



PSA 2017 – SALTA - ARGENTINA

SALTA: WINE, RAFT, & HIKE IN MULTICOLORED MOUNTAINS

October 11-15, 2017 (5 DAYS / 4 NIGHTS)



**AUTENTICA
SALTA**

 www.autenticasalta.com

TRIP DETAILS



TRIP DURATION

October 11-15
(5 days/4nights)

MEETING POINT

Airport of Salta,
before 3 PM on
October 11, 2017

END OF TRIP

Salta City,
October 15

ITINERARY DIFFICULTY RATING

Moderate (3) - Good physical fitness required; ~4-6 hours activity/day

ALTITUDE

Salta: 1,187 masl (3,894 feet). Cafayate: 1,660 masl (5,446 feet).
Cachi: 2,280 masl (7,480 feet); Maximum Altitude is reached by
vehicle at Piedra del Molino lookout: 3,348 masl (10,984 feet)

WEATHER 12-25 C, 52-78 F GROUP SIZE 2-12 PRICE PER PERSON **USD \$1,320**

TRIP SUMMARY

DATE

MEALS

DAY 1 October 11	Arrive in Salta before 3:00pm. Night in Salta. HIGHLIGHTS: MAAM (High Mountain Archaeological Museum). HOTELS (single occupancy): Alejandro I, Design Suites & Ayres de Salta	
DAY 2 October 12	Salta – Cafayate. Night in Cafayate. HIGHLIGHTS: Rafting, Hike La Yesera (Multicolored Mountains, 2 hours, hilly) & Wine Tasting. HOTELS (single occupancy): Patios de Cafayate, Grace Cafayate & Viñas de Cafayate.	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
DAY 3 October 13	Cafayate – Molinos. Night in Molinos. HIGHLIGHTS: visit to an artisan, Hike in San Carlos (3 hours, flat) & Quebrada de las Flechas (Angastaco Natural Monument, 15 minutes, hilly). HOTEL (twin share rooms): Hacienda de Molinos.	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
DAY 4 October 14	Molinos – Cachi. Night in Cachi. HIGHLIGHTS: Hike Cuevas de Acsibi (Red Rock Canyon, 5 hours, flat & hilly) & Camino de los Artesanos (where the best Ponchos of Salta are woven). HOTELS (single occupancy): La Merced del Alto & El Cortijo.	Breakfast, Packed lunch, Dinner
DAY 5 October 15	Cachi – Salta. Night in Salta (hotel not included). HIGHLIGHTS: Hike Las Pailas Archaeological Site (2 hours, flat & hilly), Parque Nacional Los Cardones & Cuesta del Obispo (zig-zag descent from 3.340 masl/10.984 feet up to 1.272 masl/4.173 feet).	Breakfast, Packed lunch, Dinner



ACCOMMODATION

Salta (single occupancy)

- **Hotel Alejandro I:** www.alejandro1hotel.com.ar
- **Hotel Ayres de Salta:** www.ayresdesalta.com.ar
- **Hotel Design Suites:**
www.designsuites.com/hoteles/hotel-ensalta.php

Cafayate (single occupancy)

- **Viñas de Cafayate:** www.cafayatewineresort.com
- **Patios de Cafayate:** www.patiosdecafayate.com
- **Grace Cafayate:** www.gracehotels.com/cafayate

Molinos (twin share rooms)

