



## ARGENTINA & CHILE

### PATAGONIA NATURE DISCOVERY

DURATION	:	23 days / 22 nights
SEASON	:	October through March
DEPARTURES	:	Guaranteed with a minimum of 4 participants
TRIP RATING	:	Easy/Moderate Tour, Grade (I) - This nature-oriented, non-camping <i>soft adventure</i> includes occasional long drives over rough roads in remote regions, and optional day hikes of 2-4 hours duration at low elevations (the highest point is 3,500' above sea level).
2006/07 DATES	:	OCT 06 - 28 NOV 03 - 25
		JAN 05 - 27 FEB 02 - 24 MAR 02 - 24

#### INTRODUCTION :

Argentina and Chile are lands of contrast offering an incredible array of natural sights and wonders. In the south, raw nature and wildlife abound in the pristine expanses of Patagonia. It is a hauntingly beautiful land where granite spires thrust skyward, towering above the surrounding plains. The silence is interrupted by the thunderous crash of glacial ice plunging into turquoise waters, the cries of gulls and cormorants, and the occasional calls of gauchos directing their sheep herds. Northern Patagonia encompasses the tranquil beauty of the Lake District. Here, well-tended fields spread like patchwork quilts beneath the snow-capped summits of classic, cone-shaped volcanos, and the dense vegetation of the temperate rainforest flourishes amid azure lakes. Further north still, in the verdant forests of the Misiones region, the Iguazú River plunges through a series of awe inspiring falls, renowned as some of the world's most spectacular, and a variety of exotic birds flit through bromeliad-laden trees. These are but a few of the experiences we'll enjoy on this exciting, grand overview of the Patagonia region of Chile and Argentina!

After a tour of cosmopolitan Buenos Aires, we head south to the Atlantic Coast to view marine wildlife, including Magellanic penguins, right whales and sea lions, at Península Valdés and Punta Tombo. Then we fly to Ushuaia to experience the natural beauty of Tierra del Fuego National Park and cruise the Beagle Channel. We continue to El Calafate to see the inspiring Moreno Glacier, an enormous ice mass that continually advances into Lago Argentino. Then, driving overland to Chile's Torres del Paine Park, we savor the continent's most dramatic views as we observe guanacos, rheas, and condors beneath magnificent granite spires. Heading south towards the Chilean port of Punta Arenas, we catch a flight to Puerto Montt where we admire the volcanos and dense, temperate rainforests of the lovely Chilean Lake District. We make the renowned International Lakes Crossing to Bariloche, Argentina to explore South America's first national park, Nahuel Huapi. Our final leg takes us to the far northeast, to exotic Iguazú Falls, whose cataracts spill forth from the jungle and plunge into the tropical forests below. We conclude our circle through these magnificent lands back in Buenos Aires.

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## DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY:

DAY 01 (FRI): USA

Depart the USA for an overnight flight to Buenos Aires.

DAY 02 (SAT): BUENOS AIRES

We arrive to Argentina's cosmopolitan capital, **Buenos Aires**, in the morning. We are met at the airport and transferred to the Dolmen Hotel, located near the world's widest avenue, the *9 de Julio*, and the city's landmark Obelisk. After time to relax at the hotel and have lunch on our own, we meet our local guide for a tour of some of the city's attractions, such as the Casa Rosada, on the Plaza de Mayo; the Colón Theatre; Florida and Lavalle streets, with their many shops and restaurants; and the interesting Recoleta Cemetery. This evening we are introduced to typical Argentine barbecue as we dine with our guide at a nearby restaurant. (D)

DAY 03 (SUN): BUENOS AIRES/PUERTO MADRYN

Following a leisurely breakfast at the hotel, we transfer to the Jorge Newberry Airport, or Aeroparque, as this domestic airport is called, for a 2-hour flight to **Trelew**. We're met upon arrival by another local guide and we explore this town, an attractive Patagonian city of Welsh descendants, in the Chubut River valley. After lunch, we stop at the Feruglio Paleontological Museum, dedicated to the understanding of the origins of life and its evolution. The museum has superb displays of plant and animal fossils from the Patagonian region. Afterwards, we continue to the neighboring community of Gaiman and, time permitting, we visit the Welsh Colony Museum and partake of a traditional Welsh tea in one of the small shops. Then we drive north to Puerto Madryn where we check in to the Península Hotel. Dinner is on our own to try a local restaurant and further explore Argentine cuisine. (B,L)

