



PRIVATE JOURNEYS WITH JOURNEY LATIN

SIGNATURE PATAGONIA: GLACIERS OF CHILE AND ARGENTINA

17 days from **£8,150pp**

**ARGENTINA / BUENOS AIRES / TIERRA DEL FUEGO / EL CALAFATE AND LOS GLACIARES
NATIONAL PARK / CHILE / TORRES DEL PAINE NATIONAL PARK / ARGENTINE LAKE
DISTRICT / CHILEAN LAKE DISTRICT (SOUTH) / PATAGONIA**



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

A comprehensive exploration of Patagonia in Argentina and Chile. Stay in comfortable hotels and set out on a huge medley of excursions, some more active than others; the choice is yours. Your Patagonia trip begins and ends in cosmopolitan Buenos Aires.

DAY 1	Arrive in Buenos Aires. Transfer to hotel in the chic Recoleta district.
DAY 2	City tour including a visit to Recoleta Cemetery. Evening tango show.
DAY 3	At leisure in Buenos Aires.
DAY 4	Transfer to airport and fly to Ushuaia, Tierra del Fuego. Beagle Channel cruise.
DAY 5	Guided excursion to Tierra del Fuego National Park.
DAY 6	Transfer to airport and fly to El Calafate.
DAY 7	Visit Perito Moreno glacier; boat cruise on the lake.
DAY 8	Day trip to Estancia Cristina and the Upsala Glacier viewpoint
DAY 9	Scenic drive to Torres del Paine National Park.
DAYS 10-11	Guided outdoor activities in Torres del Paine National Park.
DAY 12	Transfer to Punta Arenas airport, fly to Puerto Montt, and drive to Puerto Varas.
DAY 13	At leisure in Puerto Varas, lake district. Optional activities.
DAY 14	Lake crossing through the Andes to Bariloche, Argentina.
DAY 15	At leisure in Argentina's Lake District.
DAY 16	Transfer to the airport and fly to Buenos Aires
DAY 17	Transfer to airport for your international flight home.

ITINERARY

This comprehensive Patagonia highlights holiday starts and ends in Buenos Aires. Patagonia in the far south is a land of ice caps, glaciers, jagged mountains and lakes at the tip of the Andes in Chile and Argentina. This adventure includes a visit to the minty blue, cathedral-high Perito Moreno Glacier in Los Glaciares National Park, Argentina, and Torres del Paine National Park, Chile's large and well-established reserve. The holiday includes the magnificent Lakes Crossing - along the ancient trade route' through the Andes linking Chile and Argentina, on a clear day one of the most exquisite journeys on the continent.

The south is, in parts, a true wilderness, where just a few rough roads cut through a frost-bitten landscape of Patagonian glaciers, luminous lagoons, icy pinnacles and wind-strafted steppe, Patagonia is nevertheless readily accessible to visitors. While the lake district in northern Patagonia has lakeside resorts and many visitors in summer, there are little seen fairyland forests and lonely roads carving their way through a virgin landscape. It explores the indigo lakes, ancient woodland and snow-capped volcanoes of the lake district.

If you love the sound of this trip, but have elements you'd like to switch in or out, you can take a look on our Design My Trip page to create a bespoke travel itinerary for your Patagonia Glacier tour.

DAY 1

Arrive in Buenos Aires. Transfer to hotel in the chic Recoleta district.

You will be met at the airport and escorted to your hotel in the chic Recoleta residential district by one of our local representatives. Buenos Aires is an elegant, cultured and cosmopolitan city famed for its interesting museums and 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. The centre of town is home to the colonial heartland, government buildings and churches, as well as chic shopping districts, which have a nostalgic Parisian feel.

The bohemian quarter of San Telmo is full of quaint old houses interspersed with antiques shops, tango bars and classy restaurants. Slightly further out of the centre is the Recoleta district, even more evocative of the French influence, where Evita Perón was laid to rest.

DAY 2

City tour including a visit to Recoleta Cemetery. Evening tango show.

Your guided city tour takes you along Avenida 9 de Julio, one of the widest boulevards in the world and studded by the Obelisk, an emblematic symbol of the city. On to the Plaza de Mayo, enclosed on three sides by the Metropolitan cathedral, the Town Hall and the Casa Rosada, the presidential palace. The tour continues to bohemian, arty La Boca, which was settled and built by Italian immigrants and has streets lined with brightly painted corrugated iron-clad houses. Visit the district of Recoleta where the elegant architecture of its tree-lined streets feels distinctly Parisian. Recoleta's vast cemetery is the resting place of generations of the Argentinean elite including Evita as well as an array of presidents, artists, scientists, writers and athletes.

