

# Walk Chile Argentina Patagonia Walking Holiday



Patagonia hiking – Fitzroy & Cerro Torre – Perito Moreno  
Torres del Paine – world class hiking – fully guided – small groups

Explore Patagonia on foot on this small group hiking holiday.

Hike the best trails within Fitzroy and Cerro Torre.

Spend a full day exploring the mighty Perito Moreno glacier.

Cross to Chile to hike the best trails in Torres del Paine National Park.

Enjoy the services of an experienced team of guides and support staff.

This is a Pura *handpicked* holiday with an activity rating of *high* and a comfort rating *standard*.



Have a wonderful hike in Los Glaciares National Park.



## Holiday Itinerary

### Day 01 | El Calafate | fly to El Calafate

Arrive in El Calafate.

*Please note: flights are not included in this holiday.*

On arrival you are transferred to your accommodation.

Relax for the balance of the day before your welcome dinner this evening. (d)

### Day 02 | Laguna Capri | hike in Fitzroy

After breakfast catch a bus to travel the beautiful 220km road north to El Chaltén, a small and picturesque village at the foot of the stunning Fitzroy & Cerro Torre massif.

Stop en route to enjoy local pastries and hot coffee.

Once in Chaltén, meet up with fellow travelers in the group who are coming in from the north.

Start your trek today, carrying only light packs with the necessary items for this three night camping section of the trip.

Hike up a gentle slope on the Fitzroy trail to climb up over the Rio de las Vueltas Valley from where you have your first views of Fitzroy – if the weather is clear.

The hike to Laguna Capri will take around 2.5 hours following a clear and easy trail.

Once at the Laguna Capri Camp, leave your things in your tent to enjoy an afternoon hike to the viewpoints around the lagoon.

The camps are pitched for the full season and remain erected so you will find the camp ready upon arrival.

Two people share comfortable '3 man' igloo type tents so there is a fair amount of space.

Walk 5km, 2hrs, ▲ 365m.



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

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Stay at El Chalten, a charming village at the foot of Cerro Torre.



Enjoy exploring the Los Glaciares National Park



Stay in a comfortable charming hostel in El Chalten.

As well as mattresses and sleeping bags you find a cotton liner sheet is provided.

The camp also has a spacious dining tent, a kitchen tent, tables, benches and a full set of table service and kitchenware.

There is a camp toilet which is basic. (b,l,d)

## Day 03 | Laguna Capri | glaciers & lakes

Today take an early morning hike to try to catch the dawn light illuminating the granite walls of the Fitzroy massif.

After breakfast, carrying only day personal items, hike the trail up to Rio Blanco which is a climbers' basecamp to the east side of the mountain.

From here a steep one-hour trail leads you to one of the most spectacular viewpoints of the National Park: Laguna de los Tres.

The lake is a wonderful turquoise blue colour and sits at the foot of the massif, offering close up views of Fitzroy's massif spires and glaciers.

Each of the peaks rises between 600m to 1,500m up from the surrounding glaciers.

Fitz Roy, at 3,405m above sea level, is considered the "King of Patagonia" and also considered one of the most beautiful mountains on Earth.

In the late afternoon hike back to Laguna Capri (b,l,d)  
Walk 14km, 6hrs, ▲ 395m, ▼ 395m.

## Day 04 | Cerro Torre | mountain view

Up sticks today to hike around Laguna Capri to Laguna Madre, the Hija Valley and down to Fitzroy river valley.

Here you pick up the Cerro Torre trail towards the Cerro Torre camp, more rustic than the Laguna Capri camp but still pitched for you.

The trail runs through some lovely beech forest, marshes and shrubland.

From the camp, a short hike leads to Laguna Torre, enclosed by moraines and with the Glacier Grande calving on its west side.

It is common to see icebergs blown up against the shores of the lagoon.

The elegant 3,128m peaks of the Cerro Torre group and the Adela range make for a spectacular view. (b,l,d)

Walk 8kms, 3hrs, ▼ 85m.

