



CLASSIC GROUP TOURS

LAPWING: PATAGONIAN ODYSSEY

14 days from **£6,673pp**

CHILE / SANTIAGO AND THE VINEYARDS / PATAGONIA / TORRES DEL PAINE NATIONAL PARK / ARGENTINA / EL CALAFATE AND LOS GLACIARES NATIONAL PARK / TIERRA DEL FUEGO / BUENOS AIRES



WITH OVER 40 YEARS EXPERIENCE,
NO-ONE KNOWS LATIN AMERICA
LIKE WE DO

EXPERIENCE SOMETHING EXTRAORDINARY

WHY US

We are the UK's No.1 specialist in travel to Latin America and have been creating award-winning holidays to every corner of the region for over four decades; we pride ourselves on being the most knowledgeable people there are when it comes to travel to Central and South America and passionate about it too.

OUR JOURNEY

As our name suggests, we are single-minded about Latin America. This is what sets us apart from other travel companies – and what allows us to offer you not just a holiday but the opportunity to experience something extraordinary on inspiring journeys throughout Mexico, Central and South America.

WE LOVE LATIN AMERICA

A passion for the region runs through all we do

All our Consultants have lived or travelled extensively in Latin America

Up-to-the-minute knowledge underpinned by 40 years' experience

TRAVEL WITH CONFIDENCE

Fully bonded and licensed

ATOL-protected

On your side when it matters

Book with confidence, knowing every penny is secure

THE REAL LATIN AMERICA

Our insider knowledge helps you go beyond the guidebooks

We hand-pick hotels with character and the most rewarding excursions

Let us show you the Latin America we know and love



OVERVIEW & OUTLINE ITINERARY

This group holiday to Patagonia in Chile and Argentina features superior accommodation in one of the continent's most remote regions. Travel to Torres del Paine National Park; enter Argentina to visit the Perito Moreno glacier, Tierra del Fuego and the Beagle Channel.

	UK clients depart, arriving Santiago the following morning.
DAY 1	Walking tour of Chile's capital city.
DAY 2	Optional visit to a vineyard, or the Pacific port town Valparaíso.
DAY 3	Fly to Punta Arenas, southern Patagonia.
DAY 4	By road to Torres del Paine National Park.
DAY 5	Excursions in or around Torres del Paine
DAY 6	Excursions in or around Torres del Paine
DAY 7	Drive to El Calafate in Argentina.
DAY 8	Visit Perito Moreno Glacier.
DAY 9	Fly to Ushuaia, Tierra del Fuego.
DAY 10	Cruise down the Beagle Channel
DAY 11	Visit Tierra del Fuego National Park; boat trip along the Beagle Channel.
DAY 12	Fly to Buenos Aires.
DAY 13	Guided city tour.
DAY 14	Depart for international flight or extension. UK clients arrive home the following day.

ITINERARY

Patagonia is a region of stark, haunting beauty in the southern reaches of Chile and Argentina just across the water from Antarctica. Ice fields, glacial lakes, narrow fjords and towering mountain massifs compile an astonishing display of natural attractions. This upmarket escorted group holiday takes you from Chile's capital to the wilderness landscapes of Torres del Paine.

Continue into Argentina to view the dynamic Perito Moreno glacier and on to Tierra del Fuego, where the mountainous interior is still in part unexplored. The island lies at the southernmost extreme of the Andes, the 'uttermost end of the earth'.

Finally let your hair down among the bright lights and Latin rhythms of cosmopolitan Buenos Aires. You'll stay in comfortable hotels and enjoy this exceptional region at a gentle pace. If you like to explore on foot there are some excellent hiking trails in the national parks.

UK clients depart, arriving Santiago the following morning.

DAY 1

Walking tour of Chile's capital city.

Those arriving on an international flight will be met at the airport by the tour leader or a local representative. There will be time to relax before exploring the city and visiting a few of the many museums, markets and parks of this cosmopolitan capital. Santiago is laid out in a broad valley below the snow-capped Andes.

In the afternoon your guided city tour takes you to all the major sites of this fascinating city concentrating on Santiago's bustling historic centre, which in recent years has taken on a new lease of life. Awakening from years of neglect, the traditional residential neighbourhood of Lastarria is a delight to explore, replete with shops, arty cafés and characterful hotels. Nearby, leafy Parque Forestal was inaugurated in the early twentieth century to celebrate the first 100 years of the republic. It is just a few blocks from the beating heart of old Santiago, the Plaza de Armas, the capital's main square which is graced by elegant Chilean wine palms with their characteristic bottle-shaped trunks. Grouped around the plaza are Santiago's Cathedral, the main post office, the National Historic Museum and the Municipalidad de Santiago (city hall). From here, if time, visit San Cristóbal Hill by riding the cable car to the top. On clear days there are spectacular panoramic views across the city towards the Andes.