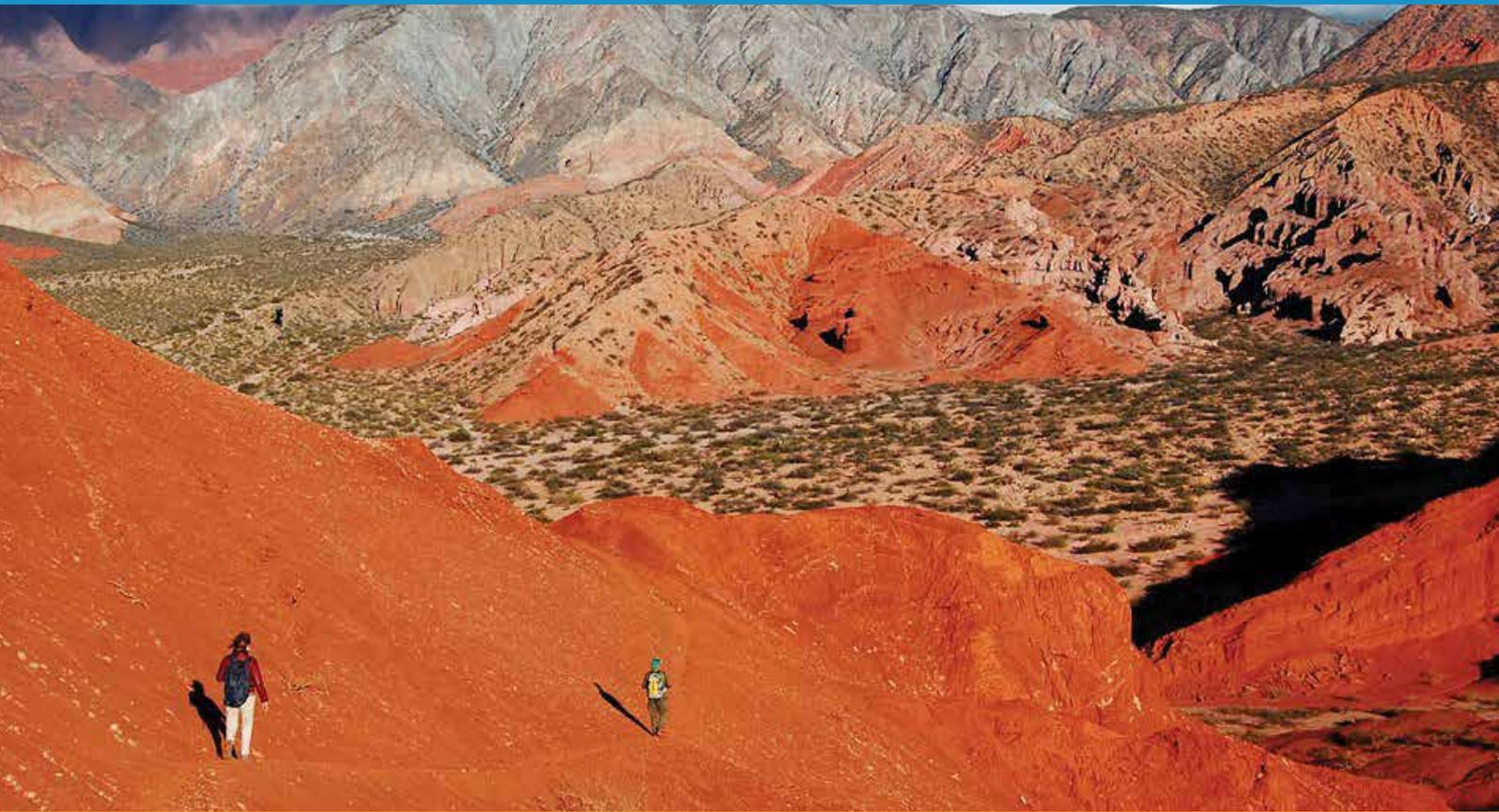
- **Hacienda de Molinos:** www.haciendademolinos.com.ar

Cachi (single occupancy)

- **El Cortijo:** www.elcortijohotel.com
- **La Merced del Alto:** www.lamerceddelalto.com

NOTE: In Salta, Cafayate, and Cachi, the group will be split among different hotels due to availability. In Molinos, the group may also be split between different hotels (depending on availability).





SALTA: WINE, RAFT, & HIKE IN MULTICOLORED MOUNTAINS

Salta is color. Its territory covers many landscapes, from the bright red of the Calchaquí Valleys to the jungle's exuberant green.

Salta is nature and invites you to connect with sensations. At each step, on each road, you find some detail inviting you to stop and for a moment become part of the natural scenario.

Salta is tradition. Its culture is alive in the streets, the people, the food, the music and the handicrafts. It is friendly and welcoming. The spirit of its people matches the beauty and vastness of its landscapes.

