

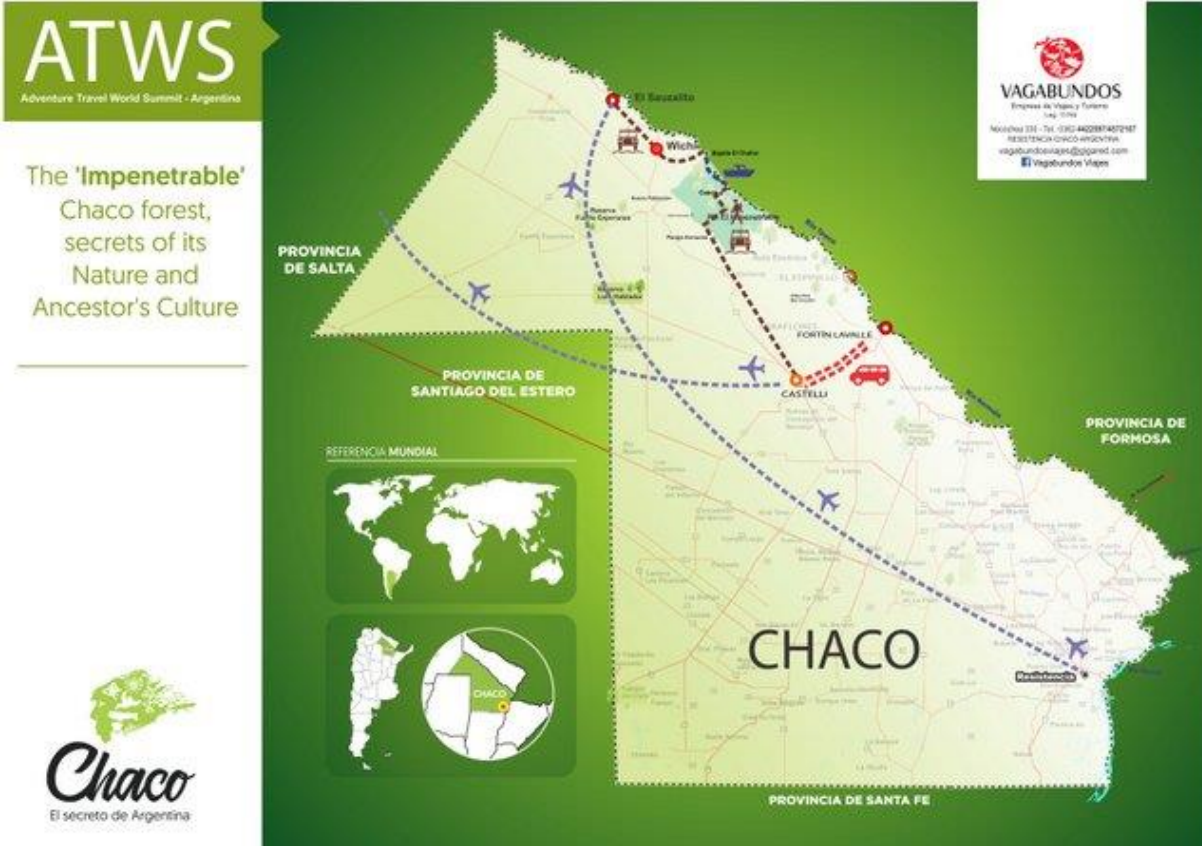
ATWS 2017 - Argentina Pre-Summit Adventure

October 9 – 15

Chaco's 'Impenetrable' Forest: Argentina's Outback

'The Impenetrable Chaco Forest' is an emerging destination with vast natural and cultural richness. With the area containing the third-largest forest in South America, it supports a variety of wildlife and bird species, many of which are endemic and/or endangered. 'Campo del Cielo', the second and third largest meteorite craters in the world are here and the capital city, 'Resistencia,' is an open-air museum with several hundred sculptures littering the city. These are just a few of the reasons why Chaco will surprise and delight its visitors.

Nature lovers will find virgin forest full of life, watery landscapes, and indigenous cultures inviting us to experience the immensity of this remote environment.