DAY 2

Optional visit to a vineyard, or the Pacific port town Valparaíso.

Today there is an optional visit to Chile's second city, Valparaíso (2 hours by bus). This lively seaport is built on a series of hills which form a backdrop to the wide bay, with views over the seaside resort of Viña del Mar. You can wander through the steep, winding streets and among the brightly-coloured colonial homes built for 19th century British and German merchants, or take a ride in one of the creaky wooden funiculars which link the cliff-top communities.

Time permitting, you may wish to visit one of the vineyards close to Santiago, to sample some highly respected Chilean wine.

DAY 3

Fly to Punta Arenas, southern Patagonia.

A 4 hour flight takes you south to Punta Arenas. On a clear day you have views of the southern icecap, its fjords, volcanoes and glaciers. Approaching the city you see the rust brown Patagonian steppes, pitted with small lagoons, stretching out towards the Straits of Magellan. On the other side of the water rise the mountains of the windswept island of Tierra del Fuego.

Punta Arenas was an important, British-influenced trading centre before the opening of the Panama Canal turned it into a backwater; the region's fortunes were only briefly revived during a short-lived gold rush. To add to its woes, the sheep-rearing business has never recovered from the catastrophic collapse of the price of meat and wool. It's now a gateway to Chilean Patagonia and the nearby National parks.

DAY 4

By road to Torres del Paine National Park.

Begin your day with an early morning departure in a private vehicle to Estancia Cerro Guido, a living testament to Patagonia's pioneering spirit. Nestled on the largest remaining working sheep farm in Chilean Patagonia, this historic property dates back to the 1920s and exudes authentic charm.

Here, you'll experience life on a traditional estancia surrounded by sweeping landscapes and rich heritage. Just a short 35-minute (40 km) drive from the awe-inspiring Torres del Paine National Park, Cerro Guido offers an unforgettable blend of history, culture, and natural beauty.

DAY 5

Excursions in or around Torres del Paine

A carefully designed program of excursions offers guests an unforgettable immersion into the authentic spirit of Patagonia. Explore the vast 100,000-hectare expanse of the estancia and venture into remote regions beyond the boundaries of Torres del Paine National Park, including the dramatic Sierra Baguales.

These lesser-visited areas reveal Patagonia as it once was—untamed, pristine, and far from the influence of mainstream tourism. Whether within the National Park or beyond, the scenery is spectacular and alive with wildlife.

Guests can experience Patagonia on foot, in 4x4 vehicles, or on horseback, with options ranging from half-day to full-day adventures and difficulty levels from easy to challenging. Upon arrival, expert guides will discuss possibilities and tailor each excursion to your interests and fitness level, ensuring a truly personal and memorable journey.

DAY 6

Excursions in or around Torres del Paine

For hikers, a variety of scenic routes are available, ranging from gentle walks to more challenging treks. Many lead to rarely visited areas where the trails remain quiet and untouched, offering a refreshing alternative to the well-known paths of Torres del Paine National Park.

Guests seeking a different perspective can opt for 4x4 excursions into the National Park, with visits to its most iconic sights: the shimmering lakes of **Grey**, **Pehoé**, and **Sarmiento**, as well as the dramatic **Salto Grande** waterfalls. (Please note: glacier navigation on Lago Grey is not included.)

The activity schedule may vary depending on guest numbers and prevailing conditions, and is subject to change. After a day of adventure, return to the warm ambiance of the estancia and savor authentic Patagonian cuisine. All meals and an open bar (excluding premium wines and spirits) are included throughout your stay, ensuring comfort and indulgence at the end of every journey.

DAY 7

Drive to El Calafate in Argentina.

Head out across the Patagonian steppe by comfortable coach (3.5hrs + stops and border crossing), passing guanacos, ñandús (similar to an ostrich) and flamingos, and with a view of translucent Lago Argentino, the largest lake in the country.

It is on these shores that El Calafate, your next port of call, is situated. This is a small town, but it is growing fast, brimming with hotels, cafés, tour agencies, delicatessens, sweet shops and roaming travellers. There's not a huge amount to do in town, but it's a nice place to unwind and a convenient base for excursions into the area.

DAY 8

Visit Perito Moreno Glacier.

The town is a stopping off point for visitors to the Perito Moreno Glacier, still one of the most dynamic in the world. Driving out towards the glacier on your included excursion follows the lake before turning up a wooded valley, dense with beech and birch trees, and continues alongside shimmering lagoons bordered with bright crimson and heather lichens.

