

EXPLORE!

Tour Notes



Adventures In Patagonia + Iguazu Extension (PAI 2014)



TOUR
DURATION
16
DAYS



Tour Style: Classic
Tour Pace: Busy

Tour Type: Small Groups
Tour Comfort: Standard

Tour Code: PAI

Tour Highlights - Adventures In Patagonia + Iguazu Extension

- ✓ Buenos Aires - Explore Argentina's vibrant capital including colourful La Boca and Plaza de Mayo
- ✓ Ushuaia - The town at the end of the world, explore scenic Tierra del Fuego National Park
- ✓ Torres Del Paine National Park - Walk among the glacial lakes and mountain ranges of one of the most spectacular landscapes on earth
- ✓ Calafate - Excursion to the magnificent Perito Moreno glacier
- ✓ Los Glaciares National Park - Spectacular walking country and UNESCO World Heritage Site
- ✓ Iguazu Falls - South America's most beautiful waterfalls, view from both the Brazilian and Argentinean sides

Tour Essentials

Accommodation: 10 nights Standard Hotel
3 nights Standard Cabins
2 nights Standard Guesthouse

Included Meals: 15 breakfasts, 0 lunches, 0 dinners

Start Point: Join tour: Buenos Aires

End Point: Tour ends: Buenos Aires

Transport: Bus, Flight, Ferry

Countries: Argentina, Chile

Adventures In Patagonia + Iguazu Extension

On this trip through Argentina and Chile we discover the captivating city of Buenos Aires, explore the towering granite pinnacles of Torres Del Paine National Park and admire views of the awe-inspiring Perito Moreno Glacier. Along the way we visit Ushuaia - the world's southernmost city, and enjoy walks through the spectacular scenery of Los Glaciares National Park.

Suitability

We've given each of our tours a comfort rating and a tour pace, walking or cycling grade to give you a general idea about the level of activity on each tour and the standard of accommodation you will be staying in at the end of your day's adventure.

Often you'll stay in different styles of accommodation during your tour; so we make an average rating across the entire tour. For more information on where you'll stay each night, please refer to the day by day tour itinerary.

Tour Comfort: Standard

Our mid-range accommodation offers a good level of service often with other amenities such as a restaurant, bar, garden or swimming pool. Generally rooms will be comfortable with en-suite facilities.

Tour Style: Classic

Packed with adventure, these tours offer inspiring destinations and authentic travel experiences at a reasonable price. Using all kinds of transport and accommodation, we'll take you off the beaten track to discover the true heart of the people and places you visit.

Tour Pace: Busy

Your tour itinerary

Tour itinerary notes

While our intention is to adhere to the day-by-day itinerary as printed below, a degree of flexibility is built in. Overnight stops may vary from those suggested.

Your Tour Leader

A Tour Leader is an integral part of any Explore tour and your tour will be led by one of our experienced tour leaders who have been handpicked and expertly trained. We believe that our Tour Leaders are the key to the success of our tours; they are passionate travellers who are bursting with first-hand local knowledge which they love to share. Your tour Leader will also take care of all the planning and organisation throughout your journey. Their passionate approach will make this tour fun and inspiring, bringing the destination to life whether you're travelling alone or with others.

DAY 1 Join tour Buenos Aires; afternoon city tour

Join tour Buenos Aires and check-in to our hotel. Here we find ourselves in the midst of Argentina's vibrant capital, located on the southern shores of the Rio de la Plata. Since its founding by Pedro de Mendoza in 1536 the city has thrived on trade and its vibrant streets are filled with an eclectic mix of European architectural styles, with Spanish, French and Italian classicism rubbing shoulders with remnants of Victorian grandeur. Gaining independence from its Spanish overlords in 1816 the city grew to rival the great cities of Europe, its wide avenues and elegant squares earning it the title of the Paris of the South. This afternoon we will take a tour of the city, exploring the major landmarks around the Plaza de Mayo, site of the famous mass demonstrations by supporters of Juan Domingo Peron in 1945, organised by his wife Eva. We'll also visit the elaborate mausoleums of the famous Recoleta Cemetery, the final resting place of some of Argentina's most revered figures, including Eva Peron herself. Our tour will also take us via Palermo Park and the colourful vibrancy of La Caminito in the La Boca district of the city. Settled originally by Italian migrants, the area is famed for its colourful houses and lively street performers. You



can even come across the tango being performed on some street corners, highlighting the city's connection with this most Latin of dances. This evening we have an opportunity to enjoy something of Buenos Aires' dazzling nightlife and soak up the pulsating rhythms of one of South America's most captivating cities. N.B those that are travelling on group flights from London will arrive the night before and receive one nights accomodation plus breakfast in Buenos Aires prior to Land Only passengers arrival.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**
Single Rooms Available

