

Argentina: Hikes and Estancias of Patagonia

FITZ ROY, CERRO TORRE, AND THE PERITO MORENO GLACIER



TRIP DATES

2024

November 21-December 1, 2024

December 26-January 5, 2025

2025

January 8-18, 2025*

February 7-17, 2025

March 9-19, 2025

*Ask for separate reverse itinerary.



Wilderness Travel

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Argentina: Hikes and Estancias of Patagonia

FITZ ROY, CERRO TORRE, AND THE PERITO MORENO GLACIER

Some of the most spectacular mountains on our planet are found in Argentina's Los Glaciares National Park, home to the sky-piercing peaks of the Fitz Roy massif. Our hiking journey reveals the very best of this grand-scale paradise where rivers of ice pour down from the Southern Patagonian Ice Field. With two options most days, we'll hike to azure lakes for stunning vistas of glaciers and the famed spires of Fitz Roy and Cerro Torre, and we'll visit the massive ice wall of Perito Moreno, one of Argentina's natural wonders. At day's end in our estancias, including renowned Helsingfors and Cristina, with their exclusive locations, we'll celebrate with home-cooked Patagonian fare and fine Argentine wines.



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Itinerary

DAY 1 BUENOS AIRES

Arrive in Buenos Aires, where you are met and transferred to our hotel. We head out for an afternoon exploration of the city, then enjoy a dinner of fine Argentine cuisine. Overnight at Palladio Hotel, located in the vibrant Recoleta neighborhood...D

DAY 2 CALAFATE / EL CHALTÉN

We fly to Calafate, a small town in the province of Santa Cruz on the banks of glacier-fed Lago Argentino. The gateway to southern Los Glaciares National Park, Calafate is named for the thorny calafate bush, which blooms in the spring with yellow flowers and in summer with purple fruits (it's said if you eat the fruit, you'll return to Patagonia!). An intriguing outpost on the edge of a great wilderness, Calafate has a bit of a wild west feel to it. Leaving Calafate, we sightsee and look for wildlife as we travel to the small town of El Chaltén (1,150'), a world-famous climbing destination set within sight of the imposing form of the Fitz Roy Massif. El Chaltén serves as the gateway to the northern reaches of Glacier National Park. On arrival we check into our lodge, with its great views of Fitzroy. The Fitz Roy Massif and the surrounding peaks rise at spectacular and seemingly impossible angles, sculpted from solid granite into fantastic spires and towers by the tremendous force of the region's glaciers. This complex of peaks and "needles" captivates experienced mountain climbers from all over the world. In the afternoon we take a short hike to the El Mirador de los Condores for stunning views of all the mountains. Overnight at Estancia El Pilar, a country lodge just outside of town...BLD

Hiking Details: 2 hours

DAYS 3-4 MOUNTAIN HIKES

From our welcoming lodge, we enjoy a choice of great hikes with staggering views of glorious peaks, hanging glaciers, multi-hued lakes, and flower-carpeted valleys. Our hiking options bring us to Laguna de los Tres for dramatic panoramic views of the jagged pinnacles of Fitz Roy (11,073'), or to Laguna Torre, a glacial lake offering vistas of the slender spire of Cerro Torre (10,280'). Overnight at Estancia El Pilar...BLD each day

Hiking Details:

Day 3: approximately 12 miles, 8-9 hours, 2,700 feet ascent/descent; Shorter Option: 5 hours

Day 4: approximately 11 miles, 6-7 hours, 2,400 feet/descent; Shorter Option: 3-4 hours

DAY 5 LOMO DEL PLIEGUE TUMBADO / ESTANCIA HELSINGFORS

If the weather is clear, we'll get away from the classic trails and immerse ourselves in the wild, isolated expanse of Patagonia. The Lomo del Pliegue Tumbado is a chain of three hills (4,400'-5,000') that lie between the Rio Fitzroy and the Rio Tunel. Starting right from the park headquarters, we follow a trail that leads to one or more miradores (viewpoints). Our hike brings us



