



PATAGONIA: ARGENTINA DEEP DIVE

January 2019

2 Travelers

DAY 1 | ARRIVE BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA

- Upon arrival, you will meet your driver and be transferred to your hotel for check-in
- This afternoon, head out on a **privately guided city tour** (approx. 5 hours)
 - Following the history of Buenos Aires City and its strikingly different neighborhoods, this tour's highlights include the **Main Square, Plaza de Mayo** with its neo-classical Cathedral, colonial town-hall, and the **Presidential Palace** and the "Casa Rosada" (The Pink House)
 - Then it's on to the **old neighborhood of San Telmo** with its narrow, cobbled-stone streets; **La Boca** with its multicolor tin houses and soccer stadium, the elegant Barrio Norte neighborhood, **Palermo** with its wonderful parks and gardens, monuments, and magnificent mansions.
 - *Note: Our professional guides can tailor this tour to fit your particular interests, so let us know about them to ensure you make the most out of this experience!*



ACCOMMODATION: Sofitel Buenos Aires Recoleta (Superior Room)

DAY 2 | DELTA TIGRE EXCURSION (B)

- Start your day with a drive along the north area to reach the elegant northern riverside suburbs in the outskirts of Buenos Aires, **'San Isidro'**, where we explore the cobblestoned, historical neighborhood and visit the Cathedral.
- Once in Tigre, let our guide lead you off the beaten path, showing you the beautiful and unknown Tigre's Delta in an authentic wood strip Canadian canoe, an ideal way to explore the natural environment of the delta.
 - Your canoeing guide will begin with a quick safety briefing prior to embarking on a **canoeing adventure**. Canoeing through the inlets of the delta river ways provides an interesting glimpse at life in the delta, and the many interesting weekend houses (everything from rustic wooden stilt shacks and cabins to opulent mansions) hidden away in the different offshoots of the Paraná River where many Porteños spend their weekends seeking peace and tranquility.
 - The Tigre- the generic name given to the delta region- is a coffee-colored, watery wonderland of amazing beauty and likened to a kind of rural and rustic Venice. There are numerous restaurants, schools, several island inns, and vendors who ply the channels offering all sorts of merchandise.
 - *No experience necessary. 2 hrs total canoeing time. Snack and drinks served during the excursion.*
- Return to your hotel this evening and spend the rest of the night exploring the city on your own

ACCOMMODATION: Sofitel Buenos Aires Recoleta (Superior Room)

DAY 3 | BUENOS AIRES TO SAN CARLOS DE BARILOCHE (B)

- Private transfer to the airport this morning
- *Fly Buenos Aires to San Carlos de Bariloche (TBD)*
- Upon arrival, you'll be met and transferred to your hotel for a restful evening
- **San Carlos de Bariloche** is located in the western area of the Province of Río Negro: Bariloche is in the heart of the **Nahuel Huapi National Park**. Lying on the southern shore of the lake after which the park is

named, it is the perfect combination between the speed of the city and the quietude of nature. This city has several hotels and gastronomic infrastructures that were first developed over eight decades ago. Since then, Bariloche has turned into one of the main tourist destinations in Argentina.

ACCOMMODATION: El Casco Art Hotel (Nahuel Studio Room)

DAY 4 | PALOTINOS HIKING & KAYAKING DAY (B, L)

- This excursion is for those who love the mountains and wish to experience them fully. We believe that mountains were created for the enjoyment of everyone!
- A private vehicle will pick you up at the hotel to go to Llao Llao Municipal Park. A simple 45-minute walk will take you to the natural balconies at the Brazo Tristeza, from where you will enjoy a magnificent view over the nearby mountains and a gourmet picnic lunch will offer various Patagonian flavors & wine for you to enjoy.
- In the afternoon, after going back to the starting point, you will tour around **the beaches of Moreno Lake** aboard **double adventure kayaks**, experiencing the feeling of navigating without an engine through one of the lakes in the area.
 - *Optional: Those who dare to go a little further can make a rappel descent down to the base of the wall.*

ACCOMMODATION: El Casco Art Hotel (Nahuel Studio Room)

DAY 5 | CONDOR INTERACTION (B, L)

