



Specializing for 30 years in customized nature, cultural & adventure tours to Latin America

ARGENTINA & CHILE

Custom Sample Itinerary

**Buenos Aires, Bariloche Lake Region,
Patagonia (Los Glaciers National Park, Perito Moreno Glacier, Torres del Paine National Park),
Santiago & Chilean Wine Country
16 days/15 nights (can be adjusted longer or shorter according to preference)**



[Map of South America](#) (interactive links)

[Chile & Argentina Destination Map](#)

TRIP RATING: Easy to Moderate Walking & Cultural Adventure, Grade (II) - This active trip includes lodge-based hikes and outdoor excursions according to interest at lower elevations mostly below 2,500 ft elev. Scenic overland travel is sometimes on dirt roads. Ideal for travelers seeking world-renowned mountain scenery, friendly locals, expert guides, great food and fine hotels!

A personalized guided trip with your own private guide and vehicle/driver in Buenos Aires, Bariloche and Los Glaciers National Park on Argentina side of Patagonia. In Torres del Paine National Park and Chilean wine country, you'll have an all-inclusive stay with daily excursions led by on-site expert guides in small groups with other guests.

INTRODUCTION:

As a gateway and cultural hub of Argentina, **Buenos Aires** is a lively and cosmopolitan capital known for its cultural sites, art galleries, distinct neighborhoods with tree-lined streets, unique tango shows, world-class steak dinners and superb wine.

The **Andean Lake District** around Bariloche is an arrestingly beautiful region of rolling hills and valleys surrounded by snow-glazed peaks and volcanoes. Quaint farms and villages with strong northern European influences are carved out of dense, temperate rainforest, lush with bamboo, rhubarb and fuchsia. Dazzling blue lakes embrace tracts of unspoiled forest, rich river estuaries and flower-strewn alpine meadows, all showcased in some of South America's oldest national parks. Active days are complimented by cozy nights at fine lodges offering luxurious amenities and gourmet meals.

Patagonia . . . the name conjures up images of gauchos riding vast, windswept expanses and recalls the era of the cowboy and westward expansion in the American West. True to this vision, the sparsely populated plains and peaks of southern Argentina & Chile are scattered with enormous *estancias*, or sheep and cattle ranches, and contain some of the Continent's most impressive and dramatic wilderness areas. **Los Glaciers National Park & Torres del Paine National Park**, offer some of the most spectacular hiking and touring destinations in the Western Hemisphere and should be on every outdoor enthusiast's list! The highlight of this rewarding adventure are exciting explorations beneath the park's towering granite walls and icy peaks, considered by many to be South America's best outdoor experience and adventure travel destination.

Santiago is a modern capital with lively neighborhoods home to intellectuals, artists, restaurants, creative boutiques and avant-garde galleries along friendly tree-lined pedestrian streets. Pablo Neruda, Chilean Nobel Prize winning poet, resided here. Local markets display artisan wares and Chile's beautiful semiprecious stone – lapis lazuli. The nearby **Chilean wine region** provides an ideal finale with boutique accommodation and stunning vineyards producing Sauvignon Blanc, Pinot Noir, Syrah and Carmenere.

DATES TOURING / HOTELS / MEALS (B,L,D)

