



Argentina

WILD PATAGONIA NATURE ODYSSEY

Prepared for Sarett Nature Center



explore peninsula valdes, tierra del fuego national park, and el calafate

Patagonia is an extremely vast and diverse region, with scenery ranging from dramatic mountain formations to flat barren pampas and expansive ice fields. On this comprehensive journey through Argentine Patagonia, you will enjoy authentic experiences and breathtaking landscapes. Your journey begins in Argentina's capital, Buenos Aires, where you will explore the city and visit the San Isidro and Tigre districts and the nearby Parana River. From here you will travel along the Atlantic coast to Bahia Bustamente, a unique "seaweed village" that offers a variety of great activities, including bird watching, sailing, trekking, and mountain biking. You can enjoy seasonal wildlife spectacles at the Valdes Peninsula, a true sanctuary of fauna and marine life. In Ushuaia, the "end of the world," you will hike in Tierra del Fuego National Park, and see Harberton Ranch and Gable Island. Continue onward to El Calafate and experience the majesty and might of Los Glaciares National Park, including a trek on the Perito Moreno Glacier, one of the world's largest continental glaciers. This trip truly encompasses all Patagonia and its spectacular natural wonders!

Date Nov 3-16, 2017

Duration 14 days

Land Cost \$5,850

domestic airfare not included; Dec holiday surcharge may apply

Single Supplement \$1,200

The single supplement is applicable if a roommate is not available or if single accommodation is specifically requested. While single accommodation is not available on all trips, we will try and honor this request whenever possible.

Comfort Level ●●●○○

Activity Level ●●○○○

Group Size 15-20

Best Time To Visit

J F M A M J J A S O N D

day 1 - fri nov 3 - buenos aires

Upon arrival in Buenos Aires, you will be transferred to the hotel. The "Paris of South America," as Buenos Aires is called, is a superlative introduction to the exploration of Argentina. This cosmopolitan city, European in appearance, can keep any culture-oriented visitor busy indefinitely.

This morning or afternoon (depending on the flight arrival), enjoy the unique Four Balconies of Buenos Aires Tour. It is an exclusive visit of Buenos Aires in which a guide uses four parks or plazas of Buenos Aires (Plaza de Mayo in Montserrat, Parque Lezama in La Boca, Plaza San Martin in Retiro, and Plaza Alvear in Recoleta) to introduce visitors to Argentina, its history, its contrasts, its contradictions, and the characteristic psychology of the "porteños," the inhabitants of Buenos Aires.

Lodging: L' Hotel Palermo or similar



Welcome to Buenos Aires!

day 2 - sat nov 4 - san isidro, tigre & delta of the parana

Today you will explore one of the most beautiful zones of Buenos Aires' surroundings, the northern riverside districts of Tigre and San Isidro. In the morning, you will be picked up from your hotel to reach the city of San Isidro. This city has an important colonial heritage reflected in its houses and buildings. On your tour of San Isidro, you will visit the Pueyrredón Farm, the San Isidro Cathedral, several colonial mansions, and the Victoria Ocampo's Mansion (once the cultural center of South America). Continue to Tigre, a city overlooking the delta of the Paraná River. Here, you will explore a different, almost magical world with streets full of the colors of rustic fabric, furniture and accessories made in cane and willow, delicious jams and honey, brilliant flowers, and of course, a large variety of native fruit. After lunch, enjoy a riverside walk and a boat trip through the countless islands of the delta of the Paraná River. You'll have beautiful views of the riverside villas, Victorian docks, English gardens, and traditional rowing clubs. If weather conditions allow, you will sail by the River Plate to return to Buenos Aires. Later, you will be transferred back to your hotel.



Cruising the delta of the Paraná River

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Lodging: L' Hotel Palermo or similar

day 3 - sun nov 5 - patagonia's atlantic coast

You will be transferred to the airport in order to board the flight to Comodoro Rivadavia. You will be met at the airport and transferred about 180 km/111 mi northeast to Bahía Bustamante, a seaside village entirely surrounded by nature. This place invites you to enjoy a deep blue sea contrasting with red rocks, a petrified forest, sea and steppe birds, sea lions, killer whales, dolphins, guanacos, and Patagonian hares as well as lighthouses, starry skies, and aboriginal working areas. Since 1952, the village has been exclusively devoted to the harvesting of seaweed. Today some 40 inhabitants live in Bahía Bustamante, all of whom are devoted to seaweed production, which makes this place world's unique "seaweed village." Four comfortable houses by the sea have been remodeled to serve as your accommodations. Each house has two twin-share bedrooms, living room, kitchen, fully equipped bathroom, heating, and hot water. After having lunch, you will have time to

