



Excelsior Travel & Tours

1-888-777-4481

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South America A La Carte | Argentina & Chile



Destination: Buenos Aires, Ushuaia, El Calafate, Puerto Natales, Puerto Varas & Bariloche

Duration: 15 Days / 14 Nights

Detailed Itinerary:

Day 1

Arrival in Buenos Aires: Half day city tour (-)

Upon arrival, our collaborators offer a welcoming reception and will transfer you to the hotel. A documentation kit, detailed program explanation plus luggage and hotel registration assistance is offered. In the afternoon, get acquainted with Buenos Aires during this tour highlighting the city's major neighbourhoods and attractions. Among the points of interest you will see are Main Square Plaza de Mayo surrounded by the Casa Rosada (Presidential Headquarters Office), the Cabildo (Colonial Town Hall) and the Cathedral. You will also drive through the charming streets of San Telmo and down the colorful roads of La Boca, famous for its multicolor tin houses. Later, drive through elegant Barrio Norte on your way to the Recoleta Cemetery, an amazing aboveground cemetery lined with mausoleums and statues. Finally, visit Palermo and its magnificent mansions and parks.

Overnight in Buenos Aires.



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Day 2

Ushuaia: Half Day Tierra del Fuego National Park (B)

At schedule time, transfer to the airport to take your flight to Ushuaia. Upon arrival, reception and transfer to your hotel. We will visit Tierra del Fuego National Park, this is a half day excursion to the only national protected area of the island. The park is located 12 km to the west of Ushuaia City, near the international limit with Chile. Within the park, you will appreciate the local flora composed by beech trees and different kinds of bushes and flowers. Fauna is represented by natives and introduced animals, such as reddish foxes, beavers, rabbits and many species of birds (more than 90). Ensenada Bay, Roca Lake and Lapataia bay are the touristic places that we visit, including some short walks near the lake, beaver dams and Lapataia Bay. At the end of the national park, we reach the finish of the national route N° 3, located 3063 km far from Buenos Aires. After 4 hours of excursion we return to Ushuaia.

Overnight in Ushuaia.

Day 3

Free day (B)

Day at leisure for personal activities.

Overnight in Ushuaia.

Optional

Half Day Beagle Channel Navigation - Sea Lion's Island – Duration: 2,5 hs aprox

We will set off from the tourist port, sailing along the Ushuaia Bay and the Beagle Channel, where we will see the southernmost city of the world, surrounded by an exclusive landscape, the combination of mountains, forest and the sea. We will observe the Montes Olivia and Cinco Hermanos (Olivia and Five Brothers), Estancias Fique and Tunel (Tunnel and Fique Ranch). Continuing with our trip, we will arrive at the Faro Les Eclaireurs (Les Eclaireurs Lighthouse). There, we will see a small colony of Rocky or Magallanic Cormorants. Sailing back, we will get closer to the Isla de los Lobos (Sea Lion's Island) just to enjoy these curious and really nice marine mammals and the Isla Despard (Despard Island), the natural habitat of the Imperial Cormorants. During the trip, we will enjoy big diversity of marine birds, such as the southern giant Petrels, black-browed albatross, Southern American terns, gulls, and little seagulls. Sailing between the Bridges Archipelago and through the Paso Chico, we will go back to the City Ushuaia. Once back and getting closer to the Ushuaia Bay, admire the impressive frame offered by the Ushuaia City.



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Day 4

El Calafate (B)

At schedule time, transfer to the airport to take your flight to El Calafate. Upon arrival, reception and transfer to your hotel.

Overnight in El Calafate.

Day 5

Full day excursion to Perito Moreno Glacier (B)

We leave Calafate, heading towards Perito Moreno Glacier. It is an 80 km long bus ride, making stops along the way to take pictures. All the way a guide from “Los Glaciares” National Park will be with us, giving us all the information about the surrounding area, the history and mysticism of this unique glacier. After entering the Andean Patagonian forest area, we’ll stop at “Curva de los Suspiros” (Sighs Curve), to enjoy the first panoramic view of the Perito Moreno Glacier, continuing our way to the platforms and balconies in front of the glacier, having free time to visit them on our own. Return to Calafate.

Overnight in El Calafate.

Day 6

Free day (B)

Day at leisure for personal activities.