DAY 04 (MON): PUNTA TOMBO

This morning we drive south, over mostly dirt roads, to visit **Punta Tombo**, one of the largest Magellanic Penguin rookeries in South America. There can be up to a half million penguins here during the peak of the breeding season. The penguins arrive by the thousands in September, to make their burrows in the soil and raise their young. They stay until March, when they depart for the open seas. There will be plenty of opportunity to observe or photograph the antics of these comic birds as they shuffle between their nests and the water to dive and swim through the small waves near the shore. We stop for a leisurely picnic lunch before driving back toward **Puerto Madryn** in the mid afternoon, continuing to the familiar Península Hotel. The remainder of the afternoon is unstructured and dinner is included at the hotel restaurant, with several regional meal options to try. **Total driving distance:** 225 miles or 5 1/2 hours on paved and unpaved roads. (B,L,D)

DAY 05 (TUE): PENINSULA VALDES

Following an early breakfast, we drive north to **Península Valdés**, declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1999. Here, we explore some of Argentina's most important marine wildlife reserves, including breeding grounds for Southern right whales, sea elephants, sea lions and fur seals. We stop at Puerto Pirámide where, weather and viewing conditions permitting, we take a small, 30-passenger, open boat for the 1 ½ hour ride into Golfo Nuevo Bay. With luck, we can watch and photograph some of the right whales that come into this bay each season, Oct. through mid Dec., to give birth and raise their calves. In the small boats, we feel as if we are within arms' distance of these magnificent creatures! If no whales are present or sea conditions are too rough, we can hike up a nearby hill for panoramic views of the bay and to observe a large colony of sea lions below the cliffs. After a fresh lunch at Estancia Rincon Chico, near Punta Delgada, we hike to a point where we can watch the sea elephants. Sometimes orcas are spotted off the coast, as well, coming to feed on sea lion pups. On the way back, we may stop briefly at Golfo San José to observe a variety of sea gulls, cormorants and other marine birds, and maras - cute rabbit-like rodents, commonly seen in the region. We return to the Península Hotel where dinner is on our own this evening. **Total driving distance:** 225 miles or 5 1/2 hours on paved and unpaved roads. (B,L)

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### DAY 06 (WED): USHUAIA

This morning, we transfer to the airport for the 3-hour flight to **Ushuaia**, the capital and largest city on the island of Tierra del Fuego. We are met upon arrival and driven to the charming Los Nires Hotel, located two miles outside of town. Lunch is on our own. In the afternoon we visit **Tierra del Fuego National Park** for a 4-hour combined bus and walking tour of this lovely region of clear blue lakes and snow-capped mountains, overlooking the sea. Our excursion includes short walks through delightful ñire and lenga forests along the coast, near Ensenada Bay, and to a peat bog called Laguna Negra. This is an excellent area for birdwatching. We should see upland geese, ashy-headed geese, black-chested buzzard eagles, flightless steamer ducks, chimango caracaras, white-crested elania, dark bellied cinclodes, and Magellanic woodpeckers. With luck, we might spot a condor or two, soaring overhead. Time and weather permitting, we walk to Lapataia Bay or hike farther uphill, before returning to the hotel for dinner. (B,D)

