



## ARGENTINA & CHILE

### HIKING THE PATAGONIAN ANDES

An Upscale Walking Adventure through the Jewels of Patagonia



**DURATION:** 13 days / 12 nights  
**SEASON:** October through March  
**DEPARTURES:** Guaranteed with a minimum of 4 and a maximum of 12 participants  
**TRIP RATING:** Moderate/Strenuous Walking Adventure, Grade (III) - This is an active trip, featuring a variety of hikes, based from charming hotels, local hosterías or estancias. Hiking days average 8.5 miles at elevations below 5,000' on established trails in both Fitz Roy and Torres del Paine areas. Also included are long but scenic overland drives on mostly unpaved roads.

**2017/18 DATES:** NOV 26 - DEC 08      JAN 14 - 26      FEB 11 - 23  
Also on request any week throughout the season for a minimum of 4 travelers

#### INTRODUCTION:

Southern Argentina and Chile share an immense, sparsely populated, and mostly flat expanse divided by the Andes Mountains, commonly known as Patagonia. Here, some of the most dramatic granite spires on earth are constantly being transformed by the movement of immense glaciers. These peaks tower over the surrounding plains, creating the most impressive mountain vistas in South America. To the west of the Continental Divide, the mountains are surrounded by dense forests and lush meadows, dotted with wildflowers. To the east of the Andes are the typical, windswept plains of Patagonia. In the magnificent wilderness areas of Torres del Paine and Los Glaciares National Parks (regions whose spectacular beauty rivals that of Yellowstone and Yosemite), nature rules supreme with wildlife such as the guanaco, ñandú, condor, fox and dozens of bird species. Further south, Tierra del Fuego ("Land of Fire"), the beautiful landscapes are reminiscent of the Alaskan wildlands.

This exciting itinerary is designed for hikers and nature enthusiasts who would like to experience the full range of the Patagonian Andes in comfort, with active days and relaxing nights at cozy lodges and hotels. We begin with a tour of the Argentine capital, but the majority of our trip focuses on the wilderness areas. Our adventure begins by exploring Argentina's Glaciers National Park, from El Calafate overland to El Chaltén for 2 days of hiking at the foot of Mount Fitz Roy and Cerro Torre. Returning to El Calafate, we visit the spectacular Perito Moreno Glacier, with a stop at the Glaciarum Museum to learn about Patagonian ice fields. An international drive across the Argentine steppe brings us to Torres del Paine Park, Chile, and the highlight of our journey. The final 4 days are spent hiking to view scenic Lakes Nordenskjöld and Grey and up to the French River valley for close-up views of impressive peaks with vertical granite walls. Finishing with a drive to Punta Arenas, we fly to Santiago before returning home. Additions to this adventure are available, including a Pre-extension to Tierra del Fuego National Park and a cruise of the Beagle Channel.

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### DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY:

DAY 01 (SUN): HOME

Overnight flight to Argentina's cosmopolitan capital, **Buenos Aires**.

DAY 02 (MON): BUENOS AIRES

Our local staff greets you this morning at the Ezeiza International Airport and brings you to the elegant [Emperador Hotel](#). Centrally located in the exclusive Recoleta neighborhood, the Emperador is near shopping centers, art galleries, and is a few blocks from the city's landmark, the Obelisk. After lunch on your own, join your local guide for a tour of this active, European-style city. We'll visit Plaza de Mayo (where the city was founded), Metropolitan Cathedral and the neighborhoods of San Telmo and Montserrat. We drive along *9 de Julio* (the world's widest avenue at 22 lanes wide) to see the Obelisk landmark, the splendid Colón Theater, National Congress, Casa Rosada (Government house), and other historical buildings in the city. The intriguing and famous Recoleta Cemetery rounds out our tour. This evening, enjoy an Argentine welcome dinner and sultry tango show at one of the best venues in the city, Gala Tango. (D)