There is a walkway and viewing platform to take in the awe-inspiring cliff-edge of the glacier, which towers 60m above the water surface and is an extraordinary 5km wide. You might even hear the unforgettable sound and see the glacier calving a vast wedge of ice the size of a tower block and sending it smashing it down into the lake, where it divides and floats away as an iceberg.

Later, board a boat for an hour-long cruise on the lake beneath the glacier, with a commentary.

DAY 9

Fly to Ushuaia, Tierra del Fuego.

Fly south from El Calafate to Ushuaia, the world's southernmost city and the gateway to Antarctica. Here, the dramatic landscapes of Tierra del Fuego National Park unfold—a striking contrast to the windswept Patagonian steppes further north. Dense forests, towering mountains, and ancient glaciers create a setting of raw beauty and untamed wilderness.

Ushuaia has grown rapidly in recent years, fueled by government incentives, its status as a Free Port, and its role as a hub for Antarctic expeditions. Yet despite its modern development, the city retains a sense of frontier charm. Hemmed in by jagged peaks that plunge toward the shimmering waters of the Beagle Channel, Ushuaia offers a spectacular backdrop for exploration and adventure.

DAY 10

Cruise down the Beagle Channel

During your stay in Ushuaia, embark on a memorable boat trip along the legendary Beagle Channel, named after the ship that carried Charles Darwin's scientific expedition through these waters. Departing from Ushuaia Bay, the vessel glides past serene bays and scattered islets, offering a unique perspective of this southern frontier.

Along the way, brief stops allow you to observe the rich wildlife that inhabits the channel—colonies of cormorants perched on rocky outcrops, playful sea lions basking in the sun, and, in season, penguins gathering along the shores. With a touch of luck, you may even spot an albatross soaring gracefully above the waves, completing this unforgettable Patagonian experience.

DAY 11

Visit Tierra del Fuego National Park; boat trip along the Beagle Channel.

Today's adventure takes you on a half-day excursion to Tierra del Fuego National Park, a pristine wilderness of bright green deciduous beech forests, shimmering lakes, and fjords alive with water birds and industrious beavers.

Follow winding hillside paths to discover panoramic views over the Beagle Channel, and immerse yourself in the story of this unique region—its natural evolution and the human history that shaped it. The journey culminates at Lapataia Bay, a serene and spectacular corner of the world where the Andes meet the southern seas.

Spend your afternoon exploring Ushuaia. Stroll along Avenida San Martín, browsing local shops and stopping at the historic. Visit the Maritime and Prison Museum, housed in a former penitentiary, and the Museo del Fin del Mundo to uncover the region's rich cultural and natural history.

DAY 12

Fly to Buenos Aires.

Fly to the Argentine capital, Buenos Aires, an elegant and cosmopolitan city famed for the fascinating port district of La Boca with its cobbled streets and brightly painted houses. It was here that the tango was born, and Diego Maradona honed his footballing skills.

Evenings can be spent sampling the juicy world renowned steak, tasting the famous local wines or enjoying an evening tango show.

DAY 13

Guided city tour.

A guided tour of the city takes you to the most famous spots the city has to offer. Starting in the centre of the city, the historic heartland, where government buildings and churches mingle with chic shopping districts, which have a nostalgic, Parisian feel. The quintessential district La Boca with its cobbled streets and brightly painted houses is a must, as is the bohemian district of San Telmo, full of quaint old houses interspersed with antique shops, tango bars and expensive restaurants. Slightly further out of town is the Recoleta district, even more evocative of belle époque French and Italianate architecture. The area is home to the cemetery where Evita is laid to rest, and huge tombs line the alleys.

If you want to visit one of the city's iconic Tango shows speak to your tour leader who can arrange one for you for the evening.

DAY 14

Depart for international flight or extension.

UK clients arrive home the following day.

WHAT'S INCLUDED IN THE PRICE

Services of our team of experts in our London office
Services of Journey Latin America local representatives and guides
All land and air transport within Latin America
Accommodation as specified
Meals as specified
Excursions as specified, including entrance fees

INCLUDED EXCURSIONS

Santiago: Walking tour
Torres del Paine: 2 full days of excursions in the national park
El Calafate: Perito Moreno Glacier with boat ride
Ushuaia: Beagle Channel boat trip
Ushuaia: Tierra del Fuego National Park
Buenos Aires: City tour

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED IN THE PRICE

Tips and gratuities
Meals other than specified
International flights to Latin America
Airport taxes, when not included in the ticket
Optional excursions

ESSENTIALS

ABOUT OUR GROUP TOURS

To find out more about how our group tours including group sizes, solo travellers and why to choose us. Please click [here](#).

TOUR LEADER

On this tour, you'll be accompanied from start to finish by one of **our exceptional Journey Latin America tour leaders**. From the moment you land in Latin America until the day the tour ends they will deal with all the practicalities, expertly adapting to the circumstances and individual needs of the group. Rather than different guides in different cities, your leader will get to know the group and keep you informed and entertained as you go.

