



BEST SELLER

## Adventures in Patagonia + Iguazu Extension

ARGENTINA, CHILE - TRIP CODE PAI

DISCOVERY

### Why book this trip?

Patagonia is home to some of the most spectacular landscapes on earth, full of emerald lakes fed by icy glaciers and towering mountain ranges home to guanaco and vicuna. End your day with a glass of malbec surrounded by the region's towering scenery.

- **Perito Moreno Glacier** - This magnificent glacier showcases the might of nature; get closer with an optional boat trip or a hike on the ice itself
- **Torres del Paine** - Walk among the glacial lakes and mountain ranges of this immense national park
- **Buenos Aires** - Explore Argentina's diverse capital, including tango-filled La Boca, and the arty San Telmo district.



**INCLUDED MEALS**  
Breakfast: 17  
Dinner: 3



**TRIP STAFF**  
Explore Tour  
Leader  
Driver(s)  
Local Guide(s)



**TRANSPORT**  
Bus  
Ferry  
Flight



**ACCOMMODATION**  
16 nights  
comfortable hotel



**TRIP PACE:**  
Moderate



**GROUP SIZE:**  
12 - 18

## Itinerary

Itineraries on some departure dates may differ, please select the itinerary that you wish to explore.

### DAY 1 - Join trip in Buenos Aires

Arrive in Buenos Aires, Argentina's capital, located on the southern shores of the Rio de la Plata. Since its founding by Pedro de Mendoza in 1536 the city has thrived on trade and its vibrant streets are filled with an eclectic mix of European architectural styles, with Spanish, French and Italian classicism rubbing shoulders with remnants of Victorian grandeur.

For those arriving on time our Leader plans to meet you in the hotel reception at 6pm for the welcome meeting and for those that wish, there is the chance to go out for dinner. There are no activities planned today, so you are free to arrive in Buenos Aires at any time. If you would like to receive a complimentary airport transfer today, you'll need to arrive into either Aeroparque Internacional Jorge Newbery (AEP) or Ezeiza International Airport (EZE), a 30 minute or 1 hour drive respectively from our hotel. Should you miss the meeting, your leader will inform you of any essential information as soon as you catch up.

If your flight arrives earlier in the day, you could explore this lively city by wandering the city streets, admiring the impressive architecture and relaxing parks, or enjoy the traditional Porteno pastime of people watching from the many sidewalk cafes.



**ACCOMMODATION:**  
Hotel Principado (or similar)

**Grade: Comfortable Hotel**





SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: NONE

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### **DAY 2 - In Buenos Aires; explore the diverse barrios of the Argentinian capital**

Today we will take a tour of the city, exploring the major landmarks around the Plaza de Mayo, site of the famous mass demonstrations by supporters of Juan Domingo Peron in 1945, organised by his wife Eva. We'll also visit the elaborate mausoleums of the famous Recoleta Cemetary, the final resting place of some of Argentina's most revered figures, including Eva Peron herself. Our tour will also takes us via Palermo Park and the colourful vibrancy of La Caminito in the La Boca district of the city. Settled originally by Italian migrants, the area is famed for its colourful houses and lively street performers. You can even come across the tango being performed on some street corners, highlighting the city's connection with this most Latin of dances. This evening we have an opportunity to enjoy something of Buenos Aires' dazzling nightlife and soak up the pulsating rhythms of one of South America's most captivating cities.



ACCOMMODATION:

Hotel Principado (or similar)



**Grade: Comfortable Hotel**



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

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### **DAY 3 - Fly to Ushuaia; free afternoon for glacier visits or penguin spotting**

Today we transfer to the airport for the flight to Ushuaia, the world's southernmost city, spectacularly located on the Island of Tierra del Fuego at the very tip of the South American continent. Depending on the flight times, you may be departing in the very early hours for your internal flight. Beyond this remote port lies the Beagle Channel and then the open waters of The Drake Passage, where the deep rich waters of the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans converge amidst some of the most challenging seas on earth. This afternoon is free, flight time permitting. You may explore this remarkable city at the end of the earth and visit the Maritime Museum, housed in what was once the prison, to learn a little something about the harsh realities of life on these unforgiving oceans. Alternatively you can take a half day trip out into the Beagle Channel itself to experience a little something of the power and majesty of these southern oceans or visit Harberton Estancia to see the Penguins. A trip to the nearby Glacier Martial affords some superb

views out across the Beagle Channel to the Chilean islands beyond (weather permitting). NB - depending on the flight times to Ushuaia breakfast will be taken either at the hotel in Buenos Aires or in flight.

