



From
£9,492 GBP

Single Room

£10,115 GBP

Twin Room

£9,492 GBP

Prices valid until
30th December 2024

17 days

Duration

Argentina

Destination

Level 2 - Moderate

Activity

Argentina Dinosaur dig including Titanosaur small group tours

Sep 11 2024 to Sep 27 2024

Argentina Dinosaur Dig Small Group Tour

Odyssey offers easy, convenient, and relaxed escorted small group tours to Argentina. We explore Argentina's Dinosaur record, natural beauty, its ancient heritage, and world famous cities, all with some truly spectacular scenery along the way. This and more is all waiting to be explored on one of Odyssey's small group tours of Dinosaur's designed

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25-Apr-2024

for the senior traveller, and led by experienced, and enthusiastic like minded people.

Join Odyssey Traveller on this 17-day tour that gives you the opportunity to meet some of the best guides and experts on Argentina's palaeontological record and dinosaur evolution. You will also have the opportunity to see the largest herbivore and the largest carnivore dinosaurs that ever roamed the planet.

The sites you will visit have made a substantial contribution to the earth's dinosaur fossil record. During this tour, you also get to participate on a dig, spending three days at the Proyecto Dino Palaeontology Centre. This site is managed by scientists from the National University of Comahue. After the dig you continue to explore further the palaeontological record of Argentina.

The tour visits sites of palaeontological interest around the area of Trelew in the Peninsula Valdés. On this tour, we will learn more about the gigantic herbivores, Titanosaurs. The fossil of a new species of Titanosaur—the largest to date—was uncovered in Argentina only in 2014. The largest dinosaur that walked the planet, the Titanosaur named *Patagotitan mayorum* was estimated to have been 40 metres long and 20 metres tall, with a thigh bone found to measure more than 2 metres (8 feet)—longer than an average human's height! It was larger than the Argentinosaurus Huinculensis, the previous record holder housed in Carmes Funes Museum that we will see on this trip.

You can check out Odyssey Program Leader John Pickrell's report on the October 2016 Gobi Desert dig, or read an article from The Guardian that describes how the discovery of the Titanosaur in Argentina is changing the way we think about dinosaurs.

Argentina Dinosaur Dig Tour Itinerary

The Argentina Dinosaur small group dig journeys from Buenos Aires out to Cordoba. The tour includes a Visit to Ischigualasto Provincial Park to



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see the palaeontology history of the park.

The visit to Ischigualasto – Talampaya Natural Parks, is a journey back to the time of the dinosaur. One of the key places you visit on the tour is Ischigualasto, also known as “Valle de la Luna” (Moon Valley), a sedimentary sequence of an amazing diversity of forms and colours shaped by erosion. This valley is considered by many scientists to be one of the world’s most important palaeontological sites.

This small group tour also spends time on site at the Dino Paleontology Project Center, Lago Barreales. Our time here includes a visit to the research area, laboratory, and showroom. We will also visit the Lago Barreales Paleontological Center (CEPALB) or Proyecto Dino, on the north lakeside of Barreales lake (Neuquén province). A group of scientists develops scientific, educational, cultural, and tourist activities that the tour also joins.

From our base in Neuquen you visit the Carmes Funes Museum. In this museum you will see a full-size reconstruction of the dinosaur known as *Argentinosaurus Huinculensis*. Prior to the 2014 discovery we’ve mentioned above, *Argentinosaurus Huinculensis* was the biggest herbivorous dinosaur ever discovered. Discovered in 1988, this massive herbivore belongs to the titanosaurids, part of the plant-eating sauropod group. The fossils of *Argentinosaurus Huinculensis* were discovered about 8 km east from Plaza Huincul. The dinosaur was found in rocks from the late Cretaceous period, but only parts of the skeleton have been uncovered: the pelvis, tibia, sacrum and some vertebrae. This giant dinosaur has been estimated to reach up to 35 metres long.

The museum also has a reconstruction, dioramas, and fossil remains of a great variety of dinosaur bones and eggs, invertebrates, and bird footprints, all discovered in different field trips carried out in Neuquén.

The tour also visits the Paleontological Museum Ernesto Bachman. Exhibits here include a replica of the 100-million-year-old *Giganotosaurus Carolinii*, considered the biggest carnivore on earth. The discovery which was local to the area was important for two reasons. The sheer size of the dinosaur believed to have weighed at least 8 tonnes. The second important discovery was that scientists

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recovered 70% of the skeleton. In this museum you'll also be able to see the palaeontological and archaeological material found in nearby sites. As well as a replica of the Carnotaurus Sastrei, found in the province of Chubut, in 95-million-year-old rocks.

For those with a passion for dinosaurs and the palaeontological record of the planet, this tour will provide a truly unique experience. Odyssey offers a range of Archaeology small group tours to travellers each year you might want to check out. The Argentina Dinosaur dig including Titanosaur is one tour included in the collection for you to enjoy.

