



## ARGENTINA EXPLORER, IGUAZU & PATAGONIA

17 DAYS DEPARTING 10TH OCTOBER 2011

### DETAILED ITINERARY

Our journey begins in **Buenos Aires**, known as the 'Paris of South America'. This is a dynamic and sophisticated city with an original combination of a European City's atmosphere with the charm of a Latin American town. The capital of Tango.

We continue on to **Iguazu Falls**, one of the great natural wonders of the world and certainly one of the most imposing natural attractions in South America. Taller than Niagara Falls, twice as wide with 275 cascades spread in a horseshoe shape.

Experience the first genuine **Patagonia safari in Torres Del Paine National Park**, including hikes, unforgettable scenery, glaciers and navigation of the magnificent lakes.



### DAY 1 - 10TH OCTOBER

#### Buenos Aires

Arrive in Buenos Aires.

Reception at the airport and private transfer to your centrally located Hotel.

Check into your Hotel. Leisure time to enjoy the atmosphere of the city.

Overnight in Buenos Aires.



## DAY 2 - 11TH OCTOBER

### BUENOS AIRES

Breakfast

#### CITY TOUR AND TANGO SHOW

Today we take a tour of Buenos Aires, to serve as an introduction to the city's features, history, architecture, culture, inhabitants, anecdotes, and secrets.

The tour explores the busy centre, including the Plaza de Mayo, where the Casa Rosada Presidential Palace is located; the aristocratic North, including Recoleta Cemetery, best-known for holding Eva Peron's grave; and the working-class South, such as the famous La Boca and San Telmo districts, heartland of the Tango.

The evening is spent admiring the mighty Tango and Argentinean folk music as we have dinner at one of Buenos Aires' most well-regarded shows.

This evening we will take in a Tango Show with Dinner included.

Overnight in Buenos Aires.



## DAY 3 - 12TH OCTOBER

### BUENOS AIRES - IGUAZU

Breakfast

You will be transferred to the domestic airport for your flight to Iguazu.

**Flight: Buenos Aires / Puerto Iguazu**

This afternoon you will have an adventurous, fun packed 4 hour Iguazu forest experience. Transportation in off-road all terrain vehicles designed for the forest.

The program is a combination of:

- Canopping: gliding between several platforms located at tree tops, about 15 and 25 metres above the forest floor, secured in a harness.
- Trek: a short trek through the forest
- Wet rappelling: assisted by expert instructors experience a wet or dry rappell, approx 14 meters high.

Dinner

Overnight at Iguazu Falls



## DAY 4 - 13TH OCTOBER

### IGUAZU

Breakfast

After breakfast you will have a full day visit to the waterfalls on the Argentine side. The waterfall experience is both exhilarating and breathtaking. Your Great Adventure excursion at the falls starts by embarking on inflatable boats which will take you near the Devil's Throat, a navigation of 2 kilometers over soft rapids and another 4 kilometers further up the river up to the disembarkation point, then 8 kilometers on army type trucks through the Yacaratia path.

Dinner

Overnight at Iguazu Falls

## DAY 5 - 14TH OCTOBER

### IGUAZU - BARILOCHE

Breakfast

Private transfer this morning to the domestic airport for your flight to Bariloche

**Flight: Iguazu / Bariloche**

You will be met and transferred to your hotel.

Overnight in Bariloche



## DAY 6 - 15TH OCTOBER

### BARILOCHE: CIRCUITO CHICO EXCURSION

Breakfast

Today we take in a half-day excursion by road alongside Lake Nahuel Huapi for an overview of Bariloche town and the picturesque surroundings. Our 60km round trip includes Melipal, Playa Bonita, Lake Moreno, the Llao Llao district, Puerto Pañuelo and Lopez Bay.

Overnight at the hotel in Bariloche.



## **DAY 7 - 16TH OCTOBER**

### **BARILOCHE: LAKE NAHUEL HUAPI NAVIGATION**

Breakfast

This half day tour sees us drive to Puerto Pañuelo to board a catamaran that crosses the majestic Lake Nahuel Huapi to Quetrihue Peninsula: here we wander among distinctive forests of Arrayanes trees.

