

ARGENTINA - VALDES PENINSULA



TRIP CODE

ARTSVAP

DURATION

3 Days

LOCATIONS

Argentina



INTRODUCTION

Valdes Peninsula Nature Reserve was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1999 on account of its remarkably abundant marine life, including elephant and fur seals, sea lions, and Southern right whales, along with 181 species of bird.

This three-day tour is a nature-lover's dream, including the Magellan Penguins at Punta Tombo, as well as the Peninsula.

ITINERARY

DAY 1: Arrival transfer in Puerto Madryn

Arrival into Puerto Madryn and transfer to hotel.



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DAY 1: Punta Tombo

The tour sets out early for the penguin colony at the Punta Tombo Provincial Reserve. After a two-and-a-half hour journey along Patagonian roads, you will get to the penguin colony. You will be able to walk around the paths among the penguins for about an hour and a half to watch their behaviour. The first penguins arrive in September and stay here up to mid March but the best season to see them is after November, once the babies are born. The Magellanic penguins migrate from Southern Brazil to Patagonia, congregating by the thousands to nest in Punta Tombo, where they incubate their eggs and prepare their offspring for migration. This is the largest such colony in South America. Couples stand in front of their nests, protecting the eggs from birds and other predators, and occasionally one adult goes to the sea for food. The reserve has a park keeper and also offers sanitary and cafeteria facilities to the visitor. We return to Puerto Madryn via Trelew where - time allowing - we stop to see its main attraction, the Egidio Feruglio Paleontological Museum visit.



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DAY 2: Full day Valdes peninsula with whale watching

An early departure for Peninsula Valdes Provincial Reserve. After a one-hour drive, we arrive in Puerto Pirámides where you can go on a whale watching boat trip (optional extra from June to December). From December to March you can also see sea-lions, cormorants and probably dark dolphins. This tour is subject to weather conditions. Once the boat trip is over, you explore the south of the peninsula going through Salinas Grande and Chica. On getting to Punta Delgada, around midday, we can have lunch at the lunch at The Paradise in Puerto Piramides. (optional extra). There we have the opportunity to go down the cliffs and walk close to the sea-elephants. After that we continue to Punta Cantor along the eastern coastline of the peninsula and we get to Caleta Valdés (Valdés Inlet) where there are some interesting geological formations. There is always a good chance of coming across wild fauna such as guanacos, rheas, foxes, maras (Patagonian hare), armadillos, skunks, etc. Finally, you return to the city of Puerto Madryn at sunset. Essential Info: All year round, from 7am. Duration: 11 hours; 400 Km approx. Does not include whale watching ticket (which can be prepaid or booked locally subject to availability).



NO IMAGE
AVAILABLE

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DAY 2: Peninsula Valdes


Península Valdes is a UNESCO World Heritage site and one of South America’s finest wildlife reserves. It covers an area of 3,600 sq. kms and over 400 kms of coastline. This vast nature reserve extends out into Argentina’s South Atlantic, flanked by two large gulfs to the north and south. The area is home to sea lions, elephant seals, guanacos, rheas, Magellanic penguins and an abundance of seabirds as well as killer whales and the endangered southern right whales (ballena franca austral). The warmer waters along the Golfo Nuevo, Golfo San Jose and the coastline from Punta Norte to Punta Hercules are major breeding zones for the right whales from June to mid-December.



DAY 3: Transfer to the airport for onward destination

Transfer to the airport for your outward flight from Puerto Madryn.



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INCLUSIONS & DETAILS	
Accommodation	Standard
Inclusions	Accommodation Transfers Excursions in 'Regular' service Breakfasts Other meals as detailed in the itinerary Entrance fees
Difficulty Rating	1 (easy)
Single Surcharge	FROM US\$180 - Subject to season and availability, contact us for more details.

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Notes

Please note that a visit to Punta Tombo will be possible only between the months of September and March. Whale watching activity is available at Puerto Pyramides only between the months of June and December. Tombo excursion is only possible if arriving on an early flight to Trelew on Day 1; or alternatively, leaving on a late flight on Day 3.

Price Dependent upon

Season and availability

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SUSTAINABILITY

Chimu Adventures undertakes a number of sustainability measures within its operations including:

- 1) Only using local guides and office staff to both maximise local employment opportunities and minimise carbon footprints. Local guides also ensure you benefit from the intimate knowledge, passion and culture of the country you're visiting.
- 2) Where possible, using locally owned and operated boutique hotels to maximise the return to the local community.
- 3) Chimu's "Pass it on" programme has provided funding to hundreds of local community projects in Latin America. Our aim is to empower local communities, helping them to develop their own infrastructure for the future. Since 2006, we have been working with Kiva (a well-known Non-Governmental Organisation), providing hundreds of loans to local businesses all over South America.
- 4) In our pre tour information we provide a range of tips and advice on how to minimise your impact on both local environments and communities.
- 5) Chimu Adventures' offices also take a number of sustainability measures including carbon offsets for company vehicles and most staff travel. Chimu Adventure's internal processes are also structures to create a paperless office and to reduce waste. There are also internal programmes to help staff minimise their carbon footprint such as our staff bike purchase assistance plan which encourages office staff to commute to work via bicycle. Currently almost half of our office based staff commute to work via bicycle.