DAY 03 (TUE): BUENOS AIRES / EL CALAFATE / EL CHALTEN

After breakfast we transfer to the airport for our 3.5-hour flight to **El Calafate** (610'). Meet your mountain guide and drive across the windy steppe, expansive terrain typical of Argentine Patagonia, to the base of **Mount Fitz Roy**. Our route takes us around the southeastern shores of Lago Argentino, and then past the sizeable Lago Viedma. On the drive we watch the granite spires of Mount Fitz Roy rise up behind the turquoise waters of the lakes and will likely spot guanacos (a wild relative of the llama) or ñandú (a flightless bird similar to an ostrich). We arrive at the small rural community of **El Chaltén** in the late afternoon, conveniently located in the foothills at the base of the massif, and check in at the comfortable [Hotel Destino Sur](#). Afterwards, (time permitting) we'll stop at the Los Glaciares National Park's visitors center to learn about the natural history of Patagonia and enjoy an optional short hike to *Mirador de los Cóndores* before a welcome dinner at one of the finest restaurants in town. If skies are clear this evening, we ponder the thousands of stars that form Southern Hemisphere constellations such as the *Cruz del Sur* (Southern Cross), the *Corona Australis* (Southern Crown), and look for distant galaxies like Andromeda, or star clusters and the Clouds of Magellan. **Driving distance:** 130 miles or 3 hours; **Hotel elevation:** 1,315' (B,D)

DAY 04 (WED): FITZ ROY

Following breakfast this morning we drive about 10 miles up the lovely Las Vueltas River valley along a dirt road to our trailhead for the hike toward **Mount Fitz Roy**. Following the Río Eléctrico River to its junction with the Río Blanco, we make our way closer to the foot of the peaks. Along the route we identify a variety of colorful flowers and several species of birds. Hiking gradually uphill we reach the basecamp area, gaining 980' in elevation, where climbers stage their expeditions to Fitz Roy's 11,290-foot summit. Depending on weather and group condition we have an option: to enjoy a lunch break here, or continue ascending the steep zig-zagging trail to Laguna de los Tres (1,300' additional elevation gain). From this small lake we have stunning, close-up views of the nearly vertical rock walls of Fitz Roy's east face, the impressive spire to the south called the Poincenot Needle (9,960'), and the unusually blue Piedras Blancas glacier. The Needle is named for Jacque Poincenot, who was a member of a 3-man expedition team that set out to be the first to reach the peak of Fitz Roy. Unfortunately, though, he drowned after falling into the Fitz Roy River, and his comrades decided to name the impressive spire in his honor. The return is along the Río Blanco, hiking to our starting point and then driving back to the familiar [Hotel Destino Sur](#), where we can unwind with a glass of wine in front of the crackling central fireplace. **Hiking distance:** 9.5 miles or 6.5 hours. (Hiking all the way to Laguna de los Tres adds 2 more miles round trip, 1,300' elevation gain, and 2 hours of additional walking). (B,L)

DAY 05 (THU): CERRO TORRE / EL CALAFATE

This morning we depart from the outskirts of town, where our trail takes us toward the southwest as we hike along the **Fitz Roy River** valley. The trail is fairly easy as we cross ancient terminal moraines left behind when the glaciers of the last ice age receded. We arrive at the *Mirador* lookout after 1.5 hours of gentle uphill hiking to enjoy inspiring views of Cerro Torre, Fitz Roy and nearby peaks. With sheer walls topped by a mushroom-shaped ice cap, Cerro Torre's 10,265-foot summit is one of mountaineering's most sought-after prizes. Once in the valley, we follow a scenic trail through patches of Lenga trees, forest and flat terrain, passing through a *mallín* (wet meadow) until we reach a lovely spot in the valley to enjoy a relaxing picnic lunch. Afterwards, we start making our way back to El Chaltén. Hiking down the main well-marked trail along the course of the Fitz Roy river valley, look for nice views and photo opportunities. The Cerro Torre summit (one of the most challenging climbs in the world) and its Ventisquero Grande glacier loom over the valley. This afternoon, we drive back to El Calafate to overnight at the [Xelena Hotel & Spa](#), located outside town on the

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banks of Lago Argentino, the largest lake in the country. For a pleasant dinner on your own this evening, try the delicious cuisine of the Hotel's Mora Restaurant. **Hiking Distance:** 8 miles or 5.5 hours; **Driving distance:** 145 miles or 3.5 hours. (B,L)