### DAY 07 (THU): BEAGLE CHANNEL/HARBERTON RANCH

With the morning at leisure, those who wish to may opt to visit the *Mundo Yamana* museum, featuring expertly detailed dioramas that attempt to bring the Yamana culture to life, or the *Fin del Mundo* museum emphasizing Fuegian natural history and aboriginal life. A free shuttle service to town runs most of the day. Following lunch with our guide, we transfer to the docks and board a modern catamaran for a full afternoon cruise of the **Beagle Channel**. We head out past the city of Ushuaia and cruise to *Isla de los Pájaros*, or birds' island, and *Isla de los Lobos*, or sea lions' island, to observe some of the area's marine wildlife species more closely. Neotropic and king cormorants nest on these islands, as do snowy sheathbills. We may also see dolphin, kelp and brown-hooded gulls, South American terns, black-browed albatross, giant petrels, and, with luck, great skuas and kelp geese. We pass Estancia Remolino and the shell of a sunken ship, from about 1912, and, at Puerto Almanza, we see a sheep estancia, established at the uttermost ends of the earth by Thomas Bridges. En route, we observe a small colony of Magellanic penguins on Isla Martillo. We disembark at Harberton Ranch and look at the Yámana Indian huts and archaeological sites, and observe the sheep shearing sheds and other ranch installations before boarding the catamaran for the return sail, past Les Esclaireurs lighthouse. After disembarking, we drive back to the Los Nires Hotel. Dinner is on our own this evening. (B,L)

### DAY 08 (FRI): EL CALAFATE

We have a leisurely breakfast, to conclude our stay in the *Land of Fire*, before transferring to the airport for the flight to El Calafate, where we check in to the Posada Los Alamos hotel, one of the finest in town. A very tourist-oriented community, on the southern shores of Lago Argentino, El Calafate derives its name from a blue-berried, locally abundant berberis bush. After a week of travel, today offers the opportunity to take a breather, re-organize, perhaps write postcards or do some laundry, and relax before the activities ahead. For those who wish to shop, the main street is lined with stores where handicrafts and souvenirs may be purchased. We meet this evening for a welcome dinner with our local guide. (B,D)

### DAY 09 (SAT): LAGO ARGENTINO CRUISE

An early morning departure brings us to the Punta Banderas boat docks where we join others to board a modern catamaran for a (seat-in-boat) cruise across Lago Argentino, South America's third largest body of water. We take in the spectacular views of turquoise icebergs as we make our way toward **Upsala Glacier** which, at 30 miles in length and 6 miles wide, is the largest in the area. Passing near the foot of this massive ice formation, we get great, close-up views of its snout. In October and November, huge icebergs or high waves may make it impossible to go all the way to Upsala. A box lunch is taken onboard the catamaran and, if time permits, we may sail into a side channel to view the O'Nelli or Spegazzini glaciers before returning to the docks, and town, in the late afternoon. We return to the Posada Los Alamos Hotel. Tonight, we can choose one of the fine local restaurants for dinner. (B,L)

### DAY 10 (SUN): PERITO MORENO GLACIER

Our second excursion into **Los Glaciares National Park** takes us, again, to the shores of Lago Argentino. This time we drive to the *Brazo Rico* branch to view the inspiring **Perito Moreno Glacier**, the only glacier

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in the world, outside of the polar regions, that is still advancing. With our local guide, we approach the front end, where boardwalks provide different angles and close-up perspectives of this massive 190-foot-high, 3-mile-wide wall of ice. With luck, we may witness a huge chunk of ice calving off into the waters below, with a thunderous roar. After this impressive sight, we have lunch in a charming restaurant, before continuing by small boat (20-passenger), weather permitting, to the foot of Moreno. Here we are intrigued by outstanding, views of its deep blue crevasses and caves. On the way back to El Calafate, we make a stop at a local ranch to hear about raising sheep, the main industry in Patagonia, and about life in this wilderness area. There may be a shearing demonstration, and afterwards we are treated to a typical farm-style *asado*, or barbecue dinner. We return to the Posada Los Alamos Hotel in the late evening. **Total driving distance:** 150 miles or 4 hours on unpaved roads. (B,L,D)

