

ARGENTINA - PATAGONIA CIRCLE



INTRODUCTION

Choose this Tailor-Made itinerary or customise to create your own unique journey. Departs daily to suit your travel plans. Price based on Standard accommodation. Superior or Deluxe also available.

Dive into the rugged and picturesque landscape of Patagonia, the most southern region of South America, and experience the stunning wildlife of Chile and Argentina.

Marvel at Argentina's Perito Moreno Glacier and explore the waterfalls, lakes and famous mountains of Torres del Paine National Park.

Experience an exquisite South American Adventure that you will never forget!

TRIP CODE

MCTSPAC

DEPARTURE

Saturdays: from September to April

DURATION

13 Days

LOCATIONS

Chile, Argentina, Patagonia



ITINERARY

DAY 1: 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 Lengas counter upon arrival to wait for your next shuttle. Please bear in mind that wait times can vary from 15minutes up to 2 hours depending on flight schedules.



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DAY 1: 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.



DAY 2: 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.



DAY 3: 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 4: Bus Ticket Calafate - Puerto Natales

This service is for the local bus that operates to Puerto Natales, Chile. Final timings will be advised to you directly in Argentina. The journey will take approximately five-six hours depending on road conditions and border crossing procedures. Please note this service does not include any transfers to/from the bus terminals



DAY 4: Arrival in Puerto Natales

Puerto Natales sits on the shores of Seno Última Esperanza in Chilean Patagonia, with striking views across the mountains. Once a relatively small fishing port, Puerto Natales now relies more on tourism, being the gateway to Torres del Paine National Park and the southern terminus of the ferry trip through the Chilean fjords.



DAY 5: Full day Torres Del Paine National Park

Torres del Paine is undoubtedly one of the most beautiful national parks, famous all around the world for its spectacular scenery, fauna and adventure activities. Declared a Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO in 1978, Torres del Paine is considered to be one of the most magnificent, untouched places on earth. Set off early from Puerto Natales, visiting the Milodon Cave and the village of Castillo, before reaching the park. Milodon Cave is a massive prehistoric cave where the remains of a giant ground sloth were discovered in the 1890's. Once inside the park, make your way to the Salto Grande, a relatively small but incredibly powerful waterfall fed by the glacial melt waters before stopping for lunch at a hosteria. From here it's on to Lake Grey and the Glacier Grey before heading back to Puerto Natales. Along the way, enjoy incredible views of Lakes Sarmiento, Nordenskjold, Pehoé, Amarga and the mountains of the Paine massif like Torres, Cuernos and Paine Grande. Includes lunch and entrance fee.



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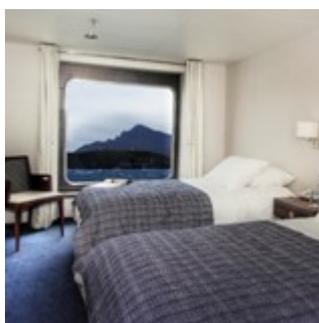
DAY 6: Puerto Natales Free Day

Enjoy today at leisure in Puerto Natales.



DAY 7: Bus Puerto Natales - Punta Arenas

Travel by bus from Puerto Natales to Punta Arenas.



DAY 7: 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 8: 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.



DAY 9: 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 10: 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.



DAY 11: Ushuaia

Disembarkation in Ushuaia. Stella Australis: arrival at 08:30 a.m. and 9:30 am according to date of departure.



DAY 11: Arrival transfer in Ushuaia

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



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DAY 11: 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 12: End of the World train

Ride the southernmost train in the world to enjoy a vivid and scenic route.



DAY 13: 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.



INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

Accommodation

Hotels/Cabin on ship

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Inclusions	<p>Accommodation with breakfast Tours and transfers as stated on the itinerary Cruise from Punta Arenas to Ushuaia Sightseeing with local English speaking guides as detailed in itinerary</p> <p>Exclusions International flights Visa and reciprocity fees (if applicable) Travel insurance Beverages Personal expenses Gratuities for guides/crew Any items not mentioned as included</p>
Difficulty Rating	2 (light adventure)
Single Surcharge	Available upon request
Notes	Contact us for more details
Price Dependent upon	Season and Availability

SUSTAINABILITY

Being environmentally accountable is a crucial part of our organisation. Chimu is currently striving towards using less paper, taking several initiatives to do so and tracking our progress along the way. Our goal: A paperless organisation. For this reason, all information given to you will be sent electronically. We encourage those who choose to travel with us to support our aspirations and actions and ask that you reconsider printing out documentation. To view these documents, you can download them to your iPad or portable computer before and during your trip.

Chimu is passionate and dedicated to sustainability measures and understands the crucial part sustainability plays within the tourism industry.

We use local guides and office staff to both maximise local employment opportunities and minimise carbon footprint. Local guides also ensure you benefit from the intimate knowledge, passion and culture of the country you're visiting. Our guides are all highly qualified (most with university degrees) or equip with many years of experience and are paid above the standard wage. Whether it be our knowledgeable local guides, locally produced meals or the transport on tour, we do not use imported goods when local products are available. We aim to minimise our impact on the environment and give as much back as possible to the communities we work in.

While visiting the many national parks, heritage sites, museums and landmarks our travellers are encouraged to explore remain culturally aware and sensitive. We further encourage you to buy appropriate souvenirs and discourage the buying of anything wrongfully made or taken from the environment i.e. shells and endangered species products. Information on how you can be environmentally conscious, and travel responsibly will be made available in our Travellers Guides and provided during your

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travels by guides and staff.

For more information on our sustainability policies, including how we are striving towards being a paperless organisation, click [HERE](#)

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