

Chile/Argentina – Authentic Patagonia



Trip Summary

Explore the very best highlights and majesty of Patagonia as you trek, ride, and paddle through Glaciares National Park, the Fitz Roy Mountains, the Cerro Torre, and – the pièce de résistance – Torres del Paine National Park. You will witness real gauchos at work, sample traditional grilled delicacies, immerse yourself in Chilean and Argentinian cultures (and wines), take in amazing views of glaciers while on foot and from the deck of a ship, and, after active and engaging days, sleep in luxurious comfort.

Itinerary

Day 1: El Calafate

Pick-up in El Calafate, Argentina – gateway to Los Glaciares National Park • Upon arrival, you'll be taken by private transportation to your hotel, where you'll have the rest of the day to relax and explore the town • Explore the modern interpretive center called the Glaciarium, which serves as a primer on the region's numerous glaciers, or make the 1km hike out to Laguna Nimez for a beautiful Patagonian sunset • *Overnight at Kau Yatun Country Hotel (D)*

Day 2: El Calafate / El Chalten / Mount Torre

Enjoy breakfast before viewing the desert of southern Patagonia over a three-hour drive on famous Route 40 • Pass over La Leona River, connecting Lake Argentino and Lake Viedma, and watch out for La Leona Road House, where Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid hit out for almost a month after a bank robbery • Arrive at the charming village of El Chalten, Argentina's capital for trekking, surrounded by glaciers, lakes, rivers, and the Fitz Roy Mountains • In the afternoon, you'll start a half-day, guided trek to the base of Mount Torre • This classic trek takes you up into the Adela range and the incredible Cerro Torre • After your descent, we recommend relaxing in the local brewery or the guide can arrange to visit her friend's chocolateria • *Overnight at Hosteria Senderos (B, L)*

Day 3: El Chalten / Poincenot Camp / Laguna Capri

Transfer from El Chalten to El Pilar to begin your hike • After a two-hour trek, enjoy an outstanding view of the Fitz-Roy mountain range • Reach Poincenot Camp and continue walking to Laguna Capri, where you will stop for a much-earned boxed lunch! • Walk the descent into town, arriving in the afternoon, and check into the luxurious Hosteria Helsingfors lodge • That night, your local guide will review the activities for the next days, including trekking and horseback riding • *Overnight at Hosteria Senderos (B, L)*

Day 4: Nibepo Aike Estancia

After fueling up on a hearty breakfast, transfer to Nibepo Aike Estancia farmstead, located inside of Los Glaciares National Park • This unique property's capacity is just 22 persons and horseback riding and hiking are the principal activities for you – or just spend time on your own, relaxing • Enjoy the homemade cuisine, including vegetables from their own garden and the famous 'crucified' lamb stretched across a traditional Patagonian cross stake and grilled directly over the flames • *Overnight at Nibepo Aike Estancia (B, D)*



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Day 5: Nibepo Aike Estancia

Today we really take advantage of the estancia's adventures • Watch a demonstration of sheep shearing and herding or one of typical riding skills on criollo horses • Hike the banks of the Argentino Lake • Or take a horse of your own for a gaucho-style experience to explore the hidden corners of the Los Glaciares National Park • *Overnight at Nibepo Aike Estancia (B, L, D)*

Day 6: Nibepo Aike Estancia / Perito Moreno Glacier / El Calafate

Say 'adios' to the lovely Nibepo Aike Estancia and check out for a full-day excursion to Perito Moreno Glacier in Los Glaciares National Park • This UNESCO World Heritage site since 1981, it is one of the most awesome landscapes in South America • A bilingual guide will answer all your questions and you'll be able to enjoy stunning glacier views from the walking trail and viewing platforms • Then enjoy the glacier boat cruise that will get you up close enough to really appreciate the 80M-high ice walls! • *Overnight at Kau Yatun Country Hotel (B, L)*

Day 7: El Calafate / Torres del Paine / Hotel Las Torres

Transfer to Torres del Paine, one of the world's most beautiful national parks • Torres del Paine is tucked away at the southern end of South America • It's a natural paradise full of lakes and lagoons with clear waters, turquoise rivers, ancient forests and giant glaciers • Hotel Las Torres is located in the heart of the park in an exceptional location, where you will base for the next three nights • *Overnight at Hotel Las Torres (B, L, D)*

