

## Calafate Area Day Tours

Below we list other day tour options for you to choose from

### **LAGUNA NIMEZ** Private Tour Year round.

Laguna Nimez is a small reserve located close to the center of El Calafate. While there, time can be spent exploring the visitor's center for interesting local information detailing the flora and fauna of the region. The center also has a well-equipped book shop including key manuals containing an overview of the area, ideal if looking to spot native species in their natural habitat while here. From here, there is a self-guided coastal trail which is well marked and takes you on a fascinating trek through various observation areas and lookout points around the lagoon.

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### **GLACIARIUM** Private Year Round

This one of a kind Glaciarium is a must for anyone looking to understand the Glaciers, and Glaciology more widely. Children and adults alike will enjoy the interactive nature of this museum, which includes a 3D film and many hands-on displays to touch, feel and engage with.

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### **Balcon Experience** group or private - 3 hours (4WD in El Calafate) 35 km – Operates year round Daily departures: at 10:00am & 3:00pm

The tour offers views of the Andes Mountains and glacier accumulation zone, towards the Boca del Diablo (the narrowest part of the lake, heading to the Upsala channel) and depending on weather conditions we might be able to observe Fitz Roy and Torre mountains in El Chaltén.

With two daily departures, the excursion starts from the hotels of El Calafate and completes a journey of 35 kilometers. The trail takes us through landscapes and reaches up to 1050 meters above the sea level. The first stop is a natural viewpoint where passengers enjoy a panoramic view of El Calafate and Lake Argentino.

In the background, the unforgettable and imposing framework of the Andes Mountains, and time to time, during the route, clients will enjoy views of the glaciers, towards Boca del Diablo (narrowest part of the lake, towards the Upsala arm). Sometimes it possible to see the Condor, master of the Patagonian skies.

## **NATIVO EXPERIENCE** group or private 5 hours – Year around

On this half day tour in southern Patagonia, you'll traverse the coast of Lake Argentino – the third largest in South America – in the footsteps of intrepid explorers before you to get an insight into the human history of this extraordinary region. We'll set out in a 4x4 to the lake, and against a backdrop of snow-capped mountains and huge glaciers we'll stop on the water's banks for an introduction to these geological wonders and the surrounding flora that thrives here.

Next, we make for the Punta Bonita cliffs where we'll be rewarded with sweeping panoramic views of the lake and the Andes. Take a moment to soak up this incredible landscape before we move on to our final stop: the caves of Lake Argentino. Here you'll come face to face with thousands of years of history in the form of rock drawings by the indigenous Tehuelche people, which never fails to amaze each and every visitor who looks upon the intricate imagery. Listen to your guide as they regale you with tales of these ancient peoples and the interaction between them and the first explorers who set foot here. Once you've taken the time to relish this archaeological site, we'll finish the tour with a gourmet meal in an extraordinary setting: within the ancient shelter of a natural cave, further along the coast. Savour homemade soup, pork and vegetable stew and chocolate mousse, washed down with fine Patagonian wine, in this unusual dining room which has been the shelter for locals and explorers over thousands of years.

Notes:

- Includes lunch or dinner, entrance to the Archaeological Zone and bilingual driver/guide.
- Group maximum of 18 people.
- Total distance covered – 20km.
- The walk from the vehicle to the caves is 200m but this is a gentle walk. Bear in mind that the cave can be cold, so we recommend bringing warm clothing such as gloves and hats.
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We take a snack at Huyliche restaurant and from there we start the descent down the northern slope of the hill to the Mexican Hats. A curious iron concretions that are only found in four places in the world. We return to El Calafate enjoying views of Argentino Lake.

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## **Safari Experience** group or private 5 hours – Year round.

Departures: Morning at 09.00AM and afternoon at 04.00PM.

Lunch or dinner includes beverages.

This tour is our opportunity to travel deep into the Patagonian wilderness and experience this untamed land at its best. Leaving the hotel, our journey heads first to Estancia 25 de Mayo, where, on arrival, we get a taste of what life would have been like for the regions first settlers with a visit to a small stone house, preserved just as it was hundreds of years ago.

The road then climbs to La Seccion, an ideal place to become familiar with some of the abundant native species who dwell along this majestic trail. For any keen photographer among us, this safari experience is perfect for honing your skills, as the opportunities to capture life-long memories are frequent throughout the visit.