We return to the boat to sail to Victoria Island, where there is more time to enjoy the local flora and fauna, before returning to Bariloche.

Overnight at the hotel in Bariloche

## **DAY 8 - 17TH OCTOBER**

### **BARILOCHE - EL CALAFATE, PATAGONIA**

Breakfast

*Flight: Bariloche / El Calafate*

We transfer to the airport for the flight to El Calafate, the national capital of the glaciers. El Calafate is a small town in Patagonia, situated in the southern border of Lake Argentino. It's name is derived from a little bush with yellow flowers and dark blue berries that is very common in Patagonia.

## **DAY 9 - 18TH OCTOBER**

### **EL CALAFATE: PERITO MORENO GLACIER**

Breakfast

After breakfast, we head by bus to Perito Moreno where, after a short walk, we obtain our first glimpse of the glacier. Standing at over 100m high, it is one of the few glaciers in the world still advancing, and we will have a chance to watch it 'calving'. After this exhilarating experience, we return to El Calafate.

Overnight in El Calafate



## DAY 10 - 19TH OCTOBER

### EL CALAFETE: LOS GLACIARES NATIONAL PARK

Breakfast

Today we enjoy a catamaran trip on Lago Argentino, to enjoy further spectacular glacial scenery. First we have a magnificent view of the ice wall of Upsala Glacier. Then, we disembark the boat in Onelli Bay, for a stroll through the forest to where Onelli, Bolados and Agassiz Glaciers converge. After lunch, we will see Spagazzini and Seco Glacier.

Overnight in Calafate.

## DAY 11 - 20TH OCTOBER

### EL CALAFETE - TORRES DEL PAINE

Breakfast

Transfer from El Calafate to the Eco camp, crossing the border into Chile. After settling in we will give you a brief introduction to the national park and enjoy a delicious dinner before our first night in the dome tents. Here you will experience the first genuine Patagonia safari in Torres del Paine NP, while enjoying the charms of the Eco Camp Patagonia in these magnificent surroundings.

Over the next few days we will undertake full day hikes to easier and more relaxing walks as well as boat rides on the magnificent lakes.

#### Information on the Eco Camp

Located in the heart of Torres del Paine, the EcoCamp consists of tented igloo-type domes built to minimize the environmental impact while providing a comfortable setting and maximum exposure to nature. There is electricity available for charging just camera batteries (voltage: 220 Volts at 50 Hertz, two round pins plug). Food at the EcoCamp has the same quality as the one you will have on a family dinner at your home, this means it is plenty and delicious!

The standard domes have a 4m/12ft diameter vitrified wooden floor and a height of 2.1m/7ft allowing two persons to sleep and stand comfortably inside. They are resistant to the strongest Patagonian winds, rains, and snow, and come equipped with two single beds (doubles on request), fleece sheets, blankets, feather quilts and organic elements for decoration. They also have a panoramic window and come coated with white canvas which allows plenty of sunlight inside.

**Over the next 3 days you will have a choice of activities that you can decide upon arrival from Easy walks to Active treks and activities, or you may choose to just relax. It is up to you. The following 3 days itinerary details these choices.**

There are also optional activities you may prefer at an extra cost (not included in tour price):

- \* Hosteria Las Torres Spa & Massage Centre, just 10 minutes walk from the Eco Camp.
- \* Half day horseriding or ride per hour, just 10 minutes walk from the Eco Camp.

Eco camp for dinner and overnight



## DAY 12 - 21ST OCTOBER

### TORRES DEL PAINE

Breakfast

#### OPTION 1 - Easy Walk Laguna Azul and Fauna Trail

We start the day driving towards Laguna Azul, in the north eastern side of the Park. We make some stops to take gorgeous photos of the local flora and fauna along the road, including one at Paine Waterfall. Once in Laguna Azul we hike to a sightseeing point where we've a panoramic view of both the lagoon and granite towers. We continue along the eastern side of Lago Sarmiento to the calcium formations on the lake's shores where guanacos are often seen. Later we walk to Paso Las Corneas with beautiful views of Rio Paine, Lake Pehoe and the Paine Massif.

Lunch is included.

