

8  
11  
DAYS

PATAGONIA

AMAZING  
PATAGONIA

+  
TORRES  
DEL  
PAINE  
POST  
TOUR

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INCLUDED

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DAILY,  
EXCEPT  
ON  
SUNDAYS  
FROM  
OCTOBER  
TO  
MARCH

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ACCORDING  
TO ITINERARY

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SPANISH  
AND  
BILINGUAL  
(English  
German  
Italian  
French)

**DAY 01**

COMODORO RIVADAVIA / SARMIENTO / LOS ANTIGUOS (477 km / 296 miles)

Early arrival in Comodoro Rivadavia airport. Reception and departure to Los Antiguos. Short visit to Chenque Hill, to reach a panoramic view of the city, founded in 1901, whose main activity is the petroleum exploitation. We will continue to Colonia Sarmiento, founded by Welsh people and considered the southernmost artificially irrigated area in the country, located in a valley surrounded by mountains and in a watershed partially occupied by Musters and Colhue Huapi lakes. You will stop at José Ormachea Petrified Wood, product of a natural phenomenon that occurred 60 million years ago due to a volcanic eruption that covered these conifer woods in ashes, turning in time, the wood into rock. Box lunch. Driving along the Patagonian steppe to Los Antiguos village, located on the southern margin of Buenos Aires Lake. This area has the perfect microclimate to develop fine fruit production, such as cherries, strawberries and raspberries. Accommodation at Antigua Patagonia Inn or La Serena Inn. Dinner.

**DAY 02** LOS ANTIGUOS / PERITO MORENO / LAGO POSADAS (311 km / 193 miles)

Breakfast. Departure towards Bajo Caracoles, to continue to Pinturas River Gorge, formed by huge rocks. The upper course of the Pinturas river, runs between these upright rock walls; following a path almost 90 metres over the sea level we enter the 'Cueva de las Manos Pintadas' (Painted Hands Cave), 24 metres long, 15 metres wide and 10 metres high. These rupestrian paintings date back to 9,300 years ago, and which was declared World Heritage site by UNESCO.

The paintings are important due to the great variety of motives, in red, ochre, yellow, green, white and black, and realistic drawings accompanied with schematic representations of human figures in movement. Box lunch. After lunch we will continue to Posadas and Pueyrredón lakes to stay at La Posada del Posadas, on the southern margin of Pueyrredón lake (185 m / 606 feet above sea level). Dinner at the estancia.

**DAY 03**

LAGO POSADAS

Breakfast. Full DAY 0 excursion. Early departure from the estancia to Oro River, all along the northern margin. We will start the trekking along the Oro River gorge walking along the valley covered with lenga and ñire trees. During the trek admire the incredible view of Mount San Lorenzo, the highest in Patagonia (3,706 m / 12,158 ft above sea level) and the glaciers. (Those who do not want to or feel they cannot do the excursion by foot can do it on horseback). Return to the estancia. Box lunch and Dinner.

**DAY 04**

LAGOS DEL FURIOSO / EL CHALTÉN (564 km / 350 miles)

Breakfast. Departure along the dusty gravel roads of the Patagonian steppe. Stop at Estancia La Angostura for a little rest and lunch in Estancia La Siberia while on route. Afterwards we will continue to El Chaltén, (name given by the local natives to its highest mountain, which means 'the mountain that smokes'), located in the northern end of Los Glaciares National Park. The mount called 'El Chaltén' was later on names Mt. Fitz Roy by the white men that explored the area at the beginning of the XIX century. A place to enjoy the breathtaking landscapes dominated by Mt. Fitz Roy and Mt. Torre, among others such as the Poincenot and Egger peaks and the Viedma Lake. The town developed almost exclusively as a base camp site for worldwide climbers, attracted by the challenging ascensions of Mt. Torre and Mt. Fitz Roy with impressive granite vertical walls, which giving ice and rock climbing lovers, along with a high difficulty level, a unique opportunity to show their skills. Dinner and accommodation at El Pilar Inn.