## Day 05 | El Chaltén | visit Laguna Torre

In the morning visit Laguna Torre again to reach the old Maestri basecamp, located high up along the north moraine of the lagoon.

For keen hikers, we offer an optional excursion, the so called "Holiday on Ice". Set off early with crampons and harnesses to cross the Fitzroy River to visit Glacier Grande, where you will discover crevices, ice caves and practice ice climbing.

Late in the afternoon walk back to Chaltén.

If you go on the "Holiday on Ice", it is seven hours plus the three hour trail back to Chaltén so a long day.

Spend tonight in a hosteria or inn with private bathroom. (b,l,d)

Walk 9km, 3hrs, ▼ 280m.

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Be amazed by the thundering Perito Moreno Glacier.



Camp at the foot of amazing mountain scenery.



Discover the world famous towers of Torres del Paine.



Beautiful landscapes inside Torres del Paine.

## Day 06 | El Chaltén | explore the village

Morning at leisure to relax. You can take an optional excursion to Lago del Desierto, a beautiful beech forest surrounded lake, with hanging glaciers.

Your bus to El Calafate leaves at around 5pm. (b)

## Day 07 | El Calafate | Perito Moreno Glacier

Today is dedicated to the amazing Perito Moreno glacier which flows from the Southern Patagonian Icefield.

This astonishing glacier is part of the largest non-polar ice flow in the world.

A beautiful short trail leads from the shores of the lake to the upper viewpoints.

The roar of the chunks of ice falling inside the glacier or from the glacier into the lake, the frequent calving makes this day a very special and unique experience.

Drive the 80km each way across the steppe, an opportunity to enjoy the open Patagonian landscapes and to look for birdlife. (b)

## Day 08 | Torres del Paine | cross to Chile

It's an early start to set off into Chile with a six-hour drive to your camp in Torres del Paine National Park.

We drive across the steppe, still following by parts the legendary route 40, to get around Sierra de los Baguales, an impressive range in between El Calafate and Paine.

After the border crossing, we start our final stretch to Paine National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Once in the park go for a short walk to get familiar with the landscape, the incredible wildlife and the wind!

Back in the bus, we reach our camp at the foot of Paine massif. (b,l,d)

## Day 09 | Torres del Paine | towers hike

Early morning departure to hike to the bridge over the Ascencio river, trailhead for the world famous Paine towers or 'torres'.

Warm up with the hike up a steep slope for an hour before you reach the valley itself, a narrow "V" shape alpine valley coming from the heart of the Paine massif. A gentle downhill leads you to Refugio Chileno, a cozy and comfortable mountain lodge, which can be a good turnaround point for those not willing to go to the top.

The torres are often covered in cloud so this is the point to make your decision to continue or not.

The last stretch is a gentle slope along the riverside and through beech forest.

A final climb on enormous glacial moraine take you to the viewpoint: a glacial lagoon and the three towers rising vertically 1,000m from the glacier. (b,l,d)

Walk 16km, 8hrs, ▲ 890m, ▼ 890m.

## Day 10 | Torres del Paine | breathtaking views

Early in the morning drive across to Pudeto where you board the catamarán to cross lake Pehoe.

If the weather is clear, this is a just stunning trip over a turquoise lake towards the central Paine massif.

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The hanging bridge at the foot of the Valle Frances in Torres del Paine.



Hike along the shores of Lago Grey.



Relaxed and beautiful hiking.



Glacier Grey and the end of the Patagonian ice field.

Once at the far side of the lake, set out to hike the French Valley trail.

The trail skirts Paine Grande's south slopes and lake Skottberg, to take you to the hanging bridge over the Rio Frances (French River).

This beautiful location is at the foot of Paine Grande.

Continue walking up the valley to enjoy views onto the hanging glacier and back south across the glacial lakes and mountain ranges of Chilean Patagonia.

After lunch and photos, retrace your steps back to Refugio Pehoe where you have a full camp set up for you tonight. (b,l,d)

Walk 18km, 6hrs, ▲ 370m, ▼ 370m.