Salta offers the world delicious dishes, enhanced by the excellent altitude wines, which have international recognition. It's cuisine is as rich as its history. From the famous empanadas to very elaborate dishes. The Calchaquí Valleys are located southwest of Salta and are home to the highest vineyards in the world.

Come to Salta and discover its beauty. It's unique. The trip of a lifetime.

LOCATION



ABOUT THE REGION ▼

Salta is in the northwest of Argentina, set at the foot of the Andes Mountains. It has excellent air and land, national and international transportation. It combines a great landscape diversity with culture and history. Given the diverse geography, jungle, high mountains and dry valleys, Salta has many climates. Days are temperate and nights are cooler. At higher altitudes, this temperature difference increases. Salta can be visited all year round. Salta's cuisine is as rich as its history. This region offers regional and gourmet food served with high altitude wines. Altitude wines are one of Salta's symbols. In the vineyards planted above 3,000 meters above sea level (9,842 feet), distinctive flavors and aromas are acquired. Spanish is the official language. However, English is spoken at hotels, restaurants and most stores. With over 65% of the bird species of Argentina, Salta is a paradise for bird watchers. Salta is one of the provinces that best cares for its environment, over 16% of its total surface is protected area. Enjoy visiting its National Parks and Natural Reserves.



i For more information about the region and its towns visit our website www.autenticasalta.com



DETAILED ITINERARY

DAY 1 – OCTOBER 11

THE CITY OF SALTA

HIGHLIGHT

MAAM - High Mountain Archaeological Museum

We meet you at Salta City's airport (SLA) and transfer you to your boutique hotel. The City of Salta is one of the best preserved in Argentina. Neocolonial houses and churches stand out near the main square like the Cathedral, the Cabildo or the Town Hall, San Francisco Church and San Bernardo Convent. The Inca culture was very important in this region. At 4:00 PM, we visit the MAAM (High Mountain Archaeological Museum), one of the most important museums in Argentina. It was created to preserve the frozen bodies of the Children of the Lullailaco, three Inca children found perfectly preserved in 1999, on the summit of the Lullailaco Volcano at 6,700 meters above sea level (21,981 feet). Their magnificent funerary offerings are also kept with them, as well as diverse objects, tools and crafts distinctive of this ancient civilization. Night in Salta at Alejandro I, Design Suites & Ayres de Salta.



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DAY 2 – OCTOBER 12

MULTICOLORED MOUNTAINS & HIGH ALTITUDE WINES

HIGHLIGHT

Rafting, Hike La Yesera (Multicolored Mountains) & Wine Tasting

Surprising rock formations in the gorge and multicolored mountains astonish the traveler. Some of these formations are named, such as the Garganta del Diablo or Devil's Throat and The Amphitheatre and the Castles. This spectacular gorge leads to Cafayate, home to Argentina's second region of quality wine production. It is renowned for its torrontés, a grape producing aromatic dry and sweet white wines. However, wine cellars here also produce fine reds from tannat, Malbec, and



cabernet sauvignon. This afternoon, we trek at La Yesera (2 hours) to witness the afternoon light bring out the deepening red and orange hues of mountains. Later, we visit Bodega El Esteco, located in the hotel Patios de Cafayate. French immigrants David and Salvador Michel founded the winery in 1892. Soon it became one of the pioneering establishments in the art of Argentine winemaking. Blessed by the assets of the region and the dedication of its staff, it has since then earned well-deserved recognition for the high quality of its products. We enjoy a wine tasting with a well-known oenologist. Night in Cafayate at Patios de Cafayate, Grace Cafayate & Viñas de Cafayate.