TRIP DETAILS AT-A-GLANCE

Length:	11 days
Arrive:	Buenos Aires, Argentina
Depart:	Buenos Aires, Argentina
Lodging:	6 nights hotels and lodges, 4 nights estancias
Meals:	All meals included except 1 lunch and 1 dinner (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner)
Activity:	Cultural Adventures, Hiking / Trekking
Trip Level:	1 2 3+ 4 5 6 8 hiking days on moderate to strenuous trails (some steep sections), 2-7 hours a day, altitudes below 4,000 feet. Patagonia can experience extreme weather changes.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Fantastic day hikes (with two options each day) to Patagonia's most celebrated peaks, including Fitz Roy and Cerro Torre
- Incredible mountain scenery, and an up-close walk to see the towering Perito Moreno Glacier
- Historic estancias and fine lodges—two of our three lodges are usually exclusive to our group

Itinerary (cont'd)

through a range of environments, from forest to steppe, and rewards us with an unconventional 360-degree panorama of Cerro Torre, the Fitz Roy Massif, and Lago Viedma. In the late afternoon we transfer to Estancia Helsingfors, a delightful retreat nestled at the base of mountains that drop onto the shores of Lago Viedma in the western region of Los Glaciares National Park. Once a sheep ranch, the lodge was built in a spectacular location by Finnish pioneer Alfred Ramstrom at the turn of the century. Here we savor wonderful vistas of the Viedma Glacier, great food, and classic Patagonian ambiance. Overnight at Estancia Helsingfors...BLD

Hiking Details: approximately 11.5 miles, 6-7 hours, 2,800 feet ascent/descent;
Shorter Option: 4 hours



DAY 6 LAGO AZUL HIKE

The setting for our hike this morning is Lago Viedma, fed by the melting ice of the Viedma Glacier. We'll hike through grassy meadows, over open hills, and through beech forests (with good birding!) to reach remote Lago Azul, a sublime glacial lake that truly earns its name. From here we have fantastic views of the magnificent Fitz Roy Massif. Overnight at Estancia Helsingfors...BLD

Hiking Details: approximately 9 miles, 6-7 hours, 2,300 feet ascent/descent

DAY 7 CALAFATE / PERITO MORENO GLACIER

We transfer back to El Calafate, with a packed lunch en route. In the afternoon, we head to the enormous Perito Moreno Glacier, one of 48 glaciers fed by the Southern Patagonia Ice Field and one of the few in the world that is still advancing. The sounds here are as amazing at the sight of the glacier's 10-story-high icewall dropping huge chunks of ice into Canal de los Témpanos (Iceberg Channel). We walk along a boardwalk with phenomenal views of the towering wall of ice and the immense Southern Patagonia Ice Field stretching into the distance, and watch as huge blocks of ice splinter from its three-mile-wide face into the turquoise waters of Lago Argentino—a spectacular sight! We return to Calafate in the late afternoon. Overnight at the comfortable Mirador del Lago Hotel. Dinner is on your own this evening; your Trip Leader will be happy to make some restaurant recommendations...BL

DAY 8 LAKE CROSSING / ESTANCIA CRISTINA

Heading to the lake's pier, we cross Lago Argentino by catamaran, navigating around drifting electric-blue icebergs and enjoying superb views of the headwall of the Upsala Glacier, South America's longest. Our catamaran journey brings us to Estancia Cristina, set in a wonderfully remote location on the north arm of Lago Argentino. Surrounded by glaciers and the snowy peaks of the Andes, Estancia Cristina is a historic former sheep ranch accessible only by boat. Upon arrival, we have time for an easy hike to Laguna de Los Cisnes "Lagoon of the



Swan," with wonderful views of crystalline lagoons cradled between massive peaks. We then settle into our comfortable lodgings, and later we enjoy a fine meal and traditional gaucho welcome in this estancia at the end of the world...

