**PATAGONIA FULL EXPERIENCE**

**Day 1 – Buenos Aires** | Meals: -

Private transfer from International airport to downtown hotel.

Accommodation for 2 nights at selected hotel in Buenos Aires, breakfast and local taxes are included.

City tour of Buenos Aires

With this tour you will understand why it's known the beautiful city of Buenos Aires as the "Paris of South America". The tour begins with a tour of 9 de Julio Avenue, one of the widest avenues in the world, where you can find the symbol of the city: the Obelisk. You will stop at Plaza de Mayo, where you will visit the Casa Rosada, name by which it is popularly known the presidential palace, and the magnificent Metropolitan Cathedral, with its incredible neoclassical facade, mausoleum of national hero, General San Martin. You will also visit squares as San Martin, Alvear and Plaza del Congreso. Important avenues like Corrientes, Av. De Mayo, among others. Important areas of the city like La Boca, San Telmo, Palermo, Recoleta and the most modern: Puerto Madero.

**Day 2 – Buenos Aires** | Meals: Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner

Breakfast at the hotel

Day Ranch and Fiesta Gaucha in Santa Susana Ranch.

Escape the city and journey back to simpler times with this Gaucho Party tour. Let us pick you up and transport you to an 'estancia' or ranch for a fun filled day.

Once we arrive at the estancia, Santa Susana, we’ll have some time to get to better acquainted with one another while indulging on handmade empanadas. After which, we will have some free time to take in the sights, explore the area, go horseback riding etc. The grounds are literally at your disposal.

You won’t have to worry about going hungry on this tour. After our free time we will be invited to partake in an 'asado', which is a traditional Argentinean barbeque that includes – both alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks, and dessert with coffee or tea. The fun doesn’t stop there; after lunch we will be treated to both a folkloric and a tango show.

The cultural experience doesn’t end there. The real show will start when the gauchos come out to show you their skills. They will demonstrate ring-races, horse mildness among many others. This part of the day is also interactive, so you better have your boots on and ready to go.

Once we have said goodbye we will hop back on our comfortable and air conditioned bus for a relaxing trip back to Buenos Aires.

Itinerary

11:00am - Reception with handmade empanadas and wine at the ranch's pulperia (traditional argentine bar).

11:30am - Free activities. Walk around the beautiful garden, visit the local museum and church, go horseback riding or try the typical carriages.

1:00pm - Lunch Time. Traditional argentine barbecue with salads. Your choice of drinks includes soft drinks, beer, and red or white wine. For dessert taste traditional pastries accompanied with coffee or tea. Enjoy a lively folklore show with traditional singing and dancing as well as tango.

3:00pm - The gauchos will show you their skills such as ring-races, horse mildness, and troops retail-trade including the participation of the public.

4:30pm - Return to Buenos Aires.

At night, dinner and tango show at Tango Porteño.

Enjoy the night of fun and elegance in a dazzling and spectacular tango hall. Let the luxurious, old theater take you away as you feel the grandeur of the theater the minute you walk through the door.

To begin the evening, you will enjoy a three course meal of the highest quality Argentine cuisine. Your dinner will be paired with traditional Argentine wines, as well as soft drinks and purified water.

As the show starts, travel through the glory days of tango as Tango Porteño recreates the golden age of the forties, a time unquestionably known as the reign of tango. Enjoy a live performance by professional dancers, singers and musicians. The meticulous scenery and costumes at Tango Porteño create the ultimate framework for an unforgettable experience.

Roundtrip Transfers in regular service are included.

**Day 3 – Buenos Aires / Calafate** | Meals: Breakfast

Private transfer from your hotel to the airport.

Arrival at Calafate. Shared transfer from Airport to downtown hotel.

Accommodation for 3 nights at selected hotel, breakfast and local taxes are included.