ATWS
Adventure Travel World Summit - Argentina

The 'Impenetrable' Chaco forest, secrets of its Nature and Ancestor's Culture

PROVINCIA DE SALTA

PROVINCIA DE SANTIAGO DEL ESTERO

PROVINCIA DE FORMOSA

PROVINCIA DE SANTA FE

CHACO

REFERENCIA MUNDIAL

Chaco
El secreto de Argentina

VAGABUNDOS
Empresa de Viajes y Turismo
Leg. 11793
Necochea 330 - Tel.: 0362-4422597/4572107
RESISTENCIA-CHACO-ARGENTINA
vagabundosviajes@gigared.com
f Vagabundos Viajes



Trip Highlights:

1. 'The Impenetrable' National Park

The Impenetrable National Park is the largest park in northern Argentina. It has 128 thousand hectares and it's located between the *Teuco-Bermejo* and *Bermejito* rivers. It is a refuge for the preservation of thousands of bird species and big mammals like the yaguarete, tapir, peccary and anteater. The environmental variety is key to its biodiversity from high mountains, riparian forests, palm groves, thistles, pasturelands and wetlands.

More information on [El Impenetrable National Park](#)

2. Ancestral Wisdom: Qom, Wichis, and Criollos

The population is comprised of Criollos and the native communities, *Qom* and *Wichi*, all of them with very different habits and characteristics. The first persons settling in this area, descended from neighboring provinces in the north. They preserve their traditions in rural activities and leather, wool and wood handcraft. Qom women make *Palm* craft, while Wichi women knit the *Chaguar*, thistle found in the semiarid Chaco. Men are good at carving *Palo Santo* – a piece of wood.

3. Green and Mysterious Ocean

In the middle of the Chaco forest, nature welcomes you together with the native communities. The mix of scents from the vegetation and the sound of birds arouse our senses. The beginning of our adventure includes a boat trip on the *Bermejo* river where we witness the contrasting colors of the landscape.

The region enjoys a strategic location with international connection hubs like Puerto Iguazu, Misiones; Buenos Aires; Cordoba and Asuncion, the capital city of Paraguay. Excellent hotels and tourist facilities in the province promise entertainment and comfort.



Trip Details:

- Dates: October 9th to 15th
- Activities: Hiking, Kayaking, River boating, Birding, Wildlife viewing, Cultural immersion with indigenous communities
- **Trip difficulty rating: (2)** Easy active (i.e., Beginner level physical activity; ~2-4 hours activity/day); The walking/hiking may feel more arduous due to heat and uneven terrain but, in general, is not considered difficult.
- Accommodation: 2 nights hotel, 4 nights camping (Twin Share)
- Group size: 4 to 12 guest

Itinerary

Day 1: October 9th - Arrive Resistencia

Our trip begins today in Resistencia, the capital of Chaco Province, Argentina. Upon arrival, we transfer to the Amerian Hotel for the evening. Depending on arrival time, there are several options for the day.

- Motorboat trip in the Parana river to see the sandbanks and islands. *Parana meaning 'sea relative' in the language spoken by natives-*
- City tour: Resistencia loves art. 'Fogon de losarrieros' – a cultural place in Chaco-, 'Perrando' cottage and museum.
- Cena Show. Chaco flavors and Qom choir 'Chelaalapi'

Recommended flight information from Buenos Aires below.

Day 2: October 10th

After breakfast, we transfer to the airport for our flight at 8:00am to 'El Sausalito,' located 590 km from Resistencia, in the heart of the **Impenetrable Chaco Forest**. Flying over the Impenetrable National Park, we see *La China* marshland, the Rio Grande/Teuco meandering, ponds, sandbanks and '*Monte Fuerte*'.

Upon arrival in 'El Sausalito' around 11:30am, we head to the Wichi Handcraft Centre where we meet with artisan women and walk with them through the forest to collect *chaguar* - a material found in the area used for basketry. They explain how they work with the fiber, preparing, dying and spinning. They share their ancestral wisdom along the way.

