

Explore Patagonia Argentina Chile



Buenos Aires – Bariloche – cross the Andes – Chilean Lake District – Torres del Paine – Perito Moreno glacier – lovely small hotels – tailor made to suit you – private guiding and independent exploration

See the wonderful variety of Patagonia's landscapes and wildlife from both sides of the Andes.

Combine guided day trips with independent exploration for the best of both worlds.

Cross the Andes by boat through some of the world's most beautiful scenery.

Explore Torres del Paine National Park from your comfortable lodge base.

This is a Pura *handpicked* holiday with an activity rating of *medium* and a comfort rating *first*.



The Perito Moreno Glacier in southern Argentina.



"We had our best holiday ever, and from us that is some accolade!" Linda M.

Holiday Itinerary

Day 01 | Buenos Aires | **travel to Argentina**

Fly to Argentina's capital, Buenos Aires.

Please note: international flights are quoted separately.

On arrival you are collected by your guide and taken to your charming small hotel in the Las Canitas area.

Despite being close to the centre of the city, this *barrio* is quiet, leafy and green with lots of pavement cafes.

Stroll to one of the restaurants nearby for supper.

Day 02 | Buenos Aires | **explore the capital**

Spend this morning in the company of your own private guide who can take you on and off the beaten track in this lively and beautiful city.



Get under the skin of Buenos Aires with your local guide.

You will have a car at your disposal, but we recommend getting out and walking for some of the tour.

Rather than follow a specific route, you basically just let them know what sorts of things you like to see and they can take you.

It could be that you want to see the main sites, or you might want to stroll amongst the small local boutiques of Palermo or the lovely buildings of Recoleta.

This afternoon you might like to explore the enormous and rather lovely Recoleta cemetery. (b)

Day 03 | Buenos Aires | **day at leisure**

Spend today exploring the city at your own pace. (b)

Day 04 | Bariloche | **to the Lakes**

Transfer to the airport for your flight to Bariloche, in the shadow of the Andes.

On arrival you collect your hire car and drive the 20km or so to your friendly small hotel in a stunning setting to the north of the town of Bariloche.

Stay in a peaceful and remote spot, perfect for relaxation or walking.

The hotel serves very good food so settle in over supper. (b)

Day 05 | Bariloche | **day to explore**

Spend today relaxing and taking advantage of the your hotel's beautiful location.

To book or for more information call us on **01273 676 712**

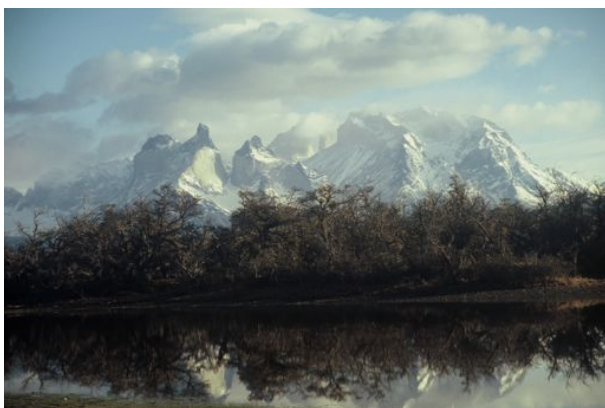
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Explore Patagonia Argentina Chile



Views across the Chilean countryside towards Osorno Volcano



Views across the lakes to the Paine massif



Looking across to the Cuernos of Torres del Paine National Park

Your hotel is close to the mountains at Cerro Catedral and Cerro Otto for walking.

The friendly staff at your hotel will be able to advise you on this and any other activities in the area. (b)

Day 06 | Bariloche | **day to explore**

Today you enjoy a full day guided hike to the edge of Mount.Catedral. The walk is a five hour route graded as medium difficult.

We can adjust the walking route to suit your desired level of exertion.

This hike is an opportunity to really appreciate the stunning Andean landscapes.

Walk for approximately two hours at an altitude of 2,000m for exceptional views of both sides of the mountain.

Walk to the refuge on the shores of the Toncek lagoon which is surrounded by granite spires which attract climbers from around the world.

The descent is via two beautiful lagoons: Schmolli and Toncek and then through forests to the start point. (b)

Day 07 | Puerto Varas | **cross the Andes**

Today's journey takes you right across the Andes mountains to Chile.

Cut through a high pass which is dominated by snow capped volcanoes and beautiful turquoise lakes. The journey takes around 13 hours in total.

Set off on the longest boat trip of the day as you cross Lago Nahuel Huapi to dry land at Puerto Blest.

Here you catch a bus for a short journey to Lago Frias. From here it is a bus ride across the Chilean border.

At Puella you board another boat to take you along Lago Todos los Santos, often referred to as the most beautiful lake in the world.

On arrival at Petrohue you drive along the shores of Lake Llanquihue in the shadow of Osorno Volcano to the lakeside town of Puerto Varas.

Stay in a lovely hotel in the centre of the village. (b)

Day 08 | Puerto Varas | **explore Chile**

Today is yours to relax and enjoy as you wish.

Your hosts at the hotel are very friendly and helpful should you want to arrange a trip to walk in the Vicente Perez Rosales National Park nearby.

There are a number of short trails you can hike in this park at the base of the Osorno Volcano.

Be warned that in February horse flies can be a problem in the forests. (b)

Day 09 | Torres del Paine | **to Patagonia**

This is a long though beautiful travel day.

Fly south along the spectacular spine of the Andes, over the massive Patagonian ice fields.

When you arrive meet your lodge based guide.

The four-hour drive across the open plains of Patagonia takes you into the stunning Torres del Paine National Park, the jewel of Patagonia. The park is unique in being home to all off the different landscapes of Patagonia in one small area.