The optional excursion to see the penguins is often very busy, and in peak times we may pre-reserve spaces for the group. If we are holding spaces, your Tour Leader will ask people to decide, book and pay shortly after your first briefing on Day 2 of the trip.



ACCOMMODATION:  
Villa Brescia Hotel (or similar)

Grade: Comfortable Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

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#### DAY 4 - Walks in Tierra del Fuego National Park

Tierra del Fuego translates as the Land of Fires and today we have time to explore the nearby national park. Separated from Patagonia by the waters of the Magellan Strait, Tierra del Fuego is a landscape of lakes, forest and tundra, set beneath an imposing backdrop of ragged mountain peaks. This morning we take a leisurely walk along a forest trail to Lapataia Bay, taking in the expansive views and hopefully coming across some of the abundant wildlife in the area. These peaks and valleys, filled with Lenga and Guindo trees which provide a rich haven for Patagonian grey foxes and condors. After lunch we return to Ushuaia and have a free afternoon to further explore the area.



ACCOMMODATION:  
Villa Brescia Hotel (or similar)

Grade: Comfortable Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

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## DAY 5 - Ferry across the Magellan Strait to Punta Arenas

After breakfast this morning we depart by public bus and spend our day travelling across Tierra del Fuego, crossing the Magellan Strait by ferry and entering Chile, to complete our journey to Punta Arenas later this afternoon. The journey takes approximately 10 hours including the ferry crossing and the border control (fruit and nuts cannot be taken into Chile - a small but important note if you like travelling with these snacks!). One of the largest maritime settlements in the region and the first Chilean settlement along the waters of the Magellan Strait, Punta Arenas was founded in the mid 19th century, beginning its life as a penal colony and growing rich on sheep ranching and (before the opening of the Panama Canal) the vital facilities that it offered to shipping traversing the dangerous routes through the southern oceans. Tonight we will have a chance to enjoy some local specialities, such as king crab, and perhaps sampling some of the excellent Chilean wines before retiring for the evening.



ACCOMMODATION:  
Hotel Savoy (or similar)



Grade: Comfortable Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

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## DAY 6 - Drive across the Patagonian Steppe to Torres del Paine National Park

A landscape of rugged mountains, turquoise coloured glacial lakes and spectacular wildlife, the majestic vistas of Chilean Patagonia are some of the most scenic and environmentally diverse regions on the planet. Travelling north across the Patagonian steppe, with its desolate rolling plains and views of the peaks of the Cordillera in the distance, we head first for the city of Puerto Natales, our gateway into the sumptuous landscapes of the Torres del Paine National Park. Founded in 1911 this southerly coastal town is a shipping port and a transport hub for almost everyone heading for the Paine Park and in fine weather the cafes are filled with travellers and crowds gathering for the big event - the arrival of the Navimag boat from Puerto Montt. After a brief stop in the town we continue towards the magnificent landscapes of the park, surely one of the most beautiful natural vistas on earth and a place once described by Alberto de Agostini as one of the most spectacular sights that the human imagination can conceive. Blessed with an abundance of natural wonders, the 934 square miles of land was turned into national park in 1959 and takes its name from the Tehuelche Indian word payne meaning blue, apt acknowledgment of the striking turquoise lakes that abound in this astonishing place. Our dramatic drive takes us via the Milodon Cave to our accommodation in Torres del Paine.



