



# THE PATAGONIAN ADVENTURE IN CHILE AND ARGENTINA

## 13 days / 12 nights

Patagonia is the region at the southern end of South America shared by Argentina and Chile. On this region you will find Andes Mountains, lakes, fjords and glaciers as well as deserts, tablelands and steppes. The name Patagonia comes from the word patagón. Magellan used this term in 1520 to describe the native tribes of the region, whom his expedition thought to be giants. The people he called the Patagons are now believed to have been the Tehuelche, who tended to be taller than Europeans of the time.

Patagonia is one of the most interesting places in South America and is thought to be kept as natural as possible, therefore, all efforts made to reach this goal, make tourism a bit expensive but worth a visit.

WE will start our visit in Santiago de Chile getting prepared for this amazing adventure. Fly to Punta Arenas, the gate to the Chilean Patagonia and start your journey visiting its glaciers and lakes. The magical spectacle that the Torres del Paine massif offers, has allowed the visitor to understand why this place has been declared by the UNESCO as a Biosphere Reserve. Between the Patagonian steppe and the Cordillera de los Andes this paradise of wildlife and vegetation hide valuable treasures to be discovered and visited. After we learned about the wonders of this area, we will cross the border to Argentina and learn about the villages of El Chalten and El Calafate, in the vicinity of Mount Fitz Roy and the Perito Moreno Glacier to end in Buenos Aires with a wonderful Tango Show. Come with us and **live your adventure** in the Patagonia!

### DAY 1 (Saturday) SANTIAGO

After your international flight, arrival in Santiago from home and reception by your guide at the airport in Santiago. Transfer to your hotel in downtown Santiago. Check-in and free time for private activities until your late afternoon tour begins. Departing from your hotel, the city downtown awaits you. Proceed through the main avenue of the city, Alameda del Libertador General Bernardo O'Higgins, passing by the San Francisco Church, the oldest monument of the country erected in 1568 housing a convent, miraculously withstanding several earthquakes. Start off by visiting the Santa Lucía Hill, where the Spanish conquistador Pedro de Valdivia founded the city on February 12<sup>th</sup>, 1541. After a quick visit to its top, descend to visit the Lastarria Neighborhood, located right below the hill. This recently renovated neighborhood houses little cute cafés, exquisite restaurants and a couple of museums worth visiting (time permitting). From here, you will be taken to the La Moneda Palace, nowadays the neoclassical style government palace, but originally constructed to house the Mint of the Spanish Crown during the 18th century. A few blocks away, walk along Paseo Ahumada until reaching Plaza de Armas (The Main Square). When Pedro de Valdivia founded Santiago in 1541, he laid out this square as the heart of the newly-formed city. This bustling spot houses the oldest buildings of the capital: the Cathedral Church of Santiago, rebuilt in 1748 on the same site where all four previous churches were destroyed by fires and earthquakes, the Central Post Office and the National Historical Museum, the former "Real Audiencia" or Spanish Royal Court. A little further, cross the Mapocho River and head straight towards the Bellavista Neighbourhood, a lively place, core of the night and artistic life, where pubs, cultural centers and international gastronomy can be found. Return to your hotel in Santiago. Overnight.

### PRICE PER PERSON IN DOUBLE OCCUPANCY

**USD 3.752.-**

**Surplus single occupancy  
USD 897.-**

### SET DEPARTURES 2023

19 Agosto	09 September
23 September	07 October
21 October	04 November
18 November	09 December

### INCLUDED SERVICES

- ✓ SIB (Sit-in-basis) for transfers, sightseeing tours and connections
- ✓ 12 nights in selected hotels including
- ✓ 12 breakfasts, 8 lunches, 4 dinners including
  - 1 dinner and tango show in Buenos Aires
  - 1 Fiesta Gaucha with lunch in Santa Susana
- ✓ Boat ride and hiking in glaciers
- ✓ All excursions and transfers mentioned in the program
- ✓ Local english-speaking tour guide in all excursions and transfers
- ✓ Travel money security certificate