At the afternoon, the tour departs from the different hotels from El Calafate and takes 35km over the mountain line located behind the town. The track takes you to marvelous landscapes with an incredible variety of vegetation in high altitudes. Reaching 1050 m over the sea level, our first stop is a natural viewpoint where you will enjoy the most stunning sights of El Calafate and the central part of the Lake Argentino. You will also enjoy sights of the magnificent Andes mountain range at the back and at certain times, the area of accumulation of the glaciers, towards Boca Del Diablo, (the narrowest part of the lake, on the road to the Upsala arm). Even more, if the weather conditions are favorable you will be able to see Mt Fitz Roy and Mt Torre in El Chalten and maybe you can delight with the flight of the condors. An unforgettable sight. Afterwards, you continue the way up to the Laberinto de las Piedras, point only reachable by Mil Outdoor. This is a formation of the Cretaceous period, 85 million years ago, once a river, nowadays, fossils are found to take you back and make you witness of the history. A snack will be served at the Huyliche restaurant and from there you will start the descent by the north slope of the mount to the Piedra de los Sombreros, exotic iron formations only found in four places around the world. After this trip to remote eras of the history of the planet, you return to el Calafate with the omnipresent view of the Lago Argentino.

**Day 4 – Calafate** | Meals: Breakfast

Breakfast at the hotel.

Take in the rare and breathtaking beauty of the Perito Moreno Glacier, one of the UNESCO JEWELS. The tour guide will pick you up at your hotel in the morning for a full day tour on the Perito Moreno Glacier. On the way to the park, they will explain the importance of the glacier and share interesting details and facts about the park and Perito Moreno. Your first stop will be at a series of walkways for views of the glacier and to take photos. From there the bus will continue and you will get to see the amazing views and natural beauty that the park has to offer. You will get to walk along the walkways to see the glacier and watch as the chunks of ice break off and crash into the water. At the end of the day the bus will take you back to your hotel.

**Day 5 – Calafate** | Meals: Breakfast / Lunch

Breakfast.

Once you have been picked up at your hotel you will be able to enjoy the views of the Patagonian Steppe (Desert) and Argentine Lake as you make the way to the port of Calafate. You will sail among icebergs and stunning Patagonian scenery aboard a luxurious and modern boat. It is on this journey that you will have the opportunity to see the western front of the Upsala glacier which is the second longest glacier in South America. The journey continues through the Cristina Canal and ending at Estancia Cristina just before noon. While here you have the option to taste the unique regional cuisine of Estancia such as the traditional Patagonian lamb. After free time you will take a guided walk up to Caterina River, a popular fishing spot for typical Patagonian trout. The tour will follow to the local Chapel, around the Estancia and the historical Gaucho museum. During the afternoon you go up by 4x4 vehicles until Continental Ice Shelter, traveling 9.5 km through mountain roads. From the shelter you take a walk of about 20 minutes on a glacial erosion area, up to the Upsala viewpoint, where spectacular views of the eastern front of the Upsala Glacier, Lake Guillermo, the Southern Patagonian Ice and Andes can be appreciated. Finally, you return to Calafate.

**Day 6 – Calafate / Ushuaia** | Meals: Breakfast

Breakfast.

Shared transfer from your hotel to the Airport.

Arrival at Ushuaia. Shared transfer from the Airport to downtown hotel.

Accommodation for 2 nights at selected hotel, breakfast and local taxes are included.

**Day 7 – Ushuaia** | Meals: Breakfast

Breakfast.

Many fascinating natural environments such as those surrounding Lakes Escondido and Fagnano may be reached getting away from the city. Come with us and explore these beautiful regions on this fascinating tour. Leave Ushuaia, traveling through the peat bog covered valleys of the southernmost outstretches of the Fuegian Andes. Explore the nature of the region in the Carbajal, Huskies, Tierra Mayor and Las Cotorras Valleys, popular winter month cross-country skiing destinations. We will start by crossing the sharply rising Andes at Garibaldi Pass (1,476 feet/450 meters), host to spectacular views of the lakes Escondido and Fagnano. Then travel down the mountain to Petrel hosteria beside Escondido Lake for a little time to absorb the surroundings and their rustic charm.

After spending some time, we will continue with a visit to the Martinez Sawmill along Lake Fagnano. This interesting sight provides a glimpse into local history (no longer in operation).

After enjoying the scenery of the lake, our final stop is Las Cotorras Valley where we will indulge in a traditional Fueguian lamb barbecue (lunch is not included).

**Day 8 – Ushuaia / Strait of Magellan** | Meals: Breakfast / Dinner

Breakfast.

In the morning we will visit one of main attractions of Ushuaia – National Park Tierra del Fuego!!

As we head outside of town towards The Tierra del Fuego National Park, located only 11 km away from the city, we will almost instantly begin to experience and take in lakes, lagoons and rivers. You will learn that an interesting characteristic of these particular bodies of water is they all exit towards Beagle Channel.