### DAY 06 (FRI): PERITO MORENO GLACIER

We drive early this morning into **Los Glaciares National Park**, which was created in 1937 and declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1981. We embark on an hour-long catamaran ride on the Brazo Rico section of Lago Argentino to enjoy close-up views of the spectacular **Perito Moreno Glacier**, one of three Patagonian glaciers that are not retreating, with a surface area of 97 square miles (three miles wide, 19 miles in length and 195 feet high). Perito Moreno is one of South America's natural wonders. Later, we drive to the narrowest point on this arm of the lake, stop at a lookout where we observe and photograph the massive sheet of ice from various angles, and walk along the newly built network of paths that wind along the lake bank, directly in front of the glacier and across from its snout. It's possible that we'll witness the detachment of ice blocks from a safe distance, hear the roaring they produce, and see how they turn into floating icebergs. Afterwards, we drive back to El Calafate with a stop at the Glaciarium Museum, a modern center devoted to the Patagonian ice field, its glaciers and conservation. It's one of few glaciological interpretative centers in the world. We continue to the comfortable and relaxing [Xelena Hotel & Spa](#) for the night. Dinner is on your own to explore town or enjoy the gourmet food and excellent selection of Argentine wines at the Mora Restaurant. **Driving distance:** 100 miles or 3 hours. (B,L)

### DAY 07 (SAT): EL CALAFATE / PAINE NATIONAL PARK

Leaving the hotel early after breakfast, we drive towards **El Calafate** and through this small desert oasis named for the abundant bushes that dot the countryside. We continue overland across the Patagonian plains to **Paine National Park**, established in 1970 and given World Heritage status in 1978. Its name (pronounced pie-knee) translates to "blue" in the Mapuche Indian language. After passing through Cerro Castillo, a small village near the Chilean border, we get our first views of the Paine massif, towering above the plains in the distance. Drawing closer to the deep blue waters of Sarmiento Lake, the impressive granite towers come into view. Entering the park, we may be greeted by small herds of guanacos. After a short break from driving we continue to the Sarmiento Park Station and begin to hike. Our route follows a trail up and over the steppe-covered foothills, gaining about 650' in elevation, past small ponds and meadows down to the Laguna Amarga ranger station. Along the way we can photograph noisy *bandurrias*, buff-necked ibis, red foxes, hares, flamingos and upland geese, which are always seen in pairs. From this point we have a short drive along a dirt road to the cozy [Hotel Las Torres Patagonia](#), located beneath the Paine Towers near the Ascencio River. A highlight of the hostería is its boutique spa, featuring treatments that are perfect for unwinding after a day of hiking, such as hydro-massages, reflexology and a sauna. **Driving distance:** 230 miles or 5.5 hours; **Hiking distance:** 4.5 miles or 2.5 hours; **Hostería elevation:** 650' (B,L,D)

### DAY 08 (SUN): NORDENSKJOLD LAKE HIKE

Our route today takes us past a few small lakes, including Laguna Inge. We skirt the foot of Mount Almirante Nieto (8,755'), then continue along the base of the Paine peaks, following a rolling trail along the northern shores of turquoise-colored Lake Nordenskjold. We pass through brushy areas, negotiate boggy sections and tackle stream crossings, stepping from boulder to boulder, as we make our way through the foothills up and down to a lookout point where we can get a glimpse of the impressive **Paine Horns**. There are 25 species of mammals recorded in the park including huemul, a type of deer found only in Chile, and puma, both of which are seen on occasion. Following our lunch break we can cool off in the clear waters of the nearby babbling creek, then return to our hotel on the same trail. In December and January, fields of daisies and other wildflowers fill the meadows. Time permitting, this afternoon we might look for flocks of *cachanas*, or Austral parakeets, or simply watch the afternoon light and clouds play across the mountains. Dinner will be served in the exquisite Coiron restaurant at [Hotel Las Torres Patagonia](#) featuring produce grown in their own organic greenhouse. **Hiking distance:** 9 miles or 6.5 hours; **Hostería elevation:** 650' (B,L,D)

### DAY 09 (MON): GREY LAKE

This morning we drive to Laguna Amarga for a brief walk on the lakeshore where we may be able to photograph the Towers reflected on the lake. We continue driving along the scenic dirt road south of the Paine massif and pass by lakes Nordenskjold and Pehoé. We may stop at the park's Administration Center for an overview of the region and the geological forces that created the dramatic Paine formations. Then, we cross the Paine River and arrive to the ranger station at Lago Grey. We walk along the lakeshore looking for the best views and some small icebergs. At noon the Grey II boat takes us on an hour-long trip around this lovely lake surrounded by peaks. As we get closer to our destination we view the spectacular 4-mile-wide glacier, one of three that originate at the Continental Ice Cap. We may

