

ARGENTINA - CHILE & ARGENTINA CIRCLE



INTRODUCTION

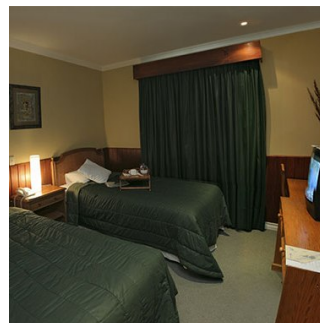
This 14 day tour is great overview of Chile and Argentina. Starting in Santiago you then make a winding accent over the Andes to Mendoza, a wine taster's paradise. From Mendoza the tour continues across the famous Pampas (home of the Gaucho) to Buenos Aires, one of the most exciting and vibrant cities in Latin America.

After Buenos Aires you travel far south into deep Patagonia, El Calafate. From El Calafate you will visit the tremendously impressive Perito Moreno Glacier. The next day you will take another ride across the Andes. This one far more isolated that the first crossing,- on a well maintained gravelroad with spectacular landscapes. Once back into Chile you'll visit the famous Torres del Paine National Park, with it's famous vertical granite peaks. Finally you will return to your starting point, Santiago, where the tour ends.

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.



TRIP CODE

MCTSCAC

DURATION

14 Days

LOCATIONS

Not Available




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DAY 1: Santiago Panoramic City Tour

This morning, you will be collected from your hotel for your tour of Santiago. Visit both the old and new areas of the city. Highlights include the Plaza de Armas, the city's central square and the heart of the city's old colonial core. The Plaza de Armas is home to the beautiful 18th century Metropolitan Cathedral, the early 19th century Royal Court Palace that houses the Natural History Museum and the Central Post Office completed in 1882. Will continue along the Government Palace and where we will have the opportunity to walk through some of the most traditional streets and neighbourhoods. Visit Cerro Santa Lucia, the hill on which Santiago was founded in 1541, now a park with fountains and stairs leading to a fort and panoramic viewpoint across the city. On completion of your tour, you will be taken to your hotel. Please note this is small group tour and only operates in the morning.



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DAY 2: Full Day Valparaiso Tour

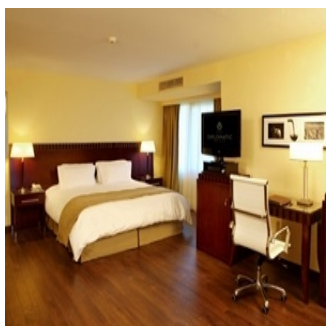
This morning you will be collected from your hotel for a full day tour of Vina del Mar and Valparaiso are two of Chile's unmissable destinations. Known as the "Garden City", for originally being surrounded by largely green areas and for now preserving its extensive and beautiful urban gardens, with the Pacific Ocean as its backdrop, Vina del Mar is undoubtedly one of Chile's unmissable destinations. Vina del Mar stands out for its beautiful architecture, its impressive palaces and famous Flower Clock, photographed by tourists from all over the world. During the tour, you will have the option to have lunch (not included in tour price) in one of the numerous restaurants in the city, with a variety of delicious sea food on offer. We will travel along the sea front, and enjoy the views of the Pacific Ocean, before arriving at the most important ports in Chile; Valparaiso. It was listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site thanks to its colourful beauty and the uniqueness of its location on the hills, which create a natural Amphitheatre with the ocean as its stage. We will visit Cerro Alegre, where you can truly appreciate the magic of the city, with its picturesque funiculars, multi-coloured neighbourhoods and unforgettable sea views. We will then head to the Sotomayor Square, to see the Monument of the Heroes of Iquique. At the end of the tour, we will return to Santiago and you will be taken to your hotel. Please note this is a small group tour.



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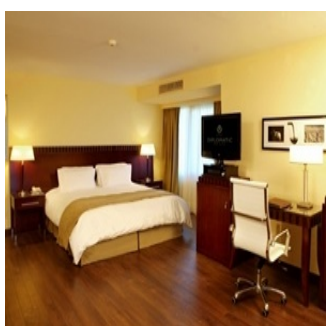
DAY 3: Transfer to the Bus Station for onward destination

Transfer from your hotel to the bus station for your onward journey.



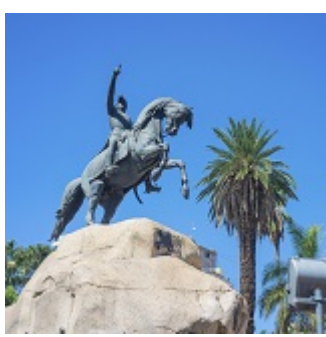
DAY 3: Arrival transfer in Mendoza

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



DAY 3: Mendoza


Mendoza, in a region of foothills and high plains, is the heart of Argentina's wine country, famed for Malbecs and other red wines. The city has wide, leafy avenues, atmospheric plazas and cosmopolitan cafes. The city has five central plazas, the four smaller plazas surrounding the main Plaza Independencia.



DAY 4: Maipu Wines and Flavours

Towards the east of the city, Maipú transports us to the past. You will experience the origins of wine in Argentina, stopping in the historic, restored Bodega Trapiche, the Sinfin winery and the prestigious Zuccardi bodega. These wineries paved the way for viticulture in Argentina, and still today conserve their family traditions. Through them you will learn the history of winemaking in Mendoza. Note: Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday 09hs to 16.30hs. Wineries subject to change without warning.



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DAY 5: Transfer to the airport for onward destination

You will be collected from your hotel at the appropriate time and transferred to your onward flight from Mendoza. Please note this service is with driver only.



