

ARGENTINA - LAKES AND GLACIER TOUR



TRIP CODE

MCTSLGT

DURATION

13 Days

LOCATIONS

Chile, Argentina,
Patagonia



INTRODUCTION

Join us on this contrasting journey to the end of the world, combining some of the most exciting locations in Chile and Argentina.

Your exploration will begin in the vibrant and bustling capital city of Santiago before heading south to Patagonia's sublime landscape of endless mountains, icebergs and glaciers. You'll continue on through the Andes Mountains to the Lakes District region where you'll find yourself surrounded by volcanoes and ancient forests, before completing your discovery visiting San Pedro de Atacama situated in the driest desert in the world. This diverse journey is one you will never forget.

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.



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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.



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: Departure to Punta Arenas

You will be met at the Punta Arenas Airport and transferred to Hotel Las Torres, located inside Torres Del Paine National Park. This transfer is up to five hours in length on good paved and dirt roads and offers a great introduction in the wide open expanses of the Patagonian pampas.



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 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

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DAY 5: 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.



DAY 5: 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 6: Rios de Hielo Glacier Boat Trip

Early this morning you will be collected from your hotel to navigate Lake Argentino and see the Upsala and Spegazzini Glaciers. On arrival at the pier and after a safety briefing, cruise northwest along the northern arm of Lake Argentino towards the Upsala Canal, where there is a spectacular wall of ice and fantastic panoramic views of the Upsala Glacier. Then the boat turns south down the Spegazzini Canal, from where the Seco Glacier can be seen enroute to the Spegazzini Glacier, the highest in the Glacier National Park. Return to the pier at Puerto Bandera and once you disembark, you will be taken to your hotel. Please note this is small group tour with a box lunch and entrance fee to the National Park is included.



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DAY 7: 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 7: Arrival transfer in Bariloche

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. Should you not be able to locate them, please refer to the front of your itinerary for emergency contact details of our representative office. Please note this service is with a driver only.



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DAY 7: Bariloche

San Carlos de Bariloche lies on the southern shores of Lake Nahuel Huapi in the foothills of the Andes surrounded by mountains and forests. Its location is stunning, surrounded by the Nahuel Huapi National Park, the oldest National Park in Argentina. With its Alpine-styled architecture, its picturesque lakeside setting overlooked by mountains and forests as well as numerous boutique chocolate shops and St. Bernard dogs, the city has a Swiss-like atmosphere.



DAY 8: Full Day Andean Lake Crossing: Bariloche to Puerto

From Bariloche, your full day journey across the border today will be a combination of scenic bus rides and lake crossings. Set off from Bariloche by bus to Puerto Pañuelo along the shores of Lake Nahuel Huapi, taking in the lovely flower gardens and Swiss-style architecture that characterizes the area. Continue by boat to Puerto Blest and board the bus to Puerto Alegre. Sail from there to Puerto Frías, complete the Customs procedures to exit Argentina, and cross the Andes (altitude 976m) passing through Pérez Rosales National Park, to Peulla, completing Chilean Customs formalities on route. There'll be time for lunch (not included) in Peulla, before the onward cruise to Petrohué on Lake Todos Los Santos, widely considered to be one of Chile's most beautiful lakes with spectacular views of Osorno Volcano and the Puntagudo and Tronador mountain peaks when the weather is clear. The final leg of the journey is a scenic bus ride to Puerto Varas, arriving early evening. Please note this schedule is for guidance only and may change according to weather conditions and the number of passengers. National Park Entrance fee is included however a Boarding Tax is payable locally only in Argentinean Pesos (approx. USD \$3 per person).



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DAY 9: Puerto Montt & Puerto Varas City Tour

You will be collected from your hotel for a sightseeing tour of Puerto Montt and Puerto Varas. Begin the tour in the capital of the region, Puerto Montt, visiting the Main Square, the commercial and harbour zone of Angelmó, famous in Chile because it has many hand crafts and gifts shops, and of course the City Central Market, where we can see how it works one of the principal economic activities, fishing and seafood. Continue down the Pan-American Highway to the charming town of Puerto Varas, known as “The City of the Roses”, located on the shore of Llanquihue Lake. Here you will discover the picturesque streets and visit various sites of interest including the Main Square, the Church of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Municipal Casino. On completion of the tour you will be taken to your hotel. Please note this is a small group tour.



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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 Atacama

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 a shared service with driver only.



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DAY 10: Atacama

The small oasis town of San Pedro de Atacama lies on an arid high plateau in the Andes Mountains in the heart of some of northern Chile's most spectacular scenery. Overlooking the Licancabur Volcano, its dramatic surrounding landscape ranges from desert, salt flats, steaming geysers and hot springs to fascinating rock formations. The church, dating back to 1774 and featuring adobe, cactus wood and leather-bound beams and the Archaeological Museum are both worth a visit.



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DAY 11: Moon Valley Tour

This afternoon, you will be collected from your hotel to travel across Cordillera de la Sal (Salt Mountain Range) to reach the Valle de la Luna (Valley of the Moon), one of the main attractions of this region. Located 19km from San Pedro de Atacama, the valley's landscape resembles the surface of the moon with small but sharp crested hills created by the wind. This tour is available only in the afternoon when the setting sun brings out the best of the valley's incredible colours. On completion of this tour, you will be taken to your hotel. Please note this is a small group tour.



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DAY 12: Atacama Tatio Geysers

Early this morning you will be collected from your hotel for your full day tour to the Tatio Geysers. Located 90 km northwest of San Pedro, the Tatio Geysers sit at an altitude of 4,320 metres above sea level and are said to be the highest geothermal field in the world. See the 100 geysers erupt water and let off steam to heights of up to 50 metres. Surrounded by spurts of water and vapor, enjoy the beauty of the Andes in its natural scenery. Then visit "Pozón Rústico", where you will delight in the thermal waters the mountain range provides. On the way back to your hotel, drive downhill through a wonderful landscape where you can spot guanacos, vicuñas, flamingos and other wildlife. Please note this is a small group tour.



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DAY 13: Transfer to the airport for onward destination

You will be collected from your hotel at the appropriate time for the transfer to the airport for your outward flight from San Pedro Atacama. Please note this service is a shared service with driver only.



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INCLUSIONS & DETAILS	
Accommodation	Hotel
Inclusions	Airport transfers Accommodation Tours in the itinerary Internal flights Transport All breakfasts Meals where stated
Difficulty Rating	1 - Easy
Single Surcharge	Available upon request
Notes	Contact us for more details
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

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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.

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