### DAY 11 (MON): TORRES DEL PAINE PARK

Following breakfast, we gain a better understanding of the vastness of Patagonia as we drive southwest across expansive, desert-like plains, occasionally dotted with herds of sheep and guanaco—one of two wild relatives of the llama. This is a huge, largely undeveloped region, about the size of Montana, California and Texas combined. Passing the town of Esperanza, the pavement ends and our unpaved route takes us through a river valley, then to a high plateau where, on clear days, we can see the Paine massif ahead in the far distance. At the Chilean border, we pass through customs, and have lunch at a nearby estancia in Cerro Castillo before continuing into **Torres del Paine National Park**. We arrive in the afternoon, with the sun at an excellent angle for taking photos of the Towers and Horns. These formations are the perfect backdrop for the azure blue waters of Sarmiento Lake, the milky-colored depths of Lake Nordenskjold, and the turquoise waters of Lago Pehoé. Near the park's entrance, we observe dozens of guanacos in small herds, the dominate male often overlooking the area from a nearby ridge. We pass a lake where dozens of species, including buff-necked ibis, sea gulls, terns, coots, pintails, and upland geese nest. We continue through the park to Las Torres Hostería, just beneath the dramatic Paine Horns, and adjacent to one of the only working ranches within the park's limits, where dinner is included in our stay tonight. **Total driving distance:** 188 miles or 6 hours on mostly unpaved roads. (B,L,D)

### DAY 12 (TUE): TORRES DEL PAINE PARK

This morning, we stop at the park's Visitor's Center to look at the relief map for information about the fascinating geological forces that formed these impressive granite towers. From here, we drive to the trailhead, at the southern end of the park, for an inspiring walk near **Grey Lake**. We follow a clear trail through ñire forest to the dark grey, sandy beaches of the lake, accompanied by red-headed Magellanic woodpeckers or noisy Austral parakeets, en route. From shore, we can often observe the drift of brilliant turquoise-blue icebergs caused by the ever-present winds. As we climb the nearby knoll, we see, in the distance, the massive ice river of Grey Glacier as it meets the dark waters of the lake. Weather permitting, we enjoy a picnic lunch in the area before continuing to explore along the Pingo River. Lastly, we visit the *Salto Grande* falls, formed where the Paine River flows from Lake Nordenskjold into Lake Pehoé. We return to the Hostería Las Torres for dinner and the night. (B,L,D)

### DAY 13 (WED): PUERTO NATALES

This morning, we are free to enjoy the peaceful, beautiful surroundings of this working ranch, perhaps strolling the trails in the area or looking for birds and other wildlife. After lunch, we drive in the direction of **Laguna Amarga**. We have superb views of the spectacular Towers looming in the background above the Paine River as we approach the *Salto de Paine* waterfall. We may spot herds of guanacos and *chulengos*, (the name given to the guanaco young), as well as other wildlife, including ñandú, hares, and grey fox. Birds we are likely to see include black-necked swans, Chilean flamingos, and several duck species. With luck, we may also see condors, the world's largest flying bird, whose wingspan reaches up to 10 feet, and which, despite being endangered throughout South America, are found in relatively high concentrations in the park. Leaving, we follow both unpaved and paved roads, passing through lovely countryside, dotted with fields of lupines and daisies, heading south to **Puerto Natales**, a quaint fishing town on Last Hope Sound. We check in to the CostAustralis Hotel in the late afternoon and can watch the lovely black-necked

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swans, paddling in the Sound across from the hotel, before sunset. **Total driving distance:** 80 miles or 3 1/2 hours. (B,L,D)

### DAY 14 (THU): PUERTO NATALES/PUERTO VARAS

We leave the hotel early this morning to drive to the **Punta Arenas** airport. Along the way, we may see *ovejeros*, or sheep herders, moving their large flocks or herds of cattle to greener pastures. Upon arrival, we check in for our 2-hour flight to **Puerto Montt**, a charming fishing port on the Pacific Coast of the Chilean Lake District. We are met at the airport by our Chilean guide and take a short, introductory tour of the city, including a drive along the beach, a stop at the oyster nurseries and fish market, and time permitting, the Angelmo artist cove where we find a large handicraft market. Afterwards, we drive inland for about 30 minutes to lovely **Puerto Varas**, or the "*city of roses*", situated on the shores of Lake Llanquihue. Upon arrival we check in to the Cabañas del Lago Hotel, overlooking the lake. Later on, we meet our guide for dinner, before retiring for the night. **Total driving distance:** 165 miles or 4 1/2 hours (B,D)

