

Best of Patagonia

10 days | Starts/Ends: Buenos Aires



Find yourself seduced by elegant Buenos Aires and thoroughly captivated by Argentina's share of Patagonia. Marvel at the icy walls of Perito Moreno, cruise the marine-rich Beagle Channel and discover the Land of Fire at the southernmost edge of Argentina on this 10 day adventure.

HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS

Trip Highlights

- Buenos Aires – city tour and Tango dinner show
- El Calafate – a thriving tourist resort with free time to explore the nearby Parque Nacional Los Glaciares and Lago Argentino
- Perito Moreno Glacier – full day excursion to see this spectacular hulk of ice with a nautical safari
- Ushuaia – the world's most southernmost city with free time to get your passport stamped with an 'End of the World' stamp
- Tierra del Fuego National Park – touring of the 'Land of Fire', Argentina's first coastal national park and a stunning landscape of colour and form

What's Included

- 9 nights standard accommodation (superior and deluxe hotels available on request)
- 9 breakfasts and 1 dinner
- Airport arrival and departure transfer on day 1 and day 10
- Services of local English-speaking specialist guides
- Entrance fees to all sites included in the itinerary
- City tour of Buenos Aires, full day excursion to the Perito Moreno Glacier and boat trip on the Canal de los Témpanos, excursion to Tierra del Fuego National Park and a sailing trip on the Beagle Channel on a shared basis (private touring available for a supplement)
- Tango Show and Dinner with shared transfers
- All relevant transfers and transportation on a private basis unless otherwise stated

What's Not Included

- International flights and visas
- Laundry, drinks and items of a personal nature
- Tipping – an entirely personal gesture
- Domestic flights – South American airpasses are available with LATAM and other airline carriers when booked in conjunction with international flights, offering significant savings on domestic

flights. Please ask a member of the team for more information.

DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 1 : Buenos Aires

Bienviendos a Argentina! Upon arrival into the international airport you will be met and transferred to your hotel where the rest of the day can be spent at leisure. **Overnight - Buenos Aires**

Day 2 : Tango in BA

Often labelled the 'Paris of South America', Buenos Aires, or simply BA, is a seductive mix of elegant architecture, characterful residents and fantastic entertainment options. This morning join a scheduled city tour taking in the Neoclassical Metropolitan Cathedral, the unusual dusty pink Government House and the history-packed Plaza de Mayo. Head to the neighbourhood of San Telmo where street performers gather to display the sensuous dance of tango, and continue to La Boca, a colourful suburb popular with local artists. Wander the attractive streets of Palermo until you reach Recoleta and the famous cemetery of the same name. The rest of the afternoon is free for you to explore Buenos Aires your way – why not wander further in search of the city's striking street art?

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Later in the evening you will be collected from your hotel for a scheduled transfer to Café de Los Angelitos for a night of love, passion, madness and glamour with a traditional tango show. Born in the brothels of the 1920s, Argentine tango is a completely improvised dance and attracts both the old and the young. **Overnight - Buenos Aires (B, D)**

Day 3 : El Calafate

Buenos Aires – El Calafate. After breakfast transfer to the airport for your flight to El Calafate, the starting point for excursions to one of Argentina's most famous natural wonders – the Perito Moreno glacier. On arrival, scheduled transfer to your hotel. Remainder of day free. **Overnight - El Calafate (B)**

Days 4-5 : Perito Moreno Glacier



Measuring 30km in length, the monstrous Perito Moreno glacier is a jagged mass of crevasses and towering columns of ice. It's also unusual in the sense that it is actually growing in size and constantly moving forward. Today enjoy a full day scheduled excursion beginning at Brazo Rico where you will be able to spot floating icebergs and continuing with a nautical safari on Rico Lake for spectacular views of the ice walls.

The following day offers a chance for you to continue exploring the southern sector of Parque Nacional los Glaciares independently or enjoy some downtime at Lago Argentino. Other options include a full day tour to the Bosque Petrificado La Leona, a petrified forest with fossilised trunks and dinosaur bones **Overnight - El Calafate (B:2)**

Day 6 : Ushuaia

El Calafate – Ushuaia. This morning a scheduled transfer will take you to the airport for your flight to Ushuaia, the world's southernmost city and a particularly scenic one too, backed by dramatic, serrated peaks and fronted by the sea. Upon arrival a scheduled transfer will take you to your hotel. Remainder of day at leisure. **Overnight - Ushuaia (B)**