Along the drive out of the city we will see the slope of the Susana Mount, and get to see the old prison, where now the Southern Fuegian Railway is located. After visiting the prison, we will continue through the valley to the Ensenada Bay, where we will be able to take in the Redonda and Estorbo Islands juxtaposing the snow-white Mountains of the Sampaio Chain in the neighboring country Chile.

As we return to the national route 3 the Fuegian Forest and its flora will begin to open up to beautiful views and landscapes. We will get to see Roca Lake and take a long walk by the lake coast and by the Lapataia River where we'll be able to see the Cóndor Hill. As we trek to the other end of the park we will observe the Green Lagoon and the Black Lagoon and large growing peat bog. At the end of the tour we'll get to see the large colony of beaver dams.

In the afternoon, transfer to local office of Australis Cruise for Check In and boarding.

Check in at the Australis travel center at 409 San Martín Street in downtown Ushuaia between 10:00 and 16:00 (10 AM-4 PM) on the day of your cruise departure. Board the M/V Stella Australis at 17:30 (5:30 PM). After a welcoming cocktail reception hosted by the captain and his crew, the ship departs for one of the most remote corners of planet Earth. During the night we traverse the Beagle Channel and cross from Argentina into Chilean territorial waters. The lights of Ushuaia disappear as we turn into the narrow Murray Channel between Navarino and Hoste islands.

## Day 9 – Cape Horn / Wulaia Bay | Meals: Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner

Around the break of dawn, Stella Australis crosses Nassau Bay and enters the remote archipelago that comprises Cape Horn National Park. Weather and sea conditions permitting, we shall go ashore on the windswept island that harbors legendary Cape Horn (Cabo de Hornos). Discovered in 1616 by a Dutch maritime expedition -- and named after the town of Hoorn in West Friesland -- Cape Horn is a sheer 425-meter (1,394-foot) high rocky promontory overlooking the turbulent waters of the Drake Passage. For many years it was the only navigation route between the Pacific and Atlantic, and was often referred to as the "End of the Earth." The park was declared a World Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO in 2005. The Chilean navy maintains a permanent lighthouse on the island, staffed by a lightkeeper and his family, as well as the tiny Stella Maris Chapel and modern Cape Horn Monument (currently awaiting repair after being damaged by fierce winds).

Sailing back across Nassau Bay, we anchor at fabled Wulaia Bay, one of the few places in the archipelago where the human history is just as compelling as the natural environment. Originally the site of one of the region’s largest Yámana aboriginal settlements, the bay was described by Charles Darwin and sketched by Captain FitzRoy in the 1830s during their voyages on HMS Beagle. This area is also renowned for its mesmerizing beauty and dramatic geography. After a visit to the Australis-sponsored museum in the old radio station -- which is especially strong on the Yámana people and European missionaries in the area -- passengers have a choice of three hikes (of increasing degrees of difficulty) that ascend the heavily wooded mountain behind the bay. On all of these you stroll through an enchanted Magellanic forest of lengas, coigües, canelos and ferns to reach panoramic viewpoints overlooking the bay.

## Day 10 – Agostini Sound / Águila Glacier | Meals: Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner

After nightfall we reenter the Beagle Channel and sail westward along the southern edge of Tierra del Fuego into a watery wonderland protected within the confines of Alberto de Agostini National Park. Rounding the Brecknock Peninsula as the western extreme of Tierra del Fuego, Stella Australis is briefly exposed to the open Pacific. We then navigate a zigzag route through the Cockburn Channel, Magdalena Channel and Keats Fjord to reach scenic De Agostini Sound.

Named after an Italian Salesian priest who worked among the region's indigenous people during the first half of the 20th century, De Agostini Sound is flanked by numerous glaciers and sheer saw-toothed peaks reminiscent of Torres del Paine. Our shore excursion this morning is Águila ("Eagle") Glacier, which hovers above a placid glacial lagoon surrounded by primeval forest. After a Zodiac landing on the beach, passengers hike around the edge of the lagoon to a spot near the base of the frozen facade. Condors can sometimes be seen winging high above, but there is always abundant bird life around the lagoon. This landing provides the perfect opportunity to experience the beauty of Patagonia’s sub-Antarctic rainforest and to see how the power of nature has molded the spectacular landscape.