### DAY 15 (FRI): PUERTO VARAS

From Puerto Varas, we drive north along the Pan American Highway toward **Frutillar**, one of Chile's most popular lake resorts. This predominantly German community has expansive views of Lake Llanquihue and the picture perfect Osorno Volcano. Frutillar has preserved much of its traditional architecture and many of its Old World customs, like afternoon tea with *kuchen*. A tour of the regional museum, dedicated to the colonizers of this area, reveals interesting and immaculately preserved collections of nineteenth-century farming implements and household artifacts, as well as several perfectly reconstructed period buildings, including a water-powered mill, blacksmith's shop and a mansion, set amid manicured lawns. We then walk, for about an hour and a half, in the gentle terrain of the Edmundo Winkler Forestry Project. With nice views of the area, the interesting trails depict the forest in its natural, as well as managed, state, and is a great introduction to the temperate rainforest's incredible diversity of plants and flowers. After lunch in town, we head north toward Puerto Octay, a picturesque village located on a quiet bay, enclosed by the Centinela Peninsula. Historically, this village was an important lake port in the mid 1800's, until the railway was established. The restored summer house of the interior minister, built in 1912, is now a quaint hotel, and the views of Lake Llanquihue and the volcanos are spectacular, especially **Osorno** (8,700'). Viewed from a distance, it is an inspirational sight with its perpetual snows glistening in the sunlight. We return to **Puerto Varas** and the Cabañas del Lago Hotel in the late afternoon. Dinner is included at the hotel tonight. (B,L,D)

### DAY 16 (SAT): INTERNATIONAL LAKES CROSSING

We get an early start this morning, and embark towards the famed International Lakes crossing. We will travel alternately by bus and boat, overland and traversing three lakes, to the Argentine resort town of **San Carlos de Bariloche**. On the way to **Petrohué Harbor** (approximately 1½ hours driving), we'll stop to see the crystal-clear waters of Petrohué Falls thundering over basalt columns and through lava flows. At the harbor, we board a cabin cruiser to navigate the emerald-green waters of **Todos los Santos Lake**. During the hour and a half crossing, we are surrounded by views of the snow-capped volcanos of Osorno, Puntagudo and Tronador (11,660'). Disembarking at Peulla, lunch is waiting at the lodge. Then, by bus, we cross the Andes, passing through some of the most spectacular mountain and glacier terrain on the continent. A brief stop at the Chilean border is followed by the crossing of the Pérez Rosales Pass (3,355') into Argentina. After clearing Argentine customs, we continue overland through dense Valdivian forests to Puerto Frías (about 2 hours) for a short boat crossing of Lake Frías, then continue overland to Puerto Blest. Here, we board a final catamaran to cross the deep blue waters of **Lake Nahuel Huapi**, arriving at Puerto Pañuelo after another spectacular hour and a half of navigation. From the port we drive a short distance to the cozy Nido del Condor Hotel, located in a beautiful setting overlooking the lake, not far from town. Dinner is included at the hotel this evening. (B,L,D)

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### DAY 17 (SUN): BARILOCHE

Following breakfast, we drive to the nearby Challhuaco Valley, located within **Nahuel Huapi National Park** for a day of walking. Everywhere, we see hundreds of amancays, the yellow flower whose red streaks on the upper petals, legends say, are the blood of a beautiful princess, stolen by a condor. Designated as a National Park in 1903, Nahuel Huapi protects more than 3,000 square miles of lakes, sparkling rivers, trout streams, turquoise glaciers, rocky, snow-capped peaks, dense forests, and waterfalls. From the Andean Club's Bariloche Refuge, we take a trail to Laguna Verde (4,100'), where we have views of Cerro Challhuaco (5,905'), Blanco (6,725') and Stratos (5,115'). After lunch at the refuge, we'll continue walking, according to the group's interest. In the late afternoon we return to the Nido del Condor Hotel. Dinner is on your own tonight to try some of the fine restaurants in town. (B,L)