Day 7 : Tierra del Fuego



Argentina's first coastal national park is a spectacular expanse of wild, forested peaks, pristine blue lakes and vast tundra. Taking National Route 3 as part of a scheduled tour you'll discover some of the park's most stunning natural sights including Pipo River, Ensenada Bay, Redonda Island, Roca Lake, Verde and Negra Lagoons and Castores Dam. Rich in flora and fauna, the park also offers ample variety of wildlife. Later in the afternoon board a ship in Ushuaia Bay for a scheduled cruise on the Beagle Channel. The cruise will reveal excellent views of Ushuaia as well as Olivia Mount and the Encajonado River. You'll also see Les Eclaireurs Lighthouse and pass Pajaros Island where sun-seeking penguins and fur seals come to rest on the pebbly shores. **Overnight - Ushuaia (B)**

Day 8 : End of the World



Enjoy a free day in Ushuaia perhaps visiting the city's charming museums, such as the Maritime Museum and the Museum at the End of the World where Ushuaia's interesting natural and colonial history is uncovered. Alternatively jump onboard a steam train on the Tren del Fin del Mundo and get your passport stamped with an official End of the World stamp at the Ushuaia tourist office. **Overnight - Ushuaia (B)**

Day 9 : Back to BA

Ushuaia – Buenos Aires. After breakfast today a scheduled transfer will take you to the airport for your flight back to Buenos Aires. You will be collected on arrival and transferred to your hotel. The rest of the afternoon is free. Explore the city further or head to the markets for some last-minute souvenir shopping. Prided as a literary city, Buenos Aires has a number of fabulous book shops, often housed in revamped historical buildings. **Overnight - Buenos Aires (B)**

Day 10 : Buenos Aires

Today marks the end of your Patagonian adventure. After breakfast and hotel check out transfer to the airport for your onward departure journey. (B)

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

Argentina Country Guide

Argentina - Buenos Aires Hotel Tax

The Buenos Aires Legislature in 2020 created the "Visit Buenos Aires" entity, an organization that will be in charge of promoting the city as a tourist destination around the world. This organisation will be financed through a tax on foreign visitors. This tax cannot be included in our tour price and you will need to pay this upon check out at each hotel so please budget accordingly.

This tax will be applied to foreign tourists older than 12 years old who visit the city of Buenos Aires from the 1st of March 2020.

The amount charged differs depending on the star rating of the hotel:

- 3-star hotels - USD 0.50 per person per night

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- 4-star hotels - USD 1 per person per night
- 5-star hotels - USD 1.5 per person per night

Argentina - Fact File

- Official Name: Argentine Republic
- Capital: Buenos Aires
- Population: 38 million
- Total Area: 2.8 million square kilometres
- Official Language: Spanish
- Religions: Roman Catholic 92% (less than 20% practicing), Protestant 2%, Jewish 2%, other 4%
- Voltage: 220 volts. Argentina has European type two-pinned round sockets in most old buildings and the Australian style three-pin flat sockets in most new buildings.
- Dialling Code: +54
- Time Difference: GMT/UTC -3
- Airport Departure Tax: US\$18

Argentina - Visas

UK, Australian, Canadian, US, South African and New Zealand passport holders do not require a visa for entry into Argentina for up to 90 days.

For entry into Argentina you must:

- Hold a passport valid at least six months on entry with one blank visa page
- Hold proof of sufficient funds
- Hold proof of onward/return airline tickets
- Hold documents showing proof of purpose of trip
- Hold all documents required for the next destination
- Confirm with their airline that boarding will be permitted without a visa as these conditions are subject to change

Please be advised that visa requirements are subject to change and that visa procurement is the responsibility of the traveller and not On The Go Tours.

Argentina - Climate

The Argentine climate ranges from hot and humid in the north to cold and windy in the south. In northern Argentina, summer is hot and winter fairly mild while in contrast, Tierra del Fuego, at the southern tip of Argentina, is quite often cold with continual winds, rain at times and freezing winter temperatures.

Buenos Aires, due to its position in the central region, has a Mediterranean climate with well-defined seasons. Spring, between September and November is mild, which contributes to the flourishing green colour of the plants and trees in the lush parks. Summer, between December and February, is dry and hot and winter can be cold. It usually begins to rain in April and reaches its highest level during June and July, then decreases gradually to almost nothing in November.

Visit www.worldclimate.com to get an idea of what the weather will be like on your tour.

Argentina - Money

Important

In Latin America you will have problems changing the US\$100 CB B2 2001 series notes and it is important you do not bring them. In some countries banks won't even take them. The serial number is located in the top left hand corner and bottom right hand corner on the side with the President's face. This serial number starts with CB and then a few more numbers and then directly under that B2. At the bottom of the note near the signature of the Treasurer it says which series of notes it is and it is there that it says 2001 series.