enjoy activities such as sailing along Malaspina Cove, panoramic trekking, bird watching, fishing, mountain biking, horseback riding, visiting archaeological sites such as aboriginal areas and cemeteries, and learning about the workings of the seaweed industry. Stay overnight at local guest houses in Bahia Bustamente for the next two nights.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Lodging: Bahia Bustamante guest house

day 4 - mon nov 6 - bahia bustamente

Enjoy a full day of unforgettable activities in Bahia Bustamente. Here, you can discover the remaining fossils of forests that existed in Patagonia 60 million years ago. You can view huge petrified tree trunks that have become rock with its characteristic glow of opal, which has replaced the tree's original organic matter. If you wish, you can participate in daily activities at a typical Patagonian ranch, such as marking, weaning, and shearing sheep. For bird watchers, the coast of Bahia Bustamente and Malaspina Cove have the greatest diversity of seabirds in all of Patagonia and are also home to sea lions, penguins, and several seabird colonies. All activities in Bahia Bustamente may be modified due to weather conditions.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Lodging: Bahia Bustamante guest house

day 5 - tue nov 7 - cabo dos bahias/puerto madryn

On the way to Puerto Madryn, you will visit Cabo Dos Bahias Natural Reserve. From November to April in the reserve, you can view the penguin colony. About three kilometers away, rocky slopes afford views of the first fur seal colony on the continent. This species is currently protected by the reserve. The site also offers an incredible view of the steppe, and you can also see some guanacos. Overnight in Puerto Madryn.

Meals: Breakfast, Box Lunch

Lodging: Hotel Dazzler Puerto Madryn or similar



See an abundant colony of penguins.

day 6 - wed nov 8 - valdes peninsula / golfo nuevo

Your full day enjoying the beautiful landscapes of this area begins with a drive along National Route Nº 3 to reach the entrance of the Valdes Peninsula. After crossing the Ameghino Isthmus, where you can view Golfo San José and Golfo Nuevo, you enter the Peninsula and the road leads you to Puerto Piramides. On the way you will be able to see some of the local wildlife, including guanacos, lesser rheas, Patagonian foxes, hairy armadillos, maras, and important rookeries protecting large colonies of South American sea lions, dolphin gulls, and kelp gulls. Puerto Pirámides is a beach that, with its gentle slopes, is protected by cliffs resembling pyramids, where there are fossilized invertebrates more than 9 million years old. Here, you'll embark on a ship to navigate the sea and appreciate the shoreline views and marine wildlife. This narrow strip of land 35 km long, with its arid soil and the deepest salt marshes in South America, possesses a very



You may spot whales.

important natural resource of international value: the Southern right whale. You may enjoy a whale-watching navigation that will allow you to see and sometimes get close to southern right whales; the mating and birth of these huge mammals is seen every year from June to December. Killer whales are more frequently seen between February and May, while dolphins are seen all year round.

After lunch continue visit a sea elephant colony in Del Gada. Later head back to Puerto Madryn, passing through El Doradillo Beach on the way. Located on the eastern coast of the Province of Chubut, Puerto Madryn overlooks the blue waters of the Golfo Nuevo.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Lodging: Hotel Dazzler Puerto Madryn or similar

day 7 - thu nov 9 - puerto madryn/ ushuaia

Transfer to the airport in Trelew for the flight to Ushuaia. In the southern end of Argentina, on the Isla Grande de Tierra del Fuego, lies Ushuaia, the southernmost city in the world. Located on the Beagle Channel and an impressive array of the sea, forests, lakes, and mountains, Ushuaia is a picturesque city that offers unexplored, untouched territories that invite visitors to discovery and adventure. You will be met at the airport and transferred to your hotel. In the afternoon, enjoy a navigation of the Beagle Channel.

Meals: Breakfast

Lodging: Hotel Cilene del Faro or Similar



Ushuaia: the southernmost city in the world.

day 8 - fri nov 10 - tierra del fuego national park

Today you explore Tierra del Fuego National Park. The full day excursion around the park includes an easy trek and a canoeing expedition. A short drive from your hotel brings you to the park, where you start a 7-km trek of about 3 1/2 hours to a wonderful scenic point overlooking Lake Roca, Lagunas Verde and Negra, Rivers Ovando and Lapataia, and Bahía Lapataia. Hiking through this beech forest you will be able to look for the Magellanic woodpecker (the largest in South America), Austral parakeets, black-chested buzzard eagles, and Andean condors. Enjoy a fun outdoor lunch in the camping area of Lake Roca. Spend the afternoon paddling in the National Park. You will be outfitted with equipment and embark on sturdy inflatable canoes with instructions from your experienced guide in Lago Roca. Paddle the Ovando River, which flows into the Green Lake, offering one of the most beautiful views of the Park. Upon landing in Lapataia Bay, you will be able to spot all sorts of local birds.



