



## ***SOUTH AMERICAN ADVENTURE***

We are a group of car enthusiasts from England visiting Argentina and Chile. Our cars are Austin Sevens manufactured between 1922 and 1939 at the famous Longbridge factory in Birmingham which now produces the MG-Rover range of vehicles. Nearly 300,000 Austin Sevens were made and a large number have survived. They were known as 'Baby Austins' due to their small engine size and are supported by many Austin Clubs throughout the world. This year is the centenary of the foundation of the Austin Motor Company at Longbridge. We are in part celebrating this centenary.

In 1959 John Coleman brought his 1925 Austin Seven to Buenos Aires and drove all the way to New York USA. He had a very adventurous journey and subsequently wrote a book about it called 'Colemans Drive'. We are following John's route as close as possible, but will not be going as far as he did!

Our cars have been shipped from England to Buenos Aires. Our journey will take us through Pergamino, Rio Cuarto, San Luis, Mendoza and Upsallata to the Chilean border high in the Andes. From there we will continue via Los Andes to Vina del Mar before traveling north along the Pan American highway to La Serena. Here we will leave John Coleman's route and return to Buenos Aires using different roads. We expect to travel approximately 3000 miles (4800 kilometers) during this journey.

The engine is of side valve design, 748cc capacity and in early cars developed only 12BHP. During production this was gradually increased to 17bhp for standard cars, while sports models developed 23bhp. Standard cars have a top speed of about 45 BHP (70kph). Sports models about 70 mph (110kph). These tiny engines were very popular with enthusiasts and were used to power numerous competition cars. With modifications and supercharging up to 60bhp can be achieved. Originally cars were fitted with 3 speed 'crash' gearboxes but in 1934 a 4 speed synchromesh box became standard. The braking system is normally operated by cables, but many have been modified to hydraulic to cope with modern traffic conditions.

The cars here today have been prepared by their owners and we hope that by seeing them we can share with you some of the pleasure that we enjoy.

You can get more information on  
[www.da7c.co.uk](http://www.da7c.co.uk)