



Bariloche, Lago Puelo & Los Alerces National Parks

Bariloche - Esquel

A fascinating tour around two of the most beautiful National Parks in Patagonia. The Nahuel Huapi National Park with its main attractions: the Nahuel Huapi Lake and the city of San Carlos de Bariloche on its shores. A first class tourist centre with the most important ski resort in the area and the special touch provided by its typical stone and wood buildings combined with the gorgeous surrounding landscape. Los Alerces National Park, with its particular physiomy produced by a complex system of lakes and rivers. Follow Butch Cassidy’s steps and hiding places in these beautiful prairies and bushy forests. The Old Patagonian Express, one of the few narrow-gauge railways in the world, appears as the main attraction located nearby, with a captivating itinerary in the mythical Patagonic steppe.

DAY 01 BARILOCHE
Reception at the airport and transfer to the hotel. Departure from the hotel for a half-day sightseeing of Bariloche and its outskirts. We will drive along Bustillo Avenue, bordering Nahuel Huapi Lake toward Playa Bonita, and continuing to Campanario Hill, where a chair lift will take you to the lookout at its summit. Enjoy a complete view of Lake Nahuel Huapi, the mountain peaks of the Andean Range and the city. Then drive toward San Pedro and Llao Llao Peninsulas. Visit San Eduardo Chapel and pass by the Llao Llao Hotel & Resort and Puerto Pañuelo, the embarkation point of most lake excursions. Cross the bridge that connects Nahuel Huapi Lake and Moreno Lake and proceed to Lopez Bay. Enjoy a breathtaking view of Nahuel Huapi Lake from the Panoramic Point, a natural balcony facing Moreno Lake. Return to Bariloche. Accommodation.

DAY 02 BARILOCHE
Continental breakfast. Full day visit to Estancia Fortín Chacabuco, located 20 km from Bariloche and 23 km (12,40 and 14,30 miles) from the airport, in Neuquén province. It has 5000 hectares (12355 acres) dedicated to sheep breeding (the first in Argentina that used frozen sperm for artificial insemination). It was built in 1883, when General Villegas ordered to build the Chacabuco Fort in the fight against the aborigines. As it is located in the transition between the precordillera and the steppe, it shows an interesting diversity in flora, fauna and soil. In the western area you can find snow until summer, as well as valleys, lakes, rivers, etc. In the eastern areas the climate is much more arid and the vegetation poorer. This typical Patagonian estancia allows to taste the famous Patagonian ‘asado’ (Argentine barbecue), watch stags, go for a walk, horseback ride or just relax and enjoy the landscape. Return to the hotel.

Note: during the months of January and February you may take a steam train excursion instead of visiting Estancia Fortín Chacabuco.

DAY 03 BARILOCHE / ESQUEL
Continental breakfast. Departure to El Bolsón, a quiet village located in a spectacular valley with its own microclimate that allows an important production of fine fruit, such as strawberries, raspberries, cherries and hops, home-made cheeses, trout, home-made beer, woolen garments and handicrafts. In the 70’s it was home to many ecological communities

and radical cultural movements such as the famous “hippies” that still live in the area. On Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays a Craft Fair is held. Visit to Lago Puelo National Park, located in the north of the province of Chubut. This valley is 200 m (656 feet) above sea level, which is very little height with reference to the rest of the National Parks, although it counts with the largest autochthonous flora of the andine-patagonic woods in this area. The Park has a recreational area by the lake where you can take a boat trip or go horseback riding. As an optional tour, board the Patagonian Express (known as ‘La Trochita’), to travel across this land of legends that leads to adventure, where nature never fails to impress the visitor with its mountains, lakes, forests and rivers. ‘La Trochita’ is one of the few narrow gauge steam trains in the world; a great attraction of the mythical Patagonian history. Arrival at Esquel and transfer to the hotel. Accommodation.

DAY 04 ESQUEL
Continental breakfast. Visit to the Welsh colony of Trevelin located 25 km (14 miles) from Esquel, which name means “City of the Mill” in Welsh, because the first wheat mill in this area was built here in 1918. It is interesting to visit the Welsh Museum that stands where the mill used to be. We will continue to the frontier with Chile to visit De Nant & Fall Cascades and a replica of a floury mill of the last century. Return to Trevelin and taste some delicious home-made pastries, typical of the Welsh cuisine at a traditional tea house (optional). Return to Esquel.

DAY 05 ESQUEL
Continental breakfast. Full day excursion to Los Alerces National Park passing by Futalaufquen Lake, Arrayanes River and Verde Lake. Border Menéndez River walking until you reach Chucao Pier, in Menéndez Lake. Embark there for a visit to the majestic ‘Alerzal Milenario’ (Millenary Larch Wood) formed by ancient trees that are more than 3000 years old, 60 meters high and 2,60 meters (196 and 8.5 feet respectively) in diameter. The circuit allows to appreciate big coihues, lakes, the beautiful cascade and Cisne River and the Torrecillas glacier. Box lunch included. Return to Esquel.

DAY 06 ESQUEL
Continental breakfast. Transfer to the airport to board the flight to Buenos Aires.

