



# ZEKESEVEN ADVENTURE

EVT 11861 1324/03

## TREKKING NORTH ARGENTINA

Through the valleys and the Quebrada, the silent and mysterious "CAMINO DEL INCA" (The route of the Inca) will take us to the very heart of a millenary culture. We will walk following the incredible Inca route just like they used to do hundreds of years ago, joining the Kolla hamlets pegged among the hills all along the way. The route begins at the "Quebrada of Humahuaca" itself. From the PUNA to the jungle, we propose the crossing over of a very extense region of enormous mountains and deep valleys, visiting the originally Kolla communities within, which are only approachable on foot. And what's more, this tour will indulge you with stories, places, experiences and people you will remember forever...

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<b>Duration</b> 16 Days 15 Nights	<b>Departures 2009</b> 18/04 , 16/05, 13/06, 04/07, 25/07, 15/08, 05/09, <i>Departure guaranteed - Private departures available.</i>	<b>Season</b> Austral Autumn - Winter.
<b>Group size</b> from 2 to 15 people.	<b>Physical and technical level</b> Intermediate. Moderate to intensive trekking.	<b>Price</b> - <b>from 1698 USD.</b>

### 1. PROGRAM



#### Day 1 Salta Airport - City of Salta

We welcome you at the Airport and transfer you to your accommodation in Salta. You will have the rest of the day to enjoy the town.

**Accommodation at Lodge, double or single rooms.**

No Meals provided.

#### Day 2 San Antonio de los Cobres and Salinas Grandes

We depart early towards Campo Quijano through the "Quebrada Del Toro", to reach the pre Hispanic city of

"Rosa de Tastil" and its legendary ruins. Our trip continues to San Antonio de los Cobres, a typical town located at 4000 meters above sea level. Later on, driving through "El Paso de Jama" (Pass) we will be able to appreciate the "Salinas Grandes" (The Great Salt Lakes), then, descending the path of the Lipan, we will make a stop at the town of Pumamarca and its famous "de los Siete Colores" (Mount of the Seven Colors). We then reach the picturesque town of Tilcara and our lodging.

**Accommodation: Lodge, double or single rooms.**

Meals provided: Breakfast

### **Day 3 Devil's Throat - Tilcara**

You will have the morning free to discover the attractions of town, such as: the great central square, the small square, the town church - and the "Pucará de Tilcara". In the afternoon we'll do a small trek to The Devil's Throat, walking along old native Kolla paths and admiring the unbelievable landscape. After 3 or 4 hours we go back to Tilcara.

**Accommodation: Lodge, double or single rooms.**

Meals provided: Breakfast

### **Day 4 Tilcara - Iruya**

During the morning, we will go northwards in a local bus up to the small town of "Iruya" a picturesque village just on the north of Salta.

We will have enough time to go around the town, discovering its beautiful cobbled streets and its typical Chappel. We will spend the night in this fascinating place.

**Simple Lodging**

Meals provided: Breakfast, Lunchbox, Dinner

### **Day 5 Iruya - Chiyayoc**

Early in the morning, we will begin a slow non-stop ascent from Iruya (2800metres asl.) up to the "Abra Del Colorado". From there, we go down up to the San Juan River where we have lunch. After the break, another ascent is expecting us and then we start climbing down to the Chiyayoc village, at 3100 m asl.

Walking time: 8 to 9 hours.

**Simple Lodging**

Meals provided: Breakfast, Lunchbox, Dinner

### **Day 6 Chiyayoc - Rodeo Colorado**

Our trek continues through this amazing landscape. We walk down until we reach the valley of the river Trancas. Once there we trek up again right up to the edge, from where we have a fabulous view of the town of "Rodeo Colorado". Later on, we descend through the Pera River to finally reach the town we admired from above. Estimated walking time: 8 to 9 hours.

**Lodging: Semi Full Camp.**

Meals provided: Breakfast, Lunchbox, Dinner

### **Day 7 Rodeo Colorado - Nazareno River**

This day we make our way down a wide slope to the town of "Molino", with the amazing view of the valley of the river Nazareno behind us. From here we trek up to the site where we will set up camp.

Estimated walking time: 4 to 5 hours.

**Lodging: Semi Full Camp.**

Meals provided: Breakfast, Lunchbox, Dinner

### **Day 8 Nazareno River - Nazareno**

Last stage of our on-foot traverse, during which we will go upriver to reach "Nazareno" village, to discover this small typical town and enjoy our experiences. Walking time: 5 to 6 hours.

**Simple Lodging**

Meals provided: Breakfast, Lunchbox, Dinner

### **Day 9 Nazareno - La Quiaca - Tilcara**

In the morning we go back to the northern region of "La Quiaca", close to the Bolivian border, to continue on our way to Tilcara.

