

Walk Patagonia Argentina Chile



vibrant Buenos Aires – beautiful Bariloche – cross the Andes – Chilean Lake District – Torres del Paine – fully portaged 'W' hike Perito Moreno Glacier - expert local guides – lovely small hotels

A wonderfully varied tailor made holiday showing you Patagonia from both sides of the Andes.

Travel at your own pace for much of the holiday with private services in Buenos Aires, the Lake District and Calafate.

Join a Pura Aventura group for the portaged hike across Torres del Paine.

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

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



The Serrano River with the Paine massif in the background.



" we remember vividly our time in Patagonia, which was made all the more enjoyable by your local knowledge, enthusiasm and inexhaustible patience, especially in coaxing us up to see the cloud-covered Torres! Thanks once again.!" Jean A.

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.

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 | **explore the city**

Transfer to the airport for your flight to Bariloche, in the shadow of the Andes. On arrival you are collected and taken to your stylish small hotel overlooking the lake and mountains.

The hotel is about 20km out of the town of Bariloche so you are staying in a peaceful and quite remote spot.

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

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

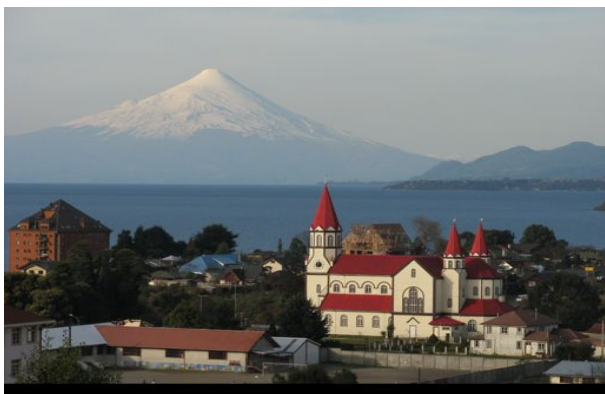
Spend today relaxing and taking advantage of the your hotel's beautiful location.

Questions? Ready to book? Call us on **01273 676 712**

info@pura-aventura.com | www.pura-aventura.com | Pura Aventura, 18 Bond Street, Brighton, BN1 1RD. UK.



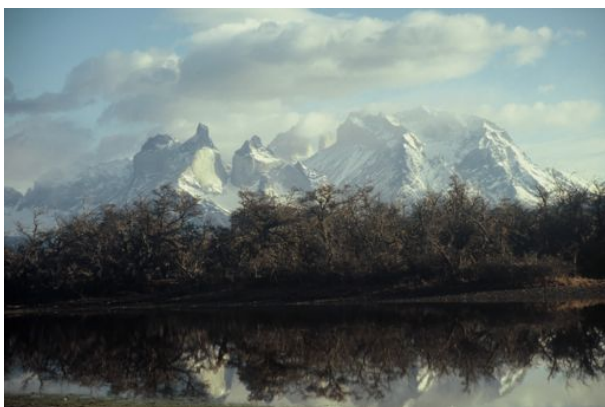
Walk Patagonia Argentina Chile



Views across Lago Llanquihue towards Osorno Volcano



The most modern of the refugios in Torres del Paine.



Views across the lakes to the Paine massif



Walking on 'iceberg beach'

To get into Bariloche you can take a taxi which the hotel can arrange for you – taxis are reasonably priced.

Your hotel is close to the mountains at Cerro Cathedral 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 | 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 characterful small hotel in the heart of the town. (b)

Day 07 | 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 the horse flies can be a nuisance in the forests so check locally to see if these are a problem.

If so, we do not advise that you walk in the forested areas. (b)

Day 08 | Puerto Natales | **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 guide who stays with you throughout your time in Patagonia.

The three-hour drive across the open plains of Patagonia takes you to the seafront town of Puerto Natales and your first class hotel overlooking the Last Hope Sound.

Dine out in town and then back to the hotel to pack for tomorrow's journey into Torres del Paine.

For your time in the park you will need relatively few things so you will leave most of your luggage in Puerto Natales to be picked up on your way out of the park. While walking your overnight things are carried for you by porters, leaving you to walk with just a daypack. (b)

Questions? Ready to book? Call us on **01273 676 712**

info@pura-aventura.com | www.pura-aventura.com | Pura Aventura, 18 Bond Street, Brighton, BN1 1RD. UK.