## Day 11 | Puerto Natales | **Glacier Grey**

Set off early to hike the trail that leads from Pehoe to the viewpoint over Glacier Grey.

This magnificent glacier flows some 60km down from the Patagonian Icefield – basically Glacier Grey is another tongue of the same icefield as Perito Moreno.

Hike along the edge of the lake, going up and down the western slopes of Paine Grande, offering some of the most impressive sights in the Park.

From the high sections of the trail, many different viewpoints allow you to see the south end of the lake where the blue icebergs gather, the mountains rising far in the distance above glaciers Grey and Tyndall, and of course lake and glacier Grey.

About two hours from Pehoe you get to a rocky point with views over the Lake and Glacier Grey and the surrounding glaciers and mountains.

Return to Pehoe and the boat back across the lake. This afternoon you drive down to the town of Puerto Natales for a little 'bright lights, big city' time. Well, it's a small town really. (b,l)

Walk 12km, 4hrs, ▲ 20m, ▼ 20m.

## Day 12 | El Calafate | **visit the town**

Leave Puerto Natales early in the morning, as some of the group continue on to drive the long distance onto Tierra del Fuego and the Argentinian town of Ushuaia. Most travelers cross back into Argentina and El Calafate.

Upon arrival to El Calafate you will be met by our local representative and transferred to your hostel.

The rest of the day is at your own to visit town. (b)

## Day 13 | home | **leave Argentina**

Transfer to El Calafate airport. (b)

Please note: flights are not included in this holiday.

*This holiday can be extended at the start with an exploration of the legendary 'Ruta 40' highway along the Andes. At the end with a trip on to Tierra del Fuego and the town of Ushuaia. Both of these involve long days of driving and much less in the way of hiking. For this reason we have selected the most comfortable, active days to be our standard holiday.*

**Please contact us to discuss the full trip if you are interested in Ruta 40 and/or Tierra del Fuego.**

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## Pura Handpicked

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

It is a great way to see the highlights of Patagonia, on foot, for a great price.

The services are comfortable and delivered very well but this is predominantly a trip about seeing the fantastic scenery in the company of first rate guides and friendly small groups of fellow travelers.

## How long?

12 nights as described but can be extended by three nights at the start of the holiday with a journey along Ruta 40.

At the end of the holiday you can continue from Puerto Natales to Ushuaia to make a 14-night holiday.

If you extend at both the start and end of your holiday, it becomes an 18-night holiday.

## How active?

This is an active holiday, suitable for people who enjoy hiking, walking times are given above but as a broad statement, this is suitable for people who like the idea of being out in the great outdoors, hiking for several days in a row.

The pace of hiking is not particularly fast. We have had fit clients in their 60s on this trip and very happy.

## How comfortable?

The standard of accommodation on this holiday is essentially pretty simple/basic. Clean, comfortable but don't expect luxury in any way shape or form.

During the camping nights, you are provided with a sleeping bag and a clean cotton bag liner.

All other equipment is provided for you and pitched.

For nights in the towns, there are different levels of accommodation available.

We price based on the highest grade offered which equates to a good, clean 2\* hotel. There are more simple hostel bunk style places offered at a discount. Please contact us if you are interested.

## How independent?

Fully guided small group with no minimum number but a maximum of 24.

## 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 and wind.

## 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

<b>2011</b> <b>£1,850</b>	<b>05-07-12-14-19-21-26-28 November</b> <b>03-05-10-12-17-19-24-26-31 December</b>
<b>2012</b> <b>£1,850</b>	<b>02-07-09-14-16-21-23-28-30 January</b> <b>04-06-11-18-25 February</b> <b>03-10-17-24-31 March</b> <b>07 April</b>
Flights	<i>Price does not include flights.</i> We can arrange these for you or you can arrange your own.
Price includes	All accommodation in twin share rooms/tents; guiding, excursions and activities as above; transport and transfers as listed; meals (b,l,d) as listed.
Not included	Flights; optional excursions; entrance fees to National Parks (approx us\$50 total); personal expenses; tips.

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