Days 8 & 9: Torres del Paine / Hotel Las Torres

A few days in paradise! • Over the next several days, choose between half day or full day excursions to see the expanse of Torres del Paine National Park • Whether by foot, horse or vehicle, Las Torres' excursions are packed with adventure and will get you acquainted with the park's flora, fauna, geology and human history under the care of experienced and knowledgeable guides • *Overnight at Hotel Las Torres (B, L, D)*

Day 10: Hotel Las Torres / Departure

Pull yourself away, if you can, from Hotel Las Torres to transfer to the airport or your next adventure • *No overnight (B)*

**Trip itineraries are subject to change without notice due to road, weather and other factors outside of our control, for the safety and enjoyment of our guests, as deemed necessary and appropriate by Austin Adventures & Say Hueque.*

Our Partner – Say Hueque

Say Hueque – Tours in Argentina and Chile is a travel company based in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Established in 1999, Say Hueque specializes in providing customized tours to independent travelers throughout Argentina and Chile's national parks and cities. Popular destinations and experiences include Buenos Aires, Iguazu Falls, Perito Moreno Glacier, hiking in Patagonia, wine tasting in Mendoza, horseback riding at traditional estancias, glacier cruises and much more. The company is made up of fun-loving travel professionals from Argentina who are passionate about sharing the best that their country has to offer. They have personally visited each destination throughout the region and over the past 17 years have provided excellent holidays to thousands of happy travelers worldwide.

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Activities

Hiking: 2 to 6-mile hikes, moderate to challenging terrain at altitude with options for more (or less) difficult hikes in Torres del Paine

Horseback riding: A variety of short- and medium-length rides. No experience necessary

Options at Nibepo Aike Estancia: Sheep shearing, sheep herding, riding skills demonstration, hiking, horseback riding

Options at Hotel Las Torres: Scenic & short hikes, full day treks, horseback riding, zodiac tours

Discovery: Enjoy a Patagonian sunset – hopefully with a delicious, local pisco sour in hand. Learn about glacier growth, retreat, and calving. See real gauchos in action. Trek into some of the most stunning landscapes on the planet – including a UNESCO World Heritage site. Delve into the world of regional Chilean and Argentinian wines. See the southernmost hideout of Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid. Enjoy a small-town brew pub, or the town's chocolateria – or, ideally, both! Ride a criollo horse the way gauchos do. Witness local sheep herding and sheering. Learn about how European immigrants came to start a new life in this rich and vibrant land, and how new generations have turned their hardworking farms into luxurious hotels. Taste succulent 'crucified' lamb grilled over a fire on traditional cross stakes. Come explore Chile and Argentina with the experts in adventure travel!

Austin Adventures guides are experienced facilitators and regional experts. They will take the time to explain the details of each activity, answer any questions, and demonstrate the use of all equipment. Each activity has been carefully planned to include options for all levels. Most importantly, your guides will help you select the distance that's right for you.

Meals

The hallmark of an Austin Adventures vacation is our exceptional dining. All meals: breakfasts, lunches, snacks, dinners, refreshments and receptions are included as indicated by itinerary. (B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner). Alcoholic beverages and related gratuities are not included in the trip price.



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Distinctive Accommodation

Nights 1 & 6: Kau Yatun Country Hotel

A beautiful country lodge with an almost Germanic flair, the Hotel Kau Yatun is perched just on the end of town. There is a buffet breakfast, room service, a bar, and a restaurant with gaucho-style shows. There is laundry, Wi-Fi, mountain bikes on-site, self-guided trails, and farm animals. The rooms are spartan and prim but very clean and comfortable and have complimentary coffee and tea in each room.

Nights 2 & 3: Hosteria Senderos

Just on the edge of El Chaltén, within Los Glaciares National Park and at the foot of Fitz Roy, Senderos Hostería is a charming lodge built in deference to local farmhouses from the 1920's, but with modern charms and conveniences. Nestled near the Rio Fitz Roy and Rio De las Vueltas, the hotel offers buffet 'American breakfast', a wine bar, cozy log fireplace, room service and boxed lunches, and laundry services.

Nights 4 & 5: Nibepo Aike Estancia

This estancia was originally the home of Croatian immigrant Santiago Peso, who arrived in Argentina at the beginning of the 20th century. Four generations later, his family still runs the ranch, raising cattle (and still some sheep) on some 12,000 hectares. Visitors can participate in this authentic rural life with work in the corrals (cattle branding, dressage, milking), cattle herding and sheep shearing. There is a playroom and reading room, as well as a small store.