Next, we travel to a Wichi village, 60 km from El Sausalito (~3.5 hours driving). We arrive at *Bajada el Chañar* located on the Grande Teuco river. We are welcomed by the Chavez family, genuine hosts. Camping is alongside the river at '*Bajada el Chañar* including dinner and a campfire. *All meals included.*

Flight: Cessna 182J (4 seats - 1 pilot; 3 passengers)



Day 3: October 11th

We begin the day with a pickup ride along the coast of the Rio Grande/Teuco to see Monte Fuerte, pond formations, and bird species. Our picnic lunch is at a rural house of a Criolla family.

The afternoon is spent hiking 9-km (5.5 miles) to Laguna del Parque, located along west border of the Impenetrable National Park, originally a river tributary. Nowadays, they only join in flood periods. This part has high knolls with lush riparian forest where we can appreciate the local vegetation. Also, due to its remoteness and the size of the pond, the main attraction here is the diversity of bird species together with typical animals in the area like yacare caiman and capybaras.

We return to our campsite at Bajada El Chañar for dinner and a campfire.

Day 4: October 12th

This morning we enjoy a boat trip (3.5 hours) along the Rio Grande/Teuco along the western border of the Impenetrable National Park. We can choose to go either by motorboat, kayak, or enjoy time doing both. The views along the river include typical red gullies, small tributaries, and sandbanks together with local flora and fauna. En route, we stop at a sandbank to have a picnic lunch.

We continue the boat trip into the afternoon and along the way, we keep an eye out have the chance to spot tapirs, yacares, capybaras, deer and pumas. This evening we arrive at a former residence, 'La Felicidad,' located in the epicenter of the Impenetrable National Park. We camp by the river again and enjoying another evening with dinner around the campfire. Later at night we take a walk to appreciate the sounds and scents of the forest.



Day 5: October 13th

This morning we walk around Monte Fuerte, a riparian forest surrounded by ponds with aquatic vegetation and pipes or paleo-channels, old dried out rivers where only grassland grows which allows a good chance to spot animals.

After lunch, we continue walking to El Breal lagoon, again, a good opportunity for wildlife viewing and birding. We also visit, the old farmhouse, 'La Fidelidad,' built in 1907 to learn about its history. This old residence was the impetus for the national park. The land encompassing this former estancia is rich biodiversity and has a robust and healthy ecosystem.

Late afternoon, we transfer via pickup to La Armonia, a Criolla village with the only access to the Impenetrable National Park through *Urunday* bridge over the river Bermejito. We enjoy a final night of camping by the riverside.

Level of difficulty: 3



Day 6: October 14th

We depart La Armonia via pickup and transfer to Juan José Castelli, a small town in Chaco, and the Portal del Impenetrable Hotel. We enjoy lunch at the hotel before exploring for the afternoon.

Our explorations begin on Fortin Lavalle street, the route of the Qom culture, and arrive at the Handcraft Center 'QomlashepiOnataxaxaiipi' - which means Qom women workers. One of the artisans teaches us palm collecting techniques used for basketry and gives us insight on the medicinal properties of food and herbs. We try a typical Qom snack – cocidopoko and tortafrita- a typical infusion with some fried dough made by the artisans.

Our final evening together includes traditional dancing and *Pocnolec* theatre, followed by dinner.

Day 7: October 15th

After breakfast, we transfer (8:30am) to the Castelli airfield for our direct, non-stop flight to Salta on a Cessna 182J. Breakfast included. *End of services.*

Trip difficulty rating: (2) Easy active (i.e., Beginner level physical activity; ~2-4 hours activity/day); The walking/hiking may feel more arduous due to heat and uneven terrain but, in general, is not considered difficult.

Getting to Resistencia (RES)

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 Resistencia, however, will 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. You will likely need to overnight in Buenos Aires on October 8th.

Recommended flight to Resistencia (RES) on October 9th:

AR 1756 | [AEP](#) 08:55 AM to RES 10:25 AM

Nonstop: Duration 1h 30m

Note: Transportation to Salta on October 15 is included.