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observe the drift of turquoise-colored icebergs, blown to the opposite end of the lake by the unrelenting winds. We disembark at the Refugio Grey and enjoy a picnic lunch in this forested area. In the afternoon we hike to Pehoé Lake, contouring the lower slopes of Cerro Paine Grande (the highest peak in the park at 10,007'). Views of Cerro Zapata (5,020') and several waterfalls cascading down the mountainsides make this an impressive hike. This area is also excellent for photography and watching for condors, which sometimes pass within 100 feet of us as they soar across the ridges. The trail passes a small, secluded lake before reaching a final ridge with fabulous views of Pehoé Lake. We catch the last catamaran at 6:30pm for the picturesque ride to Pudeto. Once at the other side of the lake we visit Salto Grande Falls, formed where Lake Nordenskjold flows into Lake Pehoé, and then drive to the comfortable [Hotel Rio Serrano](#). This newer lodge has a modern design with rustic features, a superb restaurant, and a wine bar featuring the work of local vintners. **Hiking distance:** 7 miles or 4 hours; **Hostería elevation:** 435' (B,L,D)

### DAY 10 (TUE): PEHOE LAKE / FRENCH VALLEY

Rising early, as this is a longer day of activities, we drive through the park to the Pudeto boat docks on Pehoé Lake. Here we board the first catamaran at 9:30am for the 20-minute ride across the lake. The vessel is covered, but with clear weather most passengers stand outside to take in the views of the impressive peaks above the Caribbean-turquoise waters. From the docks we follow a trail leading through the rolling foothills at the base of Paine Grande peak. Dotted with scattered scrub forests, in November and December these hillsides are a brilliant red, covered with the blossoms of the fire brush. There are 200 species of plants found in Paine, including Calafate bushes and the lovely yellow Lady's Slippers, or *Calceolaria*. We cross the **French River** on a foot bridge to reach the Italian Camp area. From here we marvel at the geology of these incredible rock formations as we watch patches of snow break loose and thunder down Cerro Paine Grande's rock and ice face in the distance. We continue a steeper uphill trail section through forests to a first lookout point. With luck we can witness condors floating up and down along the dramatic granite mountain faces. With 105 species of birds in the park, birdwatchers also have an opportunity to see the grebe, coot, upland goose, torrent duck, and oyster catcher, among others. Returning along the same trail to the Pehoé Lake area, we catch the last catamaran at 6:30pm for the return trip across the lake, then drive to the familiar [Hotel Rio Serrano](#). **Hiking distance:** 9.5 miles or 6.5 hours. (B,L,D)

### DAY 11 (WED): PAINE NATIONAL PARK / PUERTO NATALES / PUNTA ARENAS

We drive this morning for 1.5 hours following the newer dirt road directly to **Puerto Natales**, enjoying some final views of Lago del Toro Lake, the horns and towers. Small herds of guanaco roam freely in this area, providing nice photo ops with their young, or *chulengos*. We drive back across the Patagonian steppe and stop to stretch our legs with a short visit to the Milodón Cave, named for the mythic prehistoric mammal thought to have lived here. Continuing to Natales in the Last Hope Sound, we stop for lunch at one of the finest local restaurants. We continue driving south towards Punta Arenas. Time and weather permitting, we may stop en route for a side visit to a Magellanic penguin colony at **Otway Sound**, one of the few in this part of Chile. There are few hundred birds at this site, and small pockets of the population appear mostly in December through early March, although the viewing season has lengthened lately. During the early season the penguins are in their burrows incubating eggs. **Punta Arenas** is located on the Strait of Magellan, which is one of Chile's main ports and is considered by many to be the southernmost city in the world. We check-in at the centrally located [Cabo de Hornos Hotel](#). This evening we join our guide for a congenial and festive Farewell Dinner. **Driving distance:** 205 miles or 5.5 hours (the Otway side trip adds 30 miles and 1 additional hour driving). (B,L,D)

### DAY 12 (THU): PUNTA ARENAS / SANTIAGO / USA

Enjoy a brief tour of the city this morning, including the main square called Plaza Muñoz Gamero where we find a bronze statue of a native Patagonian Indian. Legend has it that if you kiss the big toe of that Indian, you will return to Punta Arenas one day. A short drive to the Cerro la Cruz overlook offers panoramic views of the city and Strait of Magellan. If time allows, we visit the Natural history Salesiano Museum featuring legendary mountaineer priest, Alberto de Agostini and various indigenous groups. We follow the Costanera Boulevard back to the center and transfer to the airport to check-in for our flight to **Santiago**. Upon arrival, you walk a short distance on your own to the International Terminal and check-in for the overnight flight back home. (B)

### DAY 13 (FRI): HOME

Arrive back to US this morning and make connections home.