BLD

Hiking Details: 2 hours

DAY 9

HIKE THROUGH FOSSIL CANYON

By 4WD vehicle, we take mountainous roads to the Upsala viewpoint for a full-day downhill trek through Fossil Canyon. This geological wonderland features glacial erosion where 170 million-year-old marine fossils have been left exposed by an ancient ocean. We'll also see interesting flora and fauna like Patagonian nire and lenga trees and enjoy expansive viewpoints throughout the hike looking out over Lake Pearson, Cerro Norte, and the Estancia's Valley. We'll also witness the Upsala Glacier in all its majesty, as well as Lake Guillermo, Cerros Cono, the Southern Patagonian Continental Icefield, and perhaps even an Andean condor soaring above the colorful terrain. Return to Estancia Cristina for a relaxing evening by the fire...BLD

Hiking Details: 5-6 hours, 9.5 miles

DAY 10

CERRO CARNERO HIKE / LAKE CROSSING / CALAFATE

Hiking right from the estancia, we head up a slope with fine views of the valley, then through a forest of lenga trees and waterfalls to the top of Cerro Carnero (2,133'), with its glorious views of the mountains, the Southern Patagonia Ice Field, and the many glaciers that feed into the Upsala Glacier. After a picnic lunch, we descend via an alternate path bordering the Cristina Canal of Lago Argentino. We return to the estancia and board a boat for a ride back across Lago Argentino to Calafate. This evening, we gather for a festive Farewell Dinner. Overnight at Mirador del Lago...BLD

Hiking Details: 5 miles

DAY 11

DEPART

Transfer to the airport and fly to Buenos Aires. Upon arrival, transfer from the domestic airport to the international terminal and depart on homeward-bound flights...B



Trip Cost, Payment & Insurance

TRIP COST

Prices are per person, valid through Spring 2025

\$9,295 (12-15 members)

\$9,895 (9-11 members)

\$10,495 (6-8 members)

Single supplement: \$1,195

Internal airfare: \$525 (subject to change)

To offer the lowest possible cost, our trips are priced according to the number of participants on the trip. All costs are per person, based on double occupancy. If you wish to have a single room, you must pay the single supplement fee. Please note that Wilderness Travel staff, or guests of Wilderness Travel such as travel writers, photographers, or leaders-in-training, are not included in the tier pricing count.

CURRENCY EXCHANGE RATE

Because the prices published for our program are set so far in advance of the trip dates, we are occasionally faced with exceptional cost increases and/or currency fluctuations that affect the actual cost of running the trip. In most years, no price changes are necessary. However, we do reserve the right to raise or lower the trip price if there is a significant change in costs or exchange rates. If this is the case, your final invoice will reflect the difference in trip cost.

TRIP COST INCLUDES

- Expert leadership of a Wilderness Travel Trip Leader and local guides
- Accommodations in comfortable lodges, inns, and hotels
- All meals included except 1 lunch and 1 dinner as indicated in the Detailed Itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner)
- Land and boat transportation, airport transfers, and baggage handling as noted

TRIP COST DOES NOT INCLUDE

International airfare, internal flights, meals not specified after each itinerary day, travel insurance, optional tipping or gratuities to leaders or staff, additional hotel nights that may be necessitated by airline schedule changes or other factors, cost of medical immunizations (if any), and expenses of a personal nature (alcoholic beverages, laundry, etc.).

PAYMENT SCHEDULE

At time of reservation: \$600

90 days prior to departure: Balance

CANCELLATION AND TRANSFER FEE SCHEDULE

Up to 91 days prior to departure: No charge!

61-90 days prior to departure: 25% of trip cost

46-60 days prior to departure: 50% of trip cost

45 days or less: 100% of trip cost

TRAVEL INSURANCE

We highly recommend you purchase travel insurance. You can take advantage of a comprehensive Travel Protection Plan designed for Wilderness Travel by Travelex, or purchase other insurance on your own. See our website for details: www.wildernesstravel.com/insurance

Iguazú Falls Extension

One of the most stunning natural wonders in the world, Iguazú Falls stretches a full mile across the Rio Parana, with 275 separate cascades—one third on the Brazilian side, two thirds on the Argentinian side—laced with rainbows and plunging hundreds of feet in a mist-shrouded subtropical landscape, truly an other-worldly spectacle. The cascades form part of the Iguazú National Park, known for more than 400 different species of birds. A walk along the footbridges of the park is a chance to spot colorful toucans and other birds. The park was declared a Natural World Heritage for Humanity by UNESCO in 1984. The Falls can be reached by paths, footbridges, and Zodiac boats, offering a number of different perspectives.



