



Argentina Discovery

www.argentinadiscovery.com

PAT - Full Patagonia Adventure

15 days - 14 nights

El Chalten, Calafate, Torres del Paine, Ushuaia

The PAT – Full Patagonia Adventure starts at El Calafate and goes all the way down to Ushuaia, visiting Fitz Roy and Cerro Torre, may be the two most emblematic mountains of Patagonia, Perito Moreno Glacier (only one in the world that shows a closure and rupture process), Torres del Paine National Park in Chile and eventually across the Magellan Strait into Tierra del Fuego to finish our tour in the “city of the end of the world”.

The tour offers the very best of Patagonia, which you will travel in an active way, enjoying the company of fellow travelers.

Travel Styles	Adventure
Season:	October through April
Beginning day:	Saturdays
Departure:	Group
Minimum of pax	No Minimum.
Difficulty:	Low difficulty
Trip starts at:	El Calafate airport
Trip ends at:	Ushuaia airport

Day	Itinerary	Day	Itinerary
01	El Calafate	09	Las Torres, Ascensio River Valley
02	Bus a El Chalten - Laguna Capri	10	Lake Pehoe boat trip French Valley
03	Cerro Fitz Roy	11	Viewpoints of Grey Glacier
04	Cerro Torre	12	Puerto Natales - Río Grande
05	Cerro Torre - El Calafate	13	Tierra del Fuego - Tierra Mayor Valley
06	El Chalten - El Calafate	14	Ushuaia - Tierra del Fuego National Park & Beagle Channel boat trip
07	Perito Moreno Glacier	15	Ushuaia - Ushuaia airport
08	El Calafate - Torres del Paine		

Itinerary

Day 1 ■ El Calafate airport – El Calafate

We welcome you at Calafate airport and transfer to town to check in at your hostel. You get the rest of the day to enjoy the town and later you have your welcome dinner.

- **Lodging in a Hostel room with shared bathroom** / Meals we provide: Dinner
- **Alternative: Hosteria or Inn, double or single room with private bathroom** / Meals we provide: Dinner

Day 2 ■ Bus to El Chaltén – Laguna Capri

After breakfast we take our bus for the 220 km long drive to El Chaltén, a small and picturesque village at the foot of Fitz Roy & Cerro Torre massif. We make a stop half way to enjoy local pastries and hot coffee. Once in Chaltén, we'll meet fellow travellers coming from up north (Route 40) and start our trek. We carry in our packs only the necessary items for this 3 nights and 4 days in which we'll overnight in our Full Camps inside the National Park.

We hike up a gentle slope on Fitz Roy trail to gain height over the River de las Vueltas valley up to the first viewpoints over Fitz Roy massif. Our hike to Laguna Capri will take us no more than 2 hours and a half, in a clear and easy trail. Once on our Laguna Capri Full Camp, we leave our stuff in our tent and we enjoy an afternoon walk to the sightseeing points around the lagoon. Full Camps are pitched up early in the season, so we find the camp ready upon arrival. It offers comfortable 3 people igloo type tents for each 2 passengers, with mattresses and sleeping bags. An inside cotton sheet is provided as inner clothing for the sleeping bag. The camp also features a spacious dining tent, a kitchen tent, tables, benches or chairs and a full set of table service and kitchenware.

- **Lodging at Laguna Capri Full Camp in double or single tent (rural area)** / Meals we provide: Breakfast, box lunch, dinner

Day 3 ■ Cerro Fitz Roy, Laguna de los Tres

Early in the morning, before the first coffee, we can try to match up the morning Light getting pink in Fitz Roy granite walls. You only need this to feel the trip is worthwhile. But of course the day offers much more.