Float through the park in a canoe.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Lodging: Hotel Cilene del Faro or similar

day 9 - sat nov 11 - harberton ranch & gable island

Today you will visit Harberton Ranch and Gable Island. Depart early in the morning from Ushuaia, and drive about 90 kilometers to Tierra del Fuego's oldest ranch: Estancia Harberton. The land it's built on was a gift from President Roca's government to Rev. Thomas Bridges, for his contributions in exploring the area and in establishing a harmonious relationship with the native population, the Yamanas.

The Yamanas were the native inhabitants of the coast of the Beagle Channel. It is said that the Yamanas advised Rev. Bridges on the site to establish his estancia, which is the actual location of Harberton. From the estancia you will board a small boat to visit the penguin rookery at Martillo Island. The unique location of this island (close to the point where the Atlantic and Pacific Ocean waters merge) allows for an incredible variety of rich sub-aquatic life, making it an amazing spot for bird watching (petrels, skuas, cormorants, sea gulls, and albatross).

From there, continue to Gable Island, the largest in the Beagle Channel, for a late lunch. The view over the Beagle Channel is breathtaking. You will enter a beech forest with white orchids, wild berries, and ferns. After a 40-minute hike, return to the refuge, stop for tea, and head back to the continent. Return to Ushuaia late in the afternoon. (**For operation or safety reasons or weather conditions the order of the activities during this day may be changed.)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Lodging: Hotel Cilene del Faro or similar

day 10 - sun nov 12 - ushuaia/el calafate

Enjoy the morning at your leisure. In the afternoon, transfer to the local airport to board the flight to El Calafate. You will be met at the airport and transferred to your hotel. In El Calafate you will find yourself at the gateway to the majestic world of glaciers. This town is near Lake Argentino, a green water surface covering 1,600 sq km. El Calafate connects you with the most interesting and magical features of Argentina's geography. Some of the most beautiful landscapes in the western hemisphere are found in the Patagonian Andes. Numerous lakes fed by glacial run-off reflect the majesty of the snow-capped peaks, and the mountainsides are covered by primeval forests of sub-antarctic beech trees. Between the 48 and 51 South parallels, the Andes Mountain Range is covered by a large extension of permafrost known as the Patagonian Continental Ice-cap, which stretches for 560 miles from north to south, also called "the Third Pole." The rest of the day is yours to relax or explore the areas around town. You may even make the 1 kilometer hike out to Laguna Nimez for a beautiful Patagonian sunset (private transfer with English speaking guide included).

Meals: Breakfast

Lodging: Hotel Patagonia Rebelde or similar

day 11 - mon nov 13 - los glaciares national park/nibepo aike

Today you will visit Los Glaciares National Park, located in the Patagonian Continental Ice-cap, the Perito Moreno Glacier. A UNESCO World Heritage site since 1981 and home to one of the most awe inspiring landscapes in Argentina; Perito Moreno Glacier is a site to behold. During about 1 hour, a bilingual guide will provide you with all the information you might want to know, and things you might have never thought about. On arrival, you will have the chance to enjoy stunning views of the glacier



Perito Moreno Glacier

from the nearby walking trail and viewing platforms. But not just that, you will also enjoy the included Perito Moreno Glacier boat cruise that will take you close enough to fully appreciate the 80m high ice walls!

Transfer to Estancia Nibepo Aike. Nibepo Aike retains the essence of the old Patagonian estancias. It is found within Los Glaciares National Park on the shores of the Southern Arm of Lago Argentino. It covers more than 12,000 hectares, extending as far as the border with Chile. The estancia was formerly devoted to sheep production, maintaining a small herd nowadays, but its chief output is breeding Hereford cattle, for which it has developed a prestigious herd. The main buildings of the estancia are typical of the Patagonian pioneer architecture, all being very uniform in style. The imposing view of the Andes mountain range is ever-present, while the estancia's everyday life carries on and it is common to see the men riding past herding the cattle and/or sheep and disappearing over the horizon. Behind the house is the vegetable garden which provides most of the fresh produce consumed on the estancia. Choose between several hiking options and observing rural tasks like branding of cattle, sheep-shearing with hand shears, herding of sheep, milking the cows, rounding up the cattle, and more.

