

## Patagonia Luxury Hiking Excursion

**Please note that all of the itineraries listed in our web site are actual private tour itineraries we have prepared for clients over the past 12-18 months. By the very nature of what we do, each private tour itinerary is custom, exclusive and unique unto itself. Our over-riding goal is to create lifelong memories that you and your family will forever carry deep within your hearts.**

### Overview

Though our past hikes on the Milford Track (New Zealand), Inca Trail (Machu Picchu), Glacier (U.S.), and various areas of Switzerland and Austria were particularly memorable, we must confess that the hiking, horseback riding, and spectacular setting of, relatively inaccessible, Patagonia is unparalleled. The critical contrast is Patagonia’s pristine remoteness: no mass tourism or crowded hiking trails here!

When hiking the wide range of areas in Patagonia, it is easy to see how this vast landscape still has hundreds of unnamed mountains, with many points inaccessible and unexplored. Located at the tip of the South American continent, the outstanding national parks (Torres del Paine!) and private reserves stretch across Chile and Argentina, divided by the Andes Mountains. The features of Patagonia are remarkable: wild rivers, muddy rainforests, glaciated peaks, granted monoliths, and vast steppes. This is a place for reflection, deep solitude, and unforgettable outdoor activities.

**Best Travel Time:** [Fall](#) [Winter](#) [Spring](#)

<b>CHILE</b>	<b>ARGENTINA</b>
<b>Temperature Range</b>	<b>Temperature Range</b>
Highs: Mid 80’s	Highs: Low 80’s
Lows: Mid 50’s	Lows: High 60’s
<b>Area</b>	<b>Area</b>
756,096 SQ KM	2.8 Million SQ KM
291,930 SQ MILES	1.1 Million SQ MILES
<b>Population</b>	<b>Population</b>
17.9 Million	44 Million
<b>Language</b>	<b>Language</b>
Spanish	Spanish
<b>Capital</b>	<b>Capital</b>
Santiago	Buenos Aires
<b>Currency</b>	<b>Currency</b>
Peso	Peso

### **Day 1**

#### **Fly to Santiago**

Through our sister company, premium air provider TRAVNET, we may assist with your international airfare, as well as with mileage points conversion.

### **Day 2**

#### **Arrive Santiago**

Upon arrival in Santiago, you will be privately transferred to the Singular Santiago.

#### **Singular Santiago**

Our favorite luxury hotel in Santiago, this 5-star, 62-room hotel is located in the heart of downtown Santiago, nestled in the lively Lastarria neighborhood and adjacent to Cerro Santa Lucia Park. This green hotel seamlessly fits in the

iconic, bohemian neighborhood of Lastarria, which epitomizes the youth and creativity of the people of Santiago. The Singular Santiago is a striking combination of the early 20th-century design of Santiago and neoclassical French architecture. The hotel is mere minutes away from the Museum of Visual Arts, the Museum of Fine Arts, and the Gabriela Mistral Cultural Center. Amenities here include a rooftop bar with park views, a small outdoor pool, and a spa featuring a hot-tub, steam room, sauna, and gym. Perhaps the Singular’s biggest asset is its high-energy, engaging staff and outstanding service!

## **Accommodations: Singular Santiago**

### **Day 3**

#### **Santiago Private Tour**

With the historical and lively Lastarria neighborhood as your base, you may opt for a half-day tour of Santiago's fun central district.

#### **Meals: Breakfast**

## **Accommodations: Singular Santiago**

### **Day 4**

#### **Fly Santiago/Puerto Natales or Punta Arenas (season dependent) + Transfer to Torres del Paine National Park**

This morning, you will be privately transferred to the airport for your flight to Puerto Natales or Punta Arenas, depending on what season you're are traveling. Upon arrival, you will be transferred to the Explora Patagonia or Singular Patagonia for check-in.