AR043

6
DAYS

NOT INCLUDED

THURSDAYS FROM SEPTEMBER TO APRIL

ACCORDING TO ITINERARY

SPANISH - ENGLISH



From the Atlantic to the Pacific

Patagonia & Cruise

AR037

A fascinating trip to discover both the Atlantic and the Pacific Oceans and an incredible ammount of secrets kept in between that mingle with the immensity of the Patagonic steppe: an ancient subtropical wood petrified by the action of volcanic eruptions over 60 million years ago, nowadays lying in the barren bleak plateau; a cave decorated by Indian paintings 900 years ago; and finally the millenary ice of San Rafael Glacier.

DAY 01 COMODORO RIVADAVIA
Reception at the local airport and transfer to the hotel. In the afternoon city tour of Comodoro Rivadavia, visiting the Petroleum Museum and Mt. Chenque’s panoramic view point. Continue to Rada Tilly, a seaside village a few miles to the south from Comodoro Rivadavia to Punta del Marques Hill view point that dominates the villa and to the sea lion rookery. Accommodation. Dinner.

DAY 02 COMODORO RIVADAVIA / PETRIFIED WOODS / RÍO MAYO
Breakfast. Visit to the Petrified Woods J. Ormachea, discovered in 1927, which gathers a group of 65 million years old huge fossilized trunks that reach 30 meters in length and two meters in diameter (98 and 6 feet respectively). It’s formed by rocky arid land with xerophilous plants, prehistoric conifers and dead palm trees. Continue to Río Mayo. Visit a local estancia that develops the breeding and protection of the guanaco, one of the most characteristic South American ‘camelidae’ group in the southern extreme of the continent, in semicaptivity. Continue to the town of Perito Moreno and Estancia Telken. Accommodation. Dinner.

DAY 03 PINTURAS RIVER VALLEY
Breakfast. Departure to Pinturas River Canyon. Trekking (level: moderate) to visit the Caves of the Painted Hands, one of the greatest expressions of rupestrian American art. This place offers a testimony of the mores and beliefs of the ethnic group that lived there thousands of years ago. The scenes that are designed in different colors: black, ocher, yellow, red and violet represent hands, human figures in motion and guanacos. Box Lunch. Return to Telken. Accommodation. Dinner.

DAY 04 PINTURAS RIVER VALLEY / PASO HUEMULES / COIHAIQUE / PTO. CHACABUCO
Breakfast. Departure along Route N° 40 to Perito Moreno Village. Continue to Balmaceda (Chile) international crossroad. Free Lunch at Coihaique. Arrival at Puerto Chacabuco. Transfer to Hotel



6
9
DAYS

NOT INCLUDED

TUESDAYS FROM SEPTEMBER TO APRIL

ACCORDING TO ITINERARY

SPANISH AND BILINGUAL (English - German - Italian - French)

Loberías del Sur. Accommodation. Dinner.

DAY 05 SAN RAFAEL GLACIER
Breakfast. Embarkation in a catamaran on a full day sailing excursion to the San Rafael Glacier. This is a Dream Cruise through the spectacular channels and archipelagos where the exuberant nature can be seen in all its splendor and where man’s presence is nearly imperceptible. At San Rafael lagoon you will be welcomed by the Glacier, towering more than 70 metres above the level of the lake. Sail in zodiaks among the multicoloured icebergs whose ice is more than 30.000 years old. Meals and Openbar included on board. Disembarkation at Puerto Chacabuco. Transfer to Hotel Loberías del Sur. Accommodation. Dinner.

DAY 06 PUERTO CHACABUCO
Breakfast. Transfer to Balmaceda airport.

Puerto Deseado

Pre-tour

OPTIONAL

DAY 01 COMODORO RIVADAVIA
Reception at Comodoro Rivadavia airport. Departure to Puerto Deseado, visiting the Jaramillo Petrified Woods on the way, fossilized by the effect of volcanic eruptions millions of years ago. The trees turned into kind of rock statues by the action of volcanic dust where mostly coniferous and even some palm trees that covered this land when it was not the bleak barren plateau that it is today. Accommodation. Dinner.

DAY 02 PUERTO DESEADO
Breakfast. Full day excursion to Ría Deseado, an interesting area conformed by the inlet and the adjoining zones. The town of Puerto Deseado is located nearby. This inlet is unique for its geological and fauna aspects. The course of the river has been abandoned by the former river that covered it and was occupied by the sea. This makes it a national treasure, due to aesthetic and scientific reasons. It’s the only place in the world where five different species of cormorans coexist, all of them feeding in the area and three of them nesting. The Magellanic penguin is a usual inhabitant of the inlet from October to April and the most important rookeries are Quiroga Island, Punta del Paso Key, Birds Island and Chaffers Island. Return to the hotel.

DAY 03 PUERTO DESEADO / COMODORO RIVADAVIA
(This day replaces day 1 from the main program). Breakfast. Visit to the Natural Reserve of “Cabo Blanco”, a magnificent rock formation that constitutes the main Rookery of Sea Lions. Return to Comodoro Rivadavia. Accommodation at the hotel. Dinner.

