

ARGENTINA - PATAGONIA



INTRODUCTION

This tour is a great option for people wanting to visit these remote and unspoilt regions of Chile and Argentina. Due to the strength and durability of our vehicles we are able to visit these areas where conventional transport is unsuitable. Let us take the stress out of the journey while you enjoy the lakes, mountains and waterfalls of the region. Discover the Carretera Austral and explore the stunning landscapes of the Futaleufu Valley and the majestic Queulat Hanging Glacier. Finally discover the vast Patagonian steppe as we travel down Argentina's infamous route 40.

ITINERARY

DAY 1: Arrival in Bariloche

Pre tour meeting: a pre tour meeting in Bariloche will be held at our joining hotel at approx. 6:30pm the night prior. Please ensure you are already in Bariloche. This tour is operated under our group travel brand, Viva Expeditions. Viva specialises in guided small group tours to Latin America. Today we pass through the town of Esquel where the "Old Patagonian Express" still runs. We have a short stop in Trevelin, a small town with links to Welsh immigrants. In the late afternoon, we cross into Chile and the scenery will immediately change as we arrive into the quaint town of Futaleufu. Meals: (B), (L), (D)



NO IMAGE
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TRIP CODE

LATSSART

DEPARTURE

24/10/2021, 20/01/2022

DURATION

7 Days

LOCATIONS

Argentina, Chile,
Patagonia



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DAY 2: Futaleufu - Queulat National Park

Today we turn onto the Carretera Austral (Southern Road) a remote, unspoilt region of intense natural beauty and is often referred to as one of South America's best road trips. We stop along the way to take photos and admire the spectacular natural vistas. Wild rivers flow through lush forests, waterfalls tumble along steep cliff faces and the world is reflected in mirror lakes. At lunch time, we arrive at the coastal fishing village of Puyuhuapi, located on the edge of the Chilean Fiords in a setting of incomparable beauty. In the afternoon, we get the rare opportunity to get up close and personal to a spectacular hanging glacier in the Queulat National Park. Enjoy the park's trails while being surrounded by virgin evergreen forests made up by species like coihue, tepa, and Chilean rhubarbs. Tonight we spend the night in cabins located on the edge of the Chilean Fiords. Meals: (B), (L), (D)



DAY 3: Queulat National Park Region

In such a remote and rugged area, you might just like to snuggle up in your cabin, but today you'll have the opportunity to hike to a nearby waterfall, take navigation to a personally owned island in the fjords or try a little sea kayaking (weather permitting). Meals: (B), (L), (D)



DAY 4: Queulat National Park - Coyhaique

Our drive starts with a windy 33 curves, climbing up to 500m/1500ft above sea level. As we venture through two more valleys we pass through several small country towns that were created when building the road access through this rugged area. Following along the Simpson River we pass lush pastures, mirror lakes and snow-capped mountains. We continue onto the Coyhaique Reserve and enjoy a short hike (8km/5mi) to the Lago Verde - Green Lake. It is a short drive from here to Coyhaique town where you can take a walk along the river and enjoy the viewpoints looking across the valley. Meals: (B), (L), (D)



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DAY 5: Coyhaique - Ruta 40

Today we have a wonderful drive through the Cerro Castillo Reserve with a chance to spot the rare Huemul deer. After lunch, we cross into Argentina and on to the famous Ruta 40 (Route 40). Travelling south through the vast Patagonian plains keep your eyes peeled for armadillos, rheas and guanacos. Tonight, we stop overnight at a remote Patagonian town. Meals: (B), (L), (D)



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DAY 6: Ruta 40 - Gobernador Gregores

Today we make a special visit to the Cuevas de las Manos (Cave of the Hands) which one of the most important archaeological sites in Patagonia. The caves feature paintings that are the most ancient artistic expressions of the native people of the subcontinent. The paintings were done by the first settlers of these lands, ancestors of the Tehuelche people (or Patagones), and date back to different periods from 9300 to 3300 years ago. The site was declared World Heritage by the UNESCO in 1999. We continue and spend the night in Gobernador Gregores, a small town with links the old caravan trail. Meals: (B), (L), (D)



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DAY 7: Gobernador Gregores - El Chalten

A morning drive to enjoy the landscapes of the Patagonian Steppe as we head south. Further on we will arrive in El Chalten, and the Parque Nacional Los Glaciares. This ice field is the world's 3rd largest reserve of fresh water. Enjoy lodgings in our hotel nestled quietly under the imposing peaks of Mount Fitzroy (Chalten), named after the captain of the Beagle, who navigated Darwin's Expedition of the area in 1834. In the afternoon, you will have time to take on one of the short hikes available in the area. You can climb up to the eagle and condor lookout points or stroll along the river to a the wonderful Chorrillo waterfall. Your tour ends in El Chalten this evening. Meals: (B), (D) Note: The information regarding itinerary is given in good faith and is subject to change and /or cancellation, due to weather / political and / or country instabilities and general safety / road conditions etc. Any such changes and/or cancellations which are in our control will be decided by the crew and will be discussed with the group beforehand whenever possible.



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DAY 7: El Chalten

El Chaltén is a small mountain village that lies within the magnificent World Heritage Listed Parque Nacional Los Glaciares at the base of Cerro Torre and Cerro Fitz Roy mountains. "Chaltén" is a Tehuelche word that means "Smoking Mountain", as they believed that Cerro Fitz Roy was a volcano, its summit enshrouded by clouds. Today El Chaltén is Argentina's trekking capital. The towering granite spires and fissured glaciers of the Torre and Fitzroy groups offer some of the most stunning scenery and spectacular hiking and trekking in southern Patagonia. A network of world-class trails take you to viewpoints with breath-taking vistas including those of Cerro Torre and Cerro Fitzroy peaks. There are also tracks to Torre Glacier, Piedras Blancas Glacier, Laguna Capri, Laguna de los Tres, Chorillo del Salto and the remote Pasa del Viento (Windy Pass).



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INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

Accommodation

Standard

Inclusions

4 nights' accommodation in standard hotels; 2 nights in shared log cabins
Transport in our custom built all-terrain expedition vehicles
Approximately 6 Breakfasts, 5 Lunches, 6 Dinners
Service of an experienced western tour leader as well as local guides
Experienced western Driver/Mechanic
All National Park Entrance fees

Activities Included:

Carretera Austral - South America's Best Road Trip
Queulat National Park and Hanging Glacier
Waterfall Hike or Fjord Boat Trip
Enchanted Forest Hike
Cuevas del las Manos (Hand Caves)

Difficulty Rating

2 (light adventure)

Single Surcharge

Single supplement for guaranteed single room is 25% of the total tour cost. However we offer a willing to share option for all solo travellers where we will pair you with another traveller of the same sex to share a twin room.

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Notes

*Reverse itinerary also available, contact us for more details.
Please note this is a small group tour. However, departures are guaranteed with a minimum of 2 pax.

Price Dependent upon

Season and availability

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 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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