## Day 11 – Magdalena Island / Punta Arenas / Puerto Natales | Meals: Breakfast

After an overnight cruise through Magdalena Channel and back into the Strait of Magellan, we anchor off Magdalena Island, which lies about halfway between Tierra del Fuego and the Chilean mainland. Crowned by a distinctive lighthouse, the island used to be an essential source of supplies for navigators and explorers and is inhabited by an immense colony of Magellanic penguins. At the break of dawn, weather permitting, we go ashore and hike a path that leads through thousands of penguins to a small museum lodged inside the vintage 1902 lighthouse. Many other bird species are also found on the island. In September and April -- when the penguins dwell elsewhere -- this excursion is replaced by a ride aboard Zodiacs to Marta Island to observe South American sea lions. After a short cruise south along the strait, disembarkation at Punta Arenas is scheduled for around 11:30 AM.

Transfer to Puerto Natales.

Accommodation for 2 nights at selected hotel, breakfast and local taxes are included.

## Day 12 – Puerto Natales | Meals: Breakfast / Lunch

Breakfast at the hotel.

Full day tour to the National Park Torres del Paine with English-speaking guide.

Travel into the 181,000 hectares Torres del Paine National Park, a mountain wonderland of gorgeous valleys, glaciers, lakes, and rivers. As the park centerpiece Los Cuernos del Paine arises, trails lead throughout Torres del Paine’s awe-inspiring scenery.

We will start visiting Milodon Cave, a natural monument notable for the 1896 discovery of a giant ground sloth inside called Mylodon Darwinii. A life size replica of the prehistoric creature, resembling a large bear, stands at the entrance. Several caves are accessible for us to visit with incredible stalactite formations as well as the rock formation Silla del Diablo, Spanish for “Devil’s Chair.” Next we arrive at Castillo Hill (Castle Hill) where we’ll stop at a lovely villa before entering the park, traveling along Sarmiento Lake with its breathtaking natural beauty. We then continue along Nordenskjold Lake, Salto Grande Waterfall and the Grey Lake.

Stop at Hosteria Pehoé, for lunch in front of the homonym turquoise waters lake. Then we will head to the Gray Sector to visit the enormous glacier that feeds the lake. Here we will take a short walk on the shore of the lake to admire the giant ice floes. We will head back toward Puerto Natales through Amarga Lagoon along a route with great views of the Paine Towers, the perfect end to a pleasant day journeying through this enchanting Chilean icon.

Return to the hotel in Puerto Natales.

## Day 13 – Puerto Natales / Puerto Varas | Meals: Breakfast

Breakfast at the hotel.

Transfer to Punta Arenas. Flight to Puerto Montt.

Arrival at Puerto Monnt, Transfer to hotel in Puerto Varas.

Accommodation for 1 night at selected hotel, breakfast and local taxes are included.

## Day 14 – Puerto Varas | Meals: Breakfast

Breakfast at the hotel.

Full Day Lake Crossing from Chile to Argentina.

08.00 hrs. Departure from Puerto Varas hotels and locations provided. Continuation toward Petrohué by bus, bordering Lake Llanquihue. Impressive views of Volcano Osorno and Calbuco volcanoes dominate the landscape. We will enter to the Vicente Pérez Rosales National Park where we will visit the Petrohué waterfalls; whimsical shapes of volcanic rock, bathed by green waterfalls make the perfect picture.

10.00 hrs. We will set sail to Peulla, sailing on Todos los Santos Lake. If the weather permits incredible views of Osorno and Puntiagudo Volcanoes and Mount Tronador will surprise you.

11.45 hrs. Arrival to Peulla, ecological Village, a paradise for nature lovers. Lunch or dinner (not included).

## Day 15 – Puerto Varas / Bariloche | Meals: Breakfast

Continuamos el viaje.

10.30 hrs. We will board a bus with destination Puerto Frias. After performing the departures formalities at Chilean Customs Office. We will cross the Andes Mountain range at 3,202 ft above sea level. We will descend by a sneaky road to Puerto Frías, navigation by Felix Frías lake, toward Puerto Alegre. In Porto Alegre will take a bus to Puerto Blest.

13.00 hrs. Arrival to Puerto Blest. Lunch not Included.

16.00 hrs. Departure from Puerto Blest, we will begin the last navigation on Nahuel Huapi Lake, with destination to Puerto Pañuelo.

17.15 hrs. Arrival to Puerto Pañuelo, we take the bus to make the final part of our trip with destination to the "Capital of the Argentine tourism", Bariloche. City that fascinates in both winter and summer by its ski resorts, shopping, hotels, restaurants and nightlife.