SUMMARY OF NIGHTS

14 days, 13 nights: Santiago 2; Punta Arenas 1; Torres del Paine National Park 3; El Calafate 2; Ushuaia 3; Buenos Aires 2.

ACCOMMODATION

We use the following mid-range and upper mid-range hotels on this tour.

Examples of hotels include:

- Santiago: Cumbres Lastarria
- Punta Arenas: Yegua Loca
- Torres del Paine: Estancia Cerro Guido on an all-inclusive basis
- El Calafate: Hotel Calafate Parque
- Ushuaia: Altos Ushuaia
- Buenos Aires: Loi Suites

On very rare occasions these hotels can change, however please speak to one of our consultants who can provide full details for each departure if you have any doubts. Address and contact details will be sent out with your final documents.

TRANSPORT

3 flights (longest 4 hours). All land transport is operated privately for the group.

MEALS

Breakfast daily and dinner on days 4, 5 and 6 full board with alcoholic drinks.

OPTIONAL EXCURSIONS

On this tour the price includes excursions in all the places you visit as per the itinerary. There will however likely be some free time when you may choose to take part in an optional excursion. These are booked locally through your tour leader once you are in Latin America, however we are more than happy to advise you of what is on offer in advance of your holiday so you can best plan the excursions that suit you.

TRAVELLING ALONE

There is no extra cost for single travellers who are willing to share a room. You will be accommodated with another same-sex member of the group who is also travelling solo. For single travellers who wish to have their own room there are a limited number of single rooms available, which carry a surcharge.

TRIP SUITABILITY

In Torres del Paine all walks are optional. Hikes vary in length (2-8 hrs) and difficulty (some are easy and flat, others steeper and more challenging). All walks are linear and along good paths, so you can follow them as far as you feel comfortable. Your guide can advise about which of the trails would be most suited to you. In Tierra del Fuego walks are also optional, and trails are undulating but not strenuous. Throughout the Journey, there is time to relax and explore on your own if you wish. Be prepared for some early mornings, and for possibly extreme weather conditions in Patagonia.

CLIMATE

This holiday only operates from October through to March. As a broad overview Chile and Argentina has the opposite

seasons to the UK, meaning November to February tend to be the warmest summer months. The further south you travel in the country the cooler it gets, although this varies with altitude. A comprehensive overview of the weather in all the regions you are visiting can be found in our Destination pages. Our Travel Experts can answer your questions on climate and further details will be sent with your confirmation documents.

CLOTHING, EQUIPMENT AND LUGGAGE

A daypack is essential for carrying rainwear, snacks, books/tablet and a water bottle. To ensure your comfort while walking in Patagonia, you should bring good waterproof walking boots/shoes (tried and tested so you don't get blisters) as well as a good water/windproof (not just shower-proof) jacket and trousers, a warm hat and a scarf. Some walkers find hiking poles helpful, and binoculars are useful for bird and wildlife spotting. Bring a hat with a visor, sunglasses and sun block. Because the weather can be changeable, we recommend wearing layered clothing for excursions.

Please take note that Aerolineas Argentinas (who will operate some of the internal flights) permit a maximum of 15kg hold luggage on most domestic flights. Excess luggage can be paid for locally for a small fee. Please get in touch with the office before departure if you have any doubts.

MONEY

Please see the Country Info tab on this holiday for our latest currency information and advice about how to take your spending money. Tipping in Latin America is almost always done using cash. It is customary to tip tour leaders, local guides, drivers, boat crews and other service providers such as restaurant staff and porters. Full tipping guidelines are sent with your confirmation documents as is advice on local costs.

HEALTH, ENTRY REQUIREMENTS AND INSURANCE

For health information on travelling to Chile and Argentina including recommended vaccinations, please see <https://travelhealthpro.org.uk/>

Holders of a full British passport do not require a visa, although passports should be valid for at least 6 months after the trip begins. Other nationalities should enquire with us or check with the consulates.

Travel insurance is essential. Details of our recommended policy can be found on the Travel insurance website.

Our full briefing dossier contains more information on vaccinations, visas and insurance and will be provided with your final travel documents or can be requested from your travel consultant at any time.



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LATIN AMERICA

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GET IN TOUCH WITH US...

Our friendly, knowledgeable team of travel experts are always happy to chat about holiday ideas and share helpful advice. Give us a call today and begin planning your perfect trip to Latin America.

GIVE US A CALL

We'd love to chat

0208 747 8315

OPENING HOURS

Monday – Friday: 9am – 6pm

Saturday & Sunday: Closed

SEND US AN EMAIL

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