

The Great South American Knitting Adventure
November 8–15, 2010
TOUR ITINERARY

Sunday November 7

For those of you flying from North America, plan on departing today as most of the flights leave in the early evening then arrive Monday morning. Transfers from the Ezeiza Ministro Pistarini International Airport (Buenos Aires EZE) are easiest done by taxicab. There is a taxi stand right outside of the airport. The Recoleta is approximately 21 miles from the Airport and it will take the driver about 45 minutes to bring you to the Hotel. Bring a light jacket and pack for spring weather—the average temperature will be mid 70s during the day and into the 60s at night. For more info about immigration, customs and getting through the airport click <http://www.tripadvisor.com/Travel-g312741-s301/Buenos-Aires:Argentina:Arriving.And.Departing.html>. There is also helpful information about exchanging currency at this site.

Monday November 8

Bienvenidos! You've made it to Buenos Aires! Our home away from home will be at the Five-Star Meliá Recoleta Plaza which is conveniently located in the heart of the historic district. You'll find shopping, culture, museums and everything Argentina in this neighborhood. We will meet up with everyone in the early afternoon where we will take a tour of the city to get familiarized with our surroundings.

**Tonight we will have a group dinner at a delicious restaurant recommended by our friend Angelo from Aslan Trends. This will give us all a chance to get to know one another on the tour!

Tuesday November 9

Before heading out for the day, you will enjoy a sumptuous breakfast buffet at the hotel. This breakfast spread is offered each day of the trip until your check out.

Today we will head over to the state of the art mill that makes all your favorite ASLANTRENDS yarns! We will tour this multi-million dollar mill and see first-hand how the raw materials are spun into the delicious yarns we love! You will find the process fascinating! Nicky will teach project-based classes from her new book, *Enchanted Expressions*, which uses all of Aslan's new yarns. (These classes will be announced as Nicky puts the agenda together.) We will also have an opportunity to purchase yarns at the mill.

We will return to the hotel from a day of classes where you can explore the Recoleta and enjoy some free time. Dinner tonight will be on your own.

Wednesday November 10

Today we'll tour the **Recoleta Cemetery where notable citizens are laid to rest. You'll find Eva Peron's grave in this manicured and fascinating cemetery. We will then visit the **Museo de Evita, a mansion that was converted into a private museum that pays homage to the late Eva Peron's life and work, much dedicated to the downtrodden Argentines. The afternoon is yours to enjoy shopping and touring the area. We will meet up later in the day for a **Wine Tasting in the hidden neighborhood of Las Canitas. Here we will sample five vintages produced from boutique wineries in rural Argentina along with food pairings. Tapas and wine! What could be a more relaxing way to spend an evening!

Thursday November 11

After breakfast we will pack a small overnight bag and leave for Uruguay where we'll visit Montevideo. (We will not check out of our Buenos Aires hotel, rather we will keep our belongings in our room while we do an overnight in Uruguay.)

We'll board the Buquebus Ferry, where you'll take in the landscape on this fast-moving vessel that will travel along the Rio de la Plata from Buenos Aires. This ferry has an inexpensive cafeteria and small shop but if water travel makes you uneasy, pop a Dramamine or don a seasick patch.

Otherwise, it's an easy and visually exciting way to travel to another country. Be sure to bring your passport!

When we arrive in Montevideo we will check into our beachfront hotel, Cala di Volpe, then travel to the studios of Malabrigo Yarn where the local artisans will teach us how to dye. That's right! Each person will get a chance to get dye their very own Malabrigo! At Malabrigo you'll also have the opportunity to see and purchase the special new yarns that are forthcoming into the marketplace.

Friday November 12

After breakfast those who wish to return to Malabrigo may do so. Others may opt for a day of shopping or relaxing at the beach. We will then board the ferry and sail back to Buenos Aires late in the afternoon.

Saturday November 13

This will be Day Two of Nicky's Classes which will begin right after breakfast in the hotel. Again, the classes will be announced at a later date. Later in the afternoon our group will walk over to the **Museo Nacional des Bellas Artes, which showcases Buenos Aires' largest and most complete collection of fine art created by masters such as Monet, Gaugin, Cezanne, Picasso and more. **Tonight is Tango Night! Not only will our group enjoy an authentic Argentine meal, but we'll also get a tango lesson and see a fabulous show!

Sunday November 14

No Sunday visit to Buenos Aires is complete without a visit to the San Telmo Antiques Market. This is how we'll begin our day. This Bohemian marketplace will dazzle you with its plethora of cool cafes, street performers, arts and crafts displays and buzz of activity all in timeless surroundings. The rest of the day will be on your own to enjoy shopping, sightseeing or simply relaxing at our spa in the hotel. Dinner tonight is on your own as most folks will want to pack their treasures to prepare for departure tomorrow.

Monday November 15

Our departure day . . . our group will meet for one final group breakfast before we bid each other farewell. Plan on getting to the EZE Airport three hours in advance of the flight. Remember, there is a small departure tax when leaving so bring cash or a credit card.

This tour includes:

Hotels

Breakfast each morning

**Lunches and dinners as noted in the itinerary

Luggage handling at hotels. Ferry travel to and from Uruguay.

Land travel to scheduled events by private motorcoach if needed. (Some excursions are within walking distance from the hotel.)

Classes with Nicky Epstein & Malabrigo artisans

**Excursions in Buenos Aires and Montevideo as indicated by asterisks

Items to Note

A valid passport is required for travel. Also, be aware that since their currency became so devalued, you will have to exchange US Dollars (or your currency) to Argentine pesos. The Banco de la Nacion kiosk in the airport will give you the most favorable rate of exchange. We recommend that you take care of this once you land and clear customs. Major credit cards are widely accepted in both Buenos Aires and Montevideo. While in Montevideo you will need to convert cash into Uruguay's currency as well and that can be done once the ferry docks. ATM machines are available in both countries, however, they often have a \$100 limit for withdrawal.

Also, you will find many great shopping opportunities—fantastic leatherwares, shoes, and clothing to name a few. Depending on your airline baggage policies, you may want to pack a regular suitcase for your personal effects and bring an empty or smaller tote along to bring back your “finds.” When traveling to Montevideo, we will not check out of the Buenos Aires hotel but you will need a small overnight bag for your stay in Uruguay.

If you're interested in learning more about the local culture try visiting the following websites for interesting facts.

www.fodors.com, www.tripadvisor.com, www.allaboutar.com and www.wikitravel.org to name a few.