DAY 01	TO ARGENTINA Depart home on an overnight flight to Buenos Aires.	
DAY 02	BUENOS AIRES Arrive in Buenos Aires (EZE airport) this morning. Reception by your private Southwind guide providing a transfer to your hotel centrally located in the upscale Recoleta neighborhood near pedestrian shopping, galleries, city landmarks, the Latin American Art Museum (MALBA) and Puerto Madero redesigned port district. After a chance to rest, join your guide for a private afternoon tour of this cosmopolitan and lively capital. Visit the Casa Rosada (Presidential Palace), Plaza de Mayo (site of 1810 revolution that led to independence) and the outside of the historic Colón Theater among the 5 best acoustic venues in world. Drive through the vibrant San Telmo neighborhood , the city's oldest neighborhood known for its quirky antique shopping and street tango. You'll also see the 9 de Julio Avenue (the widest avenue in the world). Return to the hotel with dinner at your leisure to relax and rest up at the hotel. If you are interested in dining out this evening, our dining guide is a helpful resource and the hotel concierge can help with local reservations. Emperador Hotel Buenos Aires	
DAY 03	BUENOS AIRES Day at leisure in the capital for personal exploring of the charming local pedestrian friendly neighborhoods, galleries and lovely parks. At 6:30pm, transfer to Gala, a top Tango dinner show in the city. The show begins at 10:00pm with dinner prior. Enjoy an optional beginner's tango lesson from 7:30-8:30pm before dinner (in a group setting). The transfer to/from Gala from your hotel is private with a driver, but this is a non-guided activity. Return to the hotel around 11:30pm. (B,D) Emperador Hotel Buenos Aires	

<p>DAY 04</p>	<p>BUENOS AIRES / ANDEAN LAKE DISTRICT - BARIOCHE Leisurely breakfast at the hotel to rest after the previous night's tango show. Private transfer 25 min to the local airport for a mid-day flight from Buenos Aires (AEP domestic airport) to Bariloche. Reception this afternoon by Southwind guide and private vehicle in Bariloche, drive by Nahuel Huapi Lake to the Argentinian resort town of San Carlos de Bariloche. In town, we walk through the main square and sample the famous chocolates or shop for fine wool and locally produced products. Continue to your charming hotel with an idyllic setting on the shore of the lake. The evening is at leisure with dinner on your own to dine in at the hotel. (B) Llao Llao Resort & Spa</p>	
<p>DAY 05</p>	<p>BARILOCHE / NAHUEL HUAPI NATIONAL PARK This morning we drive a short distance through very tall native bamboo to reach lovely López Bay, from this idyllic area we hike about 1 mile following a gentle and scenic trail to view the Brazo Tristeza section of Lake Nahuel Huapi and Cerro Capilla (7,110'). The high rock cliffs of this peak are used by Andean Condors to nest and it is usual to see them soaring along the ridge. Next, enjoy a guided road bike tour along the shores of the crystalline lake follow a winding road through the Nahuel Huapi Park. Pass fields of colorful lavender, whose sweet scent permeates the air. Afterwards, completing our circle ascend by chairlift to the top of Cerro Campanario for a superb panoramic view of Lake Nahuel Huapi (Tiger Island in the Mapuche language) and Lake Moreno. Return to the hotel with time to relax with dinner on your own at your leisure. (B,L) Llao Llao Resort & Spa</p>	
<p>DAY 06</p>	<p>BARILOCHE / EI CALAFATE After breakfast and check-out, meet your guide for a private transfer to the airport with check-in assistance for a mid-day flight from Bariloche to El Calafate (1 hr 45 min). Meet your private guide in Calafate (elev 610') and transfer to the Xelena Hotel, located outside town on the banks of Lago Argentino, the largest lake in the country. Enjoy a walk along the lakeshore to take in the views. For a pleasant dinner on your own this evening, try the delicious cuisine of the Hotel's Mora Restaurant or you can dine out in town along the charming main street. (B,BL) Xelena Hotel & Spa</p>	
<p>DAY 07</p>	<p>PATAGONIA / 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) Xelena Hotel & Spa</p>	