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Explore Patagonia Argentina Chile



Watching the surface of Glacier Grey in Chilean Patagonia.



Looking out from Valle Frances in Torres del Paine



Admire the spectacular views at Perito Moreno

Spend the next four nights in the park exploring everything from the glaciers to the lakes, mountains, rivers and grasslands.

Choose what to do from a daily menu of guided excursions of varying degrees of activity from vehicle based trips to horse riding.

Also included are all meals, drinks and rooms with views of the Paine massif. (b,d)

Day 10 | Torres del Paine | explore Paine

Choose your included excursion with the help of the lodge's own guides.

Here we describe some of the options for you to get a sense of the sort of activities available.

Travel by comfortable van to explore the southern side of the park including the Paine waterfalls and Laguna Azul from where you have beautiful views over the mountains. (b,l,d)

Day 11 | Torres del Paine | explore Paine

Cross the lake by boat to walk to the viewpoint of Glacier Grey.

The walk takes a couple of hours in each direction but is taken at a relaxed pace.

Enjoy a picnic lunch with views of Glacier Grey before going back to your hotel for a pre-dinner drink. (b,l,d)

Day 12 | Torres del Paine | explore Paine

Early start to hike up to the distinctive mile-high granite towers. The day starts off on an undulating path leading through a pretty beech forest.

Once you emerge from the forest you find yourself at the foot of the glacial moraine beneath the towers.

It is a steep walk to get through this maze of huge boulders but you emerge on the edge of a small lake at the base of the towers. Walk 16km, 7hrs, ▲900m, ▼900m. (b,l,d)

Day 13 | Calafate | travel to Argentina

Transfer from Torres del Paine to the Argentine town of Calafate as you cross back over from Chile into Argentina.

On arrival early this afternoon you are met and taken to your very comfortable hotel in town. (b)

Day 14 | Calafate | visit Perito Moreno

Spend today visiting the Perito Moreno Glacier.

Travel around the southern bank of Lago Argentino, into the Los Glaciares National Park.

Catch a catamaran for an hour's sailing to the south wall of glacier, to get close and see the sheer size of Perito Moreno from water level.

Once back on land, continue the short distance to the glacier, where you will have a few hours to walk the extensive walkways and enjoy your picnic lunch with a view. Return to Calafate in the early afternoon. (b,l)

Day 15 | Buenos Aires | fly north

Transfer back to the airport for your flight back north to Buenos Aires and your last night in South America.

Stay in a comfortable small hotel in the city. (b)

Day 16 | flight | travel home

Free morning to explore the city before flying home (flight times may vary).

Please note: international flights are quoted separately for this holiday. (b)

Day 17 | home | arrive back

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Explore Patagonia Argentina Chile



Pura Handpicked

This holiday is delivered by our partners on the ground in Argentina and Chile.

This itinerary is exclusive to Pura and has been designed to show the amazing variety of Patagonia from both sides of the Andes.

We have chosen small, locally owned and run properties which are closely integrated with their communities.

How long?

16 days but can be tailored in any way.

How active?

By and large, on this holiday, you can be as active as you want. The trip in the form it takes above is suited to people who enjoy the great outdoors at a fairly relaxed pace.

You have a choice of included tours, some active, some less so, in Torres del Paine.

In Bariloche area you have a full day private guided walk which can be as strenuous as you wish.

In Calafate you have a relaxed day trip to the Perito Moreno glacier.

How comfortable?

Stay in very comfortable first class hotels throughout this holiday.

Sample hotels:

248 Finisterra, Buenos Aires

Casa los Juncos, Bariloche

Hotel Arrebol, Puerto Varas

Hotel Rio Serrano, Torres del Paine

How independent?

Private guided excursions in Buenos Aires, Bariloche and Calafate. Car hire in Bariloche gives you freedom to explore at your own pace.

Lodge based guides in Torres del Paine.

When should I go?

The best time of year to visit Patagonia is October to April. You are likely to experience cold evenings and mornings but mild daytime temperatures.

The proximity of the Andes mean that it quickly gets cold at night. Be prepared for rainfall.

Not based in the UK?

We are very happy to discuss your requirements if you are not travelling to and from the UK.

Please call us on **+44 1273 676712** between 9am and 6.30pm weekdays.

Not quite right?

If this holiday's not quite right for you, call us to discuss your ideas or consider:

Walk Patagonia: Argentina Chile. A holiday following much the same route as above but including a small group W walk in Torres del Paine.

Walk Chile: Atacama Patagonia. A walking holiday in Chile's spectacular extremes.

Wildlife Argentina: Patagonia Self Drive. Wildlife self drive holiday to Argentine Patagonia.

How responsible?

Pura Aventura is passionate about the places it visits. To preserve the integrity of these destinations we:

- Work directly with local businesses & organisations. We use small, locally owned hotels and restaurants.
- Work with local guides so that our holidays are more interesting for clients and more beneficial locally.
- Make payment to suppliers before our clients arrive.

In both Argentina you will stay in a series of family run hotels directly benefiting the communities you visit.

Your visit directly benefits the preservation of the local environment.

Prices & Departures

2011	Daily, year round £3,636pp guide price
Flights	Transatlantic flights are quoted separately. We can arrange these for you or you can arrange your own. Guide price £650 - £850 depending on season.
Prices include	All accommodation; Flights within South America; Entrances, guiding, excursions and activities as above; Meals (b,l,d) as listed; Transport and transfers as listed.
Not included	Transatlantic flights; personal expenses; tips.
Please note	Whilst we keep this itinerary as up to date as possible, the definitive list of our departure dates & prices can be found at www.pura-aventura.com/departures

Prices are per person based on two sharing

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