Journeying further afield, we enter an area of fossilized rock formations dating back over 23 million years, with certain fossils, including those of clearly visible Oysters (among others) offering an incredible snapshot of history, taking us back to a time when the sea covered these wild lands.

Our final destination on the tour is the Centinela lookout point, close to the Chilean border. Here, we can absorb magnificent scenes of the Centinela and Baguales ranges, and as the trip draws to a close, we travel back to La Seccion for a farewell lunch or dinner, before returning to the hotel and a well-earned rest.

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**SAFARI BIKE EXPERIENCE** group or private 5 Hours - Operates between November 15 and April 30 - Level of difficulty: difficult/demanding – Daily departures at 9am – Bike ride :16km/10 miles ( 2 hours) – Slope: 200mts/ 650 feet - Minimum age: 12 years old – Includes lunch

*The tour maybe cancelled in case of rain.*

Safari Bike is a bike ride through the high fields at Estancia 25 de Mayo Nature Reserve, where we can feel Patagonia in all its splendor, marveling at the landscapes and animals that inhabit these lands. We leave El Calafate in 4x4 vehicles heading South, through Calafate stream valley. After a 15 km ascent, we will reach La Seccion at Estancia 25 de Mayo, where MTB bikes will be available. After the technical talk, we set out on bicycles for an excursion that will allow us to spot a wide variety of fauna: guanacos, foxes, choiques/Lesser Rhea, condors and eagles.

Crossing the Guanacos Valley, and with an impressive view of the Verlika and Baguales hills, we arrive at a chenque (former Tehuelche burial site) where we will take a short stop and contemplate the Patagonian immensity. Finally we return to La Seccion, where lunch or dinner will be offered before returning to El Calafate

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## **PERITO MORENO KAYAK EXPERIENCE** group Full day - (1 ½ hours paddling)

Operates: August to May - Includes gear, refreshments, warm drinks

Meet at the hotel and take shared transfer to the meeting point at Perito Moreno National Park. The experience begins at the meeting point which is located near the main parking lot, where the team will greet and brief you about the excursion. Clients will then proceed to the base, where they will dress and receive kayaking pointers as well as safety precautions from the expert guides, who will make sure to be thorough and explain how to paddle among the magnificent glacier waters, no previous experience is required.

Once clients are ready to begin the experience they will paddle out from Playa de los Témpanos, until they reach the front of the glacier and about 600 mts away from the massive icy fixture. Before embarking on the rest of the journey clients will be able to stop in front of the glacier wall to enjoy the views.

### **NOTES:**

- Pick up 7:30am/returns 5:00pm
- Includes transfers from/to El Calafate & box lunch.
- Minimum passengers to confirm departure: 2 pax
- Maximum capacity of passengers for day: 40 pax. (in two shifts of 20)
- **Total duration on kayak: 1h and 30 mins (This may vary depending on the weather).**
- **Minimum age: 14 years.** Children between the ages of 14 and 18 should be accompanied by a parent and or legal guardian.
- Cancellation policy: Guides may cancel trip if they deem weather conditions inadequate.
- Equipment included: watertight dry suit, thermal suit, boots, and life jacket.
- Difficulty level: Medium (no previous experience required).

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## **Estancia Cristina Tours** group Operates : October 1st – April 30th – 12 Hours

Between October 1st and April 30th every year, Estancia Cristina is open to visitors from all over the world who come to immerse themselves in this stunning region of Patagonia, Los Glaciares National Park.

Estancia Cristina, is a landmark in the history of Patagonia and the Glacier Explorations. In 1900 Percival Masters, a British sailor from Southampton, arrived in Patagonia in search of a better life for his family. Eventually, Percival, his wife and their two children settled in a secluded spot alongside Lago Argentino.

He became a farmer and founded Estancia Cristina, in memory of their daughter who died at the age of 20.

A shared transfer leaves El Calafate to begin the journey to Puerto Bandera, where, on arrival, we will set sail on a panoramic catamaran which gently navigates along the lake, carefully guiding us through the breathtaking scenes of icebergs towering overhead.

Our voyage continues, as we find ourselves cruising down the Cristina Channel, our destination gradually coming into sight. Estancia Cristina is located in the most incredible setting, surrounded by snow-capped mountains imposing themselves defiantly on the landscape, and striking blue icebergs, glowing as they float effortlessly on the lake.

