

ARGENTINA - PATAGONIA EXPRESS



TRIP CODE

MCTSPAE

DEPARTURE

Daily September to April

DURATION

9 Days

LOCATIONS

Argentina, Chile,
Patagonia



INTRODUCTION

From Argentina to Chile in nine days, enjoy the spectacular glacial and mountain scenery of Calafate, Puerto Natales and the world-renowned Torres del Paine National Park. Visit Perito Moreno Glacier, one of the few glaciers in the world still advancing and enjoy a short cruise along the south wall of the glacier. Travel overland to Torres Del Paine National Park and stay at Hotel Las Torres the only working cattle farm inside the park and have three days to explore the park with a range of activities on offer. End with a cruise to the incredibly remote and stunningly beautiful Balmaceda and Serrano Glaciers.

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. This service includes a driver and local English speaking guide, who will provide you with any useful information needed for your stay. He/she will be holding a sign with your name on it.



NO IMAGE
AVAILABLE

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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: 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.



DAY 3: El Calafate: Free Day

Today is free to spend at your leisure in El Calafate and the surroundings.



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DAY 4: 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.



DAY 5: 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 6: 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 7: Hotel Las Torres to Puerto Natales

This morning you will be transferred to your hotel in Puerto Natales. Please note journey time will take approximately two hours.



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DAY 7: 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 8: Balmaceda & Serrano Glacier Cruise


This morning you will be picked up from hotel in Puerto Natales and transferred to the to the dock to board your vessel. Located within the Bernardo O’Higgins National Park are the Balmaceda and Serrano Glaciers, these incredible natural phenomena are part of the Andes Mountain Range. Along the way, you will see the old buildings from the Bories meat processing plant, a colony of imperial cormorants, a small colony of sea lions and a variety of other unique flora and fauna alike. From the vessel, you will be able to see Balmaceda Glacier in all its glory. Disembark at Puerto Toro and walk through the forest towards Serrano Glacier. Return to the boat to continue the cruise. Upon disembarkation guests will be given a boxed lunch. On completion of your cruise today, you will be transferred back to your hotel from the dock. Please note this is small group tour.



DAY 9: Depart from Puerto Natales to Punta Arenas

You will be collected from your hotel for your private transfer from Puerto Natales to Punta Arenas.



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INCLUSIONS & DETAILS	
Accommodation	Superior

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Inclusions	Accommodation in standard rooms with breakfast only All inclusive in Torres del Paine National Park Tours as stated in the itinerary Transportation Airport transfers on Day 1 and Day 9
Difficulty Rating	2 (light adventure)
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 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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