You can learn more about Argentina with our country profile. For more details about this tour, click the 'Top 5' or 'Itinerary' buttons above! If you're keen to experience this tour, please call or send an email. Or, to book, simply fill in the form on the right hand side of this page.

Highlights

1. Experience 3 days in the Dino Paleontology Project Center.
2. Hone your skills in cleaning and classification of dinosaur fossils.
3. Experience the most Paleontological Museums in South America.
4. Explore the impressive landscape of the Cordillera Mountain and Nationals Parks.
5. Visit the Egidio Furiglio Museum and learn from Dr. Diego Pol, the famous paleontologist who discovered the world's greatest dinosaur.

Itinerary

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Day 1

Locations: Buenos Aires

Overview:

Upon arrival at Ezeiza International Airport, we make our own way to the hotel, where we meet up with the group for an introductory dinner and program orientation. (D)

Accommodation:

Hotel Unique Executive Central or Similar

Day 2

Locations: Buenos Aires

Overview:

After breakfast, we take a half-day guided city tour that includes many of the main attractions of Buenos Aires. Along the way, we see the Plaza de Mayo, the Presidential Palace (The Pink House), the Metropolitan Cathedral, San Telmo, La Boca, and "Caminito." We then continue to Puerto Madero and stop off at the Recoleta neighborhood, where we visit the Recoleta Cemetery. The afternoon is free to continue exploring the city at your own pace. We come together again in the evening, for a traditional dinner and tango show. (B,D)

Accommodation:

Hotel Unique Executive Central or similar.

Day 3

Locations: La Plata

Overview:

After breakfast, we transfer to La Plata, where we visit the city's Paleontological Museum. Here, we learn about the research finds peculiar to the local area with a local guide, and begin our educational introduction into the fascinating world of paleontology. We then have free time to explore the city, before meeting back for a transfer to

Buenos Aires. (B,L,D)

Accommodation:

Hotel Unique Executive Central or similar

Day 4

Locations: Cordoba

Overview:

Today we head to Jorge Newbury domestic airport, for a flight to Cordoba city. On arrival, we meet up with our local guide, who will take us back to the hotel. We enjoy free time at the hotel, before coming together for a group dinner. (B,D)

Accommodation:

American Cordoba Park Hotel or similar

Day 5

Locations: Cordoba

Overview:

After breakfast, our local guide will meet us at the hotel and travel with us to the Dr. Arturo Alberto Illia Provincial Natural Science Museum. Here, we enjoy a talk on Dinosaur diversity in Argentina, which focuses on the types of fossils (including skeletons, eggs, footprints, etc.) that have recently been found. We enjoy lunch at a local restaurant, and then travel back to our hotel. (B,L,D)

Accommodation:

American Cordoba Park Hotel or similar.



Day 6

Locations: La Rioja

Overview:

After breakfast, we travel to La Rioja City, stopping for a picnic lunch on the way. (B,D)

Accommodation:

Naindo Park Hotel or similar.

Day 7

Locations: Villa Union

Overview:

This morning we head to the Ishigualasto Provincial Park, which encompasses an area of over 63,000 hectares. Here, we stop to see numerous sites of paleontological significance. This is a journey into the heart of the dinosaurs' landscape. The park, which is also known as "Moon Valley," features an amazing diversity of geological forms and colours, and has been shaped in large part by the forces of erosion. Without doubt, Ishigualasto Provincial Park is one of the world's most important paleontological sites. Today we enjoy lunch at a local restaurant, as well as dinner back at the hotel. (B,L,D)

Accommodation:

Pircas Negras Hotel or similar

Day 8

Locations: La Rioja

Overview:

Today, we visit Talampaya National Park to experience various paleontological sites and features on an extensive guided tour of "Canon de Talampaya and Shimpá." The Park has an area of 215,000 hectares, and its major attraction is its brick-red rock cliffs, with thousands of distinctive shapes carved by erosion. Condors nest in these crevices. We also explore a three kilometre-wide canyon, with breathtaking sandstone formations and 150-metre tall walls. The canyon

is rich in precious archaeological remains, such as stone mortars and pre-Columbia petroglyphs. In the evening, we enjoy dinner back at the hotel. (B,D)

Accommodation:

Naindo Park Hotel or similar.