### **Itinerary for all Estancia Cristina tours**

- 07.30 AM - Pick-up service from hotels in El Calafate.
- 08.30 AM - Embarkation at Punta Bandera.
- 08.45- 9.00 AM - Depart Punta Bandera and sail to the Northern Arm of Lake Argentino. Cruise along Upsala Channel to see the front of the Upsala Glacier (weather permitting) and continue towards Cristina Channel.
- 11.30 AM - Arrival at Estancia Cristina.

The time allocated for activities at the estancia is approximately 6 hours, and guests will be assigned their relevant route and guides upon arrival at the estancia.

- 05.30 PM - Depart Estancia Cristina.
- 07.00 PM - Arrival at Punta Bandera harbor.
- 08.00 PM - Arrival in El Calafate –

### ***The schedules are approximate.***

**Classic tour group** - Having disembarked at the shores close to Estancia Cristina, an expert guide will welcome visitors for an exciting trek through the valley. The hike unfolds along an ecotone area, a beautiful, semi-arid place carpeted in native shrubs and grasses. Next, the walk gradually ascends to an elevated lookout point that bestows sweeping views of the valley beyond, over Argentino and Pearson Lakes across to the towering Andes. From here, continue on a path surrounded by ñire trees until you reach the highlight of this trek: Los Perros River Waterfall, whose viewpoints bestow jaw-dropping vistas and a good chance to spot native flowers—especially orchids. Later, having returned from the trek, visit the Costumbrista Museum, housed in the estancia's old shearing shed to learn all about the history of the Masters family: their lives, adventures and how they became pioneers in Patagonia. Finally, a guided tour will take lucky visitors around Estancia Cristina's estate: up to the Caterina River, the waterwheel, chapel and rest of the lodge.

**The Discovery tour group** are welcomed by specialized driver-guides and 4x4 vehicles, ready to make way for the wilderness. They venture up into the Feruglio Mountains, a 9.5km ride which offers great views of our surroundings and takes us ultimately to an elevated area where the cars will be parked. Once there, we will begin a 20-minute trek over terrain characterized by glacial erosion, until reaching the Upsala Glacier Lookout; an exclusive vantage point for visitors to appreciate this immense glacier that can only be accessed from Estancia Cristina.

There will be plenty of time here to enjoy views of Lake Guillermo and the eastern side of the Upsala Glacier, as well as the Southern Patagonian Ice Field, before heading back to the lodge in our 4x4 vehicles for lunch and visiting the Costumbrista Museum, as well as a guided tour around Estancia Cristina's estate.

**4WD + Hike tour group** - On arrival at Estancia Cristina, the Trekking group will be received by specialized driver-guides and 4x4 vehicles, following the same route through the Feruglio Mountains, towards the Upsala Glacier Lookout, views of Lake Guillermo and the eastern side of the Upsala Glacier, as well as the Southern Patagonian Ice Field. All this, before beginning a 14km trek through Fossil Canyon. The fascinating Cañadón de los Fósiles—which is around 170 million years old—has been named so for its immense concentration of marine fossils, imprints of squid and jellyfish among them, left behind after the last ice age. We can observe a kaleidoscope of colors across this terrain, the canyon's walls rising beside us as we make a gradual descent until reaching a ravine at the edge of the valley. Along the way, we'll stop and tuck into our box lunches, before leaving the canyon behind having explored it fully, then arriving back at the estancia and later onward to the port.

**Horseback riding group** - Having disembarked at the shores close to Estancia Cristina, an expert guide will welcome visitors and take them on an amazing ride. Expect a delightful mix of mountain views, time spent by the lake and birdwatching opportunities on this gentle horseback ride to Cristina Valley, making for an easy but rewarding excursion. After leaving the Estancia behind, we ride in a northerly direction, heading deeper into nature, cross the Caterina River and pass The Noria. Make your way on horseback along pathways covered with loose stone and moss, leading you eventually to an elevated lookout point that bestows sweeping views of the valley.

Then, when you are finally ready to head home, go back along the same route towards the starting point, the perfect time to take it all in. Later on, we will visit the Costumbrista Museum, where we can learn all about the history of the Masters family: their lives, adventures and how they became pioneers in Patagonia.