Nights 7 – 9: Hotel Las Torres

Tucked at the bottom of Ascencio Valley and the famous Paine Massif, Hotel Las Torres Patagonia is ideally situated for discovering the wonders of Torres del Paine National Park. Hotel Las Torres is located on the Estancia Cerro Paine, the only working ranch still located inside the national park. With a strategic position astride both the "W" and "O" trails, no other hotel provides better access to the park's world-famous trekking routes.

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Arrival & Departures

Please plan on arriving in El Calafate, Argentina early on Day One of your itinerary. Your trip ends with a drop-off in either El Calafate, Argentina or Punta Arenas, Chile at the airport or your post-trip hotel.

Trip Price

Starting at \$5,598 per person

Trip Length

10 days/9 nights

2019 Dates

February 16 – 25

March 18 – 27

October 19 – 28

November 16 – 25

Host City

El Calafate, Argentina (FTE)

Reservations & Availability

1-800-575-1540

*Explore the best of truly authentic
Patagonia – in style!*



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Trip Reservations

Reservations, Deposits and Balances Due

To make a reservation, contact Austin Adventures with your choice of trip and dates. A \$750 per person deposit is required to confirm your reservation. **Some Custom and International programs may require additional deposits.** Full payment is required at the time of booking if your trip departs within 90 days. Choose one of the following contact methods:

Toll free: 800-575-1540

Phone: 406-655-4591

Online: austinadventures.com

Email: reservations@austinadventures.com

Mail: Austin Adventures, P.O. Box 81025, Billings, MT 59108

* You may also book your Austin Adventure with your preferred travel professional.

** We accept most major credit cards and personal checks (U.S. funds made payable to Austin Adventures). Please do not send cash.

Included in the Trip Price

- Double occupancy rooms with private baths.
- Meals as listed in itinerary (B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner).
- Fully trained, first-aid certified professional guides and knowledgeable local partners.
- Vehicle support and land transportation during the trip.
- Austin Adventures T-shirt & luggage tags.
- Pre-departure and packing information.
- Incidental expenses such as taxes, dining and housekeeping gratuities, local partner and expert gratuities and national park entrance and permit fees.

Not Included in the Trip Price

- Gratuities to Austin Adventures guides.
- Alcoholic beverages and related gratuities.
- Pre-and post-trip accommodations and associated expenses.
- Air and land transportation to/from host cities.
- All types of personal insurance.
- Personal expenses.

Pre-departure Information

After receiving your reservation and deposit, we'll send you a pre-trip planner with general information about the area you'll be visiting, a packing list, exercise guidelines, a guest information questionnaire and a liability release agreement for you to sign and return within 10 days.

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Private Custom Trips

Maybe your vacation schedule doesn't fit our list of trips and dates. Or perhaps you'd prefer a slightly different itinerary or level of luxury and activity. A Custom Adventure is the perfect answer. You pick the date and destination and brief us on the size of your group, what activities you want, your "must haves" and just how you like to relax and unwind. No detail is too small, no idea too outrageous. Our staff of experts will help create a tailor-made vacation that's just right for you and your group. In short, if you can dream it, we can make it happen.

Room Occupancy, Single Supplements, and Shared Room Assignments

All trip prices are based on double occupancy. Single rooms are available for an additional charge, referred to as a "single supplement." If you're traveling alone and wish to share a room, make the request at the time of booking. Austin Adventures will attempt to find a suitable roommate for you. If you book 90 days before the trip and we cannot find you a suitable roommate, we will take care of the single supplement. **some restrictions may apply*

Child Age and Pricing on Family Adventures

Family Adventures are suitable for children seven years old and up (five years and older for our Costa Rica and Yellowstone Family Adventures). Children who share a room with one or more adults receive reduced rates. The minimum age on our non-family designated adult and teen adventures is sixteen years old.

Cancellations and Refunds

The following cancellation policies and cancellation fees are in effect:

***As with deposits on some international and custom programs, refund schedule may vary, speak with your Adventure Consultant for details.

Cancellation 91 days or more before trip departure – Full trip payment refunded less a \$300 per person administration fee

Cancellation 61-90 days before trip departure – Full trip payment less 25% per person is refunded

Cancellation 31-60 days before trip departure – 50% of the trip payment is refunded

Cancellation 0-30 days before trip departure – No refund is given

Our Guarantee

Exceeding your expectations is our number one priority. In the unlikely event that you are dissatisfied with something during your trip, immediately notify your guide(s). If he or she is unable to resolve the issue, call our main office and give us the details of the problem, and a chance to correct it. We will do our best to find a resolution. If we are unable to do so during your trip, we will work with you upon your return home to arrive at a fair and equitable solution, including up to a full refund.