### NOT INCLUDED

- International and domestic flights.
- Local airport taxes
- Tips for guides, drivers and porters
- Services or excursions not mentioned in the programm as included
- Insurance
- Drinks and personal expenses





### DAY 2 (Sunday) SANTIAGO – COLCHAGUA - SANTIAGO

After breakfast, we depart from your hotel in Santiago to the Colchagua Valley. The simple beauty of this peaceful town reflects the countryside lifestyle. The Colchagua Valley is known for being one of the most fertile wine-producing valleys, particularly for the quality of its red varietals. We will take you to visit a family owned vineyard, Viu Manent. The old house, where the cafeteria and the restaurant are located, is an elegant property to relax and enjoy a simple coffee or a more sophisticated meal. A horse-drawn carriage takes you through the vineyard as part of the tour, before finishing with a wine tasting.

Continue the tour toward the Santa Cruz winery. Here we will be able to walk around the winery and taste the Chamán wine. The tour begins visiting one of these wineries, learning about the wine making process and production, visiting its cellars, and finally tasting wines to be acquainted with the final product. Next, we will ascent the hill by cable car to visit the indigenous villages, where the constructions typical of three native cultures have been represented: Mapuche, Rapa Nui and Quechua. After that, we will be transferred back to the hotel. Enjoy lunch outdoors Barbeque style. Finally, we will visit the Colchagua Museum, the most complete private museum in Chile that owns an interesting collection of insects trapped in amber, and pre-Columbian items. Conclude your day with transfer to Santiago. Rest of the evening at leisure. Accommodation at Hotel Pullman El Bosque - Standard Room **(B) (L)**

### DAY 3 (Monday) SANTIAGO - VIÑA DEL MAR - VALPARAÍSO - SANTIAGO

After breakfast at the hotel begins your one hour and forty-five-minute journey on Route 68 from your hotel in Santiago heading towards the coast to the beautiful city of Viña del Mar, also known as the Garden City, for a visit of its main streets and avenues, museums, and its large homes and palaces. Later head along the coast towards Reñaca, one of Chile’s most famous beach towns to enjoy a bit of sunshine and nature! Head around the bay to Valparaíso and set off by discovering this busy port city with its charming hills. Pass by Chile’s parliament building as well as other examples of the historical architecture that makes Valparaíso a World Heritage Site since 2003. Once in Valparaíso, start off with a visit to La Sebastiana, one of Pablo Neruda’s three homes in Chile, now a Museum. Your next stop is the “cerros” or hills of the city to the San Luis square. Come across Cerro Concepción and discover it on foot with its Anglican and Lutheran churches, and the Paseo Atkinson alleyway with its famous Brighton Restaurant. Walk over to Paseo Gervasoni where the famous Café Turri and the house of the cartoonist Lukas are located. Cross over to Cerro Alegre where the Paseo Yugoslavo and Baburitza Palace, once home to a Croatian immigrant and now the recently renovated Fine Arts museum of Valparaíso, are situated. From here descend on the “El Peral” lift to encounter the Plaza Sotomayor. This is where the Monument to the Fallen Heroes of Iquique is emplaced. Lunch served at local Restaurant. After a day of intense exploring, return to your hotel in Santiago. Accommodation at Hotel Pullman El Bosque - Standard Room **(B) (L)**

### DAY 4 (Tuesday) SANTIAGO – PUNTA ARENAS – PUERTO NATALES

Breakfast at the hotel. On-time transfer to the airport for your flight from Santiago to Punta Arenas. Upon arrival, overland transfer to Puerto Natales (approximately 3 hours). Lunch on the way at a local restaurant. Arrival at our Hotel and registration. After a short break, we will start exploring the grandeur of the Torres del Paine National Park and its main attractions Amarga Lagoon and Salto Grande. Conclude tour back to the hotel in Puerto Natales. Accommodation at Hotel Costaustralis or similar **(B) (L)**