**NOTES ON THE ITINERARY:** Although we do our best to follow the schedule listed above, due to the extremely changeable and unpredictable nature of the weather in Patagonia, as well as other factors beyond our control, including group members' abilities, pace, interest, weather, and road/river/trail conditions as well as local flight and catamaran

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schedule changes, any itinerary in these regions is subject to change at any time.

A flexible attitude is recommended. Participants are encouraged to have prior hiking experience. This program uses a variety of hotels, lodges and hosterías, and is suitable for physically fit participants accustomed to outdoor activities, age 12 and up.

The catamaran service at Paine Park has a low season when the crossing of Pehoé Lake is provided only 2 times a day, allowing us to cross at noon at the earliest, and return at 6:30pm at the latest, which limits the time we spend hiking in this area. During the high season (Nov 16-Mar 15), there is a third catamaran service at 9:30am. To coincide with the itinerary indicated above, departures should be from November 09, 2017 up to March 06, 2018. We could still operate the Hiking the Patagonian Andes with departures a bit earlier than November 09 or later than March 06, but the hike on DAY 11 will be shorter in order to follow the Pehoé Lake catamaran's seasonal schedule.

Hiking distances and altitudes are approximate, and times indicated are NET. They do not include lunch breaks, rest stops, time to explore the area, photo stops, etc.

One important factor to consider when visiting Patagonia is the tremendous distances that must be covered. This is a vast region, comparable to the combined territory of western states like Texas, California and Montana. The area still has many unpaved roads and there is only sporadic local flight service, other than the flights into Punta Arenas or El Calafate. We have designed this adventure to minimize the amount of driving time, but we are still covering approx. 825 miles total during the trip. The Otway Sound visit adds an extra 30 miles (slow going, as the road is rough), and penguin viewing is not attempted during the months of November and December, as the penguins don't come out to be seen.

<b>2017 LAND COST:</b>	\$7,595 p.p.d. (4-5 participants)
	\$6,895 p.p.d. (6-9 participants)
	\$6,345 p.p.d. (10-12 participants)
	\$1,675 Single Supplement

2017 Land Costs are valid for departures through March 2018.

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

### TIERRA DEL FUEGO/USHUAIA PRE-EXTENSION (3 days/2 nights):

DAY 01 (FRI): HOME

Overnight flight to Argentina's cosmopolitan capital, **Buenos Aires**.

DAY 02 (SAT): BUENOS AIRES

We are met this morning at the Ezeiza International Airport and transferred to the elegant Emperador Hotel. Centrally located and a few blocks from the city's landmark, the Obelisk. After lunch on our own we join our local guide for a tour of this active, European-style city. We visit the Plaza de Mayo and Cathedral, Recoleta Cemetery, San Telmo and La Monserrat neighborhoods, and drive by the Colón Theater and other historical buildings in the city. Later this evening, we enjoy a typical Argentine welcome dinner and sultry tango show. (D)

DAY 03 (SUN): BUENOS AIRES / USHUAIA

This morning, we're picked up and transferred to the airport for the 4-hour flight to **Ushuaia**, the capital of Tierra del Fuego in Argentina. Reception by your local guide and transfer to the Arakur Resort & Spa, located within Cerro Alarkén Natural Reserve, just minutes from downtown Ushuaia. The hotel extends along a spectacular natural balcony situated 820 feet above sea level, surrounded by stunning panoramic views, native forests, natural terraces and green areas harmonically integrated into the environment. Depending on the arrival time, we may have the chance to walk by the Martial Mountain or tour the city and the Yamana museum en route to the hotel. (B)