### DAY 18 (MON): BARILOCHE/BUENOS AIRES

The morning is at leisure to explore **Bariloche** on our own, with plenty of time for a short walk to the main square to sample the region's famous chocolates or purchase some of the lovely wool products produced in the area. Lunch is on our own. This afternoon, we enjoy a private driving tour of **Nahuel Huapi National Park**. Ascending by chairlift to the top of Cerro Campanario, we have a superb overview of the lakes Nahuel Huapi (or Tiger Island, in the Mapuche language), and Moreno. Later, following a winding road through the park, we stop by fields of colorful lavender, whose sweet scent permeates the air. Completing our circle, we arrive at the airport to check in for our evening flight to Buenos Aires. Upon arrival, we're met and transferred to the familiar Dolmen Hotel. Dinner is on our own. (B)

### DAY 19 (TUE): BUENOS AIRES/IGUAZU

Following breakfast at the hotel, we transfer to the airport for our flight to **Iguazú**. We're met upon arrival and driven to **Iguazú Falls National Park**, located on the Argentine/Brazil border. First, we check into the Sheraton Hotel, located within the park's boundaries. After some time to relax and eat lunch (on our own), we head to the park's small Visitor Center for an overview of the area before taking a walk along the lower circuit. We stroll the catwalks, viewing from below some of the more than 275 spectacular cascades. Then, we board a boat to cross to the Grand Island of San Martín. The island's nature trails are filled with hundreds of colorful butterflies, and from here we can view the falls of Salto San Martín and the giant rock formation, La Ventana, from a different angle. We return to the Sheraton Hotel with the rest of the afternoon at leisure for personal explorations or a dip in the pool before dinner. (B,D)

### DAY 20 (WED): IGUAZU FALLS

Today our tour, called the "Photo-Safari Yacaratia Trail", is a 1 ½ hour overland exploration of pristine, tropical forest. A fun way to see ancient tree ferns, spot orchids in bloom, recognize wildlife tracks and listen to the sounds of birds, we may even glimpse some peccaries, or wild pigs. We return to the Sheraton Hotel, where lunch is included. In the early afternoon, we head to the upper circuit. As we approach the walkway, a cloud of mist rises above the river and we hear the thunderous roar of the falls - twice as wide and 65 feet higher than Niagara Falls. Hiking along a path winding through lush forest, we enjoy different views of these spectacular cascades as the afternoon light plays on the waters. Our views include Salto de Dos Hermanos, Salto Bosseti and Salto San Martín. Later, we take a tourist train to **Puerto Canoas** and follow a boardwalk to one of the most famous and spectacular series of falls, the *Garganta del Diablo*, or Devil's throat. We take a boat to a short walkway across the river, whose name in the local Guaraní language means "great waters." Here we have a fantastic, close-up view of the swirling and crashing waters. We return to the Sheraton Hotel for the night. Dinner is on our own. (B,L)

### DAY 21 (THU): IGUAZU FALLS

This morning is unstructured for personal activities. Those who wish to may return to **Iguazú National Park** for an optional hike along one of the area's best nature trails, the 2.4 mile Macuco Trail, to observe the abundant wildlife in the tropical forests here. The park contains more than 4,000 species of vascular plants; 400 species of birds, including toucan, parrot and cacique; over 100 species of mammals; and more than 500 species of colorful butterflies. Some may opt to cross over into Brazil for a view of the falls from

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the other side (a Brazilian visa is required, and expenses for this excursion are additional). Others may simply relax at the hotel or explore the surrounding forest. Lunch is on our own. In the afternoon we transfer to the airport for our flight back to **Buenos Aires** where we're met upon arrival and transferred to the familiar Dolmen Hotel. Late this evening, we join our local guide for a congenial Argentine Farewell Dinner, followed by a sultry Tango show, at one of the city's excellent restaurants. (B,D)

### DAY 22 (FRI): BUENOS AIRES

Today is at leisure for last-minute shopping or sightseeing in **Buenos Aires** (day-rooms are provided at the hotel with a 17:00 check-out). We might wish to explore the 500 block, pedestrian-only, Calle Florida for leather goods and jewelry, or visit Calles Lavalle and Corrientes to see the city's numerous small theaters, cafes, and cinemas. A short taxi ride will bring us to the San Telmo neighborhood, an artisans' quarter where the colonial architecture remains well-preserved, with several, small, pleasant cafes. Late in the afternoon we're picked up at the hotel to transfer back to the airport for our flight home. Lunch is on our own and dinner is typically included on the flight. (B)

### DAY 23 (SAT): USA

Arrival in the USA.