18.15 hrs. Arrival to Bariloche. Transfer to your hotel.

Accommodation for 2 nights in selected hotel, breakfast and local taxes are included.

## Day 16 – Bariloche | Meals: Breakfast

Breakfast at the hotel.

It is almost compulsory that the first excursion done in Bariloche be the famous Circuito Chico, not only because it shows such an abundance of the places in the mountain range, but also because visitors see and fall in love with this city in just half a day. Which borders Lake Nahuel Huapi with a winding layout. This beautiful water body, which is a sight in itself is the largest lake in the region and, with its 55,700 hectares, is present almost all through the tour. The first stretch, in addition to urban architecture, includes the houses of pioneers, the Nautical Club and the Melipal neighborhood. As buildings are left behind, the scenery near the Nahuel Huapi begins to change. From this point, it shows off cypresses, maitenes, coihues and ñires, among other typical trees. In summer, this road acquires brilliant red and yellow colors from the rose hip bushes, blackberry and raspberry plants which bloom all around. 8 kilometers ahead, opposite Huemul Island, lies a beach called Bonita. Farther ahead, Serena Bay is reached, a small bathing resort with a boat ramp. At the 17th kilometer marker, stands the base of Mount Campanario, which reaches 1,050 meters of height and whose summit may be accessed through a chairlift. Passing by the San Pedro Peninsula, the itinerary continues towards the Llao Llao Peninsula. At the 24th kilometer marker, the San Eduardo Chapel, Puerto Pañuelo and the Llao Llao Hotel may be spotted. Totally refurbished and with all its facilities open, the classical hotel is one of the best known postcards in Bariloche, with panoramic sights of the national park and Lakes Perito Moreno and Nahuel Huapi. The Llao Llao Municipal Park protects forests of coihues and cañas colihues, as well as creepers, bushes and other trees, which may be seen when hiking along its trails. After passing by Villa Tacul and Lake Escondido, the joint between Lakes Nahuel Huapi and Perito Moreno is reached. This is crossed by Bridge Angostura, over the river bearing the same name. This is the ideal spot to have a break and go down to the rocky beaches of both lakes, lying 150 meters from one another. The circuit also shows the mountaineers cemetery, the Swiss hamlet and, finally, the panoramic or vantage point over Lake Moreno, at the 40th kilometer marker. The way back begins at El Trébol Lagoon and continues to the joint with Bustillo Avenue, which leads back to the city center. Then, traveling along just 60 kilometers, visitors may admire lakes, mountains and native forests of singular beauty.

## Day 17 – Bariloche / Buenos Aires | Meals: Breakfast

Breakfast at the hotel.

Shared transfer from Hotel to the Airport, Flight to Buenos Aires.

Arrival at Buenos Aires, Private transfer to downtown hotel.

Accommodation for 1 night at selected hotel, breakfast and local taxes are included.

**Day 18 –** Buenos Aires | Meals: Breakfast

Private transfer from your Hotel to the Airport

\*\*End of program\*\*

**2016-2017 prices per person in US$:**

With 4\* hotels (Rochester Classic, Hosteria Los Hielos, Altos de Ushuaia, B Cabin, Altiplanico, Cabanas del Lago, Natura, Cacique Inacayal)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | single | double | triple |
| September | $5400 | $4196 | $3880 |
| Oct.-Nov. | $6002 | $4522 | $4185 |
| Dec.-Feb. | $5990 | $4520 | $4183 |

With 5\* hotels (Intercontinental, Alto Calafate, Arakur, A cabin, Altiplanico, Cabanas del Lago, Natura, Alma de Lago

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | single | double | triple |
| September | $7274 | $5070 | $4655 |
| Oct.-Nov. | $7703 | $5438 | $4953 |
| Dec.-Feb. | $7751 | $5466 | $4974 |

**Program includes:**

* 14 nights of accommodation in the hotels, breakfast and local taxes are included.
* 3 nights of accommodation on board of Australis Cruise, FAP included.
* Transfers in regular service without guides.
* Excursions in regular service with Spanish/English Guides.
* Private transfers in Buenos Aires.

**Not included:**

* International Flights
* Domestic Flight
* Admission fees to National Parks
* Tips
* Late Check Out and/or Early Check In

Rates per person, expressed in US Dollars.

* Subject to change without previous notification and to availability at the moment of reservation