DAY 04 (MON): TIERRA DEL FUEGO PARK

A short drive brings us to the docks to board a yacht for a half-day seat-in-boat cruise along the **Beagle Channel**. We leave in the direction of Alice Island to see the colony of sea lions; we continue to the Birds Island where the king and imperial cormorants inhabit. Nearby, we enjoy the view of the Rock Cormorants on the cliffs. Then, we navigate towards the Sea Lions Island to see them and also fur seals. Finally, we find Les Eclaireurs lighthouse, which was made in 1919

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and it's the real symbol of the city. Going back, we disembark on Bridges Island for a short hike. During the walk, we follow a road discovering the flora and the fauna, in this island we can see archeological remains of the Yamanas, the aborigines who lived here many years ago. Back in Ushuaia, lunch is included before driving 8 miles west to **Tierra del Fuego National Park**, a lovely region of clear blue lakes and snowcapped mountains overlooking the Beagle Channel. Our excursion is a van and walking tour that includes short hikes through beautiful ñire and lenga forests. The road skirts the Pipo River to reach Ensenada Bay, from where you get very nice views Redonda Islands and Hindrance and the Chilean coast, across the Beagle Channel. After we get to Ensenada Bay Rock Lake, where we will do some hiking and observing Lapataia River and an overview of Cerro Condor on the border with Chile. The road continues touring areas of peat bogs and beaver dams to reach the end of the park in Lapataia. We return to the Arakur Hotel by late afternoon. Dinner is on your own this evening to try the hotel's La Cravia restaurant and its typical flavors from Tierra del Fuego. **Driving distance:** 34 miles or about 1.5 hours. (B,L)

DAY 05 (TUE): USHUAIA / EL CALAFATE / EL CHALTEN

We linger over breakfast, savoring the views of the channel before transferring to the airport for our 1-hour flight to **El Calafate**. We join the group that arrives from Buenos Aires and continue with the *Hiking the Patagonian Andes* program as described on page 2 for Day 03.

**2017 EXTENSION COST:**           \$2,125 p.p.d. (2-3 participants)  
  \$1,975 p.p.d. (4-6 participants)  
  \$ 505 Single Supplement

2017 Extension Costs are valid for departures through March 2018.

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

This extension requires a minimum of 2 participants to be guaranteed.

### HOTEL UPGRADE:

-Los Cauquenes. This exclusive mountain resort lodge outside of town overlooks the water and pampers its guests with gorgeous views and refinement in every detail.

**ADDITIONAL TRIP EXTENSIONS:** Those with extra days might want to extend their vacation and visit some of the region's other impressive destinations. We suggest a 5 day/4 night excursion to Easter Island, a 4 day/3 night tour of Mendoza wine region, a visit to the Atacama Desert, or a 3 day/2 night Iguazú Falls extension. These add-ons require a minimum of 2 participants. See our [trip extensions page](#) for more details.

### 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 on 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 Superior-class (4 star) hotels and the best available hosterías** as listed (or at similar hotels or lodges) on a shared basis with private bath. Advanced bookings are recommended if you plan to arrive early or extend your stay. Double beds for couples (primarily king/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 most hosterías in Patagonia, 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). For other diets, consult your travel specialist before making a reservation.
- All **guided tours & excursions** (as listed) conducted on a private basis by knowledgeable, English-speaking local guides in each region (includes applicable entrance fees), except the Perito Moreno catamaran excursion, the catamaran rides in Paine, and the boat cruise on the Beagle Channel, which are operated on a seat-in-boat basis. There will be other travelers aboard, although our group will be privately escorted. There will be one main

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guide from El Calafate (Day 03) to Punta Arenas (Day 12), and a different guide for Buenos Aires and Santiago. Southwind's travel style is to utilize guides who are experts in each region in an effort to enhance your overall learning experience and adhere to principles of Ecotourism.

- **First-class Hiking service** including:

- Experienced, knowledgeable, English-speaking, Andean guide and assistant guide (assistants, one in El Chalten and one at Paine, provided for groups with 9 or more participants).

- Packed or picnic lunch.

- First-aid kit.

- Entrance fees.

### **NOT INCLUDED:**

- US domestic, International flights, nor local flights within Argentina or Chile.
- The entry fee into Argentina for US citizens of \$160 has been suspended. For Canadian citizens is \$78 (valid for multiple entries). Fees must be paid online before arrival.
- Six (6) meals at about \$25-40 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 and 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.

