

## SOUTHERN ADVENTURE

BUENOS AIRES, PENÍNSULA VALDÉS, GLACIERS & MOUNTAINS  
*09 Days/08 Nights*

### DAY 1: BUENOS AIRES ARRIVAL



Arrival in Buenos Aires, welcome at the airport and transfer from Ezeiza International Airport to the hotel.

Overnight in **Buenos Aires**, standard room. (B)

### DAY 2: BUENOS AIRES: CITY BIKE TOUR & TANGO EXPERIENCE



After breakfast, city bike tour along different neighbourhoods of Buenos Aires, discovering different faces of the city.

Our tour begins with a description of the various neighborhoods and attractions. San Martín Square, witness of great historical events, hosted the old bullring and was the place where the regiment that liberated Argentina, Chile and Peru formed.

Puerto Madero is the newest, most expensive and the most visited by locals and tourists neighborhood. Its old Docks are now renovated into restaurants, offices and lofts category, with the best view of the city and the Rio de La Plata.

The ecological reserve is an exotic and unique area close to the city where nature and the environment are preserved. It may probably be the most similar scenery to the one found by the first Spanish travelers due to its natural flora and fauna.

La Boca - Caminito (30 minutes BREAK) and Boca Stadium. Historically, La Boca has been the portside dramatic neighborhood which welcoming particular style reflects the migratory influx; it is one of the Tango's cradles, along with its brothels and antique cafes. "Caminito" (a picturesque street) is a must for tourists who want to explore this unique and unforgettable landmark.

San Telmo Neighborhood, the first section of Buenos Aires, inhabited by aristocratic families until the 1871 yellow fever. After their big houses became tenements. It is one of the main places for the historic heritage of the city.

Plaza de Mayo. Since the foundation of Buenos Aires, Plaza de Mayo has been the scenario of every important political event in Argentina. The main public buildings are located around Plaza de Mayo, such as: Casa de Gobierno (Argentine White House), Buenos Aires Cabildo, Catedral Metropolitana (Metropolitan Cathedral).

At night you will have the chance to take a tango lesson and visit a "milonga", the place where local people goes to dance this music, identity of the Plata river. Taste our typical "empandas".

Overnight in **Buenos Aires**, standard room. (B, D)

### DAY 3: BUENOS AIRES / PUERTO MADRYN: SNORKELLING WITH SEA LIONS



After breakfast, transfer from the hotel to the national airport in Buenos Aires to take the flight to Trelew. *Flight to Trelew*. Upon arrival, regular transfer from Trelew Airport to the hotel in Puerto Madryn city.

In the afternoon, enjoy a funny snorkelling with sea lions experience.

Diving and snorkelling with Sea lions are some of the most enjoyable experiences in the crystal clear waters of Golfo Nuevo. Puerto Madryn, recently declared Argentina's Diving Capital, is located 15 km 9 miles away from Punta Loma, a rookery of Southern sea lions (*Otaria flavescens*).

The boat leaves from Puerto Madryn toward Punta Loma around high tide, and 20 minutes later we reach the diving area. Once we are there, we can snorkel or dive with the Sea lions and enjoy a stunning experience by way of first-hand contact with one the friendliest marine animals. The whole tour lasts

around 3 hours -with 45 minutes in the water-, does not require swimming skills and is suitable for everyone aged 6 and over.

Season: Operable all year.

Main Attractions: Punta Loma Reserve, direct interaction with Sea Lions (unique experience in the world). 45 minutes at sea interacting with nature.

Estimated Time: 3 hours (Theoretical class in the store and transfer to the snorkeling point).

Overnight in **Puerto Madryn**, standard room. (B)

#### DAY 4: PUERTO MADRYN/ PUERTO PIRÁMIDES



Morning departure from Puerto Madryn Northwards to reach Puerto Pirámides, the gate to visit Península Valdés.

After a one-hour drive we arrive in Puerto Piramides where we join a boat tour (optional) to see Southern Right Whales (*Eubalaena australis*) between June and December, and Southern Sea lions (*Otaria flavescens*) and cormorants between January and March. (No boat tours operate in Puerto Piramides April and May.)

In the afternoon, you will be able to enjoy a kayak experience in San Jorge gulf.

By the evening, don't miss the chance of a second navigation to observe the whales by the sunset. Ideal experience for incredible photos!

Overnight in **Puerto Pirámides**, standard room. (B)

## DAY 5: PUERTO PIRÁMIDES / PENINSULA VALDES NORTH & SAN LORENZO PENGUIN COLONY/ PUERTO MADRYN



We start early in the morning towards Península Valdes Protected Natural Area.

This tour runs from September through April and has an approximate duration of 12 hours. We depart early in the morning towards the Wildlife Reserve Peninsula Valdes, UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1999.