DAY 2 Fly to Ushuaia; free afternoon

Today we transfer to the airport for the flight to Ushuaia, the world's southernmost city, spectacularly located on the Island of Tierra del Fuego at the very tip of the South American continent. Beyond this remote port lies the Beagle Channel and then the open waters of The Drake Passage, where the deep rich waters of the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans converge amidst some of the most challenging seas on earth. This afternoon is free, flight time permitting, to explore this remarkable city at the end of the earth. You might like to visit the Maritime Museum, housed in what was once the prison, to learn a little something about the harsh realities of life on these unforgiving oceans, or even take a half day trip out into the Beagle Channel itself to experience a little something of the power and majesty of these southern oceans. A trip to the nearby Glacier Martial affords some superb views out across the Beagle Channel to the Chilean islands beyond. NB - depending on the flight times to Ushuaia breakfast will be taken either at the hotel in Buenos Aires or in flight.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**
Single Rooms Available

DAY 3 Excursion to Tierra del Fuego National Park

Tierra del Fuego translates as the Land of Fires and today we have time to explore the nearby national park. Separated from Patagonia by the waters of the Magellan Strait, Tierra del Fuego is a landscape of lakes, forest and tundra, set beneath an imposing backdrop of ragged mountain peaks. We aim to walk some of the coastal paths today, taking in the expansive views and hopefully coming across some of the abundant wildlife in the area. These peaks and valleys, filled with Lenga and Guindo trees, provide a rich haven for Patagonian grey foxes and condors and, as we follow the Sendero Bahia trail towards our lunch stop, we will hopefully catch sight of some of the region's indigenous fauna. After lunch we will take time to walk along some of the Hito trail before driving back to Ushuaia later this afternoon.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**
Single Rooms Available

DAY 4 Bus and ferry to Punta Arenas

After breakfast this morning we depart by public bus and spend our day travelling across Tierra del Fuego, crossing the Magellan Strait by ferry and entering Chile, to complete our journey to Punta Arenas later this afternoon. One of the largest maritime settlements in the region and the first Chilean settlement along the waters of the Magellan Strait, Punta Arenas was founded in the mid 19th century, beginning its life as a penal colony and growing rich on sheep ranching and (before the opening of the Panama Canal) the vital facilities that it offered to shipping traversing the dangerous routes through the southern oceans. Spending time here should give us an opportunity to soak up something of the unique atmosphere of this colonial outpost at the edge of the world, enjoying some local specialities, such as king crab, and perhaps sampling some of the excellent Chilean wines before retiring for the evening.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**
Single Rooms Available

DAY 5 Drive to Torres del Paine National Park

A landscape of rugged mountains, turquoise coloured glacial lakes and spectacular wildlife, the majestic vistas of Chilean Patagonia are some of the most scenic and environmentally diverse regions on the planet. Travelling north across the Patagonian steppe, with it's desolate rolling plains and views of the peaks of the Cordillera in the distance, we head first for the city of Puerto Natales, our gateway into the sumptuous landscapes of the Torres del Paine National Park. Founded in 1911 this southerly coastal town is a shipping port and a transport hub for almost everyone heading for the Paine Park and in fine weather the cafes are filled with travellers and crowds gathering for the big event - the arrival of the Navimag boat from Puerto Montt. After a brief stop in the town we continue towards the magnificent landscapes of the park, surely one of the most beautiful natural vistas on earth and a place once described by Alberto de Agostini as one of the most spectacular sights that the human imagination can conceive. Blessed with an abundance of natural wonders, the 934 square miles of land was turned into national park in 1959 and takes its name from the Tehuelche Indian word payne meaning blue, apt acknowledgment of the striking turquoise lakes that abound in this astonishing place. Our dramatic drive takes us via the Milodon Cave to our accommodation in Torres del Paine.