ACCOMMODATION:

Cabanas Del Paine Hotel (or similar)



Grade: Comfortable Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST & DINNER

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**DAY 7 - Discover Torres del Paine National Park on foot**

Included in the trip is a full day of fairly easy hiking and lookout points, as we don our walking boots and take on a comfortable 8km wildlife hike from Lake Sarmiento to the Laguna Amarga. At first, the area seems barren but it is home to a wide variety of flora and fauna. It's not unusual to see large numbers of guanacos here, as well as black-necked swans, upland geese and pink flamingos. We may even be fortunate enough to spot condors, or even the elusive puma. There are also more than 20 sites of ancient cliff paintings approximately 6000 years old along the trail. We continue by vehicle to the Cascada Paine, a stunningly situated falls under the backdrop of the jagged peaks of the Torres. From here, we continue to drive to the Blue Lagoon, where we stroll around the beach to admire the Towers from the same view that inspired Lady Florence Dixie to call them 'Cleopatra's needles' in her book Across Patagonia in 1880.

For those who prefer something more challenging, you have the option of undertaking the 22km trek to the base of the Torres del Paine. The entire hike is full of breath-taking panoramas as you cross glacial lakes, passing through river valleys and mountain forest, culminating in one of the most impressive lookouts in the park, over the spectacular Torres - imposing pinnacles of sharp granite that rise up over 2600m to pierce the sky. The total ascent and descent of the hike is 950m, taking us from a starting altitude of 30m to the peak of 980m, over approximately ten hours of walking time. The terrain is hilly, with mainly small and undulating slopes until the last kilometre, which is a steep push to the top.

If you would like to undertake this trek, your local guide will need to know by day 2 of the trip, in order to ensure that a guide is in place for you. Please also note that the Torres hike is not included, whereas the day exploration is.



ACCOMMODATION:

Cabanas Del Paine Hotel (or similar)



Grade: Comfortable Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE





MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST & DINNER

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### **DAY 8 - Walks in Torres del Paine; optional zodiac trip on Lake Serrano**

On our second day in Torres del Paine, we will start the day with a visit to a viewpoint where we will enjoy stunning panoramas of Lake Pehoe. Next, we will head to Mirador Cuernos where we will see views of the Valle del Frances (approximately 2 hours walk). In the afternoon, there is the opportunity to take an optional zodiac trip on the Serrano River to witness the Serrano Glacier. For those not interested in the boat trip, other options include walking to the Claudio Lagoon or to the Nuria river. (both walks are approximately 2 hours).



ACCOMMODATION:  
Cabanas Del Paine Hotel (or similar)

Grade: Comfortable Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST & DINNER

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### **DAY 9 - Travel to Calafate, the gateway to the Glaciares National Park**

After breakfast we depart for the Argentinean border at Cerro Castillo, crossing the vastness of an empty, treeless plateau, where the only signs of life are the occasional estancia sheltering behind a windbreak of rare trees. Our destination is Calafate, situated on the southern shores of Lago Argentino, an unassuming little community that has been declared the national capital of the glacier region and the gateway to Los Glaciares National Park (approximately 6 hours drive).



ACCOMMODATION:  
Hainen (or similar)

Grade: Comfortable Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

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### **DAY 10 - Full day visit to Perito Moreno Glacier**

Today we have a full day visit to the awe-inspiring Perito Mereno Glacier, a highlight which ranks as one of South America's most magnificent sights and arguably one of the world's greatest spectacles. Fed by the vast expanse of the Southern Patagonian Ice Field, the glacier covers some 250 sq km and presents us with an impressive list of statistics. It stretches of over 30km and at its deepest point is over 700m thick. It is advancing at a rate of 700 metres per year, but is estimated to calve off great chunks at probably the same rate, meaning that it has remained pretty much stationary for nearly a century. All in all it is a natural masterpiece of quite spectacular majesty. Whilst at the glacier, there will be the chance to either trek on the ice (an age limit of 65 years applies due to National Park regulations) or take a boat ride to get closer to the glacier face.



ACCOMMODATION:  
Hainen (or similar)



**Grade: Comfortable Hotel**



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

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### **DAY 11 - Drive to El Chalten; optional boat trip and hike to the Vespignani Glacier lookout**

Today we drive to the picturesque town of Chalten (approximately 3 hours), lying at the confluence of the De las Vueltas and Fitzroy Rivers in Los Glaciares National Park. Arriving at approximately 11am we will have lunch before checking in, the afternoon is free to explore the town and its surrounding trails. You will have the option to visit the Huemul reservation, a private pristine reserve 16kms from Chalten, with numerous trails to explore. Although you don't get the spectacular views that you have come to expect from Torres, the park is beautiful in its solitude and is home to a diverse number of species including condors, foxes and the magellanic woodpecker. Alternatively you may wish to take a trip to Lago Del Desierto; during this 8 hour trip you will enjoy a scenic drive to the lake, followed by a short sail across the lake and a hike up to the Vespignani Glacier lookout.