DAY 1 BUENOS AIRES / IGUAZÚ FALLS

Upon arrival in Iguazu (flights to be booked on your own), your guide will meet you at the airport and transfer you to the hotel. After settling in, meet back with your guide and explore the many paths that wind around the falls, enjoying your first views of the cascades and the thundering sounds of the water. The birdlife around the Falls is abundant and fascinating. Overnight at the Hotel Gran Melia Iguazú... meals on own

DAY 2 TOUR ARGENTINE SIDE OF IGUAZÚ FALLS

Meet your guide first thing in the morning to take the train to Devil's Throat Lookout (the early morning start avoids the crowds). Here a catwalk trail brings you to a viewing platform right by the horseshoe-shaped main cascade, where several powerful falls unite (bring a dry bag to protect your camera from the heavy mist). After lunch at the hotel, enjoy an exciting afternoon boat ride to the base of the roaring cascade—be prepared to get wet! Overnight at the Hotel Gran Melia Iguazú...BL

DAY 3 IGUAZU FALLS / BUENOS AIRES

Transfer to the Iguazú Airport for a morning flight to Buenos Aires, with transfer in Buenos Aires to your hotel...B

Optional Visit to Brazilian Side

If you arrive before noon on Day 1 of this extension, you can opt for a quick excursion to the Brazilian side of the Falls for a half-day tour. However, if you prefer a more leisurely visit, we recommend that you add an extra day to your extension (total of three nights instead of two). Please call for pricing.

Optional Birding Tour

The Iguazu rainforest is home to an extraordinary number of birds, including toucans, trogons, parakeets and parrots. This two-hour excursion includes a private vehicle and guide, binoculars, telescope, field guide, and recorded sounds of all the species in the area.

FALL 2024–SPRING 2025 EXTENSION TRIP COST TBD

Prices are not guaranteed until services are confirmed.

Prices are per person, based on double occupancy.

Note: This extension must be booked in advance of your departure. Please note that a visa is required to visit the Brazilian side of the falls. You must obtain your visa prior to arrival.

Extension Cost Includes: Accommodations, meals as listed above (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner), airport transfers, services of a local guide on Days 1 and 2, sightseeing as listed above.

Not Included: Internal flight from Buenos Aires to Iguazú and return, airport departure taxes, optional tipping or gratuities to guides or staff, additional hotel nights that may be necessitated by airline schedule changes or other factors, additional hotel nights in Buenos Aires, and other expenses of a personal nature (alcoholic beverages, laundry, etc.).

Paine National Park Post-Trip Extension

The mighty spires of the Torres del Paine are among the most spectacular mountains in the world, a magnet for hikers and climbers from all around the world. Enjoy incredible day hikes to the base of these magnificent granite towers and accommodations in beautifully located lodges. This extension begins in Calafate on Day 11 of the regular trip.

DAY 1

CALAFATE, ARGENTINA/ TORRES DEL PAINE NATIONAL PARK, CHILE

A private transfer brings you to Cerro Castillo, where you cross into Chile and are met for a drive by private vehicle to Torres del Paine National Park, one of the scenic masterpieces of the planet and declared a Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO. The park's centerpiece is the Cordillera Paine Massif, a wonderland of eye-popping scenery that emerges in a breathtakingly sheer rise from the plains of the Patagonian steppes. Overnight at Hosteria Las Torres, situated on a private 4,000-acre ranch just below the magnificent Paine Towers...D

DAY 2

TORRES DEL PAINE NATIONAL PARK

Paine's famed peaks are known for their vertical spires. Paine Grande, the highest, tops 10,000 feet. The east face of the Central Tower ends in a sheer 4,000-foot-high rock wall that challenges the world's mountaineers. One of the best hiking options today is to set out with your guide through beautiful old-growth beech forests to a classic viewpoint of the Paine Towers. Other hiking options are available, as are horseback rides (at extra cost). Overnight at Hosteria Las Torres...BLD