Group size: 4-12

Trip Price:

Per person based on 4 people, single room US\$ 3460

Per person based on 8 people, single room US\$ 2970

Per person based on 12 people, single room US\$ 2720

Services included:	Not included:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Accommodation: 2 nights hotel, 4 nights camping (Coleman 4-person tent for 2 people) ● While camping: Portable chemical toilets in privacy tent; Portable camp shower with privacy tent available ● Camping equipment – tents, cutlery, glasses, cots, blankets, lights, insect repellent, binoculars, etc. ● English guidance about culture and nature during all the tour ● Cowboy guide ● Tickets and transfers detailed in the itinerary. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Flight from Resistencia to El Sausalito ▪ Flight from Castillo to Salta ● Excursions detailed above. ● Local insurance ● Support staff: a doctor, general coordinator, drivers, excursion guides. ● Breakfast, lunch and dinner as described above. ● Snacks, water, tea, coffee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Tips ● Laundry, communication or souvenirs ● Clothes and personal hygiene kits ● Personal medicine ● Any other service not mentioned in the program. ● Travel/Medical/Evacuation insurance

Weather

The weather in our region is subtropical hot without a dry season thus, the sun's rays and the high levels of humidity in the area require us to have some preventive preparation to fully enjoy our staying in contact with nature. Temperatures in October range from as high as 28°C/83°F during the day to as low as 15°C/59°F at night.

Packing List

Important note on Luggage:

During the smaller local flights, it is important to carry only necessary items since luggage capacity inside the planes is minimum. Larger bags and suitcases will be carried in cars from Resistencia to Juan Jose Castelli. We will not have access to these bags during the camping part of the trip.

Therefore, it is imperative you bring an extra duffle. At the end of the trip, luggage will be taken from Juan Jose Castelli to Salta through a regular bus line. Also, to ensure the group departs together, we have three planes available according to the number of passengers, one of the planes has capacity for 8 people.

<p>Luggage:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Medium to large duffle or rolling soft-sided luggage <input type="checkbox"/> Extra smaller duffle for small planes <input type="checkbox"/> Luggage locks <input type="checkbox"/> Packing cubes/stuff sacks <input type="checkbox"/> Day pack (20-30L) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Waterproof pack cover or garbage bag to line pack <p>Clothing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Casual clothing/shoes for travel and city wear (lightweight, quick drying) <input type="checkbox"/> Waterproof jacket, lightweight <input type="checkbox"/> Fleece/softshell jacket <input type="checkbox"/> T-shirts, synthetic or wool <input type="checkbox"/> Long sleeve shirt, synthetic or wool <input type="checkbox"/> Hiking pants & shorts <input type="checkbox"/> Underwear/sports bra (quick drying) <input type="checkbox"/> Swimsuit <input type="checkbox"/> Sleepwear <p>Footwear:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Hiking shoes with rugged sole <input type="checkbox"/> Hiking socks, synthetic or wool <input type="checkbox"/> Water sandals 	<p>Assorted Personal Items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Water bottles (2 1-Liter or 2L hydration bladder) <input type="checkbox"/> Headlamp with batteries (& extra batteries) <input type="checkbox"/> Sunscreen and Lip balm with SPF <input type="checkbox"/> Insect repellent <input type="checkbox"/> Sun hat <input type="checkbox"/> Sunglasses with UV filter <input type="checkbox"/> Personal hygiene items (quick drying, lightweight travel towel; toothpaste, toothbrush, comb, etc) <input type="checkbox"/> Toilet Kit: Toilet paper, Ziplock bags (at least one for clean TP, one for dirty TP), wet wipes, hand sanitizer (You must pack out all toilet paper of out the wilderness.) <input type="checkbox"/> Personal first aid kit, medications, blister kit <input type="checkbox"/> Bandana <input type="checkbox"/> Camera/memory cards/battery/charger <input type="checkbox"/> Optional: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Earplugs and eye shade <input type="checkbox"/> Binoculars
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