ACCOMMODATION:



Pudu Lodge (or similar)

**Grade: Comfortable Hotel**



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

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### **DAY 12 - Hike to the base of Mount Fitzroy**

Over the next day and a half, we have the opportunity to explore the stunning Fitz Roy Massif. Today we set out with a local guide, weather permitting, to cover the distance to the base of Mount Fitz Roy, whose unmistakable summit is almost permanently covered in cloud, a phenomenon that was believed to be smoke by the indigenous Tehuelche who named it Chalten (smoky mountain). The mountain reaches a height of some 3405m (although our aim is to reach the base at around 1200m), and its forests and slopes are home to a unique array of wildlife, including the elusive huemul, a small deer and the majestic (and far from small) condor, one of the largest land birds on the planet. The scale and grandeur of this setting, where the glaciers seem to hang suspended between the jagged peaks, makes this walk a truly rewarding excursion.

The hike is on a well-marked trail covering a variety of terrain, from atmospheric forest and flowing rivers to open mountain scenery. Our total ascent and descent is approximately 730m, over a distance of 22km. This return journey will take us some 8-9 hours.

This walk is challenging due to the distance covered. There are other shorter walks available on self-guided trails should you prefer, or you may take the time instead to relax around the town of Chalten and its stunning surrounds.



ACCOMMODATION:  
Pudu Lodge (or similar)

**Grade: Comfortable Hotel**



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

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## DAY 13 - Fly to Buenos Aires

We have a three hour drive back to Calafate this morning, in time for our afternoon flight to Buenos Aires. The rest of the afternoon and evening is at our leisure, and for those who wish there may be the opportunity to take in one of the city's famous tango shows.



ACCOMMODATION:  
Hotel Principado (or similar)



Grade: Comfortable Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

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## DAY 14 - Fly Iguazu

Driving back to the airport you will fly (unescorted) to Puerto Iguazu (Argentina), where you will be met by a local guide. During your time here you will get the chance to visit the Brazilian and Argentinean sides of the falls, to witness for yourselves what are arguably the most beautiful waterfalls on the planet. Set amidst the lush landscapes of the Parque Nacional do Iguazú Reserve, the falls are one of nature's true masterpieces, a spectacular cascade of some 275 interconnecting falls that hurtle over high cliffs into a marvellous curved amphitheatre- a breathtaking sight that extends 3km across the Rio Iguazu. Viewed from the Brazilian side the Falls present themselves in all their majestic and powerful glory and the noise is tremendous, with huge clouds of soaking mist being churned up by the cascade. The national park was declared a World Heritage Site in 1986 and its trails are a paradise for nature lovers, the surrounding spray-soaked forest providing a rich haven for some spectacular flora and fauna, with over 2,000 plant species and over 400 different types of birds being recorded here, as well as countless mammals, insects and reptiles. The canopy meanwhile is alive with a rich array of brightly plumaged toucans, parrots, humming birds and colourful butterflies, whilst the forest floor boasts jaguars, mountain lions, tapirs and capuchin monkeys. Please note while staying in Iguazu transfers are not in a private vehicle but may be shared with others.



ACCOMMODATION:  
Hotel Saint George (or similar)



Grade: Comfortable Hotel





SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



SWIMMING POOL AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

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### **DAY 15 - Discover the falls from the Argentinean side**

From the Argentinean side of the Falls you can see an altogether more extensive view of this incredible cascade, with the added bonus of generally fewer tourists. A walk to the churning caldron of the Garganta del Diablo (the Devil's Throat) presents you with possibly the most powerful waterfall on the planet, where a series of 14 separate falls merge into one, to produce a spectacular torrent.



ACCOMMODATION:  
Hotel Saint George (or similar)



Grade: Comfortable Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



SWIMMING POOL AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

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### **DAY 16 - Return to Buenos Aires by flight**

This morning is left free to relax at the hotel before your return flight to Buenos Aires.