Overnight: **Standard Cabins**
Single Rooms Available

DAY 6 In Torres del Paine National Park

Torres del Paine is a stunningly beautiful national park, lying amidst a region of ice-capped peaks, silent blue glacial lakes and wild hill country. Home to a wide variety flora and fauna, it is not unusual to see large numbers of guanacos here, as well as black-necked swans, upland geese, pink flamingos and the odd grey fox snooping around the human food areas looking for an easy meal. We may even be fortunate enough to spot condors, or even the elusive puma, larger here than in any other place in the Andes. Our first full day here affords us an opportunity to hike out to view the Torres, imposing pinnacles of sharp granite that are surrounded by glacial lakes and craggy ranges that formed millions of years ago. Reaching over 2600 metres these towers are just part of an impressive range of some 15 peaks rising above 2000 metres, the highest of which is the Cerro Paine Grande, presenting us with one of the most breathtaking mountain vistas on the planet. This is a place to keep an eye out for condors, rheas and guanacos.

Overnight: **Standard Cabins**
Single Rooms Available

DAY 7 In Torres del Paine National Park

Our second day here offers us the icebergs of Lago Grey, where we can take an optional boat trip out onto the waters of one of the largest lakes in the park, where icebergs calved from a huge glacier float down towards the beach to be transformed into bizarre formations of incredible bluehued majesty by the wind and water. We will also have the opportunity to enjoy some shorter walks taking in some of the breathtaking views across the landscape.

Overnight: **Standard Cabins**
Single Rooms Available

DAY 8 Drive to El Calafate

After breakfast we depart for the Argentinean border at Cerro Castillo, crossing the vastness of an empty, treeless plateau, where the only signs of life are the occasional estancia sheltering behind a windbreak of rare trees. Our destination is the town of El Calafate on the southern shores of Lago Argentino, an unassuming little community that has been declared the national capital of the glacier region and provides us with an excellent base from which to explore Los Glaciares National Park and in particular the immense grandeur of the Perito Moreno Glacier.

Overnight: **Standard Guesthouse**
Single Rooms Available

DAY 9 Visit Perito Moreno Glacier

Today we will visit the awe inspiring Perito Moreno Glacier, a highlight which ranks as one of South America's most magnificent sights and arguably one of the world's greatest spectacles. Fed by the vast expanse of the Southern Patagonian Ice Field, the glacier covers some 250 sq km and presents us with an impressive list of statistics. It stretches for over 30km and at its deepest point is over 700m thick. It is advancing at a rate of 700 metres per year, but is estimated to calve off great chunks at probably the same rate, meaning that it has remained pretty much stationary for nearly a century. Where it meets the icy waters of the lake it presents a vast wall some 5km wide that towers on average some 60 metres above the surface of the water. All in all it is a natural masterpiece of quite spectacular majesty. There will be opportunities whilst here to take an optional boat ride or an optional glacier walk (maximum age 65), affording a chance to relish a truly intimate encounter with one of nature's most inspiring of masterpieces.

Overnight: **Standard Guesthouse**
Single Rooms Available

DAY 10 Drive to El Chalten

We return to the mountains today and drive north, past the turquoise waters of Lake Argentino and Lake Viedma to El Chalten, lying at the confluence of the De las Vueltas and Fitzroy Rivers in Los Glaciares National Park. After a chance to check into our hotel and relax there will be the option this afternoon to stretch our legs with a walk up to Chorillo de Salto, taking in the beauty of the town's surroundings, a natural setting that benefits from being a transition area from the barren Patagonian steppe to the lush grandeur of sub Antarctic forest, all set before the imposing backdrop of the granite pillars of the Torres and Fitzroy Mountains.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**
Single Rooms Available