This evening you'll head out to one of the city's tango venues. The passage of time has given respectability to a dance once confined to the seedy underworld bars of the red-light La Boca district. Nowadays, a number of 'tango houses' cater to visitors and a visit is a must. San Telmo's tango venues occupy elegant, atmospheric buildings where you can observe a polished performance of this sensual, often melancholy art form of which the porteños are justifiably proud – all _____

DAY 3

At leisure in Buenos Aires.

At leisure in Buenos Aires. Stroll round Puerto Madero, the refurbished port district where former dock installations and features have been preserved alongside a string of excellent restaurants and loft conversions. Beyond the city limits, consider a trip across the River Plate to Colonia in Uruguay. Travel along a forest-fringed estuary, dotted with upmarket residences, to this peaceful little port, where you can wander among cobbled streets lined by colonial houses, or have a meal or drink in the yacht club.

Alternatively, venture into the watery delta to the small town of Tigre, set on the banks of the Luján river. Have lunch at one of the restaurants on the shores of the Río Paraná, while watching fishermen at work and river-craft gliding by.

DAY 4

Transfer to airport and fly to Ushuaia, Tierra del Fuego. Beagle Channel cruise.

Transfer to the airport and fly to Ushuaia, the world's southernmost city, on the island of Tierra de Fuego. The city has grown rapidly in recent years, partly as a result of government incentives to settlers, and its establishment as a Free Port, and partly a tourist centre – most Antarctic cruises leave from the port here. The setting is spectacular; jagged mountains hem in the town down to the shore of the Beagle Channel. Transfer to your hotel.

In the afternoon, board a catamaran at the pier and sail along the Beagle Channel, past some of Ushuaia's important buildings – the Maritime Museum and Museum of the End of the World, and its industrial suburbs. Beyond, the scenery is more spectacular, with fine views of the mountains that form a backdrop to the world's southernmost city.

The catamaran then sails to mid-Channel, southwest towards the lighthouse on the Les Eclaireurs archipelago. On one of these islands, you can see remains of the Monte Cervantes, shipwrecked in 1930. Continue to Sea Lion Island, which is circumnavigated for about 20mins to see the eponymous habitat, and Bird Island to see cormorants, giant albatrosses, petrels, and skuas. Return through Paso Chico, which frames the Martial glacier beyond the city of Ushuaia.

DAY 5

Guided excursion to Tierra del Fuego National Park.

Guided tour to Tierra del Fuego National Park. 12km west of Ushuaia, the Pan-American highway reaches the end of the road as the Andes disappear into the sea at the southernmost tip of the American continent. 17848km from Alaska, where the highway begins, the Tierra del Fuego National Park mirrors the scenery which the road passes through when it starts its long journey south: mountains, lakes, rivers and deep valleys. Flora includes Patagonian birches, calafates (bush with red berries), notros (dwarf cherry), orchids and violets. It is common to see the majestic caracara, the very epitome of a bird of prey.

The tour usually stops first at the Fuegian Southern Railway station where you'll have the option (at extra cost) to take a 7km ride on the narrow gauge Tierra del Fuego railway. Although these days it is strictly a tourist train, it was originally built a century ago by convicts to give access to the logging of beech forests to the west of Ushuaia. The excursion continues to Bahia Ensenada, Lago Roca and, finally, Lapataia Bay. There's usually time for a short, guided walk. Some paths scramble over gnarled roots and greenish schist rocks, following the lakeshores, or alternatively, an easier walk winds its ways past beaver dams.

DAY 6

Transfer to airport and fly to El Calafate.

Transfer to airport and fly to El Calafate in Southern Patagonia, a small tourist resort situated on the banks of milky turquoise Lago Argentino. Argentina's Patagonia is a remote land of endless grassy plains, granite mountain peaks tipped with eternal snows, turquoise lakes dotted with icebergs and immense blue-tinged glaciers. Transfer to your hotel in the town.

Tourism in the last twenty years has transformed El Calafate into a bustling entrepôt for access to the nearby scenery of glaciers, lakes and impossibly steep peaks. It still has a bit of a frontier feel, though it is very busy in summer.

DAY 7

Visit Perito Moreno glacier; boat cruise on the lake.

Guided excursion to Perito Moreno Glacier. It's an early morning departure from El Calafate to Los Glaciares National Park, a 90min drive to the walkways and viewing platform overlooking the glacier. The thundering shards of falling ice are a breath-taking spectacle as you pass at a safe distance along the walkway in front of the Canal de los Tempanos, which separates Brazo Rico from the main part of the lake. The glacier is a staggering 5km wide and stands 60m above the surface of the lake. Its ice mass is fed by the southern continental ice field from the west, and from other smaller glaciers in the vicinity.