**NOTES ON THE ITINERARY:** This trip was designed for nature lovers, as well as travel enthusiasts, so photo opportunities, local culture, spectacular scenery and wildlife viewing are integral components of the program. The quality of wildlife observation in any given region cannot be guaranteed, nor can the spotting of specific species or certain numbers of animals. This program is suitable for physically fit participants accustomed to outdoor activities age 7 and older, and some departures may include families with children. Furthermore, we do our best to adhere to the schedule listed above, but this itinerary is subject to change for numerous reasons beyond our control, including group pace/interests, weather, road/trail/lake/river conditions, flight delays and schedule changes or cancellations (all occur frequently with the local air carriers).

Another factor to consider when visiting Argentina and Chile is that there are tremendous distances that must be covered. These are two of the largest countries in South America. Patagonia alone is a vast region, comparable to the combined areas of Texas, California and Montana. It still has many unpaved roads and only sporadic local air service (with no reliable flights, except those into Punta Arenas or El Calafate). We have designed this adventure to minimize the amount of driving, but we still cover more than 1,300 miles during this trip! In addition, due to the limited number of flights available to/from Ushuaia, the activities on **Days 06-08** are likely to be changed or adapted in order to accommodate actual flight arrival and departure times. A full day visit to Tierra del Fuego National Park and a shorter cruise on the Beagle Channel, without a visit to the Harberton ranch are possibilities. Activities on **Days 09 & 10** could be switched, depending on seasonal availability of catamaran cruises to Upsala Glacier. Furthermore, walking and driving distances, altitudes and times indicated are approximate. Estimated driving times do not include lunch breaks, rest or photo stops, time to explore the area, etc.

Seat-in-car or seat-in-boat service refers to a regularly scheduled public tour, in which our group will be among many other travelers from around the world (in some cases as many as 80-100 passengers may make up the total, larger group). Lectures/explanations will be held in Spanish and English, and our group will be accompanied by a private local guide, in all cases.

**2006 LAND COST:**           \$8,295 p.p.d. (4-5 participants)  
                                      \$7,695 p.p.d. (6-9 participants)  
                                      \$7,245 p.p.d. (10-12 participants)  
                                      \$2,075 Single Supplement

2006 Land Costs are valid for departures through March 2007.

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p.p.d.= per person double or triple occupancy occupancy.

This trip requires a minimum of 4 participants doing the 23-day program in its entirety, to be guaranteed. Travelers doing the shorter 16-day version of this program, over and beyond the aforementioned required minimum of 4, will count towards the total number of participants.

## SERVICES INCLUDED:

- Comprehensive **pre-departure planning packet** and expert travel advice.
- All **in-country transfers** as scheduled (transfers on different days are additional). Ground transportation in spacious and comfortable private vehicles with professional drivers.
- Boat and Catamaran transportation where applicable in a seat-in-boat basis.
- Local and return flight reconfirmation, **in-country airport check-in and luggage assistance** (Luggage handlers' tips are included)
- All **accommodations in first-class (4-5 star) hotels** as listed (or at similar hotels, the best available in smaller towns) on a shared basis with private bath. Note: As reservations for early arrivals or late departures are not placed at the same time as those for our group space, we may have to use a different hotel for those nights. Advanced bookings are recommended if you plan to arrive early or extend your stay. Double beds for couples (primarily queen-sized) can be requested in advance, but cannot be guaranteed, as most hotels offer few rooms with double beds.
- Single Supplement provides single room accommodations in all hotels. Due to the small size of some of the hosterías we use, there is a maximum of 2 singles allowed per group. If you require single accommodations, making reservations well in advance is recommended.
- All **meals** indicated on the itinerary (B=breakfast; L=lunch; D=dinner). **Vegetarian diets accommodated** on request (advance notification required).
- All **guided tours & excursions** (as listed & including applicable entrance fees). Tours are conducted on a private basis (except those indicated as seat-in-car) by knowledgeable, English-speaking local guides in each region in an effort to enhance your overall learning experience. There will not be one tour leader for the entire trip.