#### **DAY 5 (Wednesday) PUERTO NATALES** Full day excursion hiking to the French Valley

Breakfast at the hotel. Depart from your hotel in Puerto Natales towards the Torres del Paine National Park, with a stop at the Salto Grande waterfall. We will cross Lake Pehoe by catamaran. Next, we start our hike to the French Valley. In the middle of a wooded landscape and overlooking the spectacular Glaciers, we will access the Italian Camp, from which we will continue the excursion for some additional kilometers. On the return journey we will notice the extraordinary turquoise color of Lake Pehoe (hidden lake in the native Tehuelche Indian language). The total hike lasts between 6 to 8 hours depending on how far into the valley we will hike covering a total distance of 24 km (15 miles). We return the same way by crossing Lake Pehoe by catamaran. Return to Puerto Natales. **(B)**

#### **DAY 6 (Thursday) PUERTO NATALES - TORRES DEL PAINE NATIONAL PARK – EL CHALTEN**

Breakfast at the hotel. In the morning, we will get to the breathtaking Mirador del Toro. We continue our journey in the Torres del Paine National Park. There we go to the Grey Area, from where it is possible to see the beautiful beach of Playa Grey. There we will find icebergs separated from the glacier. Lunch on the way at a local restaurant. To end our trip in the Chilean Patagonia, we go through a short trek to the Mirador North-Joldt (observation point). Continue per bus to the border between Argentina and Chile. After the migration formalities and passport control, overland drive to El Chaltén (Argentina) to our Hotel. Dinner and overnight at the Hotel in El Chaltén. **(B) (L) (D)**

#### **DAY 7 (Friday) EL CHALTEN**

After breakfast at the hotel, we will start our trekking adventure, following upstream the Diablo River, in a 2-hour walk through a lush lenga forest on a well-maintained trail, which will give us access to the Laguna del Diablo (770 meters above sea level). After a short rest, we will continue with our trekking skirting the northern bank of Laguna del Diablo through easy but irregular terrain until we reach the beginning of a via ferrata (a low-difficulty rock-climbing sector). The total route of this section is 1 km, with 200 meters of unevenness. Approximately one hour will take us to reach the glacier's viewpoint. From there, we will be able to observe the unexplored Cagliero South Glacier (950 meters above sea level). From the viewpoint, a short walk takes us to the front of the glacier where the guides will distribute the crampons to the hikers' boots, to begin the walk and trekking on the glacier. The average stay on the glacier will be approximately 2 hours, depending on the weather conditions and the physical level of the group. The return will be done by the same way of going with arrival again to the information center. Then, transfer to El Chaltén to the hotel around 6.30 p.m. Overnight. **(B)**

#### **DAY 8 (Saturday) EL CHALTEN**

Breakfast at the hotel. We leave El Chaltén and travel by bus the 36 km that separate us from Lago del Desierto along a beautiful panoramic road with permanent images, among forests and bordering the Río de las Vueltas. Then, from the Punta Sur dock we sail for about 30 minutes watching the Huemul and Crestón glaciers to disembark in the Vespignani Glacier sector, which is in the middle of the lake. Once there, we will start the trekking part, always under the supervision of a person in charge of the activity for your safety. You may choose to walk one of the perfectly marked trails in the Vespignani Glacier Reserve, depending on the difficulty and effort you wish to make. The most demanding trail will take us about 45 minutes at a slow pace to overcome 150 meters of unevenness and access the foot of the Vespignani glacier, plus an incredible view of the north face of Mount Fitz Roy. As a second option, the intermediate trail takes us with a slight and constant slope in only 15 minutes to an outstanding panoramic point overlooking the Glacier. After a farewell snack, we embark again to arrive at the Punta Sur pier. From there the bus takes us to El Chaltén. Arrival in our Hotel. Overnight. **(B) (L)**





#### **DAY 9 (Sunday) EL CHALTÉN - EL CALAFATE**

Breakfast at the hotel. Departure to El Calafate to our hotel. Arrival and registration. The day is at leisure. You can do a little walk in the vicinity of the hotel or enjoy the hotel facilities.