#### **Explora Patagonia**

The extraordinary Explora Patagonia is our favorite luxury lodge in the entire 1,242-foot stretch of the Patagonia Andes. The 49-room Explora Patagonia is located in the very heart of Patagonia in the unspoiled Torres del Paine National Park, sitting on the shores of Lake Pehoe. This lodge is the quintessential base for exploring the array of ecosystems in Torres del Paine National Park, designated as a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve! Despite its remote location, Explora Patagonia provides all essential luxuries in a comfortable, understated way that reflects Patagonia's natural environment. The sleek, linga-wood designed rooms seem large when looking out at the splendid views. A deciduous mountain tree, the Patagonia linga is now fully preserved in its unique South American environment. Though it is perhaps not as architecturally striking as the Singular, the Explora Patagonia more than makes up for it with one of the most spectacularly picturesque settings of any lodge we have stayed at in the world! Explora's luxurious amenities include open-air hot-tubs with the Paine River insight, a heated pool, spa, sauna, Chilean bar, and its own horse stable. With the area's highest quality guides, wonderful food selections, and many hiking and horseback riding options, this place is certainly worthy of a four-night stay. Of special note, Explora is the only lodge in Patagonia with its own bred and trained stable of horses. All horses have been raised on the Ibanez Estate, not far from the Explora property. It should be noted that Wi-Fi here is only available in the common areas and not in the rooms, as the goal of Explora is for guests to relax and sleep in rooms while engaging in camaraderie and communication in the common areas. For this to happen, disconnection is key!

#### **Singular Patagonia**

Though we prefer the Explora Patagonia's unique location as the only luxury lodge within the confines of Torres del Paine National Park, we consider the 5-star Singular Patagonia to be the highest quality property in all of Patagonia! An approximately 15-minute drive from the town of Puerto Natales, the Singular Patagonia is built on the National Historic Landmark site of an early 20th-century meatpacking and refrigeration plant. When walking through the various areas of the 57-room property, you see how the sites' industrial equipment has been integrated within the striking, modern design. We were most impressed with the Singular's 19-foot glass walls with picturesque views of the sea and mountain peaks. We feel the dining here is among the finest we have seen in all of South America, with a fresh breakfast buffet at Desayunador and lunch and dinner at El

Asador for grilled meats and regional specialties. The homemade ice cream here is beyond delicious! Amenities include a spa, indoor/outdoor pool, and outdoor excursions with the Singular’s well-traveled guides.

**Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner**

**Accommodations: Explora Patagonia or Singular Patagonia**

### **Day 5 – 7**

#### **Patagonia Excursions**

Depending on your physical fitness level and general interests, Explora and Singular offer a wide variety of hiking and horseback riding options, ranging from beginner to experienced, in a number of astounding environments. While on his Patagonia scouting trip, Randy viewed two pumas in one afternoon hike! Read more about remarkable Patagonia [here](#).

**Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner**

**Accommodations: Explora Patagonia or Singular Patagonia**

### **Day 8**

#### **Transfer to El Calafate**

Today, you will be privately transferred to the quaint village of El Calafate, set in a remote Patagonian landscape, and check-in to Eolo Patagonia. You will have a chance to explore the Perito Moreno Glacier. The centerpiece of Los Glaciares National Park, the Perito Moreno measures 18 miles long, three miles wide, and nearly 200 feet high (approximately 20 stories!).

#### **Eolo Patagonia**

Eolo is a country lodge, comfortable and spacious, and somewhat similar to ancient Patagonian “estancias”. The lodge is a compound of 17 suites, all with panoramic views. Similar to the Explora Patagonia, Eolo offers a wonderful natural setting with no sacrifice in comfort and outdoor activities, including hiking, biking, and horseback riding. Here, you may observe Lago Argentino towards the north, La Anita Valley towards the east, and the Torres del Paine and the Rico branch of the same lake towards the south. A client staying here mentioned the lamb she had here was the best in South America!

**Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner**

**Accommodations: Eolo Patagonia**

### **Day 9**

#### **Perito Moreno & El Chaltén Excursion**

Home to Mount Fitz Roy, Cerro Torre, Viedma Glacier, and Lago Del Desierto, your full-day excursion today is well worth it for the beauty that El Chaltén has to offer.

**Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner**

**Accommodations: Eolo Patagonia**

## **Day 10**

### **Fly El Calafate/Santiago/Home**

Today you will be transferred to El Calafate Airport for your return flight to Santiago, where you will be assisted in connecting to your onward flight home.

### **Meals: Breakfast**

### **Four-Night Fjords of Tierra del Fuego Cruise Extension**

We feel there is no better way to experience the fjords of Tierra del Fuego and the southernmost part of South America than aboard an Australis expedition cruise. The nearly identical, 100-cabin M/V Ventus and M/V Stella have been specially designed and built to navigate the narrow channels, where larger ships simply cannot go. Excursions include Ainsworth Bay and its gorgeous views of Marinelli Glacier and the Darwin Mountains; Tucker Island and its ample Magellan penguin population; the Pia Glacier and Glacier Alley; hiking through the Magellan forest on Wulaia Bay, Cape Horn National Park; the UNESCO-designated Drake Passage; and more. In addition to penguins, you will likely see South American fur seals, Andean condors, and even albatross.

For a full description of a typical itinerary aboard the M/V Ventus or Stella Australis, click [here!](#)

### **M/V Ventus or Stella Australis**

We feel there is no better way to experience the fjords of Tierra del Fuego and the southernmost part of South America than aboard an Australis expedition cruise. The nearly identical, 100-cabin M/V Stella and newly launched M/V Ventus have been specially designed and built to navigate the narrow channels, where larger ships simply cannot go. Though we feel the ships to be not quite a luxury standard and consider them to be in the 4-star range, the simple design and spartan cabins paired with large windows keep the focus on the incredible views throughout the journey. The array of guided group excursions are singularly fantastic, as Australis is currently the only cruise company operating along this remote route. Excursions include Ainsworth Bay and its gorgeous views of Marinelli Glacier and the Darwin Mountains; Tucker Island and its ample Magellan penguin population; the Pia Glacier and Glacier Alley; hiking through the Magellan forest on Wulaia Bay, Cape Horn National Park; the UNESCO-designated Drake Passage; and more. In addition to penguins, you will likely see South American fur seals, Andean condors, and even albatross. Onboard, you may enjoy the spacious lounges and reading areas with plenty of literature and stellar panoramic views, as well as delicious meals prepared with local ingredients in the dining area. It should be noted that there is no Wi-Fi available onboard, allowing for complete immersion on this tranquil escape.

Please note that Australis recognizes the privilege to sail in one of the most unspoiled ecosystems of the world and seeks to leave the environment as untouched and wild as they found it. They accomplish this by contributing to Patagonian ecosystem research, limiting plastic products used aboard, and utilizing constructed wooden walkways on certain treks. They pride themselves on the quality and low turnover of their naturalist guides!

For a full description of a typical itinerary aboard the M/V Ventus or Stella Australis, click [here!](#)

### **Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner**

### **Accommodations: M/V Ventus or Stella Australis**

### **Buenos Aires Extension**

Over the next two days, you will tour southern Buenos Aires, visiting Plaza de Mayo, the Metropolitan Cathedral, and Casa Rosada (Presidential Palace). You will continue to the colorful barrio of La Boca, originally settled by Italians from Genoa. You may take wish to visit open-air markets like San Telmo and Plaza Dorrego which offer crafts, antique shops, and tango events. You will have the chance to take a hydrofoil through the River Plate to Colonia de Sacramento in Uruguay, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

### **Alvear Palace**

The Alvear Palace is widely considered the most luxurious 5-star hotel in all of Buenos Aires. Located in the heart of the Recoleta district, the Alvear is near many high-end restaurants and shops. Its 207 rooms are designed in Empire, Louis XV, and Louis XVI styles and all suites have butler service. Most of the bathrooms here have TVs and separate showers. Breakfast in the glass-roofed L'Orangerie is not to be missed! Some amenities include a rooftop bar with striking views, heated indoor pool, spa, sauna, and fitness center. The only amenity that the Four Seasons has over the Alvear is an outside pool. The Alvear is THE iconic luxury hotel in Buenos Aires!

### **Meals: Breakfast**

### **Accommodations: Alvear Palace**