

ARGENTINA - PATAGONIA EXPLORER



INTRODUCTION

This 11-day itinerary will let you experience spectacular Patagonia with its one of a kind nature, wildlife and stunning views, on land as well as on sea. Explore the scenic Torres del Paine National Park before getting aboard your cruise, taking you from Punta Arenas to Ushuaia.

ITINERARY

DAY 1: Arrival transfer in Santiago


On arrival at Santiago Airport, please make your way through Customs and Immigration and only exit from the green doors marked 'Meeting Point'. Our representative will be holding a sign with your name on it and waiting for you outside this exit. Please only make contact with our representative. This service includes a driver and local English speaking guide who will provide you with any useful information needed for your stay.



DAY 1: Santiago de Chile

Santiago, Chile's capital and largest city, lies in a valley surrounded by the snow-capped mountains of the Andes and the Chilean Coastal Range. Founded in 1541, Santiago has been Chile's capital since colonial times. It is a vibrant and cosmopolitan city and although it features many colonial buildings, it has grown into a modern metropolis and the cultural centre of the country. *Please note Australian passport holders are required to obtain a Chilean tourist visa or if transiting for longer than 8 hours before arrival.



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DEPARTURE
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DURATION
11 Days
LOCATIONS
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DAY 2: Transfer to the airport for onward destination

You will be collected from your hotel at the appropriate time and transferred to the airport for your onward flight. This service includes a Spanish speaking driver only.



DAY 2: Punta Arenas - Hotel Las Torres


This morning you will be collected from your hotel for Las Torres' s shuttle service to transfer you to Hotel Las Torres. located inside Torres Del Paine National Park. This transfer takes approximately 5 hours on good roads and offers a great introduction to the wide open expanses of the Patagonian pampas. The internationally acclaimed Torres del Paine National Park is Chile's premier trekking destination and boasts panoramic scenery, incredible wildlife and diverse ecosystems. Declared a Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO in 1978, Torres del Paine is considered to be one of the most magnificent, untouched places on earth.



DAY 3: Explore Torres del Paine National Park

There are no set itineraries for your stay at Hotel Las Torres. Each day you can choose from a selection of five to ten different activities selected according to the weather and your interests. These include hiking, horseback riding, van or motorboat excursions. In groups no larger than ten guests accompanied by a bilingual guide, explorations allow an in-depth contact with the wonders of Torres del Paine National Park, year round.



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DAY 4: Explore Torres del Paine National Park

There are no set itineraries for your stay at Hotel Las Torres. Each day you can choose from a selection of five to ten different activities selected according to the weather and your interests. These include hiking, horseback riding, van or motorboat excursions. In groups no larger than ten guests accompanied by a bilingual guide, explorations allow an in-depth contact with the wonders of Torres del Paine National Park, year round.



DAY 5: Hotel Las Torres - Punta Arenas

At the appropriate time you will be transferred to the port in Punta Arenas for your cruise to Ushuaia.



DAY 5: Punta Arenas

Check in and luggage drop off is at the Cruceros Australis office, between 13:00hrs and 17:00hrs (1pm-5pm) at 1389 Costanera del Estrecho Ave (at Prat Port) on Punta Arenas's waterfront. Boarding commences at 18:00hrs (6pm) with departure scheduled at 20:00hrs (8pm). All passengers must be on board the vessel at least one hour before departure. Please note your luggage will be taken to your cabin. After a welcoming cocktail reception hosted by the Captain and his crew, the ship will depart for one of the remotest parts of the planet. During the night we cross the Strait of Magellan and enter the labyrinth of channels that define the southern extreme of Patagonian. The twinkling lights of Punta Arenas gradually fade into the distance as we enter the Whiteside Canal between Darwin Island and Isla Grande de Tierra del Fuego.



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DAY 6: Ainsworth Bay - Tuckers Islets

At dawn, we will navigate our way through Almirantazgo Sound, arriving at Ainsworth Bay which is sited within Alberto De Agostini National Park. It's the perfect spot from which to see the Marinelli Glacier descending from Darwin Mountain Range in the distance; and to appreciate how the land returns to life after glacial retreat. We will also take a walk to a beaver dam in the stunning sub-polar Magellan Forest. Whether on the beach or the island, there's a good chance of sighting Southern Elephant Seals. But do bear in mind the fact that sightings cannot be guaranteed due to the colony's unpredictable movements. Later, we will be sailing to Tuckers Islets, and after lunch, we will board well-equipped Zodiac boats to get close to a colony of Magellan Penguins (indigenous to the Southern Hemisphere) and cormorants. * In September and April, this excursion is replaced by a short walk to a nearby glacier at Brookes Bay.



