

Ranch Tour

DAY 01 PUERTO MADRYN

Reception and assistance at Trelew airport. Departure to Punta Tombo rookery to admire a magnificent colony of millions of Magellan penguins. Transfer to Estancia San Guillermo, 17 km (10 miles) from Puerto Madryn, located in the area known as Cerro Avanzado. This traditional Patagonian ranch offers the visitor plenty of choices such as: close contact with the gauchos at work, minitrekking in the surrounding area and making your own anthropological research. Trekking or horse-back riding to Cerro Avanzado, only 4 km (2,5 miles) from the main house, where you will have the opportunity to identify the geological evolution of Patagonia and an important legacy of paleontological interest. Take a look at the private collection of fossils gathered at the hill by local people. Accommodation. Dinner.

DAY 02 PUERTO MADRYN

Breakfast. Full day tour to the Valdés Península, passing by Ameghino Isthmus, located between the Nuevo and the San José Gulfs. Visit Puerto Pirámide and its sea lion rookery. It is a great opportunity to take the optional whale watching boat excursion. You cannot miss (available from June to November). We will continue to Punta Delgada for a view of its important colony of sea lions, and to Caleta Valdés, where sea elephants seem to have found their ideal natural habitat. Lunch included. During October and November there is an optional boat excursion from Puerto Pirámide to watch the whales. Return to Punta Delgada. Accommodation at Estancia Rincón Chico or Estancia La Elvira. Dinner.

DAY 03 PUERTO MADRYN / USHUAIA

Breakfast. Transfer to Trelew airport to board a flight to Ushuaia (*). Reception at Ushuaia airport and transfer to the hotel. Accommodation. In the afternoon, departure to Tierra del Fuego National Park, located only 12 km (7 miles) from the city. It preserves typical species of the Andean-Patagonian Forest, such as firebushes, beech trees, ñires, box leaved barberries and flowers, spread in an area of 63,000 hectares. Before entering the National Park, we will board the Train to the End of the World and enjoy an unforgettable trip along the original embankment where the old prisoners train ran until 1947 for their expeditions into the National Park in search of wood for heating. The highlight of the park is Lapataia Bay, the southernmost tip of the continent, with a wonderful view of the Beagle Channel. Here, the old inhabitants of the area have left their testimony in the 'concheros', incredible archeological deposits. Return to the hotel.

DAY 04 USHUAIA / ESTANCIA HARBERTON

Breakfast. Departure from the hotel to board the catamaran to sail the Beagle Channel, beginning at Ushuaia Bay, which will amaze you with its small rocky islets rich with incredible local sea fauna. You will approach the Birds Island, with its important bird colony which includes: cormorants, seagulls, petrels, albatrosses, cauqueses and oyster birds. Then you will also approach the Sea Lions Island, where you will be able to see a funny colony of one-hair and two-hair sea lions. A unique opportunity to see both species at the same time and to learn how to identify one from the other. You will then continue towards Les Eclaireurs Island, where the lighthouse is placed. Afterwards, you will pass close to the estancias Punta Segunda and Remolino, approaching the abandoned ship 'Monte Sarmiento', partially sunk in 1911. You will sail very close to the enigmatic coast of Gable Island, with soft slopes where condors nest. You will finally arrive at Harberton Bay to disembark in front of the main house of Estancia Harberton, the oldest sheep cattle ranch in Tierra del Fuego, founded in 1886, and still working nowadays. You will visit the main house, the oldest orchard in the isle, the first shop, the first natural reserve, the carpentry workshop, the shearing shed, the cemetery and the garden. Accommodation.

DAY 05 ESTANCIA HARBERTON / USHUAIA

Breakfast. Departure towards Lakes Escondido and Fagnano framed by the extremely beautiful surrounding landscape, enriched by the enchanting lenga, colihue and ñire woods that 'get dressed' each season in different colors. Fagnano Lake, located in the middle of the Patagonian steppe, is the largest in the island, and it extends to the Chilean territory. You will be able to see local sea birds such as albatrosses and petrels and you will gradually discover how the mountains start to lose height becoming hills and finally vanishing to let the steppe appear, as woods are replaced by small motes, coirónes and low bushes. We will continue to Ushuaia. Accommodation.

DAY 06 USHUAIA / EL CALAFATE

After breakfast, transfer to the airport to board the flight to El Calafate. Reception at El Calafate airport and transfer to the selected estancia. Dinner and accommodation.

DAY 07 EL CALAFATE

Breakfast. Departure from the estancia towards Puerto Bandera, 50 km (31 miles) from the town, to board a catamaran to enjoy a full day lake excursion to see Upsala Glacier and Onelli Bay, cruising among hundreds of icebergs that have detached from the glacier. Upsala is the largest continental glacier in the Southern Hemisphere. The height of its walls varies between 60 to 80 meters (196 to 262 feet) and it has an area of 595 km² (230

sq. miles). Return to the estancia. Dinner and accommodation.

DAY 08 EL CALAFATE

Breakfast. Overland trip to Perito Moreno Glacier, one of the world's largest active continental glaciers, declared World Heritage Site by UNESCO because of its breathtaking beauty and its unusual behavior. Accommodation and dinner at a selected estancia.

DAY 09 EL CALAFATE

Breakfast. Transfer to / from El Calafate airport or departure for optional tours: Torres del Paine or Fitz Roy.

NOTE:

(*). In case of flying to / from Río Gallegos, optional bus transfer from El Calafate (316 km / 196 miles). This transfer is provided without bilingual guide due to operational reasons.

09
DAYS

PATAGONIA

PATAGONIAN
ESTANCIAS



NOT
INCLUDED



DAILY FROM
OCTOBER 1st
TO
APRIL 15th



ADAPTING
TO WINTER



SPANISH
AND
BILINGUAL
(English,
German,
Italian,
French)



Patagonian Estancias

A unique tour through the most typical ranches in the Patagonian steppe, from the Atlantic Ocean to the Andes Range. Spend some time with the local people, getting to know their way of life and to feel the solitude of this far southern regions.