- Intense, rugged and harsh; the steppe is a special place for adventure-seekers.
- Our guide will be Lorenzo Sympson, born and raised on an estancia in the Argentine pampas: the third generation of a British family of birdwatchers specializing in Condors.
 - Lorenzo will pick you up at the hotel at 8:00 am and set forth towards **Las Buitreras** (the steppe area) where the Condors live. Once here, we'll **hike for about an hour** and observe, listen, and learn about these amazing and huge creatures.
 - After exploring, we'll go back and enjoy a one-of-a-kind nomad lunch.
 - *Level of Difficulty: Medium*
 - *Fitness Requirements: Medium fitness level*
 - *Personal Mountaineering Gear: Trekking shoes, synthetic warm clothes, small backpack for personal belongings, sunglasses, warm hat and gloves, sunscreen.*
 - *Mountain Lunch: Soup. Cheese and cold meats plate; Sandwich: chicken with cheese and celery; Parma ham, avocado and rocket leaves + water/soft drinks + wine.*

ACCOMMODATION: El Casco Art Hotel (Nahuel Studio Room)

DAY 6 | VICTORIA ISLAND HIKING (B, L)

- **Isla Victoria** has a plethora of natural attractions. Gliding across Nahuel Huapis' crystal clear waters, we reach the island. A private transfer will take you to the pier where you will get on board a **private boat** to cross the cold waters of Nahuel Huapi Lake up to the millenary island in 45 minutes.
- Once there, step into the woodland to admire the stunning scenery. The trails you will follow for about **two hours** will be relatively easy (this is a **non-technical hike**); if you're lucky, you might spot some deer or pheasant.

- Lunch will consist of a gourmet meal and a glass of local wine.
- After lunch, you'll continue to explore the island with your guide.
- In the evening you head back to the pier and then continue to the hotel for some well-earned rest!

ACCOMMODATION: El Casco Art Hotel (Nahuel Studio Room)

DAY 7 | BARILOCHE TO CALAFATE (B)

- Transfer to the airport for your flight
- *Fly Bariloche to Calafate (TBD)*
- Upon arrival you'll be met and transferred to your hotel, right on the banks of Lago Argentino
- In the middle of the steppe and constantly buffeted by the southern wind, **El Calafate** is one of the country's most visited destinations for the outlying spectacular attractions: **The Perito Moreno Glacier** and **National Park Los Glaciares**.
- Around **Lago Argentino**, a lake with a surface area of 1600 square kilometers and so deep its temperature remains 8° C year round, straight down from the South Continental Ice Cup, an **array of glaciers** can be visited and travelers from all the world are bewitched by the magic of a zillion shades of blue and white and by the thundering noise of ice cracking into the lakes...



ACCOMMODATION: Xelena Hotel (Standard Lake View Room)

DAY 8 | PERITO MORENO GLACIER (B, L, D)

- You'll take a short boat ride across the "Brazo Rico" (the "rich" branch of Lake Argentina) to disembark on the opposite side. After a short walk through birch forests along the lake shore, professional guides will place crampons on your feet and give you an informative talk on glaciology before you begin an unforgettable walk on the glacier itself.
- If this is your first time walking on a glacier, we assure you it is an experience of a lifetime! No prior experience is necessary.
- The walk on the ice lasts approx. 1 ½ hours, and you will always be escorted by professional guides. An incredible experience of walking over seemingly endless ice, viewing crevices, underground rivers, waterfalls inside the glacier, and ice-caves of iridescent and electric blue hues.
- Finally, you'll return by boat, navigating very close to the Southern Face of the Perito Moreno Glacier for incredible photo opportunities, listening the cracking of the ice and (if you are lucky) the roar of huge pieces calving off into the water
 - *Note: this is a shared, scheduled tour*

ACCOMMODATION: Xelena Hotel (Standard Lake View Room)

DAY 9 | CALAFATE TO CHALTÉN (B, L, D)

- In the morning, drive to the town of **El Chaltén**. This small town stands in an amazing Patagonian landscape, with magical colored glaciers, lagoons, lakes, and mountains and sits at the base of the incredible Cerro Torre and Mount Fitz Roy.



- Located in Lago Argentino region, El Chaltén was founded in this place for geopolitical reasons. The town was set inside one hundred hectares of protected land.
- Approx. 3 ½ hour drive time, check in to the hotel upon arrival and spend the remainder of the day exploring at leisure.