Overnight in El Calafate.

Optional

Full Day Upsala & Onelli Glaciers Navigation - “TODO GLACIARES” – Duration: 7,5 hours aprox

We navigate along Northern Channel of the Argentino Lake, departing from Punta Bandera port, 50 km away from Calafate. We navigate among huge icebergs, resulting from the constant calving of Upsala Glacier, until we reach its front. Afterwards we disembark at Onelli Bay for an 800 mts walk, through a “lengas” woods reaching Onelli Lake, where three glaciers join: Onelli, Bolados and Agassiz, flowing down from the Andes Range. After staying there for about two hours, we continue our navigation along Spegazzini and Heim Sur channels, reaching the glaciers of the same name. We



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arrive at Punta Bandera Port at about 7:30 pm, continuing with the bus to Calafate. The ships have a bar service on board (not included). Lunch available at Onelli Restaurant in Onelli Bay (optional, not included).

Day 7

Puerto Natales (B)

At schedule time transfer to the bus station to take your bus to Puerto Natales. Upon arrival, reception and transfer to the hotel.

Overnight in Puerto Natales.

Day 8

Free day (B)

Day at leisure for personal activities.

Overnight in Puerto Natales.

Optional

Full Day Navigation To Balmaceda & Serrano Glaciers

Departure from Puerto Natales Getting deep into Ultima Esperanza Sound we shall see a spectacular scenery of bays, mountains and waterfalls along with a great variety of birds like the condor and the cormorants in their nests. We should also enjoy watching the small young sea wolves in their colonies depending of the season. Once in the base of the Balmaceda Mountain we will disembark into the Bernardo O'Higgins National Park to start a short walk to the shore of a quiet and small lake which keep in its waters ices with romantic and fantastic shapes in the very feet of Serrano Glacier, which hangs from the high summits of the mountain. After an hour there, we head back to the Estancia Perales for lunch and visit. Sail back to Puerto Natales, keeping unforgettable images and a feeling of calm and peace. Arrival to Puerto Natales around 17:30.



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Day 9

Full day Torres del Paine National Park (B/BL)

The National Park Torres del Paine is an absolute must when visiting Patagonia. You will see the most important spots of the Park. We will make a stop at the Milodon Cave. We also visit the Amarga lagoon which was studied for its chemical, biological and physical features. You can enjoy the beautiful panoramic views of the Paine mountain range and you may be lucky and see some red foxes and condors. You will admire the Nordenskjold and Pehoé lakes and we will go on a short hike to the Salto Grande waterfall. We will walk along the stunning area of the glaciers, where you will see ice floes of the Grey Glacier walking through forests of lengas. We will be back in Puerto Natales around 20:00. Please take with you a rain jacket, sunglasses and comfortable shoes, because the trip includes some short hikes through the forests and the breathtaking territory of the Torres del Paine National Park.

Overnight in Puerto Natales.

Day 10

Puerto Varas: Half day Puerto Montt & Puerto Varas (B)

At schedule time transfer to Punta Arenas airport to take your flight to Puerto Montt. Upon arrival, meet and transfer to your hotel. Half day excursion in the afternoon, we depart from our hotel and drive to the viewpoint of Puerto Montt from where we enjoy a wonderful view of the bay and the volcanoes Osorno and Calbuco. After that we visit the city centre, the main square (plaza de armas) and the cathedral. We continue towards the harbor Angelmó. This part of the city was and still is the centre of commercial activity. Constantly boats that ship products from various islands arrive at this port. The old port down the coastal road is now a tourist attraction: here we find a market on which handicrafts of the area are sold.

Overnight in Varas.

Day 11

Full day Andean Lake Crossing (B)

Departure from Puerto Varas to Petrohué, bordering lake Llanquihue with a fantastic view of Osorno and Calbuco volcanoes. Visit to Vicente Pérez Rosales National Park which features Petrohué Falls. Arrival at Petrohué. Free time to stroll around. Departure to Peulla, sailing through Todos Los Santos Lake enjoying an even more spectacular view of Osorno volcano, Puntagudo and Tronador hills. Arrival at Peulla, ecological town, paradise of nature lovers. Optional lunch. Departure by bus to Puerto Frías, Chilean Customs Point, Cross the Andes Mountain range at approx. 976 meters