**DAY 05** EL CHALTÉN

Breakfast. Trek to Laguna de los Tres. This is a spectacular hike to the base of the mythical Mt. Fitz Roy. Start at El Pilar inn up to Blanco River, which will be bordered up to a woody area. Climb slowly, enjoying the different views of the Fitz Roy chain. Approximately one hour and a half away from the estancia, you will reach a fabulous panoramic view of the Piedras Blancas Glacier and Mt. Fitz Roy, with

the impressive Pilar Cassarotto, named after the Italian climber that first climbed it. After another hour and a half trekking along the Blanco River you will arrive at Poincenot camp, located in the middle of a lenga and ñire wood. Then continue for another hour up to Laguna de Los Tres where you will have a wonderful panoramic view of Viedma Lake, the Fitz Roy chain and the endless Patagonian steppe. If you continue southwards you will find a balcony more than 150 metres high, from where you will be able to appreciate Laguna Sucia (Dirty Lagoon), named this way because of the icebergs floating in the lagoon (those who don't feel in shape or don't want to take this excursion by foot will have the option of ascending to Laguna de Los Tres on horseback from the inn - optional).

**DAY 06**

EL CHALTÉN / EL CALAFATE (217 km / 134 miles)

Breakfast. Half DAY 0 trekking to Chorrillo del Salto. Leaving the inn by car or minivan for a 5 km (3 miles) drive before starting your trek through lenga and ñire trees wood. After one hour and a half you will reach this beautiful spot where Chorrillo del Salto cascade, a natural 15 m high (49 feet) waterfall; can be appreciated. Then return to El Chaltén. Lunch at leisure. In the afternoon, departure to El Calafate by regular bus line, the largest city in the area located by the side of the Argentino Lake. Arrival and accommodation at hotel. Dinner.

**DAY 07** EL CALAFATE

Breakfast. Departure from the hotel to Puerto Banderas to board the catamaran to navigate the Northern Arm of the Argentino Lake among icebergs until reaching the western front of the Upsala Glacier. After a 2-hour navigation along the Cristina arm of the lake, the boat will arrive at Estancia Cristina. The second part of the excursion is done on 4WD vehicles that run across rivers and woods and an immense variety of landscapes, to reach the Upsala Glacier, the entrance gate to the Southern Patagonian Icefield. The way upwards finishes some 600 metres before the Upsala Refuge. Follow a short 10-minute upward trail along a rocky path up to the

Upsala Glacier lookout, from where you will have an amazing view of the main glacier and its tributary glaciers: Bertacchi, Murallón and Cono (the adventure lovers will have the chance to do the same trail on horseback upon request of reservation, since there is limited availability.) Also enjoy a great Patagonian lamb barbecue, visit the Main House to get in touch with the history of the intrepid pioneers that settled in this uninhabited land. Return to the hotel. Dinner.

**DAY 08** EL CALAFATE

Breakfast. Departure from the hotel at 9 AM to Perito Moreno Glacier (195 m<sup>2</sup> / 75 sq. mile), located inside Los Glaciares National Park. It is an impressive ice river with a 4 km (2.5 miles) front and 60 metres high, that descends from the continental icefield, provoking detachings and exploitions as it comes down. It was declared World Heritage Site by UNESCO due to its spectacular beauty and strange behavior. Walk along the paths for an outstanding view of this imposing glacier. It will be possible to take a safari navigation to enjoy a different view of the glacier's southern or northern walls (optional 1 hour navigation). In the afternoon, return to El Calafate and transfer to the airport (departure after 7 PM is required).

NOTES

As weather depends on the geographical area and the meteorological systems, it may change every day. During summer, Southern Patagonia is usually sunny, with dry air and a minimum temperature 10°C and a maximum of 30°C, with an average temperature of 20°C. Higher altitudes make these temperatures decrease almost 1 degree every 100 metres, and wind makes people feel even colder. Suggested equipment to be carried by the passenger: 2 pairs of trainers or comfortable trekking boots, overcoat, waterproof jacket, daypack for short hikes, sunglasses, sunblock, extra clothes, water bottle, hat or cap.

This tour can also be done the other way round, from El Calafate to Trelew.

**Optional:** tour to Torres Del Paine see page 15.



# Amazing Patagonia

Patagonia, the land that will last for ever in the dreams of all those who have been there. A territory where history, art and time have left their indelible prints and where the ice rambles and the purest air in the planet can be breathed. Stretching almost to the end of the world, Patagonia is an area of astonishing natural beauty. This is one of the few places on earth where it is possible to find an incredible combination of rookeries, cozy Welsh towns, millenary petrified woods, fascinating caves decorated with rupestrian paintings, magnificent glaciers and millenary lenga and ñire woods.