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**GLACIAR SUR – PIONEROS** The Road to the Estancias – Perito Moreno Glacier group

October to April - Pick up time: 9:00am/ return by 07:00pm - Max number of participants: 15

Departure from the hotel in the morning, we traverse the Patagonian steppe along "El camino a las estancias", an ancient path that connects us with the traditional Patagonian culture. We arrive at Lago Roca (one of the best kept secrets in Patagonia), and will continue to Estancia Nibepo Aike, a pioneer in El Calafate.

Once at the estancia we will enjoy sheep shearing demonstration and gaucho skills. Then, we will taste a delicious traditional lunch with salads, Patagonian lamb, excellent wines and dessert.

After lunch we will navigate the Sur and Rico tributaries of the Argentino Lake for an hour or so until we reach Playa de las Monedas, a beach where we will disembark and enjoy a nice walk in the Southern beech forest (Lenga forest). After this refreshing stroll we start a last navigation to reach the impressive Perito Moreno glacier. We leave the boat at the catwalks (with perfect timing as only a few tourists are around!) to be amazed at the huge chunk of ice calving thunderously into the lake and explore them before returning to El Calafate.

#### **GLACIAR SUR ADVENTURE – HIKE FRIAS GLACIER** private

Exploring the Southernmost Reaches of Los Glaciares National Park October to April

Our early morning start sees us driving along Route 15 ('The old road to the estancias') towards Lake Roca. As we arrive, we set our sights on the 'Fonzo Ranger' boat which is ready to take us on the next leg of our journey. We climb aboard and set sail towards the southern arm of Argentino Lake, taking in beautiful views of the unspoiled waters.

After mooring up at the south end of the Brazo Sur, we prepare to begin the first part of our 14km hike. We walk for some time before embarking on a small rubber boat which gently sails us out across to the west end of the lake, where we enter a rarely visited gem of indescribable beauty.

Energised with inspiration from our visit to the stunning hideaway, we continue our journey towards Lake Frias and finally onwards for our concluding hike to the Frias Glacier. We arrive at a stunning viewpoint of the glacier which sits comfortably in a valley awash with mesmerising colours, shimmering in the sunlight. With this as our backdrop, we stop for a rest and tuck into our well-deserved lunch.

We finish the adventure with a warming cup of tea as we make an accomplished return to the boat, ready for our early evening arrival to El Calafate.

#### **NOTES:**

- The hike is thoroughly inspiring but also challenging: 6 hours / 14 km with some drops.
  - Estimated pick up time: 0800AM; return by 0700PM (19hs)
  - Lunch consists of: Box lunch w/Sandwich - beverages and desert.
  - Max number of participants: 12
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## **GLACIARES GOURMET - MARIA TURQUESA CRUISE** group

Los Glaciares National Park offers a magnificent combination of forest, lakes, mountains, ice and steppes with over 200 glaciers. The most renowned being Spegazzini, rising 135 meters above sea level, Upsala covering an entire valley with an approximate extension of 765 Km<sup>2</sup> and a length of 53km, and Perito Moreno Glacier, constantly advancing and causing the spectacular rupture of the wall of ice, providing one of Nature's most impressive sights.

Glaciares Gourmet is a full day journey to one of the most wonderful places in Southern Patagonia. Sailing aboard exclusive Cruise María Turquesa will enjoy the highest standard of comfort and gourmet cuisine, for a truly memorable experience.

Met at the hotel and transfer to the pier to embark on board M/V Crucero Turquesa. The navigation starts towards the northwest, crossing Punta Avellaneda and Boca del Diablo, the narrowest passage in the lake with almost 800 meters. We continue navigating Lago Argentino towards the South, taking the Canal Spegazzini in order to reach the glacier that bears the same name. The navigation allows us to get closer to the glacier, which has front walls between 80 and 135 meters (262 – 443 feet) above lake level. The navigation continues Las Vacas Station, where vessel will land. Clients on board will be able to disembark and take a guided trek identifying flora and fauna and a stop at the old Settlers' Station. Visit the Upsala Canal and navigate to Herminita Peninsula to enjoy panoramic views of the Glacier. Lunch on board during the navigation.

After lunch navigate to Canal de los Tempanos and enjoy panoramic and nice views of Perito Moreno Glacier. Return to La Soledad private port.