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above sea level and continue down the winding road that leads to Puerto Frías. Cruise on Lake Frías to Puerto Alegre. Arrival at Puerto Blest. Departure from Puerto Blest on the last cruise to Puerto Pañuelo. Upon arrival, board the bus that will take you on the last stretch to Bariloche, Argentina, a city that beckons tourist all-year round with its wide variety of ski resorts, shops, hotels, restaurants and entertaining nightlife. Arrival at Bariloche. Transfer from Puerto Pañuelo to hotel in Bariloche (without guide). From Puerto Pañuelo you will be taken to the center of the city. You will observe the beautiful Swiss architecture typical of Bariloche. This city, gifted with a matchless natural environment, offers various attractions which satisfy thousands of tourists who visit the area all through the year, thus deserving the title of capital of the Lake District in Southern Argentina. Its traditional chocolate shops, first-class hotels, museums and various restaurants that serve gastronomic delicacies are typical of the civic center.

Overnight in Bariloche.

Day 12

Bariloche: Free day (B)

Day at leisure for personal activities.

Overnight in Bariloche

Optional

Half Day Small Circuit in Bariloche

This is the traditional local tour in Bariloche. In around four hours, visitors will get a general overview of the surrounding area along this 60 Km (40 mi.) partial loop excursion, all on a paved road.

This outing heads westward from Bariloche on the highway to Llao-Llao along the southern shore of the Nahuel Huapi Lake. The first couple of miles has a residential area on the left called Melipal, which in the local Indian language means four stars, hence the Southern Cross neighborhood. At Km 8 the road passes Playa Bonita, a small harbor and beach which is much used in summer. Cerro Campanario, the Belltower Hill is at Km 18 (mile 12), where the bus may stop on the outward leg or when returning. The view from the top of this hill, reached after a seven minute chairlift ride, is the highlight of the trip. All the surrounding mountains, most of the 60 miles of the Nahuel huapi Lake, the LlaoLlao Hotel and some smaller lakes are all in sight. The Catedral Ski Village, at the base of the ski slopes and part of the city of Bariloche, as well as the Airport out on the steppe, are encompassed from this spectacular 360 degree look-out.

The tour continues toward St Eduard's chapel to Llao Llao Hotel. It is after passing the hotel's golf course, at the 100 inch yearly rainfall boundary that the Valdivian Rain Forest begins. This is a temperate rainforest, with vines canes and lush vegetation. The rainfall increases to almost 140 inches of year rainfall at the border with Chile, only twelve miles away.



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The tour now continues through this thick beech forest surrounding the western Moreno Lake passing by the base of Lopez Mountain, a sheer 12.000 ft. race of rock, the shear face of the Lopez fault.

There will be a short stop further along the road for a breathtaking view high above the Moreno Lake on the LlaoLlao Hotel, the Puerto Pañuelo Harbor, Victoria Island and smaller islands on the lake. Now on the return trip, the road crosses the bridge between the Moreno lakes and then joins the main road back to Bariloche.

Day 13

Buenos Aires (B)

At schedule time transfer to the airport to take your flight to Buenos Aires. Upon arrival, reception and transfer to your hotel.

Overnight in Buenos Aires.

Day 14

Free day (B)

Day at leisure for personal activities.

Overnight in Buenos Aires.

Optional

Full Day Gaucha at tourist ranch

This is a visit to a typical "estancia" of the Argentine wet pampas, one of the most fertile natural prairies of the world and famous for its meat and cereal production. The guest will be received with "empanadas", "asado", good Argentine wines, and will be able to enjoy folkloric songs, dances and show of Creole. Enjoy the flavour of our "pampas" at a touristy ranch located 110 km away from down-town Buenos Aires. You will be welcomed with meat pies (typical "empanadas"), a glass of wine or juices by the owners and served an argentine B.B.Q. After lunch, a folkloric Gaucho's Show will be performed and you will have the possibility of appreciating the typical "Ring Race" (Carrera de Sortijas) or ride on horseback.



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Day 15

International departure flight (B)

At schedule time transfer to the airport to take your international departure flight.

End of our Services

*It's also possible to combine this program with a 3 nights stay at Luxury Patagonia Camp in Torres del Paine National Park. Please contact us for more information.