

PATAGONIA - HIGHLIGHTS OF PATAGONIA



TRIP CODE

LAVVHOP

DURATION

13 Days

LOCATIONS

Argentina, Chile,
Patagonia



INTRODUCTION

Southern Patagonia's rugged beauty takes your breath away. This remote region with its icy landscapes and towering mountains hewn from granite, glacial lakes and endless views is one of nature's true treasures. We will explore the famous Torres Del Paine National Park, the huge Perito Moreno Glacier & the awe-inspiring Mount Fitzroy. Hike among the rocky peaks, soak in majestic views, spot soaring condors, and search for elusive Puma before ending the trip in Ushuaia, the most southerly city in the world and the gateway to Antarctica!

ITINERARY

DAY 1: Punta Arenas

Arrival in Punta Arenas, the historic capital of the Magallanes Region and of the Chilean Antarctic. The city has many treasures, including the statue of Magellan at the centre of the Plaza Armas and the iconic Palacio Sara Braun. The city's public cemetery is adorned with beautiful gardens, whilst the Mirador Cerro la Cruz is a lookout point that offers a spectacular panorama of the city's colourful houses.



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DAY 2: Punta Arenas to Torres Del Paine National Park

Today we head towards Torres Del Paine, South America’s finest National Park and a trekker’s paradise. In this area are the colossal towers and horns of granite that have given the park worldwide fame. The park preserves numerous animals like guanacos, condors, ñandues (South American ostrich), foxes and the elusive puma. We break the hike into three separate walks, hiking an average of 15km (9.5mi) to 20km (12mi) each day. The group is assisted by expert local trekking guides who guide us through the hiking trails. Other than hiking there are activities available inside Torres Del Paine. Please ask about our Torres Light Add-On for lighter options.



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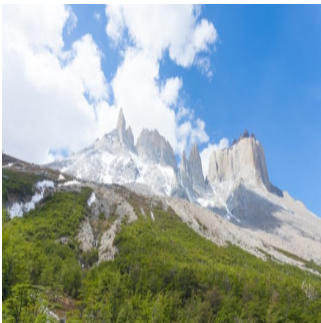
DAY 3: Torres Del Paine National Park

Las Torres Hike (Difficult) Hiking to view the iconic Las Torres (the Towers) is a challenging yet immensely satisfying hike. The Towers are the three massive granite columns that encircle the smaller Torres Glacier. The Towers hike is by far the most strenuous of all the hikes. It takes in dirt paths, some steep in areas, through valleys with a great river underneath, within beautiful forests, river crossings and a final scramble over boulders to the base of the towers. Full walk takes approximately 8 - 9 hours return. Please ask about our Torres Light Add-On for lighter options.



DAY 4: Torres Del Paine National Park

French Valley Hike (Moderate - Difficult) The French Valley is the most beautiful valley in the Torres del Paine National Park. It is a steep hike and offers incredible panoramic views of Los Cuernos del Paine, the French Glacier and Lakes Nordenskjold, Pehoé, Scottsburg and Toro. Finishing at the French Lookout with a 300m/1000ft elevation gain we can sit, watch and hear ice crack and maybe even see a mini avalanche. We stay overnight at the Paine Grande Refuge so we do not have to return across the lake to our hotel. Full walk takes approximately 8 - 9 hours return. Please ask about our Torres Light Add-On for lighter options.



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DAY 5: Torres Del Paine National Park to Puerto Natales

Greys Glacier trek (Easy - moderate) Grey Glacier is one of the principal tourist attractions located in Chile. The lake's creamy blue colour dotted with floating icebergs and the Patagonia Icefield at the back is a breath taking sight. Hiking through a combination of valleys, inclines and forest we reach the remarkable lookout point, before hiking down to the Refugio Grey Glacier viewpoint which brings us a lot closer to this magnificent ice sheet. The full walk takes approximately 7 - 8 hours return. Please ask about our Torres Light Add-On for lighter options.



DAY 6: Puerto Natales to El Calafate

We cross back into Argentina and continue through the Patagonian steppe, where it is common to see condors flying overhead. As beautiful Lake Argentino, the biggest freshwater lake in Argentina, comes into view we know we are nearing El Calafate, our base to visit the impressive Perito Moreno glacier.



DAY 7: El Calafate

This morning we will venture into Los Glaciares National Park to see the famous Perito Moreno Glacier. The glacier is more than 3 kilometers wide and averages 74m in height above Lake Argentino. It is one of the very few glaciers in the world that continues to advance and if we are lucky, we may see the glacier calving as large masses of ice break away from the glacier and collapse into the water. We take a short boat trip to the south wall of the glacier - a true highlight of Patagonia.



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DAY 8: El Calafate

Today we will visit Estancia Nibepo Aike which retains the essence of the old Patagonian ranches. It covers over 12,000 hectares at the foot of the Patagonian Andes and is dedicated to the production of cattle and sheep. It is an ideal place to dip into the life of an authentic Patagonian ranch through farm demonstrations and participating in ranch activities as well as optional hikes or horse riding. Before returning to El Calafate, we enjoy a typical Patagonian barbeque.



DAY 9: El Calafate to El Chalten

Today we will arrive in El Chalten, a small town nestled quietly under the imposing peak of Chalten (also known as Mount Fitzroy). In the afternoon we will take a trek to Laguna Capri over reasonable slopes and into the Del Salto stream valley, where we will notice more and more Antarctic beech trees. The trail takes in spectacular vistas before reaching beautiful Laguna Capri and then continuing in a loop back to El Chalten.



DAY 10: El Chalten

On a guided hike we enter the Fitzroy River Valley and continue upstream - heading for its source. Our first viewpoint is at the gorge of the Fitzroy River called Casacada Margarita. On a clear day this panorama displays Mt Fitzroy, Cerro Torre, Cerro Solo and the Adela range. We continue along an undulating trail until we reach the Cerro Torre viewpoint. Then down into a plateau section, through a southern beech tree forest to the glacier Lagune. Often, we will find icebergs here. (7 hour return trek).



DAY 11: El Chalten to Ushuaia

Today we head to the airport for our flight to 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.



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DAY 12: Ushuaia

This morning we head to Tierra Del Fuego National Park, home to a wide range of flora and fauna, glaciers, waterfalls, mountains and stunning scenery. We will take a trip by catamaran along the Ushuaia Bay and the Beagle Channel. We will see the Les Eclaireurs lighthouse, and Sea Lion Island where we can view these stately sea mammals. We will be able to see many species of seabirds like southern giant petrels, black-browed albatross, skuas, southern American terns, gulls and kelp gulls.



DAY 13: Tour ends

Depart Ushuaia with wonderful memories, and a new respect of our wonderful planet courtesy of Patagonia.



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INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

Accommodation	Standard-Superior
Inclusions	<p>11 night accommodation in standard-superior hotels 1 night in a hiking lodge with shared bunk beds Internal flights as indicated in itinerary Sightseeing with English-speaking guide Other meals where stated All national park entry fees</p> <p>Exclusions International flights Visa and reciprocity fees (if applicable) Gratuities for guides/drivers Beverages Any items not mentioned as included</p>
Difficulty Rating	2 (light adventure)
Single Surcharge	Willing to share option guaranteed. Contact us for more details.

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Notes

Discovery style tour - Transport on this tour can be a combination of private vehicles, public bus, plane, train or by boat.

Price Dependent upon

Departure date, 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 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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