

AUTUMN COLORS AT THE END OF THE WORLD

Ideal Months: March & April

Tierra del Fuego contains all the different ecosystems that typify Patagonia on a single island: South Atlantic coast, bushy steppe, Andes surrounded by glaciers, snow, lakes and forests. As if this wasn't enough, the island also has its unique sub-Antarctic rainforest. Unexpectedly lush beech forests are covered with a magic carpet of green mosses and lichens waving in the wind in this seemingly enchanted forest. The legendary Beagle Channel explored by Darwin is now available to search for its varied wildlife: sea lions, penguins, cormorants.



DAY 1 – ARRIVAL IN USHUAIA & BEAGLE CHANNEL NAVIGATION

Ushuaia

Arrival in Ushuaia, the southernmost city in the world. Meet and greet at the airport and transfer to the hotel. Accommodation.

Time for a quick bite before the Beagle Channel navigation.

Beagle Channel Navigation. Meet the driver at the hotel for your transfer to the pier.

Following the route of the great pioneers, Fitz Roy in 1830 and Darwin in 1833, we discover for ourselves the landscape and waters of the Beagle Channel on this tour. The location, south of Ushuaia, is where the majestic Andes mountain range plunge into the sea, to reappear at Antarctica.

Heading out from the hotel, we will first transfer to the pier at Brisighelli, where the voyage really begins, and on leaving Ushuaia, the landscape quickly changes into that of Estancia, open ocean and mountains.

Sailing south-west into the middle of the Beagle Channel, we reach the Eclaireurs archipelago and lighthouse of the same name. In these clear waters, it is, at times, possible to see the eerie remains of the shipwrecked Monte Cervantes. Downed in 1930, the ship, carrying 350 crew and 1200 passengers, hit submerged rocks and sank, with everybody ultimately being rescued except the captain, who went down with his ship.

Our voyage continues, circumnavigate the Isla de Los Lobos to watch the antics of a local Seal colony, before sailing to Isla de Los Pajaros or 'Bird Island', home to thousands of seabirds including Magellan and Imperial Cormorants, the Giant Albatross, Petrels and Skuas. On returning to Ushuaia, we are treated to a spectacular view of the city framed by Mount Martial and its glacier

** For those passionate about photo opportunities, we can also add or change this navigation for a sunset navigation on board a small yacht. Local food and some of the best sunsets in Patagonia are part of the experience.



DAY 2 – TIERRA DEL FUEGO NP

Ushuaia

This full day tour will be the perfect excuse to get incredible photos of the National Park and the mountain range around.

The tour begins with a three to four-hour trek through a beech forest, heading toward a wonderfully scenic lookout point high above the majestic Lake Roca. As we hike, the spellbinding, diverse flora and fauna of this landscape, including the Magellanic woodpecker, is ever-present. The forest is also known to attract Austral Parakeets, Black-Chested Buzzards and soaring high above us; the magnificent Andean Condor.

On reaching the viewpoint, beautiful panoramas of Lagunas Verde and Negra, the Ovando and Lapataia Rivers, and the tranquil Lapataia Bay lie before us. From here, we can then enjoy a well-earned lunch in the camping area of Lake Roca

After a brief safety instruction near Lago Roca, this afternoon we will take kayaks out on to the Ovando River, and are treated to some of the most beautiful views in the Park, while relaxing in the crystal-clear, quiet waters of Ovando River. As the paddle drifts into Laguna Verde, we enter one of the most picturesque spots in the region, surrounded by stunning scenery on all sides.

Approaching Lapataia Bay, our final destination, be prepared for families of resident Sea Petrels, Albatross, Steamer Ducks, and other seabirds species native to these shores. Having disembarked, we will then have time to relax and enjoy the early, southern sunset behind the mountains. This location, on the final few kilometres of the southernmost reaches of the Panamerican Road, really is the end of the world!

After sunset, we will transfer by car back to Ushuaia and the hotel.

Includes: Transfer to / from the hotel, lunch and entrance fees



DAY 3 – CROSSING THE ANDES IN TIERRA DEL FUEGO

Ushuaia

Today we will go into the heart of the Andes in Tierra del Fuego. This drive will offer great vistas and photo opportunities of another of the Patagonian features – beautiful lakes, Andes and open vistas.

This exciting and adventurous off-road drive will snake through the Andes, following a route along the banks of Lake Fagnano, the fifth largest lakes in Argentina. The trail is rough, though great fun, with sections of the drive crossing the lake itself while navigating impossible mud tracks, flooded pathways, sweeping corners and steep, challenging climbs. We will take little used, secondary trails through a beautiful 1,000-year old forest, where a welcoming cabin awaits us. Here, it is time to stretch the legs, shake off the bumpy drive, and enjoy a delicious barbeque (with wine).

On the rugged homeward journey, a stop for coffee at Hosteria Petrel, idyllically located near the shores of Lake Escondido, the ‘hidden’ lake, provides a suitably scenic resting point after a bone-jangling ride. From the Hosteria Petrel, we will gradually make our way back to Ushuaia and the end of our breathtaking escapade!



DAY 4- USHUAIA VISTAS & DEPARTURE

Ushuaia

Morning enjoy an exploration of the city and the high spots to get the best vistas of the city. The Martial slope will be one of the favourites as well as other lookout points. Ushuaia has such scenic surroundings that it is worth to spend time exploring it.

Transfer to the airport or pier.



Weather in Patagonia

Weather conditions: *Weather is highly unpredictable. Particularly in spring or early summer, fine weather may deteriorate almost without warning, as violent westerly storms sweep in from the Pacific Ocean. Strong westerly winds are usually at their worst from November to January, but typically continue through the end of April. Temperature can vary a lot too, ranging from -5C to 25 C, averaging 15 C.*