Meals: Breakfast, box lunch, Dinner

Lodging: Estancia Nibepo Aike

day 12 - tue nov 14 - nibepo aike

Relax and enjoy a full day of activities at Estancia Nibepo Aike. (Activities may vary with the weather.) Horse-riding, hiking and rural work at the estancia are just some of the activities you may enjoy.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Lodging: Estancia Nibepo Aike



Horseback ride amidst breathtaking scenery.

day 13 - wed nov 15 - return to buenos aires

You will be picked up from the hotel to be transferred to the local airport and board the flight to Buenos Aires, where you will be met and transferred to your hotel. Tonight, you will be picked up to enjoy dinner and a glamorous tango show in one of the most prestigious historical houses in Buenos Aires for your last night in Argentina. After the show you will be transferred back to the hotel. (Please note, dinner is served late and your return to the hotel will be late at night.)

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Lodging: L' Hotel Palermo or similar



The colors of La Boca are the most vibrant in all of Buenos Aires.

day 14 - thu nov 16 - buenos aires / onward

Today you will be transferred from the hotel to the international airport for your onward flight.

Meals: Breakfast



Your adventure ends today.

Below is a summary of our complete **Trip Terms & Conditions**, which explains each of the items below in more detail.

Expenses covered

Normally, our stated land costs include the cost of all guides, leaders, permits obtained after arrival, lodging accommodations, food and entry fees as specified, and all surface transportation associated with the planned itinerary. We do our best to avoid increasing prices after receipt of your deposit, but, rarely, factors beyond our control might require us to change our prices without prior notice, even after you have signed up.

Expenses not covered

Costs not included in the price may include: meals not indicated as included in itineraries; meals prior to arrival in starting cities; transfers, if not arriving or departing on the scheduled group flights; soft drinks, bottled water, and alcoholic beverages; medical expenses, costs of hospitalization, or evacuation from remote areas; laundry; airport departure taxes not included on your airline ticket; accommodations en route to starting cities; visas; airfares; gratuities; and insurance.

Pricing and Payment

For this group departure, the booking deposit is \$1170 per person.

For both group departures and custom trips, a second deposit of \$1,000 per person is due 120 days prior to departure or at the time of booking for reservations made fewer than 120 days before departure. The balance as shown on your invoice is due 60 days prior to departure regardless of whether extensions or other arrangements are pending. Late payments may jeopardize confirmation of your itinerary and in some cases may result in additional fees. If we have not received final payment 30 days prior to departure your reservation may be canceled and subject to our Cancellation & Refund Policy stated in the complete **Trip Terms & Conditions**.

We accept payments by Visa, MasterCard, American Express, or check drawn on a U.S. bank account. Payment for airfare is required at the time of ticketing. Discounts that may be available for some trips are not available toward bookings made through travel agencies.?

Airfare

We can help you secure air travel arrangements to correspond with land travel booked through Journeys International. We work with an airfare consolidator to assist in booking the flights that suit your needs. If you decide to make your own flight arrangements, you must provide Journeys International with a complete copy of your itinerary showing departure and arrival flights and times. You should plan to arrange your own air travel if you are using mileage credit or originating outside North America, but please be in touch with our office before you finalize ticketing so that we can help you to coordinate the correct arrival and departure dates and times.

Insurance

When you make your application, we strongly recommend the purchase of comprehensive **travel insurance** in case of emergency situations. Please contact us for a recommended policy.

Itinerary Change Fee

There will be a \$40 fee for changes once an itinerary has been confirmed and approved. Additional cancellation penalties or change fees may apply as per our terms and conditions. The passenger is responsible for such fees.

WHY JOURNEYS?

We are quite simply the best. No other company matches our experience, breadth, flexibility and personal service. Our reputation is impeccable.

We have been an acknowledged innovator in global adventure travel and ecotourism since 1978. Our itineraries are original, and our trip content is thoughtful, intellectually ambitious, and as adventurous as you like. We are committed to the communities and environments we visit. Our Ecological Code of Ethics serves as a model for others.

We have won the most prestigious awards in the industry. Condé Nast selected us for their list of the world's Top Travel Specialists every year since 2003. This year, National Geographic Adventure named us one of the top ten global adventure tour operators.

Our staff is professional and devoted. The specialists in Ann Arbor and the guides in the field take pride in 100% client satisfaction. Many remain with us for decades. Journeys founders, Drs. Joan and Will Weber, are active in daily operations.

We make your travel planning easy. We offer you the ability to completely customize your trip, according to your interests and abilities. Our knowledgeable specialists are happy to help you select special inclusions and extensions. We'll make your air arrangements or you're free to do your own. We pay attention to detail, and we prepare you well for your trip. We respond promptly to your emails and, if you call us during our business hours, you will be greeted by a person and not a machine.

We know our destinations well. We will give you as honest and complete a picture of what you can expect as possible. We don't want to make an easy sale; we want to make an honest one. You will likely find that we under promise and over deliver.

Our travelers come back again and again. We have a sophisticated clientele with wide reaching travel goals. Many return to us for five, 10, or more trips.

We love what we do, and we love sharing our passion with you.