DAY 11 Hiking around the Fitzroy Massif area

Over the next day and a half we have the opportunity to explore the stunning Fitzroy Massif. Today you may choose to take the option to set out with a local guide, weather permitting, to cover the distance to the base of Fitzroy Mountain, whose unmistakable summit is almost permanently covered in cloud, a phenomenon that was believed to be smoke by the indigenous Tehuelche who named it Chalten (smoke mountain). The mountain reaches a height of some 3405m and its forests and slopes are home to a unique array

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of wildlife, including the elusive huemul, a small deer and the majestic (and far from small) condor, one of the largest land birds on the planet. The scale and grandeur of this setting, where the glaciers seem to hang suspended between the jagged peaks, makes this walk a truly rewarding excursion and the return journey will take us some 7-8 hours. Or you may take a guided walk to Laguna Torre where along the way we will have views of the magnificent Cerro Torre and Cordon Torre. (6-7 hour return walk). Please note both of these walks are moderate to challenging due to the distance covered and the type of terrain, there are other shorter walks available on self guided trails should you prefer or you may take the time instead to relax around the town of Chalten and its stunning surrounds.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**
Single Rooms Available

DAY 12 Hiking around Fitzroy Massif Area, fly to Buenos Aires

This morning we continue our exploration of the area with our chosen hiking trails before returning by bus to El Calafate and flying back to Buenos Aires.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**
Single Rooms Available

DAY 13 Fly to Puerto Iguazu and afternoon tour of Brazilian Falls

Driving back to the airport you will fly (unescorted) to Puerto Iguazú (Argentina), where you will be met by a local guide. During your time here you will get the chance to visit the Brazilian and Argentinean sides of the falls, to witness for yourselves what are arguably the most beautiful waterfalls on the planet. Set amidst the lush landscapes of the Parque Nacional do Iguazú Reserve, the falls are one of nature's true masterpieces, a spectacular cascade of some 275 interconnecting falls that hurtle over high cliffs into a marvellous curved amphitheatre- a breathtaking sight that extends 3km across the Rio Iguazú. Viewed from the Brazilian side the Falls present themselves in all their majestic and powerful glory and the noise is tremendous, with huge clouds of soaking mist being churned up by the cascade. The national park was declared a World Heritage Site in 1986 and its trails are a paradise for nature lovers, the surrounding spray-soaked forest providing a rich haven for some spectacular flora and fauna, with over 2,000 plant species and over 400 different types of birds being recorded here, as well as countless mammals, insects and reptiles. The canopy meanwhile is alive with a rich array of brightly plumaged toucans, parrots, humming birds and colourful butterflies, whilst the forest floor boasts jaguars, mountain lions, tapirs and capuchin monkeys. From the Argentinean side of the Falls you can see an altogether more extensive view of this incredible cascade, with the added bonus of generally fewer tourists. A walk to the churning caldron of the Garganta del Diablo (the Devil's Throat) presents you with possibly the most powerful waterfall on the planet, where a series of 14 separate falls merge into one, to produce a spectacular torrent.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**
Single Rooms Available

DAY 14 Free time in Iguazu

There are a number of optional excursions also available today, including a train ride through the forest, watching out for toucans and colourful butterflies along the way, or raft along the creek in search of some of the more elusive wildlife, whilst further exploration of the jungle interior can be carried out courtesy of robust army trucks that bounce along the rough tracks through the forest. More genteel alternatives are provided by a visit to the spectacular Itaipu Dam, the largest hydroelectric plant in the world, with an 8km long dam and a reservoir that covers 1400 square kilometres and whose output supplies some 80% of Paraguay's electricity and 25% of Brazil's. NB please note while staying in Iguazu transfers are not in a private vehicle but may be shared with others.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**
Single Rooms Available

DAY 15 Fly to Buenos Aires

Today you will transfer to the airport for flight back to Buenos Aires. On arrival you will be met and transferred to the hotel by an English speaking guide.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**
Single Rooms Available

DAY 16 Tour ends Buenos Aires

The tour ends in Buenos Aires this morning after breakfast.

Accommodation and Meals

Food & Drink

Included meals: 15 breakfasts, 0 lunches, 0 dinners included in the price of this tour. Please be prepared to pay for non-included meals. Please note that costs for drinks and meals can vary depending on location.