**Accommodation: Lodge, double or single rooms.**

Meals provided: Breakfast.

### **Day 10 Day Off at Tilcara**

A resting day, to rearrange your equipment and to get ready for the final part of this journey.

**Accommodation: Lodge, double or single rooms.**

Meals provided: Breakfast.

**Day 11 Tilcara - Veranada de Yutos Pampa**

Early morning, we take a local transfer to "Alfacito" (2900 m asl). There, we will begin our on-foot traverse, with a slow non-stop ascent - we have to be careful about acclimatising- to reach "Campo Laguna" (4200 m asl). This is the highest point of the crossing. After lunch, we go down to "Yutos Pampa" at 3200 metres asl.

**Lodging: Semi Full Camp.**

Meals provided: Breakfast, Lunchbox, Dinner

**Day 12 Veranada de Yutos Pampa - Molulo**

We continue our crossing, climbing up to the top of the "Cumbre Grande" Mount. You will be able to appreciate a thick forest at the end of the valley. In the afternoon we arrive to the "Molulo" hamlet ( 2950 meters asl).

Estimated walking time: 6 to 7 hours.

**Lodging: Semi Full Camp.**

Meals provided: Breakfast, Lunchbox, Dinner

**Day 13 Molulo - Abra Del Potrero**

We will have a peaceful morning with plenty of time to meet the local inhabitants and walk around the area. We continue our traverse after lunch. You will notice the gradual increase of the vegetation until we arrive to a place known as "Abra del Potrero". Walking time: 4 to 5 hs.

**Lodging: Semi Full Camp.**

Meals provided: Breakfast, Lunchbox, Dinner

**Day 14 Abra Del Potrero - San Lucas**

We continue our adventure from "Abra del Potrero" ("abra"=the lowest point between two mountains). We leave the thick forest to enter a plain landscape, then we again we see some trees growing on the red soil. After climbing up through this forest we reach the hamlet of "San Lucas", at 2500 meters. Later on, we slowly start down and back to the town. Walking time 7 to 8 hours.

**Lodging: Semi Full Camp.**

Meals provided: Breakfast, Lunchbox, Dinner

**Day 15 San Lucas - Calilegua – Salta**

This is the last stage of the traverse between San Lucas and San Francisco. The path continues along the southern bank of San Lucas River: the vegetation is dense and the valley is deep. After crossing "Valle Grande", we will climb up to "Peña Alta", the end of our long walk. There, a local transfer will be waiting for us to drive us through the small town of San Francisco and the whole of Calilegua National Park to arrive to Liberator San Martín Village. From there, we will move on to the city of Salta. Walking time: 5 to 6 hours.

**Accommodation; Lodge, double or single rooms.**

Meals provided: Breakfast.

**Day 16 Salta - Airport**

After breakfast you are transferred to the airport where your tour ends.

Meals we provide: Breakfast

## 2. SERVICES

**INCLUDED SERVICES:**

- Incoming services
- Bilingual guide (Spanish - English) during all the activities.
- 6 nights in Lodge, double or single rooms, breakfast included
- 3 nights in simple lodging (room without a private bathroom)
- 6 nights in Semi - Full Camp (included: tents and dinner tent or saloon. Not included: sleeping bags nor insulating mattresses)
- Transfer Salta Airport - Hotel / Hotel - Salta.
- All transportation as shown in the itinerary combining private and regular buses.
- Mules for the transportation of the tents, general equipment and all meals of the traverse. We will carry the passengers' luggage up to a maximum of 8 kg (days 4 to 9 and the days 11 and 15)
- 15 breakfasts, 9 lunchboxes and 9 dinners

**NOT INCLUDED SERVICES:**

- Medical and life insurance

- Tips
- Beverages (meals do not include alcoholic drinks or beverages)
- Flights or airport taxes
- Optional excursions
- Services not shown or detailed in the program

**OPTION:**

- Pack Buenos Aires-Domestic flights:
  - 2 nights in 3 stars hotel.
  - Domestic flight Buenos Aires - Salta
- Please consult us.

**-International air fares:** please consult us.

**3. INFORMATION**



**Physical Level**

We qualify this tour as "Intense". This means that you need to be fit to enjoy it. No previous technical knowledge is required. The group will walk an average of 6 to 7 hours a day, may be 9 in some specific days, at a moderate pace and with all the necessary stops for water, snacks or rest. The trek includes up hills and down hills, some of them quite steady.

**Technical level**

This adventure do not require any special technical level. moderate to intensive trekking.

**Security**

The trip does not include medical assistance. The guides always carry a basic first-aid kit and VHF communication equipment in case of emergency.

**Transport**

Private Transportation service, except in the rare case of a group of 8 or less people, when regular buses will be taken.