From Puerto Pirámides, we continue our journey to Estancia San Lorenzo, a traditional sheep farm, where we can taste a spectacular lamb barbecue for lunch (optional). After lunch we visit a stunning Magellanic penguin colony with about 500.000 penguins located 7 km/4,35 miles from the main house. Lunch.

Our next stop is the Wildlife Reserve Punta Norte, where depending on the time of year, we can see Southern elephant seals (*Mirounga leonina*), Southern sea lions (*Otaria flavescens*), and eventually orca. Finally, we leave for Punta Cantor to observe Caleta Valdes, a large inlet that stretches along the peninsula's Atlantic coastline. On the way back, we make a stop at the Visitor Centre situated on the Isthmus Carlos Ameghino.

Along the way, we may run into wild rheas, tinamous, guanacos, foxes, cavies and armadillos.

Season: Operable from mid-September to the end of March.

Main Attractives: Whale watching (until mid-December) or nautical tour (mid-December to March), lamb on the grill, visit to the Magellan penguin reserve, elephants and sea lions, terrestrial fauna.

Estimated Time: 10 hs.

Departure Schedule: between 07:30 and 08:00 hs.

Route: 400 km approximately (200 km by asphalt and 200 km by gravel).

Overnight in **Puerto Madryn**, standard room. (B)

## DAY 6: PUERTO MADRYN / TRELEW / EL CALAFATE

Transfer from the hotel in Puerto Madryn to Trelew airport.

Flight to El Calafate.

Arrival in El Calafate airport, welcome at the airport and transfer to the hotel.

*Optional visit to the interesting Glaciarium museum or enjoy an afternoon 4x4 tour with panoramic views of the Argentino lake.*

Overnight in **El Calafate**, standard room (B)

#### **DAY 7: EL CALAFATE: PERITO MORENO GLACIER ICE TREKKING**



Full day tour to visit the iconic Perito Moreno glacier, with a lake crossing and the unforgettable experience of hiking on the ice.

This park has been declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO. The famous Perito Moreno Glacier is located in the extreme southwest of Lago Argentino 80 kilometers from El Calafate. It has become one of the greater natural spectacles of South America. From time to time walls of ice fall from the 60-meter-tall face into the waters of Brazo Rico or to the Canal de los Témpanos, navigating the channel to the principal body of the lake. This cycle will take 4 to 6 years ending with the lake divided in two. The Brazo Rico remains retained and elevates approximately 35 meters above its current level. The water slowly makes a tunnel in the glacier until the pressure makes it collapse. This spectacle is indescribable. The waters precipitate in gigantic waves only to start the process all over again. Bring or purchase a box lunch or drink.

Transfer from the hotels to the Bajo las Sombras Port, approximately 7km before the Glacier viewpoint, from where the 20 minute ship crossing leaves until we reach the opposite side of Brazo Rico, where we descend.

After the disembark we get to the small shelter, where specialized mountain guides welcome you and organize the people in groups of not more than 20, who then follow their guides along the lake's shore towards the edge of the glacier. We arrive to the River Moreno's Cascade, where the guides explain how to use the pair of crampons that will allow us to walk over the glacier. The two hours circuit that follows introduces you to the fascinating landscape of the glaciers: streams, small lagoons, gullies, crevasses and plenty of ice formations of the most incredible blues. The trekking is moderate. The ice surface over which you walk is irregular, but firm and safe. You will receive explanations about flora, fauna and general glaciology of the region and also about the particular phenomenon that happens in the Perito Moreno Glacier and eventually produces its rupture

After the walk, a stroll through the exuberant magallanic forest brings you back to the shelter, where the visitors have lunch contemplating a wonderful view.

Once lunch is finished, we head back to the Port, where a bus will be awaiting to take you back to the Glacier viewpoint and its footbridges, where you will be able to stay for an hour. We then begin our return to El Calafate.

Age: tour only allowed between 10 and 65 years old.

Recommendations: wear comfortable shoes and warm clothes (windbreaker, jacket and windbreaker and / or raincoat). Sunglasses, sunscreen and gloves. Also sun hat or coat in case it gets very cold. Take a lunch box to have a meal in the woods at the side of the lake, before embarking. There are no restaurants to have lunch in.

Duration: 7 hours (1 hour and 30 minutes on the glacier).

Overnight in **El Calafate**, standard room. (B)

#### **DAY 8: EL CALAFATE – EL CHALTÉN**

Morning regular departure from El Calafate to el Chaltén, the national capital of trekking.

In the afternoon, you will have the chance to hike to the nearby paths, as the Eagles and the Condors viewpoints as well as Chorrillo del Salto, to have a first view of these beautiful lands.