Walk Patagonia Argentina Chile



Torres del Paine: the 'W' walk

Pura Aventura was founded because of a chance meeting in Torres del Paine so it holds a special place in our hearts.

Torres del Paine is unique because within a relatively small area, you find every aspect of Patagonian scenery: mountains, lakes, glaciers, forests and grasslands. There is really no other place you can see such variety in such a compact area.

Our way

Our way is to follow the famous 'W' route which cuts across the park from glacier to grassland.

In order to get close to the spectacular mountains and glaciers you have to leave behind the hotels and lodges which are in the south of the park. You have to sacrifice some creature comforts, but the guides, porters and *refugios* make it comfortable and civilised.

Walks are generally between four and five hours and are quite accessible for anyone who enjoys hill walking in the UK.

You stay in refuges or mountain huts during the walk. They are not luxurious but they do allow you to



shower each day and to enjoy a hot meal and glass of wine at night.

You have a team of porters carrying your overnight things from refuge to refuge so that you can walk with just a daypack.

Your guides are experts in this area, and the Park in particular.

They therefore

know how to pace the walk, when to sit tight and wait for weather to clear and when to head out.

Rather than crossing over high passes, you are walking between the mountains and the lakes so the path is basically undulating without hard ascents and descents.

Most of Torres del Paine is just above sea level. The park is at roughly the same relative latitude as Manchester. Summer daytime temperatures are usually comfortably in the mid-teens celsius. There's an average of 16 hours daylight in the summer months so the pace can be relaxed.

"I think the walks were correctly graded as moderate. It certainly helps their enjoyment not having to carry a full pack and I appreciated the opportunity to stop for photographs, look at the wildlife and so on."

Day 09 | Torres del Paine | into the park

Set off into the beautiful Torres del Paine National Park.

This afternoon you enjoy a boat ride along the full length of Lago Grey as far as the glacier of the same name.

This is the end point of the southern Patagonian icefield so you have 1,000km of ice ahead of you as you travel towards the 40 metre high face of the glacier.

Land to drop your things at the mountain refuge (*refugio*) where you will spend tonight.

Sleep within earshot of the creaking glacier.

For the next four nights you sleep in *refugios*.

These are basically mountain huts. The ground floor is taken up by the dining area, small shop for snacks & drinks and the bathrooms/showers.

Upstairs are the dorm rooms. Rooms sleep between four and eight people in bunk beds. Rooms are mixed.

Each of these refuges is different so some are more modern, some more basic. In all of them there is little in the way of light or sound insulation but you are indoors and relatively comfortable. Hot meals are prepared for you in the evenings and the atmosphere tends to be lively and sociable. The 'tuck shop' sells snacks as well as wine and beer. (b,l,d)

Day 10 | Torres del Paine | walk with lake views

Set off on the four-day 'W' hike across the park from the glacial west to the dry grasslands of the east.

Whilst walking you only have to carry a daypack with items such as lunch, waterproofs and cameras.

One lovely feature of hiking in the park is that streams are so pure that you drink the most delicious water straight from them.

Porters carry your main bags ahead to the next refuge so you do not tend to see them during the day.

Today's walk is relatively short (11km, 4hrs, \triangle 400m ∇ 400m) and therefore relaxed.

Over the course of the route you pass the viewpoint of Glacier Grey which is a great spot for photos.

During the summer you can expect upwards of 14 hours of daylight so you have plenty of time to explore and enjoy your surroundings with your guide. (b,l,d)

Day 11 | Torres del Paine | walk past mountains

Today the scenery is some of the best of the holiday as you walk in the shadow of huge peaks alongside turquoise lakes.

Walk under the mountain of Paine Grande then a steady uphill and a steep downhill towards the shores of Lake Nordenskjold.

You might also be lucky enough to enjoy a side hike up into Valle Frances for fantastic views out across the glacial lakes to the south of the park. Walk 9km, 4hrs, \triangle 200m, ∇ 200m (b,l,d)

Day 12 | Torres del Paine | walk past lakes

Continue your walk along a good path in the shadow of the mountains throughout today. You should see lots of condors as you pass beneath the high peaks.