DAY 3

TORRES DEL PAINE NATIONAL PARK

A beautiful drive by private vehicle brings you to your accommodation at the southern end of the Paine Massif, where you are close to the Massif's famous cuernos (horns)—incredible twisting monoliths of granite with knife-edged ridges, famously photogenic when they are mirrored in the emerald waters of Lake Nordenskjold. This afternoon, enjoy a boat excursion across iceberg-dotted Lago Grey to the edge of the huge Grey Glacier. Your accommodation, Hosteria Lago Grey, is in a majestic setting on Lago Grey, with its active calving glaciers...BLD

Optional Upgrade: The stunning Explora Lodge, set on the shore of Lake Pehoé in Paine National Park, offers gourmet meals, vintage wines, a heated pool, and a fantastic view of Paine's granite towers. The lodge has appeared on Condé Nast Traveler's Gold Standard list. Please note: 3-4

night minimum stay required (depending on season), so the itinerary will change.

DAY 4

TORRES DEL PAINE NATIONAL PARK

Options today include a half-day hike up the slopes of Mt. Ferrier for panoramic views of the cuernos, or a full-day hike in the dramatic French Valley, with majestic vistas. Overnight at Hosteria Lago Grey or Explora Lodge...BLD

DAY 5

PUNTA ARENAS / DEPART

Transfer to Punta Arenas and depart on homeward-bound flights via Santiago...B

FALL 2024-SPRING 2025 EXTENSION COST

TBD

Prices are not guaranteed until services are confirmed.

Extension Cost Includes: Accommodations and meals as indicated (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner), transfers to and from the park, guided activities as noted (some shared, some private).

Not Included: Airfare, meals not mentioned in itinerary, optional tours, personal expenses, tips for baggage handling, and optional gratuities for guides/drivers.



Accommodations



PALLADIO HOTEL

Buenos Aires, Argentina

Day 1 (1 night)

Located in the heart of the Recoleta neighborhood with its indie boutiques, hip enclaves, and architectural charm, the Palladio Hotel features modern guest rooms, an outdoor heated pool, and a spa and fitness center. The restaurant serves continental breakfast along with Mediterranean cuisine, and the Negresco Bar is a fun place to try an innovative cocktail while locals stroll in for after-work drinks.



HOSTERÍA EL PILAR

El Chaltén, Argentina

Days 2 to 4 (3 nights)

With the perfect location on the edge of Los Glaciares National Park, El Pilar is a picturesque 10-room country inn with incomparable access to the trailheads of the park's most sought-after hikes—and we usually have this special place all to ourselves! Guest rooms are simple and cozy, and there are phenomenal Fitz Roy views right from the dining room. It's a great place to relax after our hikes, welcomed in with a roaring fire and a glass of hearty wine. Our hosts, Guillermo and Cristina, offer warm hospitality and delicious home-cooked meals.



ESTANCIA HELSINGFORS

Lago Viedma, Argentina

Days 5 to 6 (2 nights)

This historic end-of-the-road estancia, with just nine guest rooms, stands in magnificent isolation on the shores of Lago Viedma. Our group always has this serene lodge—and the nearby hiking trails—to ourselves, which gives Helsingfors an exquisitely exclusive feel. The scenery is breathtaking, the bar is well stocked, and meals are first class (local lamb roasted over an open fire is a specialty).



MIRADOR DEL LAGO HOTEL

El Calafate, Argentina

Day 7 (1 night)

Day 10 (1 night)

With a fantastic location that lives up to its name, Mirador del Lago Hotel is set next to Lago Argentino and a short walk to the center of El Calafate. The hotel staff are friendly and helpful, and guest rooms are comfortable, with nice views of the lake and free WiFi throughout the property.



ESTANCIA CRISTINA

Lago Argentino, Argentina

Days 8 to 9 (2 nights)

Founded in 1914 as a sheep ranch and surrounded by the wild mountain and glacier scenery of Los Glaciares National Park, Estancia Cristina is accessible only by a boat ride across vast Lago Argentino. This charming place is the last estancia before one reaches the great icefields of the hielos continentales. Its utterly remote setting truly makes you feel at the ends of the earth, but the comfortable accommodations make you feel right at home. Each of the 20 rooms (spread out in five casitas across the grounds) offer spectacular views of the mountains.