Return to the Eco camp for dinner and overnight.

#### OPTION 2 - Active - Trek Towers Base

We walk from the camp site towards Hostería Las Torres and connect with the winding uphill path to Ascencio Valley – the valley which supports the eastern face of the Towers' base. Dry mountain spots, beech forests and small rivers are passed along the scenic walk into the valley. It's not a difficult walk, but you might want to save some energy for the final challenge: the moraine. This mass of boulders is the last guardian before our face to face with the uplifting Torres del Paine. The moraine is sufficiently steep to consider doing it slowly and with a fair amount of precaution. After a considerable effort, the Towers come into full view, rising majestically before us with the glacial lake visible below. This is one of the most breathtaking sights of the world! The famous Torres del Paine consist of three gigantic granite monoliths, the remains of a great cirque sheared away by the forces of glacial ice. Is there any better place on this planet to have lunch? Once everyone is ready, we backtrack along the same trail through Ascencio Valley.

Lunch is included.

Return to the Eco camp for dinner and overnight.



## DAY 13 - 22ND OCTOBER

### TORRES DEL PAINE

Breakfast

#### **OPTION 1 - Easy Walk to Mirador Condor**

We drive towards Laguna Amarga Park Ranger point and then we head southwest across the Park with stunning views of Paine Grande and Los Cuernos formations. We stop at different points to admire the local landscape and take some nice photographs, always accompanied by our wildlife expert guide. We arrive in Pehoe camping zone, the starting point of the Condor Trail. We begin walking through a small Lenga forest and after a while initiate a soft ascension up to the sightseeing point of the hill. During the spring we'll experience strong winds in this zone and some levitation experiences might take place! Nothing to worry about as long as we follow the instructions of our guide on how to be safe and enjoy strong wind flows. When we reach the summit we'll have a spectacular sight before our eyes: the very Paine Massif north front with its entire splendor, escorted by the beautiful Pehoe Lake on its feet. We finally initiate our way down to the Camping Pehoe and then drive back to the EcoCamp.

Lunch is included.

Eco camp for dinner and overnight.

#### **OPTION 2 - Active - Navigation on Lake Pehoe and Hike along French Valley**

After breakfast, we start our day driving towards Pudeto dock, located by the shores of Pehoe Lake. Once there we board the catamaran that'll take us to the northern west sector of the Lake from where we'll begin the challenging trek to Valle Frances (French Valley), taking a steep trail that goes into the very heart of the Paine Massif. How deep we go depends on our groups' rhythm. An active walk leads us to the hanging bridge over the French River, located at the foot of the south east face of the Massif. From this point, we can enjoy our first truly wonderful view and then continue up the trail until reaching the upper prospects of the valley. The entire group of geological formations of the high valley can be admired here: Hoja (Blade), Máscara (Mask), Espada (Sword), Catedral (Cathedral), Aleta de Tiburón (Shark's Fin) and the magnificent Fortaleza! (Fortress).

It's time to have a picnic and recover from the walk. An optional trek to Mirador Britanico is available as well. Next, we descend through an undulating terrain of mixed grassland and light forest until reaching the Paine Grande dock again, located in the peaceful shores of Lake Pehoe. Finally, the catamaran takes us back to Pudeto and we then drive back to the EcoCamp.

Lunch is included.

Eco camp for dinner and overnight.

## DAY 14 - 23RD OCTOBER

### TORRES DEL PAINE

Breakfast

#### **OPTION 1 - Easy Walk Laguna Inge & Botanical Safari**

We start our adventure in the Park with a pleasant walk through the curly Cuernos trail located beside beautiful Lake Nordenskjold. During this excursion we take in the park's charming flora and fauna, its strong wind and the curious 4-seasons weather that have accompanied us these days.



As we advance through the trail we enjoy magnificent views of the park's central lakes and the Paine's Horns which are majestic black horn-like peaks of slate atop gray granite which crown the center of the Massif. We'll of course stop to get great shots of the park. Once we reach Laguna Inge we enjoy its breath taking views of Lake Nordenskjold, and then return to the EcoCamp, on time for lunch and a well deserved rest.

