure and dropout rates, then it should not come as a surprise that half illiterate students have also received a certificate of completion. Performance was simply not required anywhere. The state then tried to protect the domestic economy with high import duties and capital controls. Likewise, high export duties, for example on agricultural products, led to Argentine cattle dying in the Pampa, no longer being slaughtered, their meat being too expensive on the world market. State failure all along the

line. But of course there are big and small profiteers from this longstanding social experiment.

The Kirchner clan is rich. Its followers may not live very well, but they live comfortably enough at the expense of the state. The percentage of high-income citizens is also relatively high. And so the country is divided between socialist supporters of Kirchner and economically oriented conservatives. In the process, cracks run through families. One does not understand the other, cannot and will not understand him. A middle class, as represented by a social market economy, is unlikely to emerge in Argentina in the next few years. Yet the country is so beautiful, so rich in raw materials and was one of the most prosperous in the world in the 1920s. This is stored in the collective memory of the Argentinians and can be seen everywhere.

The cathedral of Tucumán is impressive, bright and relatively simple. The more typical Franciscan church, on the other hand, leaves a somber impression compared to this German-Hamburg elegance.





Next to this church stands an old university building. We are not allowed to look into the inner courtyard. Only those who can present and use a scanner-readable university card can pass through the barrier. Although the security personnel are reluctant to turn us away, the security and protection of the university staff and students come first.

Behind their hands, they say that without the security services, the number of books in the library would have been significantly reduced; so it's not about the safety of the people there, but about the safety of the institution.