ACCOMMODATION:

Hotel Principado (or similar)

Grade: Comfortable Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

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### DAY 17 - Trip ends Buenos Aires

The trip ends after breakfast at our hotel in Buenos Aires.

There are no activities planned today, so you are free to depart from Buenos Aires at any time. If your flight is departing later in the day, luggage storage facilities are available at our hotel. If you would like to receive a complimentary airport transfer today, you need to depart from either Aeroparque Internacional Jorge Newbery (AEP) or Ezeiza International Airport (EZE).



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

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## Trip information

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### Climate and country information

#### Argentina

##### Climate

Argentina has a climate that ranges from subtropical in the north to cold in the temperate south. The Andes has erratic rainfall and flash floods from December to May. From June to September spring like sunny days temper the cold nights.

##### Time difference to GMT

+4 PT

##### Plugs

3 Pin Flat

##### Religion

Predominantly Roman Catholic.

##### Language

Spanish is the main language throughout this region, along with a number of indigenous dialects, of

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# Chile

## Climate

The best time to visit is spring (Sept-Nov) and autumn (March- April). Between June and September the heat in the northern part of the country is less intense. Remember rain can fall at any time of the year and the weather is changeable in the mountains. Easter Island has a tropical climate so is likely to be quite hot and humid. It can also rain there in the evenings and become chilly.

Time difference to GMT	Plugs	Religion
-4	2 Pin Round	Predominantly Roman Catholic.

## Language

Spanish, Aymara, Rapanui.

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## Budgeting and packing

## Optional activities

The following excursions and/or activities are usually available and may be arranged locally. Estimated costs are provided below for guidance only, are on a per person basis unless shown otherwise, and may depend on the number of participants. Prices quoted are correct as of the date these tour notes were originally issued but may change at any time due to currency fluctuations. Please note: These activities are booked and paid for direct with the supplier and do not form part of your Explore holiday contract.

A selection of optional activities are listed below to help you budget for your adventure. Whilst the basic tour price you pay before you travel includes a great selection of highlights, we have also built in free time to allow you the flexibility to choose from a carefully selected range of additional excursions and activities. Alternatively, take time to relax; the choice is yours.

Argentina is undeniably an expensive destination to visit, and the costs of these optional excursions do show that. However, please remember that at certain destinations there may be several options to choose from and it may not be possible to fit all the activities in.

Day 2 or Day 13: Buenos Aires - Tango Show/Dinner US\$ 120, without dinner US\$ 70.

Day 3: Ushuaia - Beagle Channel Catamaran inc. Penguins viewing US\$66;

Day 3: Ushuaia - Estancia Harberton and Isla Martillo US\$144 + US\$20 entrance fee (all boat trips have an additional 20 pesos harbour tax);

Day 3 or 4: Ushuaia - End of the World Museum US\$15

Day 7: Torres Del Paine - Base Torres trek US\$150-US\$177 (depending on numbers)

Day 8: Torres Del Paine - Boat trip to visit Serrano River and glacier US\$ 140;

Day 10: El Calafate - Boat trip to view Perito Moreno glacier US\$22;

Day 10: El Calafate - Perito Moreno Ice Trek (ages 65 and under due to Glaciares National Park regulations) US\$133 without transfers, US\$150 inc. transfers

Day 11: El Chalten - Viedma Glacier boat trip US\$78;

Day 11: El Chalten - Huemul Reservation (includes Guide, transfers + Entrance Fee) - minimum 2 Pax US\$D 160 per person

Day 11: El Chalten - Lago Del Desierto and Vespignani Glacier Boat and Hike US\$70

Optional excursions can be paid in either USD cash (not dispensed by ATMs in Argentina or Chile), or Argentinian Pesos, at the daily exchange rate. At Torres del Paine, payment is only accepted in USD, and the hotel charges a 19% interest on the use of Chilean Pesos.

Card payments are also accepted. However, suppliers often charge extra for a card payment, up to approximately 10% of the quoted price above.

## **Clothing**

A warm sweater or fleece, good waterproofs and a windproof jacket are all essential. We also recommend bringing waterproof trousers as weather conditions can change suddenly whilst walking. Laundry services are available throughout.