These are our signature accommodations for this trip. Although it is highly unlikely, we may make substitutions when necessary. To see more photos and descriptions, please visit our *Argentina: Hikes and Estancias of Patagonia* webpage and click on “Accommodations.”

Trip Leaders

Wilderness Travel Trip Leaders have a passion and a joy for creating an unforgettable journey. We are extremely proud of them and the incredible travel experiences they make possible. For more information, including client comments about them and which specific trips they will be leading, please visit our webpage and click on “Trip Leaders”: www.wildernesstravel.com/trip/argentina-patagonia-estancias-hiking-tour



FRANCO BALDINELLI

Franco (“Frasco”) Baldinelli was born in cosmopolitan Buenos Aires but ever since childhood, his dream was to live in Patagonia. After getting his degree in Tourism, he moved to Ushuaia, the southernmost city in the world, and he has been a guide for 10 years. He has a true passion for this spectacular part of his home country, a terrific knowledge of the people and natural history of the area, and a great sense of humor. He speaks good English, fluent Italian, and of course, Spanish, his native tongue. When not guiding, Frasco spends most of his free time hiking and camping in the Patagonian mountains and he also enjoys birding and photography.



CARLOS LEON

Carlos Leon was born in central Chile and has lived in Patagonia since he was a child. He has been a member of the Wilderness Travel Patagonia team since 1996, first as a driver and local guide, and then as a Trip Leader. Carlos says, “I live in a wonderful place, surrounded by amazing sights and people, and my desire is to share it with travelers. There can be no better calling than this.” A tireless master of details with an easygoing nature, Carlos knows all the hiking trails of Los Glaciares and Torres del Paine national parks intimately, and has a genuine passion for trekking and outdoor life. Having studied anthropology and sociology, he also loves sharing cultural aspects, with an emphasis on the people who inhabit this unique region of the globe. He lives in Puerto Natales, gateway to Torres del Paine, where he likes to tackle some of Patagonia’s toughest hikes, then relax by repairing computers!



ROB NOONAN

Rob Noonan came by his love of nature and the mountains early, adventuring throughout most of the Americas from Alaska to Tierra del Fuego and later earning a degree in environmental studies from Prescott College in Arizona. He has guided our Patagonia journeys since 1994, our hikes in the spectacular European Alps since 2007, and he is also our “northern ambassador” to Iceland and Greenland. In between trips, Rob lives in Flagstaff, Arizona, where he enjoys hiking and river rafting.



KAREN LUND PETERSEN

Karen Lund Petersen, born and raised in Buenos Aires, has a degree in Environmental Science and a passion for sharing nature with people—especially Patagonia’s wild nature. She now lives with her family in a small village in the forests of northern Patagonia. When not out guiding our trips, she works in her vegetable garden, teaches sustainability, and lectures on food production and consumption. “I love how wild Patagonia still is. When you travel here, you feel a deep respect for the powers of nature—the strong winds, the vast openness, the magnificent granite walls, glaciers, plants, and animals... I love it all. And I especially love sharing it with others.”

Arrival & Departure

Upon confirming your trip reservation, we will send you a Welcome Packet that includes a list of documents (passport, visas, etc.) required for your trip. Please feel free to call if you would like this information before making your air arrangements.

If you have booked extra services before or after the trip, an Extra Services Confirmation will be sent with your Final Documents.

ARRIVAL & MEETING PLACE

Buenos Aires, Argentina

Suggested Airport: Ministro Pistarini Int'l Airport (EZE)

Suggested Date & Time: Day 1, by 12:00 pm

Meeting Place: A WT representative will meet you outside the customs area and will be holding a Wilderness Travel sign.

A complimentary transfer is provided from the Buenos Aires airport to the hotel for all trip members arriving on Day 1.

DEPARTURE

Buenos Aires, Argentina

Suggested Airport: Ministro Pistarini Int'l Airport (EZE)

Suggested Date & Time: Day 11, after 9:00 pm

At the end of the trip on Day 11, we have an afternoon flight from Calafate to Buenos Aires. You will be transferred from the domestic to the international airport for your departing flight. Please allow three to four hours for the transfer time and check-in for your departure. If you are departing on a different day, a transfer from your Buenos Aires hotel to the airport can be arranged at additional cost.