**Guides**

All groups have the assistance of guides. They are all professional bilingual Mountain Guides belonging to the Argentine Association of Mountain Guides and authorized by National Parks.

**Food**

This trip includes almost all the meals. The few meals not included are those where experience taught us travelers prefer to choose freely. During stays at hostels or hotels, drinks are not included. When camping out, the four meals are served. The menu, always based on fresh ingredients, is carefully designed considering not only quality and savor but also the energetic demands of physical activity.

Breakfast: Thermos with hot water are provided with tea or coffee, and milk, cookies, jam, fruit and cereal.

Lunch: A main course and dessert or a lunchbox enjoyed at a panoramic point.

Fruit juice for beverages. The lunchbox contains a full salad or a sturdy sandwich, fruit juice and candy or chocolate bar.

Snack: The choice of different teas, cakes, cookies and sometimes "Tortas Fritas", i.e. rich typical fried cakes. Snacks are served in the afternoon, once you return from the trek.

Dinner: It includes a starter (salad or soup), a main course (pasta, rice with squids, beef, stews, etc.), and dessert (such as pears in chocolate cream, fruit, fondue). Fruit juice, wine and coffee.

**Equipments and gears**

- Backpack, 50 lts or so
- Sleeping bag down or synthetic for -10° C
- Sleeping mattress
- Trekking shoes or boots
- Thermal underwear
- Trekking pants
- Fleece
- Breathable parka and over pants
- Gaiters
- Gloves

**Climate**

It is usually cool in Buenos Aires from March to November (Average of 15°C). It also may be a little bit cold

during July and August. The climate can be a little bit dry. But the county is getting wet by storms from the ocean.

In the North West, near the province of Salta, the average of temperature is about 18°C from March to November with maximum until 25°C. It is colder by night and in the higher mountains (3000 to 4000 meters). During this period, the region is mainly dry

#### **Time**

GMT -3.

#### **Currency**

The local currency is the peso. One euro is about 4 pesos and One Usd is about 3 pesos. It is not necessary to travel with a lot of cash (pesos or dollars). Visa, MasterCard or American express are accepted everywhere.

#### **Customs**

To enter the country, only a passport is needed (expiration date 6 month after departure).

#### **Health**

Nothing is compulsory concerning vaccination. Being vaccinated against Hepatitis B is recommended. We advise not drinking tap water.

#### **Food**

Argentina is well known for its wines, produced mostly in the province of Mendoza, near the Andes, and for its fabulous beef! Ask for a "bife de chorizo" or "lomo" and have it with a good red Malbec wine. In Patagonia, don't miss the Patagonian lamb barbecue, nor the trouts from the lakes nor the Pacific salmon.

If you are a vegetarian: no problem, Argentina is a great fruit and vegetable producer, so you will find quality and variety at very low prices.

### **TERMS OF SALE**

#### **Prices**

Prices are in Euros or US Dollars per pax. When booking, a deposit of 30% of the contract is required (100% if booking less than 1 month before departure date). Prices can be modified without advanced notice. The entire value of international and domestic air fares will be paid when booking.

#### **Cancellations**

Up to 30 days before the trip, all the money will be refunded, except administrative costs (100 US\$). As from 29 to 15 days before departure date: 60% of the contract value will be refunded. As from 14 to 7 days: 30%, and if cancelled less than 7 days before the trip no refunds will be granted.

Special terms for domestic and international flights: refund according to the cancellation policy of each airline company.

#### **Booking**

Bookings must be sent by fax or e-mail to our Buenos Aires center. Each booking will be considered confirmed against a payment of 30% of the contract. Customers will then receive a fax or e-mail confirming their booking.

#### **Taxes**

All the taxes are included in the programs and the services fitting the contract, except taxes at the Buenos Aires Ezeiza Airport (nearly 18 US\$ per pax.) and taxes of some domestic airports inside Argentina.

#### **Modifications**

Each confirmed booking modification will depend on the lodging availabilities and on the airline cancellation system.

#### **Luggage**

An extra cost for luggage exceeded weight (international and domestic flights) will not be paid by Zekeseven Travel Agency.

#### **Responsibilities**

Zekeseven Travel Agency is not responsible for international or domestic flight delays nor for the subsequent transfer delays or inconvenients.

Zekeseven Travel Agency is not responsible for any injury or physical problem during the travels and the services provided.

#### **Program modification**

Zekeseven Travel Agency can change or modify programs for reasons or problems out of its control without advanced notice (weather, delays in domestic and international flights, transfers...).

#### **Refund**

Outdoor activities costs and green fees will not be refunded in case of cancellation due to bad weather.

#### **Insurance / Assistance**

Zekeseven advises subscription to Travel Guard Americas insurance/assistance.