

08
DAYS

THE
PIONEER'S
ROUTE

PATAGONIA



NOT
INCLUDED



SATURDAYS
AND
WEDNESDAYS
FROM
DECEMBER
TO MARCH



ACCORDING
TO ITINERARY



SPANISH
AND
BILINGUAL
(English
German
Italian
French)

The Pioneer's Route

Following Butch Cassidy's footsteps

An incredible combination of diverse destinations: Valdés Peninsula and Punta Tombo rookery, the biggest concentration of sea fauna in the country, including whales, sea lions, penguins, and many other sea bird species; the splendour of mythical nature at Los Alerces National Park with its millenary larches; some typical Patagonic 'estancias' with their homemade products and untouched traditions; and the city of Bariloche, set within a beautiful natural surroundings such as lakes, rivers and dense woods.

DAY 01 TRELEW / PUERTO MADRYN

Reception at Trelew airport and transfer to Punta Tombo rookery to admire a magnificent colony of Magellan penguins. Accommodation. Dinner at restaurant.

NOTE: an early flight is necessary for this excursion, eitherwise it can be done of day 3 according to the regular bus line departure schedule.

DAY 02 PUERTO MADRYN

Breakfast. Full day tour to Valdés Peninsula, going by Ameghino Isthmus, located between the Nuevo and the San José Gulfs. Visit Puerto Pirámide and it's sea lion rookery. It is a great opportunity to take the optional whale walking boat excursion you cannot miss (available from October to November). We will continue to Punta Delgada for a view of its important colony of sea lions and Caleta Valdés where sea elephants seem to have found their ideal natural habitat. Lunch included. Return to Puerto Madryn. Accommodation.

DAY 03 PUERTO MADRYN / ESQUEL

Breakfast. Transfer by regular bus line through the steppe to Esquel, passing by

Dolavon town, founded by Welsh families; Ameghino Dam, The Altars (old stone formations shaped by wind). Then we will continue to Esquel going by Tecka, a typical Patagonian settlement. Accommodation.

NOTE: daily buses do not operate year round, in such a case, the day will be at leisure and the departure to Esquel will be at night on a regular bus line.

DAY 04 ESQUEL

Breakfast. Half day excursion to Trevelin Valley, visit to the Nant and Fall cascade, the Historic Flour Mill and later Welsh tea in Trevelin. Return to Esquel. Accommodation.

DAY 05 ESQUEL

Breakfast. Full day excursion to Los Alerces National Park passing by Futralauquen Lake, Arrayanes River, Verde and Menéndez Lakes. Border Menéndez River until Chucao Pier, in Menéndez Lake. Take a 2 hour walk through a dense forest to appreciate the most important varieties of the Park's native flora. Optional: embark to visit the majestic 'Alerzal Milenario' (Millenary Larch Wood) a wood of ancient trees 3,000 years old, 60

meters (196 feet) high and 260 meters (8.5 feet) in diameter. Along this circuit we will admire big coihues trees, lakes, the beautiful cascade and the Cisne River and the Torrecillas glacier. On the way back to Esquel, we will stop at other lookouts places and panoramic viewpoints to observe the different colors of the mountain lakes and rivers.

DAY 06 ESQUEL / BARILOCHE

Breakfast. Early departure to Bariloche, going by El Bolsón. After 90 km (56 miles) of journey we will stop at Leleque Station to visit the museum, located in a traditional patagonian estancia (ranch), 100 meters (328 feet) from the railway track. Leleque used to be one of the stations of La Trochita train. This museum tells the story of the native and immigrant settlements in Patagonia, from the Tehuelches tolderías (camps), the guanaco hunting, the sheep breeding, the different ethnic groups, the conflicts, the religious beliefs among many other things. Then we will continue travelling around the valley of Epuyen, el Hoyo, until we reach Esquel. This journey of unique beauty also shows the different activities that are practiced in the area: highest quality fine fruit production, worldwide renowned, farms devoted to hop crops growing, the raw material for the traditional beer. All the valley has a special microclimate, which is very good for hand-crafted production of red fruits and vegetables. These products, along with other farm products from El Bolson, are offered at the traditional craft fair, which can be visited on Tu/Thu/Sat.

Optional: La Trochita (this service may be included according to the train's operational conditions). From El Bolsón we continue towards



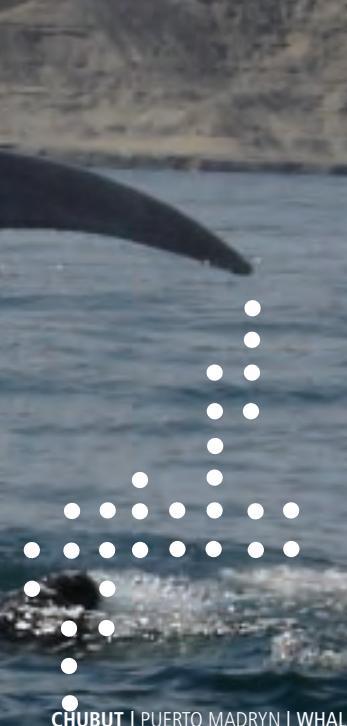
the north until we arrive at Bariloche, travelling across the impressive Cañadón de la Mosca.

DAY 07 BARILOCHE

Breakfast. Full day excursion to Mt. Tronador. We cross the Pampa de Huenuleo, going by Lake Gutiérrez, arriving at Lake Mascaradi where we can take an optional navigation along the beautiful Lake of the Seven Colors (Mascaradi), which will take us to the heart of the Nahuel Huapi National Park. Lunch at the Tronador hotel. Here we start a land trip along the Vuriloches Valley, upward to the Ventisquero Negro and the base of Mt. Tronador where you may walk up to the Mount. On the way back we make a stop in Pampa Linda, to walk through the woods until we reach the Saltillo de las Nalcas, a waterfall that allows us to go behind it. The return trip may be done either by water or by land. Return to the hotel.

DAY 08 BARILOCHE

Breakfast. If schedule departure allows, Small Circuit excursion, visiting the Campanario Hill; Virgen de las Nieves; Trebol Lake; Playa Bonita (Beautiful Beach); the Panoramic View Point (945 metres high) to admire a fantastic scenery; Lopez Bay, Llao-Llao and Victoria Island. Return to the hotel and transfer to the local airport.



CHUBUT | PUERTO MADRYN | WHALE