## **Footwear**

Comfortable and sturdy walking boots with good ankle support and tread are essential. Trainers or sandals for relaxing in.

## **Luggage**

15Kg

### **Luggage: On tour**

One main piece of baggage and daypack.

Total allowance for your international flight: 44lb/20kg. Luggage limit for domestic flights is 15kg. You may leave excess luggage at the hotel in Buenos Aires.

Remember you are expected to carry your own luggage so don't overload yourself.

## **Equipment**

Binoculars, torch, water bottle, insect repellent, suncream (at least factor 15), good quality sunglasses and a lipsalve with sun protection and walking poles (if you use them).

## **Tipping**

### **Explore leader**

Tipping isn't compulsory, and we work hard to ensure that our leaders all receive a fair wage. However, you might want to recognise a leader that's done a great job or really added to your trip by giving them a tip. We're often asked about the recommended amount. It's a tricky one, and down to personal preference, but we'd recommend between £15 to £20 per person per week as a guideline

### **Local crew**

Although entirely voluntary, tipping is a recognized part of life in this region of the world. Some local staff will look to members of the group for personal recognition of particular services provided. In order to make things easier for you, your leader may organise a group's tips kitty for included activities and meals and if this is the case, they will account for it throughout the tour.

Accordingly, you should allow US\$ 60, approx. 2'650 Argentine Pesos for group tipping

For all non-included services and meals on your trip please tip independently at your discretion.

## Argentina

### Food and drink

The costs for meals may vary depending upon location, type of restaurant and number of courses eaten and so the prices given are an average guide. Local restaurants located off the beaten track may be less expensive, whereas an upmarket restaurant located in the centre of a major city may charge more.

<b>Lunch price</b>	<b>Dinner price</b>	<b>Beer price</b>	<b>Water price</b>
£11	£20	£3-4	£2

### Foreign Exchange

#### Local currency

Argentine Peso (ARS)

#### Recommended Currency For Exchange

You can choose to either change your money in advance or on arrival at the airport. Here you will find both ATMs and Bureau de Change. You may wish to take additional USD cash in order to pay for optional excursions, which is not dispensed by ATMs in Argentina.

#### Where To Exchange

Your Tour Leader will advise you on arrival.

#### ATM Availability

Available in Buenos Aires. In Patagonia some cards with Chip and Pin do not work in the ATM machines. Always have some cash as back-up as they are not always reliable

#### Credit Card Acceptance

Credit card are widely accepted in many shops and restaurants but some may be subject to a service charge

#### Travellers Cheques

We do not recommend Travellers Checks

## Chile

### Food and drink

The costs for meals may vary depending upon location, type of restaurant and number of courses eaten and so the prices given are an average guide. Local restaurants located off the beaten track may be less expensive, whereas an upmarket restaurant located in the centre of a major city may charge more.

<b>Lunch price</b>	<b>Dinner price</b>	<b>Beer price</b>	<b>Water price</b>
£13	£20	£3.00 - 4.00	£2

## Foreign Exchange

### Local currency

Peso.

### Recommended Currency For Exchange

Carry all your funds in US cash NOT Sterling. We recommend to take a minimum of US\$400-\$500 of your total spending money in cash for your tour, in mixed denominations. Notes should be in good condition otherwise they might be difficult to exchange.

### Where To Exchange

Tour Leader will advise on arrival

### ATM Availability

Available in Major towns. Always have some cash as back-up as they are not always reliable

### Credit Card Acceptance

Credit cards are useful and can be used in many places, but may be subject to a service charge.

### Travellers Cheques

Travellers' Cheques can be awkward or expensive to change

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## Transport, Accommodation & Meals

### Transport Information

Bus, Ferry, Flight

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## Essential Information

### Government Travel Safety Advice

We strongly recommend that you check your government's travel advisory for up-to-date information and advice about your destination: safety and security, entry requirements, health, local laws and customs. For UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office advice [click here](#).

For more information from Explore about travel advice, [click here](#)

### Under 18 immigration guidance

Please note that some countries require proof of parental consent when travelling overseas with under 18s. Please check requirements with the relevant embassy or consular office well in advance of travel if this applies to your party.