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DAY 3 – OCTOBER 13

MULTICOLORED MOUNTAINS & HIGH ALTITUDE WINES

HIGHLIGHT

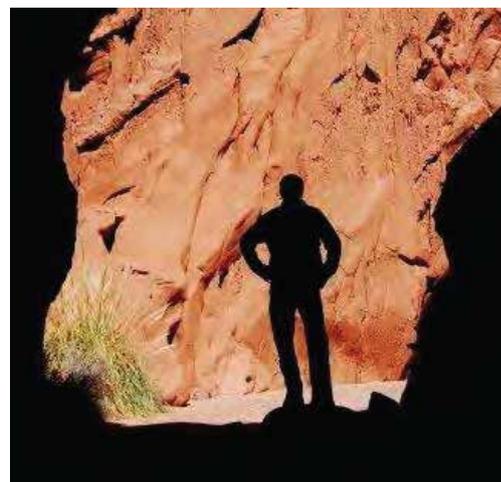
Visit to an artisan, Hike in San Carlos & Quebrada de las Flechas (Angastaco Natural Monument)

Breakfast and free morning to relax at the hotels. Optional: early transfer to La Estancia de Cafayate (www.lec.com.ar) where we can enjoy the spa, climatized pool, fitness center, ride a bike, play tennis or golf. Early lunch at La Estancia de Cafayate. After lunch, we drive along the famous Route 40. This route stretches all the way south to Patagonia and is one of the longest routes in the world. We stop at San Carlos to visit an artisan and then hike (3 hours) in the middle of multicolored mountains and canyons. We then drive towards Quebrada de las Flechas (Canyon of the Arrows), a narrow gorge that has been forming for between 15 and 20 million years! It's one of the most incredible landscapes across the Calchaquí Valleys. Night at Molinos at La Hacienda de Molinos.

DAY 4 – OCTOBER 14

CUEVAS DE ACSIBI

After breakfast, we depart for a hike to Cuevas de Acsibi (5 hours hike) located 20 km from Seclantás, a small town near Cachi. During the drive, the land turns from grey to red. Condors fly above and donkeys plod along the side of the road. At the end of the road, our hike (5 km/3 miles) begin. History mixes with the geographical beauty of the area. The word Acsibi comes from a language called Cacán and means “place of fire or light” due to its intense red colors. Pottery remnants have been found and it is believed that the local communities, Sichas and Malcachiscos, had ceremonies and performed rituals at this site. This area was part of the Inca road system and used by the Spanish to connect the region of Río de la Plata with Perú. The path leaves the river canyon and enters a valley of incredible shapes. Some people compare these shapes with candles. Finally, we arrive in a valley of caves and giant rocks, where the light filters dramatically through the space.



HIGHLIGHT

Hike Cuevas de Acsibi (Red Rock Canyon) & Camino de los Artesanos (where the best Ponchos of Salta are woven).



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After hiking, we continue on Route 40 towards Cachi. We stop at El Camino de los Artesanos, where the best ponchos of Salta are woven. Up ahead, we can see the highest snowed mountain in the Calchaqui Valleys, Nevado de Cachi at 6,380 meters above sea level (20,932 feet). At its base is Cachi, surrounded by colored mountains and blessed by the Calchaqui River. Cachi remains a quiet and colonial town with a beautiful square. Dinner. Night in Cachi at La Merced del Alto & El Cortijo.

DAY 5 – OCTOBER 15

PARQUE NACIONAL LOS CARDONES & CUESTA DEL OBISPO

After breakfast, we hike in Las Pailas Archaeological Site to see ancient rock art and pottery. We enjoy a picnic in this beautiful area before returning to Salta. En route back to Salta we drive through Los Cardones National Park, a preserved area with cardones (huge cactus plant). Reaching a height of 3.340 masl/10.984 feet above sea level at the Piedra del Molino lookout, we start descending the famous zigzag route along Cuesta del Obispo down to 1.272 masl/4.173 feet above sea level. Farewell dinner at Nano Escudero and Sole´s house, the owners of AUTENTICA SALTA. Transfer to the hotels.





SERVICES INCLUDED

- › Accommodation: 1 night in Salta, 1 night in Cafayate, 1 night in Molinos and 1 night in Cachi.
- › Meals: all meals included since the breakfast on day 2 until the dinner on day 5. 4 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 2 packed lunches and 4 dinners.
- › Water, fresh fruits and healthy snacks during the trip.
- › Entrance fees.
- › Rafting at Juramento River.
- › Hikes: Hike La Yesera (2 hours), Cuevas de Acsibi (5 hours) and Las Pailas Archaeological (3 hours).
- › Visit and wine tasting at Bodega El Esteco.
- › Ground transportation.
- › English Speaking Guide.
- › Internet fees.
- › Medical kit.
- › Satellite phone to be used in case of emergencies.
- › Taxes.