Overnight in **El Chaltén**, standard room (B)

#### **DAY 9: EL CHALTEN: LAGUNA DE LOS TRES FULL DAY TREKKING**



Day at leisure to enjoy a full day self-guided trekking to enjoy incredible views of the main highlight of the area: the magic and iconic Fitz Roy Mount. It includes a one-way transfer to start the hiking. *Optional trekking guide.*

A demanding but unforgettable excursion that includes transfer by bus and trekking. This incredible experience begins with the transfer along the provincial route n ° 41 by bus, from El Chaltén to the Hostería El Pilar area, which is located about 14 km from the town. From there you start the ascent, bordering the Río Blanco, after approximately 1:30 hs of hiking in the forest, arrive to the viewpoint of the Piedras Blancas Glacier. Then continue along the path to until the

Poincenot area, which is the base of Cerro Fitz Roy. From this point you will start the last ascent of approximately 90 minutes, to reach the Laguna de los Tres, staying facing the central wall of Cerro Fitz Roy.

After enjoying this unforgettable place, you will begin the descent towards the town. During this path, we will enjoy different viewpoints, and you can visit the Laguna Capri. After 10 km of footpath, you will arrive at El Chaltén in the evening.

We suggest you bring: a small backpack, lunch box, water, hat, sunglasses, rain jacket, polar sweater, gloves, sunscreen, trekking shoes.

Duration: approx. 8 hours. Difficulty: Demanding

Overnight in **El Chaltén**, standard room (B)

#### **DAY 10: EL CHALTEN: TORRE LAGOON & GLACIER**



In the morning you will have the chance to enjoy a self-hiking to Torre lagoon and glacier. *Optional trekking guide.*

We start this beautiful walk from the village, the trail will take us to walk an incredible 9 km, through various areas of forests and valleys, accompanying the entire trail the north side of the Fitz Roy River.

During we are walking this path, which has 300 meters of altitude, we will appreciate beautiful views from different viewpoints, flora and fauna of the area. After approximately 3 hours of walking we will arrive at Laguna Torre, which is the base of the legendary Cerro Torre, which we can appreciate from the shores of this beautiful lagoon. After a well-deserved rest we begin the return by the same path.

We suggest you bring: a small backpack, lunch box, water, hat, sunglasses, rain jacket, polar sweater, gloves, sunscreen, trekking shoes.

Duration: approx. 8 hours.

Overnight in **El Chaltén**, standard room (B)

#### DAY 11: EL CHALTEN/ LOS HUEMULES RESERVE



The wild beauty of this private reserve a bit off the beaten track is a paradise for people keen on hiking.

This morning, we will pick you up to take you from your accommodation in El Chaltén to Estancia Los Huemules (approx. 20 km out of town) where you will be walking for the day. At the visitor's center you will find interesting information about the reserve and a map with the different possible trails to discover in the area. The trails will be decided with your guide according to the weather and your possibilities

After a great day outdoors you will be returning to your cottage, to enjoy a delicious dinner washed down with a glass of Argentine wine and a good rests night!

Overnight in refuge in **Chalten**, share room. (B, BXL, D)

#### DAY 12: LOS HUEMULES RESERVE / EL CHALTEN



Morning departure to enjoy a second day hiking in this amazing reserve.



The day starts with good breakfast, while discussing which other wild trails you want to enjoy during this second day... another chance to discover more natural beauties hidden in the forest, such as water falls and spectacular views of the Fitz Roy from a different angle!

In the afternoon, we will pick you up -and your luggage- and take you back to your accommodation in El Chaltén.

Overnight in **El Chaltén**, standard room. (B)

### **DAY 13: EL CHALTEN / EL CALAFATE/ BUENOS AIRES**

Breakfast. At the schedule time transfer to El Calafate Airport to take your flight to Iguazú (connecting in Buenos Aires)

Flight El Calafate / Buenos Aires

Arrival and transfer to the hotel.

Overnight in **Buenos Aires**, standard room. (B)

### **DAY 14: BUENOS AIRES - OUT**

Morning transfer from the hotel to Ezeiza international airport. (B)

### **END OF SERVICES**

The Program includes:

- ✓ All services, transfers and excursions detailed above
- ✓ Meals mentioned (B: breakfast, BXL: box lunch, L: lunch, D: dinner)
- ✓ 08 Nights accommodation according to your request and offer in each destination.

The Program does not include:

- ✗ Flights.
- ✗ Personal expenses and tips
- ✗ Meals not mentioned in the program.

OPERATIVE: Better between Oct 20<sup>th</sup> and Dec 1<sup>st</sup> (combining seasons for whales watching in Península Valdés and for hiking in El Chaltén)

Contact us for customized trips and extensions. *Instead of flying to Buenos Aires, ask for extensions to travel from Foz do Iguacu to Río de Janeiro and other destinations in Brazil.*