### Price Guarantee

Once your booking has been confirmed we guarantee the price will not increase, whatever the circumstances. Before booking please ensure you have read our important tour pricing information. [Booking Conditions](#)



## Visa and Passport Information

Please note we require a photocopy of your passport 3 month pre departure.

It is essential that you provide Explore with a photo copy of your passport at the time of booking, as this will be required in order to confirm accommodation.

Argentina: Visas are not required for UK, US, Canadian, Australian and New Zealand citizens.

Please note Australian passport holders will need make a payment called the 'reciprocity fee' in advance of travel to enter Argentina. This currently costs US\$ 100. This payment needs to be made online at <http://www.migraciones.gov.ar/accesible/templates/reciprocidad/reciprocidad.htm> The receipt generated at the time of online payment must be printed and given to local immigration authorities together with your passport.

Chile: Visas are not required for UK, New Zealand, Australian, US and Canadian citizens.

Other nationalities should consult the relevant consulate.

All visa information is subject to change. You should confirm all visa related issues with the relevant Embassy prior to departure.

USA: (including those in transit) Citizens of the UK, New Zealand, Australia, Canada and passport holders from several EU countries can enter the United States without a visa under the Visa Waiver Program (VWP) - where you apply for an ESTA (Electronic System for Travel Authorisation), which applies if you enter the country by sea or by air. This must be done on line - <https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov> no later than 72 hours prior to travel. Travellers who have not registered before their trip are likely be refused boarding.

You must have an electronic passport with a digital chip containing biometric information about the passport owner. UK passports which are biometric feature a small gold symbol (camera) at the bottom of the front cover.

If you have visited Iraq, Syria, Iran or Sudan since 2011 or are dual nationals of these countries, you cannot travel with an ESTA and instead you will need to apply for a visa from the nearest US Embassy or Consulate. If you are unable to provide a valid visa before boarding flights to the US, or entering via another method, you may not be permitted to travel.

Please note for your ESTA application you will be required to supply Point of Contact information. Explore's USA contact information will be listed on your final documentation which you will receive approximately 3-4 weeks before departure. If you are leaving for the USA before this, please call the Explore team to get this information.(Not necessary if in transit)

For further information please check out the US embassy website. Visa applications - <http://london.usembassy.gov/niv/apply.html>

Canada: An electronic travel authorisation (ETA) is required by British citizens transiting via Canada. For more information see the official Canadian government website:

<http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/visit/eta.asp>

Other nationalities should consult their local embassy or consular office.

If you do require assistance in obtaining a visa then you may be able to apply through Explore's recommended visa service in the UK, Travcour. See [www.travcour.com](http://www.travcour.com) to download the relevant visa application for your trip, if applicable (UK citizens only), along with details of how to apply for your visa through Travcour. The Team at Travcour will be happy to answer specific questions relating to visa applications, please call them directly on 0208 5431846.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you are in possession of a full passport, with the correct validity for your chosen destination.

## Booking conditions

Before booking your Explore trip, please ensure that you read both our Essential Information and Booking Conditions.

## Transfers

Find out more about [Trip Transfer Terms and Conditions](#) before you book.

### Booking a land only package with Explore

Customers who have chosen to book on the 'Land Only' arrangements of our tour, please ensure that you have checked your tour specific 'Joining Instructions' prior to booking your own travel arrangements. Your joining instructions can be found below in the dates and prices information.

You may also be eligible for the Free Explore Transfer.

### Joining Tour Abroad

Customers booked on the 'Land Only' arrangements will receive a Free Transfer, provided you arrive and depart on the tour only itinerary start and end dates. The complimentary transfers will be arranged from the Explore designated airport or train station to your trips joining point, and then back from the ending point to the designated airport or train station. Generally the airport or station that Explore have selected will be the one that is closest to the town or city where the trip starts, or the one nearest to the joining point. It will be either an airport or train station but not both.

The exception to this rule is customers who are booked on a tour where the joining and ending point is at the designated airport or train station.

Free transfers are not available for Self-Guided, Polar, Tailormade or Tours for Churches customers.

If you are not eligible for the Free Transfer then you will need to make your own way through to the joining and ending point. On a majority of our tours Explore will be able to provide a private transfer at an additional cost. Please ask for a quote at the time of booking.