Budgeting for your Tour

You will need some extra money to cover meals and drinks not included in the tour price, any optional sightseeing, souvenirs and items of a personal nature such as laundry.

Other Sightseeing & Activities

The following excursions and/or activities are usually available and may be arranged locally. Estimated costs are provided below for guidance only, are on a per person basis unless shown otherwise, and may depend on the number of participants. Prices quoted are correct as of the date these tour notes were originally issued but may change at any time due to currency fluctuations.

Please note: These activities are booked and paid for direct with the supplier and do not form part of your Explore holiday contract.

Optional Excursions

Buenos Aires - Tango Show/Dinner US\$ 140, without dinner US\$ 95.

Ushuaia - Boat excursion on Beagle Channel US\$ 65 + \$ AR7 port tax (half day).

Torres Del Paine - Boat trip to visit Glacier Grey US\$ 105.

El Calafate - Perito Moreno glacier trek (equipment supplied) US\$ 140 (\$500AR), MAXIMUM AGE 65; Boat trip to view Perito Moreno glacier US\$ 15.

Iguazu - Helicopter flight over falls US\$ 75; Itaipu Dam US\$ 15; Bird Park US\$10

Tipping - Tour Leader

At your discretion you might also consider tipping your Tour Leader in appreciation of the efficiency and service you receive.

Tipping - Local Crew

Although entirely voluntary, tipping is a recognized part of life in this region of the world. Some local staff will look to members of the group for personal recognition of particular services provided. Accordingly you should allow approx. US\$ 60 for gratuities for local staff.

In order to make things easier for you, the Tour Leaders may organise a group's tips kitty and if this is the case, they will account for it throughout the tour.

Foreign Exchange

Argentina

ATM Availability: Widely spread in all countries. Recommend to use as much as possible. Although always have some cash as back-up

Credit Card Acceptance: Credit cards are useful and can be used in many places, but may be subject to a 10% service charge

Travellers Cheques: Travellers Cheques can be awkward or expensive to change (American Express are the easiest to change).

Local Currency: Peso

Recommended Currency for Exchange: Carry your funds in US Dollar Travellers Cheques/cash (NOT Sterling, which is almost impossible to change). It is advisable to take a minimum of US\$400-\$500 of your total spending money in cash, in mixed denominations. Notes should be in good condition otherwise they might be difficult to exchange.

Where to Exchange: Your Tour Leader will advise you on arrival. When changing money always keep your receipts for changing back money.

Chile

ATM Availability: Major towns.

Credit Card Acceptance: Credit cards are useful and can be used in many places, but may be subject to a service charge.

Travellers Cheques: Travellers' Cheques can be awkward or expensive to change (American Express are the easiest to change).

Local Currency: Peso.

Recommended Currency for Exchange: Carry all your funds in U.S. Dollar cash (NOT Sterling, which is almost impossible to change). It is advisable to take a minimum of US\$400-500 of your total spending money in cash, in mixed denominations. Notes should be in good condition otherwise they might be difficult to exchange. Note: US 100 dollar bills with the series CBB2 year 2001 will not be accepted for exchange.

Where to Exchange: Tour Leader will advise

Joining your Tour

Flight Information

You are able to book this tour on a 'land only' basis or as a 'flight inclusive' package. Your flight inclusive package will be fully protected by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) ATOL protection scheme.

Booking a land only package with Explore

For passengers making their own travel arrangements, please ensure you join the group as described on day one of the tour itinerary. If you are considering purchasing your own airline tickets, you can book these through any travel agent, directly with an airline or through an online flight consolidator. In all cases, we would be happy to arrange transfers to and from the joining point of your tour if required.

Joining Tour Abroad

Clients booked on '**Land Only**' arrangements should make their own way to the joining point. Please refer to separate '**Joining Instructions**' for time and place of rendezvous with tour leader

Booking a flight inclusive package with Explore

We have a good selection of flights not only from London but from many regional airports around the UK allowing us to compare fares between scheduled carriers as well as low cost and charter airlines. Our dedicated flights team will match the best flight options to your arrival and departure airport.

On our website we display a UK flight inclusive package guide price which is generally based on a London departure. To avoid paying supplements or to secure your preferred flight option, we recommend booking as early as possible, especially for peak travel dates.