SERVICES NOT INCLUDED

- › Alcoholic beverages.
- › Laundry fees.
- › Domestic flights.
- › International flights.
- › Gratuities.
- › Trip cancellation/medical/evacuation insurance.
- › Expenses due to withdrawal of the program.

HIGH ALTITUDE ALERT:

This trip ascends to high altitude, traveling above 2,438m/8,000' for part of the trip. The highest altitude reached is 3,348 m/10,984' (by vehicle). However, most activity and sleeping occurs below 2,438m/8,000'. Still, it is important you understand the symptoms of acute mountain sickness (AMS) and the more severe forms of altitude illness, HAPE (Highaltitude pulmonary edema) and HACE (High-altitude cerebral edema) so that you can selfmonitor your reaction to high altitude. Take the necessary precautions to prevent or alleviate symptoms of high altitude such as staying hydrated, avoiding alcohol, and eating well. **Be sure to share any symptoms with your guide.**

The Golden Rules

1. If you feel unwell, you have altitude sickness until proven otherwise.
2. Do not ascend further if you have symptoms of altitude sickness.
3. If you are getting worse then descend immediately.

For more information: [Altitude Illness at CDC \(Center for Disease Control\)](#); [Altitude sickness at altitude.org](#)

GEAR & CLOTHING

The difficulty rating of the hikes is moderate and you won't need special technical equipment. October is a month without rains, although sometimes we have some short rains. During the days, the temperature is 25 C/78 F and nights are cooler, 12 C/52 F. We recommend to bring the following items:

Luggage:

- Medium to large duffle or rolling soft-sided luggage
- Packing cubes/stuff sacks
- Day pack - big enough to carry a water bottle and any personal affects you may need during the day.

Clothing:

- Casual clothing/shoes for travel and city wear (lightweight, easily washable)
- Light rain/windproof jacket
- Jacket – fleece or softshell
- T-shirts, quick drying
- Long sleeve shirt, quick drying
- Hiking pants and shorts
- Underwear/sports bra (quick drying)
- Sleepwear
- Swimwear

Footwear:

- Hiking shoes
- Hiking socks, synthetic or wool

Assorted Personal Items:

- 1L Water bottle or hydration bladder
- Sunscreen and lip balm with SPF
- Sun hat
- Sunglasses
- Personal hygiene items (toothpaste, toothbrush, etc.)
- Personal first aid kit, medications
- Camera/memory cards/battery
- Small personal drybag - to protect your camera and electronics
- Optional:
 - › Earplugs and eye shade
 - › Binoculars
 - › Plug Adapter
 - › Cash to buy crafts or souvenirs
 - › Flashlight/headlamp
 - › Trekking poles (collapsible)

GETTING TO AND FROM SALTA

Important Note: please take note of which airport in Buenos Aires you are arriving and departing when you book your airline tickets. International flights from North America and Europe land in Buenos Aires at EZE (Ministro Pistarini International Airport; Ezeiza International Airport). Your flight to Salta, however, may (but not always) depart from AEP (Jorge Newbery Airfield), Buenos Aires. The distance between the two airports is ~44km and an hour without traffic.

However, traffic can be very heavy in Buenos Aires and we recommend you allow several hours between flights to clear immigration, customs, obtain luggage, and transfer to AEP to be sure you can make your connection.

PAYMENT

The payment must be done through a wire transfer. If payment applies to you, you will be emailed payment instructions after sign-up.

RESERVATION AND CANCELLATION POLICY

DEPOSIT

The trip must be paid 60 days prior to the start of the trip through a wire transfer. If the participant cancels within 59-31 days of the starting date, 50% of the trip balance will be refunded. If cancellation is made within 30-0 days of the trip starting date, there will be no refund of any costs. AUTENTICA SALTA recommends to take a cancellation insurance.