Day 9

Locations: Cordoba

Overview:

After breakfast, we drive to Sanagasta, where we experience the wonders of the Sanagasta Museum and Field Site. Later in the day, we return to Cordoba city, for the chance to explore the local area and find a restaurant of your own choosing. (B)

Accommodation:

Amerian Cordoba Park Hotel

Day 10

Locations: Lago Barreales

Overview:

This morning, we head to Cordoba Airport for a flight to Neuquen. On arrival, we drive to the Dino Paleontology Project Central at Lago Barreales, some 65 km outside of Neuquen city. Here, we are introduced to the research area, lab, and showroom. We enjoy lunch as a group, and continue our initiation into the research activities taking place at the Futalognko site. The main tasks here are research, recovery of bones and other specimens, as well as cleaning and classifying various dinosaur fossils. We enjoy lunch and dinner at the Project Facilities. (B,L,D)

Accommodation:

Accommodation at the Project Area

Day 11

Locations: Lago Barreales

Overview:

Today, we travel to the Barreales Lake. Here, we learn about the Geologic Circuit, and also gain valuable skills in cleaning and classifying dinosaur fossils. While here, we also visit the on-site Museum, which displays many fossils and other treasures. (B,L,D)

Accommodation:

Accommodation at the Project Area

Day 12

Locations: Lago Barreales - Zapala - Lago Barreales

Overview:

Today we journey to Plaza Huincul, where we visit the Carmes Funes Museum, which features original fossils and a replica of the entire form of Argentinosaurus Huinculensis. This the biggest herbivorous dinosaur that has ever been discovered. It belongs to the titanosaurids, which are included within the plant-eating sauropod group. This particular specimen was found in 1988, in a site 8 km east of Plaza Huincul, and dates back to the late-Cretaceous period .It was not found as a complete skeleton — only the pelvis, tibia, sacrum and some vertebrae were recovered. The dinosaur has been estimated to reach 131 feet in length, 59 feet high, and weight 100 tonnes. The museum here also shows reconstructions, dioramas and fossil remains of a diverse group of dinosaur bones and eggs, invertebrates and bird footprints, all discovered in different field trips. We then continue on to Zapala, where we enjoy lunch at a local restaurant and visit the famous Marine Museum of Juan Olsacher. (B,L,D)

Accommodation:

Accommodation at the Project Area

Day 13

Locations: Neuquen - Trelew

Overview:

Today we head for Villa El Chocon, where we visit the Paleontological Museum Ernesto Bachman, located 79km south of Neuquen city, on the perimeter of the Ezequiel Ramos Mejia Dam. It showcases a replica of the 100 million years old Gigantosaurus Carlinii, considered the biggest carnivore on earth, which was found in the area in 1993. The discovery was important not only due to the size of the dinosaur (roughly 8 tonnes) but also because it recovered almost 70% of the skeleton. In the museum, we see some of the paleontological and archaeological materials found in nearby sites, as well as a replica of the Carnotaurus Sastrie, found in the nearby province on Chubut. In the evening we take a local overnight bus to Trelew. (B,L,D)

Accommodation:

Bed Seats on the Night Bus (approx 12 hrs journey)

Day 14

Locations: Trelew

Overview:

Upon arrival at the Bus terminal in Trelew, we will be picked up and transferred to our hotel. In the afternoon, we walk to the Egidio Furiglio Museum. Here, we enjoy a presentation by the famous paleontologist Dr. Diego Pol, who discovered the worlds' greatest dinosaur. Afterwards, we head back to the hotel for dinner. (B,D)

Accommodation:

Libertador Hotel or similar

Day 15

Locations: Trelew

Overview:

After breakfast we take off for a visit to Valle del Rio Chubut, where we explore the geological and Paleontological attractions at Bryn Gwyn



Park, a natural reserve of more than 250 hectares is the first of its kind in South America. We will see fossils such as: armadillo, rodents, dolphins, marsupials, penguins etc. Lunch not included. After visit we will be transferred back to the hotel. Dinner is at own arrangements tonight. (B)

Accommodation:

Libertador Hotel or similar

Day 16

Locations: Trelew

Overview:

In the morning we start our full day excursion to Peninsula Valdés – one of the few places in the world that offer you opportunity for you to observe such a wide amount of animals. From June – December it's also possible to enjoy whale watching in the area. Sea elephants, sea lions, penguins and numerous bird species can also be seen in this giant natural reserve area. We will also visit Punta Norte and the Patagonian ranch San Lorenzo, and enjoy lunch en route in a local restaurant.

Accommodation:

Libertador Hotel or similar

Day 17

Locations: Trelew

Overview:

After breakfast, we are transferred to Trelew Airport for a flight to Buenos Aires Aeroparque airport (AEP). We say our farewells and the tour draws to a close.

Inclusions / Exclusions

What's included in our Tour

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- 16 nights of accommodation in hotels, lodges, and project accommodation.
- Meals as mentioned in the itinerary.
- Transport, field trips and excursions as indicated in the itinerary.
- Entrance fees and gratuities.
- Odyssey Tour Leader for the duration of the tour.
- Detailed tour information booklet.

What's not included in our Tour

- Return economy class international airfare and departure taxes.
- Items of a personal nature such as telephone calls and laundry.
- Comprehensive travel insurance.
- Argentina Visa Fee and Service

Level 2 - Moderate

Participants must be able to carry their own luggage, climb and descend stairs, be in good health, mobile and able to participate in 3-5 hours of physical activity per day, the equivalent of walking/hiking up to 8 kilometres on uneven ground.

Please do not hesitate to contact us with any requests for further information about this tour or any others offered by Odyssey Travel.