ACCOMMODATION: Destino Sur Hotel de Montaña & Spa (Standard Room)

DAYS 10-13 | FITZ ROY HIKING EXPEDITION (B, L, D)

Day 10

- We leave early in the morning to reach the starting point of the trek located 20 kms away from town to an Eco Camp where we'll spend our first night.
- We leave some of our personal equipment and then start to walk north to get Los Huemules. Here we have multiple options to trek one of the wildest and natural places in the national park. After a quick check-in at the visitor's center, we head up to Loma del Diablo hill (1790 mts) for an intense trek gaining 1200 mts up to its summit along a beautiful forest of Lenga and Ñire surrounded by amazing emerald lagoons.
- After a well-deserved rest, we head back to the ECO camp for dinner.
 - *Distance: 22 km +1200/-1200. Duration: 9 hours. Physical Intensity: High*



Accommodation: ECO camp with all meals and sleeping gear included

Day 11

- After breakfast, we'll leave in our private vehicle to Hosteria El Pilar located just a few kilometers away from the ECO camp.
- Upon arrival, walk the trail to Poincenot camp through a forest of "Lengas", typical Patagonic trees, keeping the Blanco River on our right.
- During our trek we'll make a few stops to learn about the typical fauna and flora of the National Park.
- After an hour, we'll stop at Piedras Blancas glacier viewpoint where we'll have the opportunity to take pictures and observe the trace left by this glacier during its setback over the past few years.
- Following our way to Poincenot camp we'll have an excellent view of Fitz Roy's massif. Before heading down to the lake, we'll continue towards Cerro Madsen, without going down to the De Los Tres lake, thru a glacier moraine. Depending on the weather, we may encounter snow/ice along our ascent. If necessary we'll use crampons to continue our ascent to the summit as well as helmet, ropes, harness, and safety devices.
- Closer to the Summit we'll use our hands for a short low-grade scramble to finally reach the top of Cerro Madsen, having one of the greatest views of Fitz Roy. From here, we head down to our campsite.
 - *Distance: 20 km +1400/-900. Trekking time: 9/10 hours. Physical Intensity: High*

Accommodation: camp with services, gear and all meals

Day 12

- We begin our day with a full breakfast at our private dome, preparing for the second full day of our trek. Once we're ready, start on the trail towards the valley of Lake Mother and Daughter, leaving the Fitz Roy massif behind us to our final destination, the valley of Cerro Torre.
- During the trek we'll have time to stop at the lakes to take pictures of the area and, with some luck, visit a small colony of typical Patagonic geese.
- After this stop, we continue towards Cerro Torre's valley, enjoying the emblematic Patagonian forest of

Lengas and Ñires till the final part of our trek; crossing an old moraine to face Lake Torre and Grande glacier.

- Then, we return to our campsite to have dinner and prepare for the last day of our trekking program.
 - *Distance: 8 km -400. Trekking time: 6/7 hours. Physical Intensity: Low*

Accommodation: camp with services, gear and all meals (B, L, D)

Day 13

- After breakfast and repacking our bags, walk to Torre Lake and cross the River Fitz-Roy via zip line! Once across, the trail takes us through the forest, then along a rocky stretch, and finally leads us to one of the best views in the valley: the Agachonas Pass.
- From this point we begin to descend towards the River Túnel Valley, with amazing views of the glacier bearing the same name and its neighbor, Mt. Solo. Once in this vast glacial valley we head towards El Chaltén, where our program ends.
 - *Distance: 22 km +900/-200. Duration: 10/11 hours. Physical Intensity: High*

ACCOMMODATION: Destino Sur Hotel de Montaña & Spa (Standard Room)

DAY 14 | EL CHALTÉN TO BUENOS AIRES (B, D)

- Private transfer to the Calafate airport
- *Fly Calafate to Buenos Aires (TBD)*
- Upon arrival, you'll be met and transferred to your hotel
- This evening, **we've arranged for a dinner and tango show**
- Its architecture, French style decoration, and exclusive refined details make Gala Tango the most glamorous venue in Buenos Aires. Gourmet cuisine, specially designed for discerning guests, complemented with wines from one of the most exclusive cellars in Argentina: this is a meal you won't soon forget!
- Enjoy an elegant, traditional tango, accompanied by a typical orchestra formed (piano, bandoneon, 2 violins, and double bass) with two live singers, four dancing couples, a charango player, and a boleadoras show



ACCOMMODATION: Sofitel Buenos Aires Recoleta (Superior Room)

DAY 15 | DEPART BUENOS AIRES (B)

- Private transfer to the airport for your flight home today

PRICE

Starting at \$12,950 USD per person

INCLUDED

- All ground transportation
- Domestic flights as noted
- Accommodations and meals per itinerary
- All experiences as listed in itinerary
- All entrance fees
- Professional, bilingual guides throughout
- Comprehensive trip preparation materials
- 24/7 Access to Thomson Collection Boston team

NOT INCLUDED

- International flights
- Travel insurance
- Laundry, bar beverages, and other items of a personal nature unless otherwise noted
- Gratuities