TRIP CANCELLATIONS OR DELAYS

AUTENTICA SALTA reserves the right to cancel or change the itinerary of the trip. If AUTENTICA SALTA cancels your trip and you are unable to participate, your total balance will be refunded. Occasionally, weather or other factors may cause delays or make completing a trip impossible. In these circumstances, there will be no refund of fees. Furthermore, AUTENTICA SALTA is not responsible for any additional costs (e.g. airline flight changes, additional hotel nights, etc.) associated with trip delays or itinerary changes due to weather or other factors.



WHO WE ARE

AUTENTICA SALTA is a boutique tour operator based in Salta, Argentina. Since 1995 we show the incredible landscapes hidden in Salta and in northwest of Argentina in a different way. We are specialists in Soft Adventure and Cultural Travel around one of the most beautiful regions in Argentina. The philosophy behind our trips is the respect to local tradition and to nature. Travelling with us, our guests know the authenticity of our incredible region.

FERNANDO ESCUDERO

FOUNDER

Born in Salta in 1970, he has worked in Adventure Tourism since the age of 15. He is an industrial engineer and after working in different industries and service companies, decided to change his lifestyle and in 1995 founded the first horseback riding company in Argentina. In 2007 he was named Secretary of the Commission for the creation of the Standards of Quality and Safety for Horseback Riding. He was the founder and first president of the Adventure and Ecotourism Travel Association of Argentina (AAETAV) and member of the Advisory Board of Adventure Travel Trade Association (ATTA). Fernando was Coordinator of the Tourism Promotion Institute of the Province of Salta, in charge of the international promotion of Salta. He coordinated adventure races for important brands such as The North Face and Columbia and was in charge of the Travel Mart Latin America for which 1000 businessmen from around the world visited Salta. He was Director of the Strategic Sustainable Tourism Plan of the Province of Salta for which 57 million dollars are being invested in the development of ecotourism. He is the local coordinator of the Adventure Travel World Summit 2017 - Salta, Argentina. Since 2004 he collaborates with the development of mountain rural schools and actually is president of Fundación Unir which helps mountain communities.

SOLEDAD GAZTAMBIDE

FOUNDER

Soledad was born in Buenos Aires in 1977. She belongs to a family of Creole horses breeders and she spent her childhood in different farms in the Province of Buenos Aires. This explains her love for horses and respect for nature. She has a degree in Business Administration and worked in different companies, in Deloitte Argentina as a consultant and Kraft Foods in finance and trade marketing. In 2007 she moved to Salta and was named CEO of Gaucho Trails, a horseback riding company dedicated exclusively to organize long rides in Salta, Patagonia and the Andes among others. It was chosen as one of the world's "Exemplary Practices in Ecotourism" by the World Tourism Organization (WTO). Together with Fernando they have visited great part of the Province of Salta and decided to found Autentica Salta, a specialized company in this region and in organizing tailor made tours. She is the trip designer of the company. In the trips you can visit hidden places that the conventional tourism doesn't know, share the life of local people, learn about wine with the best winemakers and cook the most delicious dishes of Argentina. Soledad helps in an Institution for the development of women and coordinates the program of help for mountain rural schools.

Together with our children Santiago, Nicolás and Tomás we live in Salta, the place we chose to see them grow. We hope that you can visit us and we will show you all the nice things Salta has to offer you.





WHY TRAVEL WITH US

LIFE CHANGING EXPERIENCES YOU WON'T FORGET

In 1995, we decided to follow a dream: to show the incredible landscapes hidden in Salta and Northwest Argentina in a different way. With us, you will be able to discover unique landscapes as well as the culture and authenticity of the people living in our region. The respect to local traditions and to nature is the philosophy behind our trips.

At AUTENTICA SALTA we are certain that sustainable tourism is one of the best tools that can be used to improve the world. This is why, together with our guests, we have developed a program to help with the improvement of the local people's way of life. This program includes educating them in tourism aspects, teaching them about nature protection and finding godparents to sponsor kids at rural schools. We devote all of our efforts to this initiative with the only purpose of leaving a better world for the next generations.



Salta
ARGENTINA

We were chosen as one of the world's "Exemplary Practices in Ecotourism" by the World Tourism Organization (WTO) and we are members of the Adventure Travel Trade Association (ATTA).



THE
Authentic
EXPERIENCE
IN ARGENTINA



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