When we're ready we start the Botanical Safari trail, a small interpretative path of a few hundred meters built around the EcoCamp where we'll appreciate in more depth the flora and fauna living in the surroundings. Our guide will be stopping from time to time to explain different natural issues so we can learn more about the Park's environment. When we're back at the EcoCamp we might get together at the Core Domes to share our thoughts on this trail.  
Lunch is included.

Eco camp for dinner and overnight.

### **OPTION 2 - Active - Hike along Los Cuernos Pass or Puesto Seron**

The Cuernos adventure starts with a trekking through the curly Cuernos trail located beside beautiful Lake Nordenskjold. During this excursion we take in the park's charming flora and fauna, its strong wind and the curious 4-season weather that'll accompany us for the next days. As we advance through the trail we enjoy magnificent views of the park's central lakes and the Paine's Horns which are majestic black horn-like peaks of slate atop gray granite which crown the center of the Massif. We'll of course stop to get great shots of the park. Depending on the group's pace we might reach the Cuernos refuge, our trekking goal for today; we then return to the EcoCamp.

The trek to Puesto Seron implies doing the first part of the Paine circuit, bordering the eastern side of the Massif. We'll walk through plains that occasionally are home to Lenga forests and genuine Patagonic flora; this trail also offers splendid views of Laguna Azul and Sierra Masle. As we walk we might encounter local fauna that come to this sector avoiding the populated sectors of the Park. After some hours trekking, we'll reach Camp Seron where we'll enjoy a box lunch and admire this quiet and powerful place. Once we're ready we initiate our way back to the EcoCamp.  
Lunch is included.

Eco camp for dinner and overnight.

## **DAY 15 - 24TH OCTOBER**

### **TORRES DEL PAINE - EL CALAFATE**

Breakfast

After one last breakfast in this pristine environment we will say goodbye and transfer you to El Calafate, crossing the border back into Argentina.

Overnight in El Calafate.



## DAY 16 - 25TH OCTOBER

### EL CALAFATE - BUENOS AIRES

Breakfast

Transfer to the airport or your flight from El Calafate to Buenos Aires.

[Flight El Calafate / Buenos Aires](#)

You will have free time to enjoy Buenos Aires for a final time from your centrally located hotel.

Farewell Dinner

Overnight in Buenos Aires

## DAY 17 - 26TH OCTOBER

### BUENOS AIRES

Breakfast

Transfer to the airport for your flight home.





## INCLUDED WITH THIS TRIP

- All internal flights and transport as mentioned in the above itinerary
- Accommodation with daily breakfast
- meals as specified in the above itinerary
- Tours with professional English speaking local guides
- All entrance fees and National Park fees
- Local Taxes (NO LOCAL PAYMENTS)

### ACCOMMODATION

Hotels 3 \* (12 nights)  
Eco Camp (4 nights)

### MEALS

Meals included as detailed on the itinerary.

While travelling with us you will experience the vast array of wonderful food available in the world. Generally, to give you the maximum flexibility in deciding where, what and with whom to eat, not all meals are included in the trip price. This also gives you more budgeting flexibility. As a rule our groups tend to eat together to enable you to taste a larger variety of dishes and enjoy each other's company. There is no obligation to do this though.

### TRANSPORT

Bus, car, walking, plane, boat as outlined in itinerary

### ACTIVITIES

Sightseeing, activities and entry fees as outlined on the itinerary



## NOT INCLUDED WITH THIS TRIP

- Visa fees - each member of the group must carry a valid passport (valid for at least 6 months beyond the duration of your trip) and have obtained the appropriate visas
- Tips, personal telephone charges...
- Travel Insurance (compulsory) - You will need to give the policy number prior to departure
- Items of a personal nature; postage, drinks and souvenirs
- Entrance fees during free time
- Other meals not mentioned on the itinerary
- Additional optional activities
- Medical Advice - Please refer to your GP or local travel clinic for up to date travel health advice for the area(s) you are visiting.

**PLEASE NOTE: INTERNATIONAL CURRENCIES DO FLUCTUATE, AVAILABILITY AND PRICES CAN CHANGE. ITINERARY AND PRICE IS CORRECT AT TIME OF PUBLICATION.**



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