Important Information

Travel Insurance

It is a condition of joining **any** of our tours that you must have valid travel insurance. It must indicate that you have cover for (at least) medical expenses and emergency repatriation in the event of illness or injury. Medical and repatriation insurance cover is not mandatory for UK residents who are travelling in England and Scotland. We also strongly recommend your policy includes curtailment, personal effects and cancellation protection as all deposits paid are non-refundable.

If you require travel insurance for your tour, Explore Worldwide is an appointed representative of Campbell Irvine Limited, who is authorised and regulated by the Financial Services authority. Our travel insurance policy is specially tailored to the needs of the adventure traveller and will cover you for any included activity on any Explore trip. You can either purchase this at the time of booking or call us on 0844 499 0903 after you have booked.

Visa Information

Argentina: Visas are not required for UK, US, Canadian, Australian and New Zealand citizens. However US, Canadian and Australian citizens will need make a payment called the 'reciprocity fee' in advance of travel to enter Argentina. This currently costs 100USD for Australian citizens, 70USD for Canadian citizens and 131USD for US citizens. This payment needs to be made online at <http://www.migraciones.gov.ar/accesibleingles> The receipt generated at the time of online payment must be printed and given to local immigration authorities together with your passport.

Chile: Visas are not required for UK, New Zealand, Australian, US and Canadian citizens.

Patagonia: Visas are not required for UK, New Zealand, Australian, US and Canadian citizens

Other nationalities should consult the relevant consulate.

All visa information is subject to change. You should confirm all visa related issues with the relevant Embassy prior to departure.

USA (If flights transit): According to US law, passengers will have to disembark, collect luggage and clear immigration before re-boarding for the onward flight.

Citizens of the UK, New Zealand, Australia, Canada and passport holders from several EU countries can enter the United States without a visa under the Visa Waiver Program (VWP). This applies if you enter the country by sea or by air on a carrier participating in the visa waiver scheme, holding a return/ onward ticket. The passport requirements are that it must be machine readable, and must contain a digital photograph of the holder and also an integrated circuit chip that stores biographic information.

All passengers travelling to the USA under the Visa Waiver Programme must provide their details online no later than 72 hours prior to travel. British travellers who have not registered before their trip are likely to be detained and sent home.

When completing an application for transit you should enter the words 'In Transit' with your final destination location in the address line. Anyone applying for an Electronic Travel Authorisation (ESTA) to travel under the Visa Waiver system will be charged a fee of 14USD (9GBP).

For more information, and to apply online, please visit the following website at <https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov>. Once obtained, the application will be valid for a period of two years, or for the validity of your passport (whichever is shorter).

For more information about who is eligible for the VWP, or any other questions you may have regarding your eligibility, or machine readable passports, please contact your local consular office, or visit www.usembassy.org.uk

Vaccinations & Protection

Argentina

Nothing compulsory, we recommend protection against malaria, typhoid, tetanus, polio and hepatitis A. Consult your travel clinic for latest advice on different prophylaxis available against malaria. We recommend protection against yellow fever. There have been very few cases reported, but local authorities do recommend travellers get immunised against yellow fever. The above is not an exhaustive list. Further information regarding vaccinations and travel health advice can be found by following the NHS and NaTHNaC links at <http://www.explore.co.uk/Travelhealth/> and from your local healthcare provider.

Chile

Nothing compulsory, we recommend protection against typhoid, tetanus, diphtheria, polio and hepatitis A. The above is not an exhaustive list. Further information regarding vaccinations and travel health advice can be found by following the NHS and NaTHNaC links at <http://www.explore.co.uk/Travelhealth/> and from your local healthcare provider.

Preparing for your Tour

Climate

Argentina

Argentina has a climate that ranges from subtropical in the north to cold in the temperate south. The Andes has erratic rainfall and flash floods from December to May. From June to September spring like sunny days temper the cold nights.

Chile

First, remember that the seasons are reversed - the European winter is summertime in Chile. The best time to visit is spring (Sept-Nov) and autumn (March- April). Between June and September the heat in the northern part of the country is less intense. Remember rain can fall at any time of the year and the weather is changeable in the mountains. Easter Island has a tropical climate so is likely to be quite hot and humid. It can also rain there in the evenings and become chilly.