**TRAVEL INSURANCE:** We strongly recommend purchasing coverage to protect your trip investment. Travel insurance is important in case of unexpected events prior to departure causing the need to cancel or change your dates. Weather, geologic events, local strikes, personal injury/illness for you, your traveling companion or family members, etc., could require itinerary interruption or changes. Missed connections, delayed arrival, lost/delayed baggage or the need for medical attention or evacuation are also reasons why coverage is important. Southwind offers several plans through Travel Insured International (TII) to fit your budget and coverage amount. We recommend TII's *Worldwide Trip Protector* which offers a good value and **free coverage for kids 17/under traveling with a related adult**. If you, your traveling companion or a family member has a pre-existing medical condition, you can still receive coverage if a recurrence of the condition forces you to cancel your trip (some restrictions apply and plan purchase needs to be done **within 21 days of your deposit date**). See our [Travel Insurance](#) page to learn more.

**GUIDES: Guido Vittone** - Born in Buenos Aires in 1970, Guido attended a bilingual school, taking part in an exchange program for six months in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1988. Family camping trips and Boy Scout outings led to a deep interest in the many natural areas of Argentina, particularly those of the Patagonian Andes. Guido became a certified mountain guide and took part in an expedition to Lake Baikal in the former Soviet Union. He graduated from a NOLS (National Outdoor Leadership School) Mountain Instructor course in 1995, and has been guiding in Patagonia for over 15 years. The history and geography of the region are among his main interests.

**Martin Castrillo, Luis Olea & Jorge Blampied** - each with a minimum of 5 years experience leading groups in Patagonia, these local bilingual guides are also among our staff of fine professionals.

**WEATHER: Santiago and Buenos Aires** can be expected to be hot and humid during the months of December, January, and February with daytime temperatures of 85-95°F and up to 70-75% humidity (Buenos Aires is generally hotter than Santiago). Nighttime lows in the summer average 65-70° F. The **Patagonia** region has a reputation for changeable, windy and/or rainy weather with mild temperatures. Daytime highs during the summer in Río Gallegos, El Calafate, El Chaltén will be between 60-72°F, with nighttime temperatures ranging between 40-45°F. Paine National Park and areas on the western slope of the Andes typically have more wind and rain than destinations on the eastern side, but rain can be expected in Patagonia at any time, on any departure. The best policy for enjoying this trek is to be prepared for all possibilities ranging from intense sunshine to rain, cold, and/or wind.

## Argentina & Chile: Hiking the Patagonian Andes

**ESTIMATED AIRFARE:** The Land Cost DOES NOT INCLUDE ANY FLIGHTS. Round-trip **international** air from US gateway cities is approximately \$900-1,100 per person. Dec 15-Jan 15 is a peak travel time so higher fares may apply. Local **in-country** flights ARE NOT INCLUDED, budget on approx. \$650-900 per person for Buenos Aires-Calafate and Punta Arenas-Santiago. International carriers offering non-stop service from US gateways include; **American** (JFK, Dallas, Miami), **Delta** (Atlanta) and **LAN** (Miami). **United** (Houston or Newark) offers non-stop to/from Buenos Aires (connect Santiago-Buenos Aires-US on return). Airfares are subject to change at any time before tickets are issued. Upon receipt of your deposit, Southwind will send you recommended air arrangements to match your land itinerary. Airfares are subject to change at any time before tickets are issued.

**HOW TO SIGN UP:** Please complete Southwind's [Trip Reservation eForm](#). There are fields for up to 4 travelers per form with the same address. Upon receipt, your Travel Consultant will send you a Smart Pay link **to pay your \$1,000 per person deposit** by any major credit card. If you prefer, you can also call us at 1-800-377-9463 to make payment arrangements by phone or send a check. You will receive confirmation of your deposit.

Due to the popularity of Patagonia, we recommend making reservations 4 to 5 months in advance. Once your trip is guaranteed to operate, you will receive a comprehensive pre-departure planning packet.

**Land Balance:** Final payment is due at 90 days before departure by Visa, Mastercard, Discover, American Express or check. You will receive a trip invoice indicating your balance due. Provided services and space are available, reservations can be accepted up to 30 days before departure.

Cancellation Fees and other policies are outlined under the [Terms & Conditions](#) on Southwind's website.

### 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 2017 Land Costs

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