Overnight. **(B) (L) (D)**

#### **DAY 10 (Monday) EL CALAFATE - PERITO MORENO GLACIER - EL CALAFATE**

Today you will take a trip to the Perito Moreno Glacier. The trip begins at the hotel and takes us to the National Park "Los Glaciares". After a journey time of 1.5 hours, you are only 80 km to the Perito Moreno Glacier. About 1 kilometer from the panoramic point of the glacier, begins a path that will bring us along to the "iceberg channel" to our goal. From there we start a walk that lead us to the panoramic terraces of the National Park. You will have about 3 hours free time to enjoy the spectacle. Back at the hotel in El Calafate (4,5\*\*\*\*). **(B) (L) (D)**

#### **DAY 11 (Tuesday) EL CALAFATE - BUENOS AIRES**

After breakfast, early transfer to the airport for your flight to Buenos Aires. Once at the airport, our partner will be waiting for you, transfer from the airport to the hotel and room distribution. In the afternoon, discover the city of Buenos Aires. Visit the centre with the stunning National Congress and Mayo Square (Plaza de Mayo) surrounded by the Government House (Casa Rosada), the Metropolitan Cathedral and the old town hall from the colonial period (Cabildo). Visit the Colon Theatre, one of the most prestigious opera houses in the world and the cultural pride of the "porteños" (natives of Buenos Aires). Proceed through the traditional "Barrio San Telmo" (district of San Telmo) where the magical atmosphere of the neighbourhood brings us back in time (on Sunday you can also visit the flea market). Stop in La Boca, home to the first Italian immigrants and famous for its picturesque and colourful architecture. Then, the tour continues through the residential area of Palermo and its parks. We will visit La Recoleta, the most exclusive area of the city with its famous market where the remains of Evita are buried, elegant boutiques, gourmet restaurants and sidewalk cafes under rubber trees (*Ficus elastica*). At night, we eat in a typical restaurant in town with a whole tango show. Overnight **(B) (D)**

#### **DAY 12 (Wednesday) BUENOS AIRES Fiesta Gaucha Santa Susana**

Breakfast at the hotel. Our Tour to Estancia Santa Susana begins at the hotel. Together with our guide, we'll leave the City to Los Cardales (Buenos Aires) enjoying an amazing landscape and pleasant journey where we will visit the Argentina's pampas. Then, we will be greeted with a welcome reception where they serve a typical traditional "meat pies", Argentinian wine and soft drinks. Our guide will take you to meet some of the Santa Susana's attractions such as the traditional museum and its beautiful church. Later, you can enjoy a horse carriage ride to explore the land of the ranch. After the tour of the ranch, Santa Susana offers a delicious barbecue. Lunch includes a starter of Chorizos -Morcillas, a main course with Loin, Chorizo steak, Chicken and garnish salad. Drinks are also included, and you can taste argentinian red or white wine or have soft drinks as well as water. At the end of the meal, you can taste the local coffee. During lunch, you will have fun with a tango and folklore's sight where everyone is invited to dance. We can see an exciting "boleadoras" show where traditional weapons are thrown by gauchos. After lunch, we will start the real entertainment while gauchos show their amazing abilities. They will do a "ring race" (known as "carrera de anillas"), a "cuadreras race" that is a typical gaucho competition and finally they will graze animals. To end this traditional experience, the "mate" (yerba mate soaked in hot water), a typical Argentinian drink will be served in the afternoon as well as pastries. The tour ends with drop off at your hotel. **(B) (L)**

#### **DAY 13 (Thursday) BUENOS AIRES**

Breakfast at the hotel. Day at leisure for private activities, last shopping, relaxing at the hotel, a walk in the city. Early transfer to the airport for your flight back home. End of our services **(B)**