Clothing

A warm sweater or fleece, good waterproofs and a windproof jacket are all essential. We also recommend bringing waterproof trousers as weather conditions can change suddenly whilst walking. Laundry services are available throughout. For Iguazu Falls lightweight, long sleeved clothing is necessary for the mostly warm and humid daytime conditions, though evenings can be cooler.

Equipment

Binoculars, torch, water bottle, insect repellent, suncream (at least factor 15), good quality sunglasses and a lipsalve with sun protection and walking poles (if you use them).

Footwear

Comfortable and sturdy walking boots with good ankle support and tread are essential. Trainers/sandals for relaxing in.

Luggage: On Tour

One main piece of baggage and daypack. Total allowance: 44lb/20kg. Remember you are expected to carry your own luggage so don't overload yourself.

Luggage limit for domestic flights is 15kg. You may leave excess luggage at the hotel in Buenos Aires

Luggage allowance on tour: 20kg

General Information

Food

The prices for meals and drinks can vary greatly depending upon location and the prices detailed below are an average guide. In general you would expect that drinks purchased in a supermarket or local bar to be less expensive, whilst drinks in an upmarket bar or restaurant may be more expensive. The costs for meals may vary depending upon location, type of restaurant and number of courses eaten and so the prices given are an average guide. Local restaurants located off the beaten track may be less expensive, whereas an upmarket restaurant located in the centre of a major city may charge more.

Argentina

Lunch £: 10.00

Dinner £: 17.00

Chile

Lunch £: 13.00

Dinner £: 20.00

Drink

Argentina

Bottle of Beer £: 2.0

Water £: 1.30

Chile

Bottle of Beer £: 1.75

Water £: 1.30

Country details

Argentina

Population: 40,117,096

Size of Country: 2,766,890 sq km

Major Language: Spanish is the main language throughout this region, along with a number of indigenous dialects, of which Quechua, Aymara, Quichua and Guarani are the most popular

Religion: Predominantly Roman Catholic.

Time Difference to GMT: -3

Chile

Population: 15,500,000

Size of Country: 748,800 sq km

Major Language: Spanish, Aymara, Rapanui.

Religion: Predominantly Roman Catholic.

Time Difference to GMT: -4

Electric Supply & Plugs

Argentina

3 Pin Flat

Chile

2 Pin Round

Why Choose Explore

We've been creating award-winning pioneering adventure holidays for over 30 years, earning the trust of thousands of delighted customers, who feel safe in our hands. Our tour leaders have expert local knowledge and our tours are designed to take you off the beaten track to see the most exotic, inspiring and dramatic places in the world.

- With over 30 years experience, we are passionate about what we do.
- Pioneering small group adventures & tailor-made holidays.
- Award winning tour leaders who you can trust.
- Responsible travel is and always has been one of the driving principles of Explore.

Our adventure holidays are full of exciting things to see and do, exploring in small groups travelling by bus, boat, plane, rickshaw, camel, elephant, or any number of unusual forms of transport. Often you will stay in family run hotels and village houses and enjoy authentic local cuisine. In this way, it's easy to discover the true heart of the people and the place you travel to – and make some new friends along the way. Each tour is uniquely different, so please feel free to browse through our tours to see what may whet your appetite.

Our commitment to the environment

We are passionate about sustainable travel and work hard to create tours where your holiday delivers real benefits to the local communities. We minimise our impact by travelling in small groups, respecting local cultures and traditions, reducing waste and offsetting 100% of the CO2 from our flights.

When you travel with Explore, you are directly contributing to local economies and helping empower the people you meet. We currently support a range of charities and good causes, including: The Sunshine Orphanage (which cares for abandoned children in

Luxor, Egypt), Education for All (sponsoring children through their secondary education in Morocco), The Hope Foundation (helping an Indian Village to recover from the 2004 Tsunami) and the Mufindi Orphanage, which support AIDS orphans in Tanzania.

We also care passionately about the world's wildlife. We are patrons of the Born Free Organisation, Travel Operators for Tigers (helping save the Bengal Tiger from extinction) and Friends for Conservation. We have also adopted a beautiful Sri Lankan Elephant called 'Serendip'.