## NOT INCLUDED:

- US domestic, International flights, nor local flights within Argentina or Chile.
- Chilean & Argentine airport departure taxes (approx. \$150 per traveler).
- Twelve (12) meals at about \$20 each per person.
- Tours or other services not listed on the itinerary.
- Alcoholic beverages nor items of a personal nature; such as clothing, equipment, laundry & phone calls.
- Tips to the local staff.
- Expenses incurred in preparing for this program such as, but not limited to, non-refundable airline tickets or traveler's insurance, nor additional expenses resulting from flight delays, schedule changes, cancellations, or missed connections.


We strongly recommend all travelers take out some form of **Travel Insurance** —plan information and an application are sent upon receipt of your deposit (sooner if requested). Policies with **Travel Insured International** can be purchased online through our website at [www.southwindadventures.com/links.htm#insurance](http://www.southwindadventures.com/links.htm#insurance). **If you or a family member has a pre-existing medical condition**, you need to purchase this policy within 10 days of booking your trip in order to qualify for reimbursement of non-refundable trip costs in the event that a recurrence of the pre-existing condition forces you to cancel your trip (some restrictions apply). For more information or to purchase Southwind's recommended travel insurance plan, please visit the link above.



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the USA, so rain should be expected anytime of the year. Temperatures are on the cool side, with daytime highs in the 60's and nighttime lows in the 40's. **Iguazú Falls** is located in a subtropical rainforest, so weather conditions tend to be hot and very humid. Highs are in the upper 80's to low 90's, with lows in the 70's. The best policy for enjoying this trip is to be prepared for all possible weather conditions, ranging from intense sunshine and heat, to rain, cold, wind and/or snow.

**ESTIMATED AIRFARE:** The Land Cost for this trip DOES NOT INCLUDE ANY FLIGHTS. Round-trip **international** air from US gateways (New York, Los Angeles, Miami, Dallas, Houston, Atlanta) is approximately \$800-1,100 per person for this adventure. December 15-January 15 is a peak travel time and higher fares may apply. **Local** in-country flights ARE NOT INCLUDED, budget on approx.\$1,100-1,200 per person total for local air for the full 23-day program and \$700-800 for the 16-day version. Upon receipt of your deposit, Southwind will send you recommended air arrangements that match your land itinerary.

 **Please note:** International carriers offering service include; American, Lan, Aerolineas Argentinas, Varig, Tam, Northwest (Santiago only), United & Continental (Buenos Aires only). Airfares are subject to change at any time before tickets are issued.

**HOW TO SIGN UP:** A \$500 per person per trip deposit (payable by check or credit card) is required to make a reservation. You can call 1-800-377-9463 or reserve securely online at [www.southwindadventures.com](http://www.southwindadventures.com). Click "Book a Trip" and you are on your way! Due to the popularity of Patagonia, we recommend making reservations 4 to 6 months in advance.

**Trip Reservation Form:** Please send us your completed and signed form within 10 days of placing your deposit (online under "Forms" on our homepage or call Southwind). Upon receipt of your reservation form and once your trip is guaranteed to operate, a comprehensive pre-departure packet will be sent to you.

**Land Balance:** Payment is due at 60 days by Visa, Mastercard, Discover or check. American Express balance payments are due 90 days in advance. You will receive an invoice with your pre-departure packet. A rush service fee of \$150 per person will be applied to your invoice for reservations placed 45 to 21 days before departure.

Cancellation Fees and other policies are outlined under Terms & Conditions on Southwind's website (click Book a Trip>Terms & Conditions).

### Save! Early Sign-up Discounts

Sign up 10 months in advance for **10% savings** per person\*  
Save **4% to 9%** for booking 4 to 9 months in advance respectively  
Call **1-800-377-9463** for details, questions or to make a reservation

**[www.southwindadventures.com](http://www.southwindadventures.com)**

\*Discounts are calculated on the lowest published 2006 Land Costs

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