<p>DAY 08</p>	<p>EL CALAFATE / TORRES DEL PAINE (border crossing to Chile) / TIERRA Leaving the hotel early after breakfast, drive by non-guided group transfer from Tierra Lodge through El Calafate and overland across the Patagonian plains to Torres del Paine National Park. Established in 1970 and given World Heritage status in 1978, the park's name (pronounced pie-knee) translates to "blue" in the Mapuche Indian language. The park is a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve and is considered the 8th Wonder in the World. At Cerro Castillo, a small village near the Chilean border, continue the drive enjoying the 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. En route across the plains, look for small herds of guanacos, a wild relative of the llama, also buff-necked ibis, hare, flamingo and rheas. Arrive at Tierra to relax and unwind to start your 5 day/4 night stay.</p> <p>After lunch, settle into your room with views of the Patagonia countryside and granite spires of Paine in the distance. We recommended a self-guided afternoon walk towards Sarmiento Lake from the lodge for wildlife viewing among sweeping vistas or a pool swim. All meals are provided at Tierra. (B,L,D)</p> <p>Driving distance: 230 miles or 5.5 hours, hotel elevation: 650 ft Tierra Patagonia Hotel & Spa</p>	 
<p>DAY 09 DAY 10 DAY 11</p>	<p>PATAGONIA / PAINE PARK / TIERRA Tierra works as an all-inclusive package of services and amenities. Upon arrival, the guide desk helps to fine tune activities for your stay according to your interests, activity level, weather and updates from park authorities about trails and lake conditions. The maximum group size is 8 travelers, along with a bilingual guide.</p> <p>Daily Guided Excursions: You decide how active you want to be choosing from half or full day excursions that help you discover the landscapes and wildlife of this singular wilderness setting, as well as the unique way of life of its human inhabitants, the gauchos.</p> <p>A variety of daily excursions are offered at Tierra Patagonia:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • half/full day hiking and/or biking • glacier viewing • scenic photography voyages by van or modern catamaran • special interest activities such as lake kayaking, fly fishing, indigenous rock art of ancient peoples, birding in search of condors & ancient lake shore geology, can be arranged in advance at extra cost. <p>After a day of exploring, enjoy the comfortable reading and movie lounge or the full service spa with pool, Jacuzzi and massage rooms. There is a boutique displaying regional artisan work and outdoor essentials. All meals at Tierra are included in a relaxed setting in the restaurant with picture windows where you can try gourmet dishes sourced from nearby estancias blending tastes and traditions of Patagonia's heritage such as hearty stews, slow-cooked soups, Chilean sea bass, vegetable medleys and tasty meat dishes for which the region is known. (B,L,D) Tierra Patagonia Hotel & Spa</p>	  
<p>DAY 12</p>	<p>PAINE / PUNTA ARENAS / SANTIAGO Depart Tierra and transfer with other guests 4 hours south to the airport (rest break en route). Fly from Punta Arenas north to Santiago (3 hr 20 min). Meet your private guide in the capital and transfer to your hotel for the night. (B) Ritz-Carlton Hotel or Singular Lastarria Hotel</p> <p>Air note: According to your travel dates, we can monitor for more direct flights from Puerto Natales to Santiago instead of Punta Arenas to reduce drive time.</p>	

DAY 13 SANTIAGO (city touring) / CHILEAN WINE COUNTRY - LAPOSTOLLE

After breakfast, join your guide for **private tour of Santiago** including the central Plaza de la Constitución home to the Casa de la Moneda (Presidential Palace). Walk through the lively Mercado Central, one of Chile's largest fresh seafood markets. Stop at the **pre-Columbian Museum** housing exceptional pieces of indigenous American art from renowned Chilean architect, Sergio Larraín García-Moreno. Exhibits feature the artistic legacy of pre-Columbian peoples from Mesoamerica, the Caribbean, Intermediate (Panama isthmus-Northern South America), Central Andes, Amazonian and Southern Andes. Stroll along the ridge of **San Cristóbal Hill** and Metropolitan Park for an expansive overview of the city and nearby Andean peaks.

At the base of the hill visit the artsy **Bellavista neighborhood** where Pablo Neruda, Chilean Nobel Prize winning poet, once resided. These days colorful streets draw the city's intellectuals and artists - restaurants, creative boutiques and avant-garde galleries occupy the friendly tree-lined walking streets. This is a good spot to look for Chile's beautiful semiprecious stone – lapis lazuli.