In the afternoon, board the Safari Nautico or Moreno Fiesta for an hour-long cruise on the lake beneath the glacier, with a commentary. Alternatively, you can just walk and contemplate, away from the other visitors.

DAY 8

Day trip to Estancia Cristina and the Upsala Glacier viewpoint

This epic full-day trip, a Patagonian highlight, _____ one of the region's most far-flung historic estancias, established in 1914 by English pioneer Joseph Masters and named after his daughter. The scenery is wonderful throughout the day and you may even spot condors along the way.

A Patagonian lunch is included at the estancia and there's time to visit the museum before you head out on a short but bumpy drive by all-terrain vehicle into the mountains to an utterly remote refuge. From there, it's a walk of around half an hour to a viewpoint, offering – weather permitting – a fabulous panorama of the eastern side of the Upsala glacier, the Southern Patagonian ice cap, Lago Guillermo and – of course – the Andes. The Upsala Glacier is one of the largest in Los Glaciares National Park. If you are lucky and get a clear day, this is one of Patagonia's most spectacular viewpoints. Even if you do not, you'll get a true sense today of just how remote the pioneers who settled here must have felt. Return by boat and road to El Calafate, arriving in time for dinner.

DAY 9

Scenic drive to Torres del Paine National Park.

It's a wonderful scenic drive along a lonely road across the border to Chile and Torres del Paine National Park. The drive to the border crossing at Cancha Carrera takes about 4hrs across the vast Patagonian grasslands, remote and sparsely populated. Wildlife to look out for includes guanaco and the ostrich-like rhea. Pass immigration and drive into Chile. Continue to majestic Torres del Paine National Park, a further 2hrs along an unpaved road.

The park is dominated by a granite massif of smooth rock towers and icy pinnacles. Milky blue and gem-sharp emerald lakes, sinuous rivers, glaciers and wind-scoured steppes have created a remarkable and unique environment. Declared a biosphere reserve by UNESCO, the area is a natural habitat of over 150 species of birds (including flamingos, condors, eagles and ostriches) and 25 species of mammal (including guanacos, armadillos, silver foxes and pumas).

DAYS 10-11

Guided outdoor activities in Torres del Paine National Park.

You have a choice of guided excursions to explore this wonderful wilderness environment from the hotel. Some are more energetic than others, but all are immensely rewarding. You might choose to walk uphill to the base of the dizzying perpendicular torres or towers, which form the backdrop to the hotel; hike to the jade green Laguna Verde or to one of a number of scenic look-out points. You might visit the beach at Lago Grey and survey the steep walls of the Grey glacier at a distance, from which blue-tinged icebergs the size of motor launches break off and drift around the icy waters. There are horse-riding options and tours by 4WD vehicle across the park's lonely, dusty roads.

DAY 12

Transfer to Punta Arenas airport, fly to Puerto Montt, and drive to Puerto Varas.

Transfer to Punta Arenas airport, another bleakly beautiful journey where ostriches and guanacos race across the steppes. Fly to Puerto Montt in the lake district, northern Patagonia (2hrs). It seems that each of the royal blue lakes in this region of chocolate-box prettiness is overlooked by its own snow-dipped volcano. On the lake shores are resort towns with an Alpine flavour and traditional villages of neat wooden cottages. The region is carpeted with pine forests and studded with youthful streams.

Short drive to Puerto Varas on the shores of Lake Llanquihue. The town was colonised by Germans at the turn of the 20th century and its architecture and sedate style reflects this, but it is now a fast-growing tourist resort. Its main attraction is an alpine green lake framed by tree-clad hills and beyond, one of the most perfectly shaped snow-capped volcanoes in the world – Osorno. If you're lucky enough to be in Puerto Varas on a clear and still evening, the sunsets over Osorno's snowy mantle are magical.

DAY 13

At leisure in Puerto Varas, lake district. Optional activities.

At leisure in Puerto Varas. You can cycle along the shoreline or visit other lakeshore villages, pausing for tea and cake in one of the many cafés.

However, we recommend an optional excursion to Chiloé Island. Drive via Puerto Montt (1hr) for the ferry ride through the Chacao Channel to the emerald isle of Chiloé. Ancud is a lively fishing port which was the Spanish Crown's last possession in South America. Here you visit the fortress of San Antonio, where the treaty was signed, for the withdrawal of the Spanish from Latin America. From Huaihuén Hill there are sweeping views of the Pacific Ocean. Drive inland, through a landscape of valleys and rolling green pastures towards the island's rugged west coast with its deserted beaches, quiet farmlands and coastal forest. Visit the penguin colony of Puñihuil, the only place in the world where Humbolt and Magallanic penguins nest side by side. Stops are also made at the sweepingly beautiful bay at Mar Brava, on the extreme north of the island and Caulin, a small village of colourful fishermen's houses which is known for its oysters.