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DAY 7: Pia Glacier - Glacier Alley

We will navigate along the northwest arm of the Beagle Channel before disembarking at Pia Fjord. From there, we'll take a short hike to a panoramic viewpoint from where we can enjoy spectacular views of the awe-inspiring Pia Glacier whose main tongue extends from the mountaintops down to the sea. After this memorable experience, we will continue our voyage along the Beagle Channel through the majestic Glacier Alley.



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DAY 8: Wulaia Bay - Cape Horn

During the morning we will be sailing through Murray Channel, going ashore at historical Wulaia Bay, originally the site of one of the region’s largest Yamana aboriginal settlements. Charles Darwin landed there in 1833 during his voyage on the HMS Beagle. This area is also renowned for the mesmerizing beauty of its vegetation and geography. We will take an enchanted walk through the Magellan Forest of lengas, coigües, canelos, ferns, and other endemic vegetation, to reach a panoramic viewpoint. In the afternoon we will go South through Nassau Bay to reach Cape Horn National Park, where, weather permitting, we shall go ashore. The legendary Cape Horn was discovered in 1616 and is a sheer 425-meter (1,394-foot) high rocky promontory. For many years it was an important navigation route between the Pacific and the Atlantic, and is referred to as the ‘End of the Earth’. The park was declared a World Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO in 2005.



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DAY 9: Ushuaia

We sail into Argentine waters and dock in Ushuaia, the world's southernmost city. Scheduled arrival between 8:30-9:30am.



DAY 9: Arrival transfer in Ushuaia

Arrival into Ushuaia Cruise Ship Terminal and transfer to your hotel.



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DAY 9: Ushuaia

Ushuaia is the most southerly city in the world with a dramatic setting overlooking the Beagle Channel, surrounded by mountains. It is a major port for Antarctic bound vessels and an interesting city to explore. The Museo Marítimo y del Presidio de Ushuaia, (Maritime & the Prison of Ushuaia Museum), located in the former prison of Ushuaia in buildings dating back to 1906, is well worth a visit. Tierra del Fuego National Park, a short bus ride from Ushuaia was the first shoreline National Park to be established in Argentina. It is a rugged, mountainous park with great views of Lapataia Bay and dramatic scenery with waterfalls, mountains, glaciers and lakes including parts of Fagnano and Roca Lakes. There are many hiking trails within the park including the Coastal Path (Senda Costera) that connects Ensenada Bay to Lapataia Bay on Lago Roca and the park is home to many species of birds and animals.



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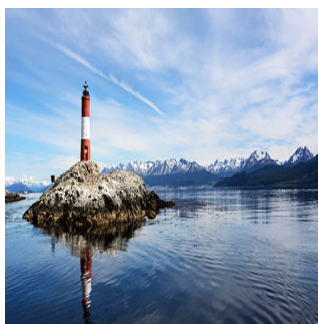
DAY 10: Transfer to the airport for onward destination

You will be collected from your hotel at the appropriate time and transferred to the airport for your onward flight.



DAY 10: Arrival transfer in Buenos Aires

On arrival, please make your way through to the Arrivals Hall where our representative will be waiting for you to transfer you to your hotel. He/she will be holding a sign with your name on it. Please note this service is with a driver only.



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DAY 10: Buenos Aires

Buenos Aires, Argentina’s elegant, historic and cosmopolitan capital, is known as the “Paris of the South” due to its European atmosphere with glamorous avenues lined with fashionable shops and Parisian-style restaurants and cafes. Located on the western shore of the estuary of the Río de la Plata, Buenos Aires has many fascinating neighbourhoods to explore including the colourful and lively La Boca, home to art galleries and tango shows; San Telmo with its restored mansions and antique stores and Recoleta, the city’s most exclusive area.



DAY 11: Transfer to the airport for onward destination

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INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

Accommodation	Standard
Inclusions	Accommodation with breakfast Tours as stated on the itinerary Airport transfers as stated on the itinerary Meals as stated on the itinerary
Difficulty Rating	2 (light adventure)
Single Surcharge	Available Upon Request
Notes	Contact us for more details
Price Dependent upon	Season and availability

SUSTAINABILITY

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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 structured 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.

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