Local currency

The monetary unit in Argentina is the Argentine peso. For up-to-date exchange rates with your own currency visit www.xe.com.

Changing money, credit cards & ATMs

We recommend that you bring cash/travellers cheques in US dollars only. Visa, Mastercard, Diners and American Express are the best credit cards to bring however there can be problems at times getting money out from ATMs, so make sure you have sufficient cash for emergencies.

There is no restriction on the amount of foreign currency that you may bring into Argentina, however very large sums should be declared on arrival. There is often a general lack of small change and we recommend maintaining a supply of small denomination notes and coins.

Argentina - Local Transport

Much of Buenos Aires can be visited on foot. Most sightseeing in Buenos Aires can be reached on foot from our hotel, with La Boca being the furthest at about an hour's walk. There is also a good, if rather dated, underground metro system (called the "subte") which has 5 lines and is very cheap at approx \$0.30 per journey.

There are local buses called "colectivos", which are also inexpensive, but you MUST have the right change (ask hotel reception for prices) as you have to drop the money into a machine. We recommend you use taxis (black & yellow) at night as they are fairly cheap and usually have meters fitted. Just make sure that the driver turns it on when you get in. Remember that you will pay more for taxis at night.

Argentina - Food & Drink

As a guideline a simple snack (e.g. a sandwich) can cost as little as US\$1, a light meal will cost around \$5-\$6, and even a meal in one of the better restaurants in Buenos Aires costs very little in comparison to what you would expect to pay at home. Obviously this depends on what you order and if you have wine or other drinks, which will certainly increase the bill. If you eat in Puerto Madero or Recoleta in Buenos Aires you are likely to pay quite a bit more, however there is a huge choice of good reasonably-priced restaurants in the city centre where you can get a good meal (and great steaks).

Your tour leader will be able to recommend restaurants.

All drinks such as water, soft or alcoholic drinks are at your own expense at all times. The following is a guideline for drinks bought in a shop in the street. Prices in restaurants and hotels can sometimes be more than double the prices specified below;

- 1 litre of water US\$0.70
- 30cl bottle of soft drink US\$0.50
- 30cl bottle of beer US\$0.70
- 50cl bottle of beer US\$1.00
- Food

Food

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In Argentina the basic diet focuses around meat mostly with french fries (papas fritas), mashed potatoes (pure) or 'papas sufle' (local typical deep fried potatoes that blow up like little balloons and are delicious). As there is a large Italian population you'll have no problem getting pasta dishes or pizzas. In fact, in the larger cities, you'll have no problem getting all types of food.

For breakfast it's normal to eat croissants (media lunas) with a good strong coffee. Most Argentines would have a large lunch at around 1pm then at around 5pm, they all head to the 'confiterías' for tea, sandwiches and cakes. Dinner is usually eaten around 10pm and is often grilled beef (asado) in different forms. Other dishes include 'lomo ala pimienta' (pepper steak), giant ribs (asado de tira) and mixed grills (parrillada) which include beef, intestines, offal, blood sausage (morcilla) and spicy sausage (chorizos) or thick grilled steak (churrasco). 'Bife de chorizo' is a rump steak (nothing to do with the sausage of the same name) and 'bife a caballo' is steak topped with a fried egg. Although seafood is not so common you can get fish (pescado) which can be served grilled, pan fried with breadcrumbs (apanado) or with a sauce. There are also plenty of chicken (pollo) dishes available. 'Milanesa de pollo' (boneless chicken cooked with breadcrumbs) is a favourite.

For a cheap and hearty meal 'tenedor libre' restaurants offer a fixed price buffet. These are usually very good value and you can eat as much as you like.

Vegetarians

If you are a strict vegetarian you may experience a distinct lack of variety in the food available, especially in small towns. However vegetarian alternatives are becoming more popular particularly in south Argentina. Our tour leaders will do their best to provide interesting vegetarian alternatives for included meals, but your patience and understanding is requested.

Drink

You should be wary of drinking the local tap water. Bottled water, carbonated soft drinks and fruit juices are widely available and much

safer. Argentina also has some of the best coffee in the world.

In Argentina some of the hotels we use have bars or serve alcoholic drinks. If there is not a bar in the hotel then there is sure to be one within walking distance. Imported beers and spirits are available but local spirits tend to be cheaper. There is an array of rums, gins and brandy and the fabulous Argentine wines can be extremely cheap (from US\$1 a bottle) There are also various brands of beers including Quilmes, Rubia, Negra Ahumada, and Negra Extra XXX.

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