DAY 14

Lake crossing through the Andes to Bariloche, Argentina.

Travel through the most scenic Andean pass of them all to Argentina's lake district. It's a stunning 12hr journey with plenty of variety and stops to transfer between forms of transport. Travel along the southern shore of Lake Llanquihue until you reach the Petrohue river. Visit the spectacular Petrohue Falls, before taking the 2hr ferry journey to Peulla. Lago Todos los Santos, also known as the Emerald Lake, lives up to its name with its almost preternatural colour contrasting with darker hues of the tree clad hills. Marking the horizon is the snow-capped peak of the Osorno volcano and the Puntagudo and Tronador mountains.

From Peulla, continue by bus to Puerto Frias. Cross the border and continue by boat. A comfortable catamaran makes the final crossing to Puerto Pañuelo, a 30min drive along the shores of Lake Nahuel Huapi to Bariloche.

DAY 15

At leisure in Argentina's Lake District.

San Carlos de Bariloche is the main town in Argentina's lake district, on the southern shore of Lake Nahuel Huapi. The town is a centre for skiing in winter (July and August), and walking in summer – set against a stunning backdrop of glacial green-blue lakes framed by the mountains of the Andes.

Today is at leisure, and there is a choice of optional excursions we can arrange in advance, including scenic drives along the winding highways which connect the region's serene lakes and dusky Valdivian forests. A popular choice is Tronador National Park which straddles the highest mountain in the Argentina lake district and is the site of small glacier. If staying in town, for easy access to epic views you can head for the viewpoint at Cerro Campanario where a 7-minute chair ride takes you to the top to reveal a necklace of lakes, forests and mountains. Bariloche being large working city, there are also plenty of good restaurants and chocolate artisan shops to enjoy.

DAY 16

Transfer to the airport and fly to Buenos Aires

A final night to enjoy Argentina's non-stop capital city.
Perhaps head for the villagey neighbourhood of Palermo to
enjoy its excellent restaurants and lively atmosphere.

DAY 17

Transfer to airport for your international flight home.

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

Guided tour of Buenos Aires including Recoleta Cemetery

Tango show with dinner, Buenos Aires

Beagle channel cruise, Tierra del Fuego

Excursion in Tierra del Fuego National Park

Guided excursion to Perito Moreno glacier and boat trip on the lake

Full day tour to Estancia Cristina and the Upsala Glacier viewpoint

Excursions and activities in Torres del Paine National Park

Picturesque full day Andean boat crossing to Bariloche, via Petrohue waterfalls

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

SUMMARY OF NIGHTS

17 days, 16 nights: Buenos Aires 3; Tierra del Fuego 2; El Calafate 3; Torres del Paine 3; Puerto Varas 2; Bariloche 2; Buenos Aires 1.

ACCOMMODATION

This trip uses independent mid-range accommodation that we think is great value, comfortable, well-located and which showcases a touch of local character. Properties vary in heritage from colonial style to resort-style lodges, but will all be well-equipped with rooms that have private bathrooms. All accommodation is flexible and can be tailored to meet your specific preferences and requirements.

TRANSPORT

4 flights (longest 5hrs); 2 scenic road journeys (longest 4-5hrs); 1 boat and bus lake crossing (12hrs).

MEALS

Breakfast daily; dinner day 2; lunch day 8, full board days 9-11.

GUIDES

Our local, trusted and carefully selected partners understand the expectations of our customers very well, and their staff and guides are consistently singled out for praise by clients on their return. On this holiday, you will be joined by different guides for each activity and or region, ensuring you benefit from specialised expertise and knowledge, often from someone local to the area.

OPTIONAL EXCURSIONS

As well as any included activities, this Private Journey includes some free time for optional excursions. As optional excursions are often subject to availability, we recommend you discuss and arrange them with your Travel Expert as early as possible before you depart.

TRIP SUITABILITY

There are several flights and some drives of up to 5hrs, but the road surface is generally good. The excursions mostly require moderate fitness.

In Torres del Paine National Park all walks are optional. Hikes vary in length (between 2 – 8hrs) and difficulty (most are easily followed and relatively flat). If you find time to walk around Bariloche, trails are undulating but not strenuous.

Be prepared for some early mornings, and for extreme weather conditions (mainly down South). However, throughout the holiday, there is time to relax and explore on your own if you wish.

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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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