For more information regarding the Explore Free Transfer [click here](#)

## Insurance

It is a condition of booking with Explore that you have adequate valid travel insurance. It is your responsibility to arrange appropriate travel insurance and ensure you have read and understood the full terms and conditions of your travel insurance policy to ensure that you are covered for all activities you intend to undertake whilst on the tour, including all optional activities. Your Insurance Policy must fully cover you for medical expenses and emergency repatriation to your home country. Please ensure your policy includes medical emergency helicopter evacuation in the event of illness or injury and covers the

entire duration of your holiday. If you are trekking at altitude please ensure that there is no upper altitude limit which may limit or exclude cover for your trip. The cost of many of our Polar Voyages will exceed the capped amount covered by standard insurance premiums and you will be required to pay an additional premium to cover the full value of your trip. Please ensure that you are covered for the full amount of your holiday cost, as insufficient cover could invalidate a claim under the policy. Medical and repatriation insurance cover is not mandatory for UK residents who are travelling on trips within the United Kingdom.

Read more information about what travel insurance is required.

## **Flight information**

Explore offers a wide range of flexible flying options to make joining and leaving our trips easy. Read more about them here.

### **Flight Information**

You are able to book this tour on a 'land only' basis or as a 'flight inclusive' package. Your flight inclusive package will be fully protected by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) ATOL protection scheme.

### **Booking a flight inclusive package with Explore**

We have a good selection of flights not only from London but from many regional airports around the UK allowing us to compare fares between scheduled carriers as well as low cost and charter airlines. Our dedicated flights team will match the best flight options to your arrival and departure airport.

On our website we display a UK flight inclusive package guide price which is generally based on a London departure. To avoid paying supplements or to secure your preferred flight option, we recommend booking as early as possible, especially for peak travel dates.

## **Argentina**

### **Vaccinations**

Nothing compulsory, we recommend protection against typhoid, tetanus, polio and hepatitis A. Please consult your travel clinic for the latest advice on Malaria, Dengue and Zika Virus. Please take preventative measures to avoid mosquito bites - these include mosquito repellent as well as long trousers and long sleeve shirts to cover up when necessary. Please note many countries in Central America, South America and the Caribbean require a yellow fever vaccination certificates if traveling from infected areas. A detailed list of these countries can be found on the NaTHNaC website - <http://travelhealthpro.org.uk/countries>. Also on the NaTHNaC site there is a list of Countries (and specific areas within a country) which are at risk of infection and a vaccination is therefore recommended. Yellow fever is only recommended for those traveling to Iguazu falls. Please check the latest requirements with your travel clinic or doctor prior to departure. The above is not an exhaustive list. Further information regarding vaccinations and travel health advice can be found by following the NHS and NaTHNaC links at Explore Travel Health and from your local healthcare provider. Visa and vaccination requirements are subject to change and should be confirmed by you before traveling.

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## **Chile**

### **Vaccinations**

Nothing compulsory, we recommend protection against typhoid, tetanus, diphtheria, polio and hepatitis A. Please consult your travel clinic for the latest advice on Malaria, Dengue Fever and Zika Virus. Please take preventative measures to avoid mosquito bites - these include mosquito repellent as well as long trousers and long sleeve shirts to cover up when necessary. Please note many countries in Central

America, South America and the Caribbean require a yellow fever vaccination certificates if travelling from infected areas. A detailed list of these countries can be found on the NaTHNaC website - <http://travelhealthpro.org.uk/countries>. Also on the NaTHNaC site there is a list of Countries (and specific areas within a country) which are at risk of infection and a vaccination is therefore recommended. Please check the latest requirements with your travel clinic or doctor prior to departure. The above is not an exhaustive list. Further information regarding vaccinations and travel health advice can be found by following the NHS and NaTHNaC links at Explore Travel Health and from your local healthcare provider. Visa and vaccination requirements are subject to change and should be confirmed by you before travelling.

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## Additional Information



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## Reviews



**AWARD WINNING  
EXPLORE LEADERS**



**PRICE GUARANTEE  
PROMISE**



**AIRPORT  
TRANSFERS**