

# Bariloche, Lago Puelo & Los Alerces National Parks

## Bariloche - Esquel

A fascinating tour through two of the most beautiful National Parks in Patagonia. The Nahuel Huapi National Park and its main attractions: the Nahuel Huapi lake and the city of San Carlos de Bariloche on its shores. A first class tourist centre with the most important ski resort in the area and the special touch of the typical stone and wood buildings combined with the gorgeous surrounding landscape.

Los Alerces National Park, has a complex system of lakes and rivers. This scenery invites you to follow Butch Cassidy's steps and hiding places in these beautiful prairies and bushy forests. The Old Patagonian Express, one of the few narrow-gauge railways in the world, is a great attraction located nearby, with a captivating itinerary in the mythical Patagonian steppe.

### DAY 01 BARILOCHE

Reception at the airport and transfer to the hotel. Departure from the hotel for a half-day sightseeing of Bariloche and its outskirts. We will drive along Bustillo avenue, bordering Nahuel Huapi lake towards Playa Bonita, and continuing to Campanario Hill, where a chair lift will take you to the lookout at the summit. Enjoy a complete view of Nahuel Huapi lake, the mountain peaks of the Andean Range and the city. Then the tour goes toward San Pedro and Llao Llao peninsulas, visiting San Eduardo chapel and passing by the Llao Llao Hotel and Puerto Pañuelo, the embarkation point of most lake excursions. We will cross the bridge that connects Nahuel Huapi lake and Moreno lake, and we will then continue to López Bay. Enjoy a breathtaking view of Nahuel Huapi Lake from the panoramic point, a natural balcony facing Moreno Lake. Return to Bariloche. Accommodation.

### DAY 02 BARILOCHE

Breakfast. Full day visit to Estancia Fortín Chacabuco, located 20 km from Bariloche and 23 km (12.40 and 14.30 miles respectively) from the airport, in Neuquén province. It has 5.000 hectares (12.355 acres) dedicated to sheep breeding (the first in Argentina that

used frozen sperm for artificial insemination). It was built in 1883, when General Villegas ordered to build the Chacabuco Fort in the fight against the Indians. As it is located in the transition between the precordillera and the steppe, it shows an interesting diversity in flora, fauna and soil. In the western area you can find snow until summer, as well as in valleys, lakes and rivers. In the eastern areas the climate is much more arid and the vegetation poorer. This typical Patagonian estancia allows to taste the famous Patagonian 'asado' (Argentine barbecue), watch stags, go for a walk, horseback ride or just relax and enjoy the landscape. Return to the hotel. Accommodation.

Note: during the months of January and February you may take a steam train excursion instead of visiting Estancia Fortín Chacabuco.

### DAY 03 BARILOCHE / ESQUEL

Breakfast. Departure to El Bolsón, a quiet village located in a spectacular valley with its own microclimate that allows an important production of fine fruit, such as strawberries, raspberries, cherries and hops, home-made cheeses, trout, home-made beer, woolen

garments and handicrafts. In the 70's it was home to many ecological communities and radical cultural movements such as the famous 'hippies' some of whom still live in the area. On Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays a Craft Fair is held. Visit to Lago Puelo National Park, located in the north of the province of Chubut. This valley is 200 m (656 feet) above sea level, which is the highest among the rest of the National Parks, it has the largest autochthonous flora of the andean-patagonian woods in this area. The Park has a recreational area by the lake where you can take a boat trip or go horseback riding. As an optional tour, board the Patagonian Express, known as 'La Trochita', to travel across this land of legends that leads to adventure, where nature never fails to impress the visitor with its mountains, lakes, forests and rivers. 'La Trochita' is one of the few narrow gauge steam trains still running in the world; a great attraction of the mythical Patagonian history. Arrival at Esquel and transfer to the hotel. Accommodation.

### DAY 04 ESQUEL

Breakfast. Visit to the Welsh settlement of Trevelin located 25 km (14 miles) from Esquel, which means 'City of the Mill' in Welsh, because of the first wheat mill built in this

area in 1918. It is interesting to visit the Welsh Museum placed where the old mill was located. We will continue to the frontier with Chile to visit De Nant & Fall cascades and a replica of a last century floury mill. Return to Trevelin to taste some delicious home-made pastries, from the typical Welsh cuisine at a traditional tea house (optional). Return to Esquel. Accommodation.

### DAY 05 ESQUEL

Breakfast. Full day excursion to Los Alerces National Park passing by Futalaufquen Lake, Arrayanes River and Verde Lake. Walk along Menéndez lake coast until you reach Chucao Pier. Embark for a visit to the majestic 'Alerzal Milenario' (Millenary Larch Wood) formed by ancient trees that are more than 3,000 years old, 60 meters high and 2.60 meters (196 and 8.5 feet respectively) in diameter. During this trip you will appreciate big coihues, lakes, the beautiful cascade and Cisne river and the Torrecillas glacier. Box lunch included. Return to Esquel. Accommodation.

### DAY 06 ESQUEL

Breakfast. Transfer to the airport to board the flight to Buenos Aires.



06  
DAYS

PATAGONIA

BARILOCHE  
ESQUEL

NOT  
INCLUDED

THURSDAYS  
FROM  
SEPTEMBER  
TO APRIL

BREAKFAST

SPANISH  
AND  
ENGLISH