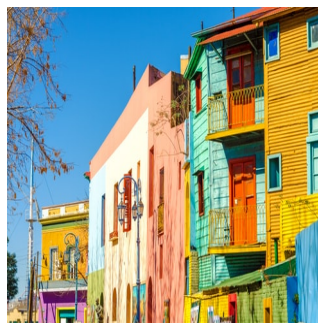
DAY 5: Arrival transfer in Buenos Aires


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 driver only.



DAY 5: 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.



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DAY 6: Highlights of Buenos Aires City Tour

You will be collected from your hotel for your three-hour tour visiting the most important highlights of the city of Buenos Aires. Discover the history of the Plaza de Mayo Square, the site of Argentina's most important historical events - see its surroundings and the most emblematic buildings and learn all about them. Then enjoy Mayo Avenue and wonder in awe at the oldest residential neighbourhood in Buenos Aires: San Telmo. Live and feel the original Tango in the neighbourhood of La Boca: walk along Caminito Street and enjoy the Dancers and souvenir shops. See the mythical Boca Juniors soccer stadium. Contemplate the modernization of the city whilst traveling along Puerto Madero and its exclusive docks, full of excellent restaurants and large offices. Pass through the Retiro neighbourhood and move on to see Palermo and its most exclusive residential area before finally arriving at Recoleta. Here, discover the final resting place of Eva Peron, "Evita" and wander through Recoleta Cemetery where she is to be found. On completion of your tour, you will be taken to your hotel. Please note this is a small group tour.



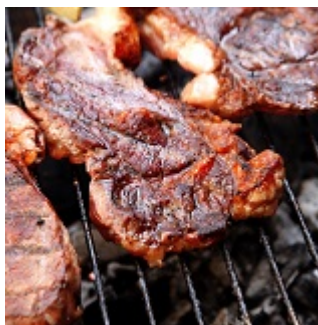
DAY 7: Free day in Buenos Aires

Today is free to enjoy the sights and sounds of this world famous city. Why not enjoy a day trip over the River Plate to the beautiful city of Colonia with its UNESCO World Heritage Listed historic centre, perhaps wander the streets of San Telmo antiques district (home to the famous Sunday markets), enjoy some of the world class shopping or soak up some of Buenos Aires' Parisian atmosphere.



DAY 7: Neighbourhood Food Tour - Optional Tour

Optional Tour: Today we invite you to participate in a famous and typical Argentine barbecue



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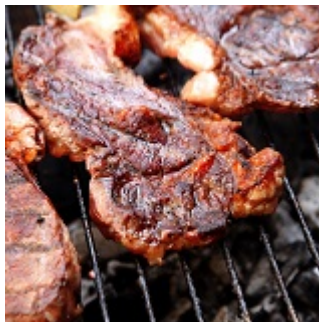
Not Available



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DAY 8: 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 driver only.



DAY 8: Arrival transfer in El Calafate


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. Please make your own way to Las Lenguas counter upon arrival to wait for your next shuttle. Please bear in mind that wait times can vary from 15 minutes up to 2 hours depending on flight schedules.



DAY 8: El Calafate

El Calafate flanks the southern shore of Lago Argentino in the southwest part of Argentina's Santa Cruz Province. The town is near the edge of the Southern Patagonian Ice Field and one of the gateways to World Heritage Listed Parque Nacional Los Glaciers. The name El Calafate is derived from the calafate plant common in Patagonia. The town's main street, Avenida del Libertador General San Martín, is lined with restaurants, cafes, chocolate shops and souvenir shops.



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DAY 9: Perito Moreno with South Wall Cruise

This morning you will be collected from your hotel to venture into Los Glaciares National Park to see the world famous Perito Moreno Glacier. The glacier is more than two miles wide and averages 74m in height above the surface of the water of Lake Argentino. It is one of the very few glaciers in the world that continues to advance and if you are lucky you may see the glacier calving as large masses of ice break away from the glacier and collapse into the water. Enroute to the glacier, stop at the pier for a short boat trip to the south wall of the glacier. From the water level you get a feel for the size of this remarkable glacier - a true highlight of Patagonia. Reaching the Icebergs Channel, the boat will stop at a safe distance from the glacier, continuing to sail down all its front, allowing a spectacular view of the high wall of ice. On completion of the tour you will be taken to your hotel.



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DAY 10: Free day

Today is free to spend at your leisure.



DAY 11: Hotel Las Torres - Arrival

You will meet you at your arrival point and transferred to Hotel Las Torres, located inside Torres Del Paine National Park. This transfer is up to 5 hours in length on good paved and dirt roads and offers a great introduction in the wide open expanses of the Patagonian pampas. Pick ups at 9am and 3pm from Punta Arenas City and 9.30am and 3.30pm from Punta Arenas Airport.



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DAY 12: 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 13: 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 14: Hotel Las Torres - Departure

Early this morning you will depart Las Torres Hotel aboard their shuttle service transfer. Departure times will be reconfirmed to you directly by the hotel the evening prior to your departure. Please note journey times are as follows however they are dependant on weather and road conditions: El Calafate via Cerro Castillo (border crossing) will be approximately five hours and 30 minutes departing at 7am. Puerto Natales will be approximately two hours departing at 2pm. Punta Arenas will be approximately five hours departing at 7.30am and 1pm.




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INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

Accommodation	Hotels
Inclusions	All breakfasts and other meals where specified. All transport and transfers. All accommodation. All internal flights (flight Punta Arenas to Santiago on last day is not included).

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Difficulty Rating	2 (light adventure)
Single Surcharge	Standard category from US\$1,355. Superior category from US\$1945. Subject to season and availability.
Notes	Contact us for more details
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 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.