After lunch on your own back at the hotel, depart the capital and drive with your tour guide, 2.5 hours into the Colchagua Valley wine region by private vehicle. Begin a 3 day/2 night stay at the Clos Apalta Residence at Lapostolle Vineyards, an exclusive *Relais & Chateaux* wine & art hotel offering only 4 exclusive Casita Suites nestled into the valley's native forested hillside providing serenity and privacy. During your stay you can enjoy local walks, hiking, biking or excursions by vehicle.

Time permitting on arrival, you can enjoy a guided tour and tasting at the Lapostolle Vineyards with a visit to the family's private cellar. The winery's motto is "Chilean by nature, French by Design." This reflects the pairing of Chile's ideal climate and soil with the long winemaking tradition of the Marnier family from France. Considered one of Chile's most renowned wineries, it opened in 1994 by Alexandra Marnier-Lapostolle, a family member behind the famous liquor Grand Marnier. The architecture resembles a sculpture of wine cask fragments. Lapostolle covers three different vineyards and produces well-crafted varietals of Sauvignon Blanc, Chardonnay, Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Carménère and Syrah. (B,D)

Clos Apalta Residence at Lapostolle Vineyards



DAY 14 CHILEAN WINE COUNTRY - LAPOSTOLLE

This morning, join other guests for a guided excursion by mountain bike through the vineyards or a hike in the nearby forest trails with scenic views. Return to the hotel to relax over lunch. This afternoon, visit 2 wineries (the extra visit is offered complimentary by Southwind) along the Colchagua Valley Wine Route. This valley is increasingly found on the label of the finer Chilean reds. The valley is a sub-zone within the larger Rapel Valley (found within the larger Central Valley). [Viu Manent Winery](#) tucked in the green hills has a colonial-era design, here we'll tour the vineyards by a horse-drawn carriage and learn about the rich family heritage and award winning wines. Your 2nd visit could be either [Vina Montes Winery](#) or [Vina Neyen Winery](#). Montes is a modern eco-friendly vineyard owned by Chile's most famous enologist, Aurelio Montes and producing award winning Syrah and blends of Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, Merlot, Petit Verdot and Carmenère. At Neyen, original Bordeaux cuttings date back 120 years. This vineyard is known for its Carmenere and Cabernet Sauvignon and on newer hillsides Syrah and Merlot. By late afternoon, return to Lapostolle to unwind before dinner. (B,L,D)

Clos Apalta Residence at Lapostolle Vineyards



DAY 15	CHILEAN WINE COUNTRY / DEPARTURE This morning is available for leisurely breakfast and a swim to take in the ambiance of the Lapostolle property. After lunch, pick-up by your tour guide and drive through wine country back towards the city. Continue to the airport in Santiago to check-in for your overnight flight . VIP lounges are available in the airport to relax prior to your flight. (B,L)	
DAY 16	HOME Arrive in your gateway city early this morning, clear customs and make onward connection home.	

Meals: B=breakfast; L=lunch; BL=box lunch; D=dinner. If a meal is not indicated, you have flexibility to dine out at your leisure.

NEXT STEP: Please contact Tom Damon to setup a custom planning phone call. With your feedback on the destinations, activities and accommodations in this sample itinerary, Southwind will create a custom proposal tailored to your travel style, goals, dates and budget. Your proposal will provide Land Cost pricing and more details. Accommodations shown in this sample are in the 4-5 star category with superior or preferential rooms with views. Optional upgrades to exclusive top tier hotels can be provided during the planning. Note that space or room types cannot be guaranteed until a design fee or deposit is paid and Southwind receives confirmation. It will help to finalize plans at your soonest convenience for best selection. For high season or holiday dates, we are able to place a complimentary hold with a design fee to help secure space while we fine tune your itinerary.

We look forward to having you travel with us in Argentina & Chile!

For more information please contact your personal Travel Consultant:
 Tom Damon Direct: 720-414-5569 (calls or text) Email: Tom@southwindadventures.com



[Southwind Travel Blog](#) • [Southwind Destinations for Planning Ideas](#)

[Southwind Adventures Homepage](#)
 Your Latin America Travel Specialist since 1990
 Tel: 303-972-0701 or 800-377-9463