We are delighted to have received a Five Star sustainable tourism status from the Association of Independent Tour Operators in recognition of our on-going commitment to sustainable tourism.

Cool Earth

Explore are delighted to support Cool Earth to reduce carbon emissions through preventing the illegal deforestation of the South America rainforest. One of the top sources of global carbon emissions, rainforest deforestation equivalent to the USA's annual emissions, it also destroys flora and fauna, sometimes to the point of extinction. It also degrades the lives and communities of the 350 million residents of the rainforest.

Cool Earth prevents the deforestation through its support of local communities as forest guardians and by focussing on areas in immediate danger of deforestation. It has so far protected over 350,000 acres of rainforest, with each acre saving an emission of 260 tons of CO2, as well as protecting rare animals and plants. When you travel on an Explore holiday we make a donation to Cool Earth that exceeds the impact of our customers flights each year. In addition to mitigating emissions, when you travel with Explore, you are helping to protect the source of 20% of the world's fresh water and oxygen, as well as the livelihoods of the 1.6 billion people who are reliant on the rainforest. www.coolearth.org

Earth Matters

- [The Travel Foundation](#)

Explore are active members and supporters of the Travel Foundation which has established a variety of sustainable tourism projects in destinations and works with industry to improve practice. Visit their website www.thetravelfoundation.org.uk

- [Tourism Concern](#)

Explore support the work of Tourism Concern who campaign for fairly and ethically traded tourism, and are part of its Ethical Tour Operator Group www.tourismconcern.org.uk

- For further information on responsible travel go to <http://www.explore.co.uk/ResponsibleTourism/>

Know before you go

We strongly recommend that you check your government's travel advisory for up-to-date information and advice about your destination: safety and security, entry requirements, health, local laws and customs. For UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office Advice follow the link at <http://www.explore.co.uk/essential-travel-information/travel-resources/travel-safety>

Booking Your Holiday

Peace of mind - book with confidence

You can book your Explore holiday with confidence, as all monies paid to us for your trip are fully protected. Explore is a fully bonded tour operator licensed by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) and by ABTOT.

The air holiday packages (Tours including flights) that we advertise are ATOL protected, since we hold an Air Travel Organiser's Licence granted by the Civil Aviation Authority. Our ATOL number is ATOL 2595. In addition, As a member of the Association of Bonded Travel Organisers Trust Limited (ABTOT), Explore has provided a bond to meet the requirements of the Package Travel, Package Holidays and Package Tours Regulations 1992. Please note that packages booked outside the UK are only protected when purchased directly with Explore.

Reserving your place

To reserve your place on this tour you will need to check availability on the Explore website or through our dedicated call centre based in the UK where you can. Our tours can fill up quickly so you are advised to book as early as possible. If your chosen date is 'Available' or 'Guaranteed' we will be able to provisionally hold you a space for up to 48 hours.

The easiest way to confirm your booking is through our website. When you are ready to book, we normally require a 10% non-refundable deposit, but for some holidays this may be more to cover such items as permit fees, internal flights or other non-refundable services. If your travel starts within 60 days of booking, full payment will be required at the time of booking

100% No Surcharge Guarantee

The price paid for our holidays is no longer subject to change. Once booked and confirmed we will guarantee the price you pay will not increase, whatever the circumstances. You will not be approached to pay fuel surcharges unlike the vast majority of other adventure tour operators. The price guarantee applies to all new bookings departing between 1st January 2013 and 31st December 2014.

Tour Itinerary Versions

Itinerary details may vary depending on departure date and alternative itineraries for this tour may exist. Please refer to the dates and prices page on our website to check which itinerary operates on each departure date.

Please ensure that you have an up-to-date copy of these tour notes immediately before you travel, as from time to time our itineraries may be amended, either for operational reasons or in response to feedback from customers. You will be informed of any major changes to your tour but small changes may just be added to these tour notes.

Please note: 2014 itinerary versions are applicable to tours departing in 2014. 2015/16 itinerary versions are applicable to tours departing from 1st January to 31st December 2015.

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