### **Schedule**

- 7:15am Pick up time at hotels starts
- 8:30am Embarkation at the pier
- 5:00pm Disembarkation at the pier
- 6:00pm Drop off at hotels

### **María Turquesa Cruise - Info**

- Main/Classic deck with capacity for 180 persons + space specially designed for children: includes gourmet box lunch
- Four Exterior Decks
- Length: 37.50 meters
- Beam: 9.60 meters
- Draught: 3.10 meters
- Hull and Superstructure built in naval aluminum
- Engines: 2 x 1000 HP Caterpillar
- Cruising Speed: 20 knots



**TODO GLACIARES** group 7 Hours (plus transfers) Pick up at the hotel as of 7:00am – Back at the hotel by 5:00pm

Meet at the hotel and transfer to Punta Bandera, 47 km from El Calafate, we will then begin the navigation on the North Arm of the Argentino Lake. We cross Boca del Diablo to Upsala Channel and navigate between the icebergs that emerge from the front of the Upsala Glacier. Navigation continues to Spegazzini Channel and soon after we will have the first view of Glaciar Seco (Dry Glacier). We navigate to the front of Spegazzini Glacier and will also contemplate the Heim Sur and Peineta Glaciers.

We prepare to disembark at Spegazzini Base and begin the visit to the area by walking through the forest path to the Spegazzini Refuge. The path is 300 meters long and there are stations and viewpoints overlooking the entire Glaciers Bay.

Spegazzini Refuge: it offers a main lounge with panoramic views to Spegazzini Glacier. It has capacity up to 300 persons for lunch. There is also another smaller lounge which offers views to Spegazzini & Heim Glacier, connected to the Terrace (75 square meters)

Visitors may bring their box lunch or buy it at the refuge

**Spegazzini Base:** This point has two trails designed for visitors who wish to explore independently the Glaciers Bay.

- Forest path: three hundred meters from the landing point to the Spegazzini Refuge. This is an east walk, there are stations and viewpoints overlooking the entire Glaciers Bay.
- Mountain path: seven hundred meters long departing from the Refuge. This is a medium medium difficulty trek, with natural viewpoints ending at the landing point.

**Schedule:**

- 7:00am pick up starts at hotels
  - 8:30am embarkations starts
  - 9:00am the boat departs the pier
  - 4:00pm the boat returns to the pier
  - 5:00pm estimated time of arrival at the hotel
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**Leal Moreno Gourmet with landing on balcony** private

Boarding at Puerto Privado La Soledad, Paraje Punta Bandera (Bahía Tranquila). Navigation towards Perito Moreno Glacier. (lunch on board). Disembark near Perito Moreno Glacier catwalks, return on board and navigate back to the pier .

## **Detailed Cruise Itinerary**

Boarding at Punta Bandera by 10:00 a.m. at the company's own dock "La Soledad" (Bahía Tranquila, Paraje Punta Bandera).

The Crucero Leal leaves at 10:00 a.m. and crosses the Canal de los Témpanos (Canal of ice floes) towards the south. After one hour of navigation, we will be able to see the stunning ice giant. Half an hour later, we will stop at the north front of the Perito Moreno glacier.

The ship engines will be stopped for passengers to admire the numerous ice calvings falling into the waters of Lago Argentino, a marvelous show to be enjoyed with all the senses. Lunch will be served in this privileged natural setting that can be seen through the ship panoramic windows. Clients on board will be able to disembark near Perito Moreno Glacier catwalks. Time at leisure to walk by the catwalks. Return on board.

The way back to the dock La Soledad will be around 6:00/ 6:30pm.

### **Rate includes**

- Lunch/Dinner full board service with alcoholic beverages at meals.
- Service of soft beverages and infusions during navigation.
- On-board activities conducted by a bilingual guide (English/Spanish).

### **Leal Cruise • Technical Data**

Length        20 meters

Beam         5.80 meters

Draft         1.50 meters

Hull and superstructure material naval steel

Powered by  2 x 460 HP Detroit diesel engines

Cruising speed 13 knots

Electricity 12, 24 & 220 volts (22 kva diesel Lombardini standby generator)

Main lounge four tables for 6 people and a table for 4 people

Deck Poop deck, foredeck and main deck on the upper level

Maximum capacity  28 passengers