INTERNATIONAL AIR TRAVEL

You are responsible for making your own arrangements for flights to and from Argentina. Please note the international flights to and from Buenos Aires are usually overnight and arrive the day after they depart, so you will need to depart from the US the day before your trip begins so you arrive on Day 1.

We recommend at least a two-hour connection time at the gateway city for the international flight to Buenos Aires. Although shorter connecting times are legal, you want to allow some time in case your domestic flight is delayed.

There are many online consolidators for booking travel, but for more personal help arranging air transport, you can contact Exito Travel at 1-800-655-4053 in the US or 1-800-670-2605 in Canada. They are very adept at putting flight itineraries together, to even the most far-flung places. More information can be found on Exito's website at www.exitotravel.com.

The name on your airline ticket must match the name on your passport exactly, and your passport must be valid for at least six months after your date of return to the U.S.

Please do not purchase your tickets until you are confirmed on the trip and have reviewed your proposed air schedule with our office. Once your tickets have been purchased, please send us a copy of your airline schedule so we can reserve your airport transfers.

Trip Details

WHAT THE TRIP IS LIKE

This trip is Level 3+, Moderate to Strenuous. The hiking will be physically demanding at times (but we do offer shorter hiking options on the two longest hiking days). Most of the hiking takes place below altitudes of 5,000 feet. For the most part, the trails are not overly rugged or difficult, but the approaches and descents can be steep, and the trail conditions rocky or muddy. There are also some long driving days across the steppes, and everyone should be prepared for bumpy, dusty road conditions. Please note that your leader may make adjustments to the itinerary and hiking routes, depending on local weather and trail conditions. We recommend you make a special effort to get in good physical condition for this trip. The better condition you are in, the more you will enjoy your experience. We suggest you begin training several months before departure. Start gradually by doing hikes, running, using a Stairmaster, or riding bikes. The object is to improve your overall aerobic capacity and get your hiking muscles limbered up. Even a brisk 30-45 minute walk every other day over moderately steep terrain can do wonders for your conditioning.

WEATHER

With its deep southern latitude, you might expect Patagonia's weather to be more "polar" than it really is. In fact, the austral summer temperatures are relatively moderate. During Patagonia's "summer months" (November through March in the Southern Hemisphere), the thermometer rarely drops below 40°F and will usually reach into the high 60s and even low 70°Fs during the day. Nevertheless, the weather is radically changeable. Rain, sleet, and snow can occur at any time—perhaps just a few hours before or after sunny skies and 70°F temperatures. The enormous, unbroken stretches of ocean to the west and south of southern South America leave the Patagonian Andes exposed to the strong winds that circle the Antarctic

continent. Experiencing these winds is almost inevitable on any Patagonian journey. The winds can occasionally gust up to 100 miles per hour, quickly "cooling down" an otherwise pleasant day. You should be prepared for this by wearing layered clothing and always having a rain and/or wind suit handy.

CHOOSING THE RIGHT TRIP

Adventure travel often involves exotic destinations, unusual levels of physical exertion, or activities you may not have participated in previously. We work hard to help you choose the right trip for you, paying attention to your individual interests, abilities, and needs. If you have questions about the level of comfort or any of the activities described in this itinerary, please call Wilderness Travel at 1-800-368-2794 and ask for the Latin America Manager or email us at latinamerica@wildernesstravel.com.

REFERENCES

We'd be happy to put you in touch with a past client that has traveled with us on this or a similar trip.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

At www.wildernesstravel.com, you can book your trip online or find out about added departures, last-minute deals, and one-time Limited Edition adventures that aren't listed in our catalog. You can also access our complete library of detailed itineraries filled with enticing photos and videos, read bios of our Trip Leaders, find descriptions of trip accommodations, and check real-time availability of any trips that interest you.