Questions? Ready to book? Call us on **01273 676 712**

info@pura-aventura.com | www.pura-aventura.com | Pura Aventura, 18 Bond Street, Brighton, BN1 1RD. UK.



Walk Patagonia Argentina Chile



Visit the Torres del Paine massif



Standing in front of the Torres



The Perito Moreno Glacier in southern Argentina.

Stop for lunch alongside a small lake populated with fantastic bird life.

The path is intersected by streams at certain points – crossing these can involve stepping stones or the occasional rope bridge.

Towards the end of the day you reach the base of Valle Ascencio. Walk 13km, 5hrs, ▲600m, ▼300m. (b,l,d)

Day 13 | Torres del Paine | **walk to the 'Torres'**

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.

Head back downhill to the refugio for lunch before undertaking the final stretch of your walk back down to the bottom of the valley.

Walk 16km, 7hrs, ▲650m, ▼900m.

Continue out of the park and back to your very comfortable hotel in Puerto Natales. (b,l,d)

Day 14 | Calafate | **travel to Argentina**

Travel by shared bus from Puerto Natales 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 15 | Calafate | **visit Perito Moreno**

A private driver and guide will collect you this morning for the trip to see 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 you're a picnic lunch with a view. (b,l)

Day 16 | 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 17 | 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 18 | home | **arrive back**

Questions? Ready to book? Call us on **01273 676 712**

info@pura-aventura.com | www.pura-aventura.com | Pura Aventura, 18 Bond Street, Brighton, BN1 1RD. UK.



Walk Patagonia Argentina Chile



Pura Handmade

While this holiday is delivered by our partners on the ground in Argentina, we have our own team on the ground in Chile to look after you.

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 closely integrated with their communities.

How active?

As active as you like in Buenos Aires, Bariloche, Puerto Varas and Calafate, there are lots of options to be quite active in all of these places.

In Torres del Paine you will walk a reasonably strenuous route over five consecutive days but your bags are portaged, you are at sea level and daily distances are not great.

How comfortable?

Stay in very comfortable first class hotels throughout this holiday except four nights in Patagonia's mixed, communal refuges. Sample hotels:

Casa Canitas, Buenos Aires

Casa los Juncos, Bariloche

Hotel Solace, Puerto Varas

Altiplanico Sur, Puerto Natales

Refugios Grey, Paine Grande, Cuernos & Chileno, Torres del Paine

Altos de Calafate, El Calafate

Your luggage is portaged in Torres del Paine making the pace of this walk very relaxed and comfortable.

How independent?

Private guided excursions in Buenos Aires and Calafate. Private transfers in Bariloche.

Join a small guided group of Pura clients, 12 maximum for your time in Chilean Patagonia.

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.

Who is it for?

In general this holiday attracts people in their 40s through 50s/60s, though there's no barrier to younger and older.

This holiday is really designed for a minimum of two people as private services for one can be prohibitive.

For solo travelers we have a good selection of small group holidays in Chile which can be extended to include Argentina.

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 GMT weekdays.

Not quite right?

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

Explore Patagonia: Argentina Chile. A relaxed and varied tailor made exploration of Patagonia.

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 do I book?

If you would like to book onto this holiday, please call us on **01273 676 712** with the following information:

- Full names
- Address
- Contact telephone numbers & email
- Deposit of 15%

Deposits can be paid by card, cheque or bank transfer, whichever suits you best. The balance of your holiday is payable 60 days prior to travel.

Once we have the details above we send you a confirmation email detailing all of the services agreed between us.

We ask you to check through all of this carefully and sign off on the holiday at that point.

Note that this small group holiday is subject to a minimum number of four.

Guide prices & departure dates

2012/13	11 Nov 31 Jan £3,670pp guide price
Please note	This price assumes arrival in South America on a One World partner airline such as BA, Lan, Iberia or American. Prices for regional & domestic flights South America can be considerably higher for those arriving on a non-One World airline such as Air France or KLM. <i>We reserve the right to pass on these additional costs.</i>
Flights	Transatlantic flights are quoted separately. We can arrange these for you or you can arrange your own. Guide price £800 - £950 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.

Prices are per person based on two sharing

Questions? Ready to book? Call us on **01273 676 712**

info@pura-aventura.com | www.pura-aventura.com | Pura Aventura, 18 Bond Street, Brighton, BN1 1RD. UK.