Average Daily Max/Min °F												
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Buenos Aires	75/64	73/63	69/59	62/53	56/47	51/42	50/41	53/43	56/46	61/51	66/55	72/61
El Chaltén	65/45	64/45	58/40	53/37	45/35	42/28	42/28	44/30	50/37	54/37	62/40	63/45
Rainfall - Inches												
Buenos Aires	4.2	4.0	4.0	3.3	3.1	2.1	2.3	2.3	2.4	4.0	3.6	3.3
El Chaltén	0.9	0.8	0.9	1.5	1.8	1.0	1.2	1.0	0.9	0.8	0.5	0.7

Toucan Club Rewards & Discounts



MEN'S T-SHIRT



WOMEN'S T-SHIRT



PATAGONIA SYNCHILLA FLEECE VEST
PLUS INSULATED CAMELBAK WATER BOTTLE



PATAGONIA R1 PULLOVER

We are very proud to have one of the highest rates of repeat travelers in the business, and have established the Wilderness Travel Toucan Club to reward you for your loyalty. For more information, please visit the Toucan Club page of our website at www.wildernesstravel.com/toucan.

Here's how it works:

YOUR FIRST TRIP

As a first-time traveler, you receive a lightweight Wilderness Travel T-shirt and set of durable WT Luggage Tags. On subsequent trips, we're happy to send you a new WT T-shirt and set of Luggage Tags by request.

YOUR SECOND TRIP

A top quality Wilderness Travel insulated stainless steel water bottle by CamelBak and a cozy Wilderness Travel fleece vest by Patagonia (\$130 value).

YOUR THIRD TRIP

A versatile Wilderness Travel R-1 pullover by Patagonia (\$140 value).

YOUR FOURTH TRIP

Discounts on the cost of your trip begin! You receive a 4% discount on the tour cost.

FIVE AND MORE TRIPS

You receive a 5% discount on the base trip cost. On your sixth trip, you receive a 6% discount, and so on up to your 10th trip. The maximum discount is 10%, with a ceiling of \$500.

Note: Due to special pricing considerations, Toucan Club discounts do not apply to our Private Journeys or Special Events. However, your participation on these trips does count toward your Toucan discount on future departures of Wilderness Travel's regular adventures.

TERMS & CONDITIONS

Toucan Club travel discounts cannot be used in conjunction with any other discount, unless otherwise specified. Discounts are deducted from the base trip cost and shown on the final invoice. The base trip cost is the main land/tier cost and does not include single supplement fees, extensions, internal airfare, or other additional charges. Bonus gifts (T-shirts, luggage tags, vests, water bottles, and pullovers) will be mailed approximately three weeks prior to trip departure. Terms and conditions of Toucan Club bonuses are subject to change or cancellation at the discretion of Wilderness Travel, Inc.

Travel Notes



WILDERNESS TRAVEL HAS BEEN AWARDED:

Best Travel Specialists in the World: *Conde Nast Traveler*, 2024, 4-time winner

World's Best Tour Operators: *Travel + Leisure*, 11-time winner

Best Wildlife, Hiking & Walking Trips: *AFAR Magazine*, 3 years in a row

Best Adventure Travel Companies: *USA Today*

Trip of the Year: *Outside Magazine*, 9-time winner

50 Tours of a Lifetime: *National Geographic Traveler*, 9 years in a row

Best Adventure Travel Companies: *National Geographic Adventure*, 3-time winner

Please be advised that California has established a Travel Consumer Restitution Fund under the California Seller of Travel Law that took effect January 1, 1996. This fund is designed to protect consumers from unscrupulous practices by discount airfare ticket sellers or air charter operators. Unfortunately, this law does not cover non-California residents and, even in the case of California residents, it does not cover any foreign travel where the foreign "providers of transportation or travel services" are not in compliance with the Sellers of Travel Law (compliance being defined as registered as a Seller of Travel in California and a participant in the Travel Consumer Restitution Fund). Thus none of Wilderness Travel's tours qualify and we are required by law to advise each client that they are not covered by the California Travel Consumer Restitution Fund. California law requires sellers of travel to maintain a trust account or bond. This business has a trust account. California Seller of Travel #100769640

While as accurate as possible at the time of printing, this itinerary should be considered an approximate indication of the schedule and scope of activities and trip routing, rather than an inflexible schedule of events; it is subject to change due to circumstances beyond our control. This trip is subject to the Limitation of Liability and all the terms and conditions as detailed in the General Information section of the Wilderness Travel Catalog.