After breakfast, carrying only day personal items such as our parka, gloves, our camera, water bottle and box lunch, we hike along Fitz Roy trail up to Rio Blanco, climbers basecamp to the east side of the mountain. From here a steep 1 h trail leads us to one of the most spectacular viewpoints of the National Park: Laguna de los Tres, with its zephyr blue colour, lays at the foot of the massif, offering full close up views of Fitz Roy massif spires and glaciers. Each wall rises something from 600 to 1500 mts above the surrounding glaciers. Fitz Roy, with its 3405 mts above sea level, is considered the "King of Patagonia" and also considered one of the three most beautiful mountains on Earth (together with Alpamayo in Perú and K2 in the Karakoram). We hike back to Laguna Capri in the late afternoon. Walking time is 5 to 6 hs.

- **Lodging at Laguna Capri Full Camp in double or single tent (rural area)** / Meals we provide: Breakfast, box lunch, dinner

Day 4 ■ Cerro Torre

Today we make it around Laguna Capri to get to the Lagoons Madre and Hija Valley and down to Fitz Roy river valley, where we meet Cerro Torre trail and we get to Cerro Torre Full Camp. The trail runs along beech forest, bogs and shrubland. From the camp, a short hike takes us to Laguna Torre, enclosed by moraines and with the Glacier Grande calving in its west side. It is usual to see icebergs pushed by the wind in the coast of the lagoon. The thin and elegant 3128 mts of Cerro Torre group and the Adela range in the background complete this spectacular view. Walking time 3 to 4 hs.

- **Lodging at Cerro Torre Full Camp in double or single tent (rural area)** / Meals we provide: Breakfast, box lunch, dinner

Day 5 ■ Lagoon & Glacier Torre – El Chalten

In the morning we visit Laguna Torre again to reach the old Maestri base camp, located in a high site up along the north moraine of the lagoon. For keen hikers, we offer an optional excursion, the so called "Holiday on Ice": early start, crampons and harnesses, a tyrolean (horizontal fixed rope attached to both sides of a river) to cross Fitz Roy river, and we visit Glacier Grande, where we will visit crevices, ice caves and we'll practice ice climbing with the proper advice of experienced mountain guides.

Late in the afternoon we walk back to Chaltén along Fitz Roy river valley. Total estimated time of the standard day: 4 to 5 hs. If you go on the "Holiday on Ice", it is 7 hs plus the trail back to Chalten which is 2 and a half hours more.

Optional excursion: Holiday On Ice

- **Lodging in a Hostel room with shared bathroom.** / Meals we provide: Breakfast, box lunch and dinner
- **Alternative: Hosteria or Inn, double or single room with private bathroom** / Meals we provide: Breakfast, box lunch and dinner

Day 6 ■ El Chalten – El Calafate

Morning at your own to visit the picturesque village or to make optional excursions such as Lago del Desierto (in spite of its name, its a beautiful, beech forest surrounded lake, with hanging glaciers in its west side), or to see very interesting information at the National Park Visitor Centre.

By 5 pm we take our bus to our next destination, El Calafate, gateway for the glaciers area of the Park. Arrival time is scheduled for 9 pm. Driving distance: 220 km

- **Lodging in a Hostel room with shared bathroom.** / Meals we provide: Breakfast
- **Alternative: Hosteria or Inn, double or single room with private bathroom** / Meals we provide: Breakfast

Day 7 ■ El Calafate – Perito Moreno Glacier

We dedicate this day to one of the World's Natural Wonder: the Moreno glacier. This ice field- type glacier flows down from the Patagonian Icefield, a big sheet of ice that with its 22.000 square kilometres is the third largest glacier area in the world, after Antarctica (14 M sq km) and Greenland (1 M sq km). Because unusual favourable local conditions, this glacier is the only one in the world that shows a closure and rupture process. The road leads to the very front of the glacier, which will be only meters away from your eyes. A beautiful, short trail, will lead us from the shores of the lake to the upper viewpoints. The roar of the chunks of ice falling inside the glacier or from the glacier into the lake, the frequent collapse of the front seracs into the turquoise water, makes out of this day a very special and unique experience. We will drive 80 km (1 and a half hour) to get and come back from the glacier across the steppe, watching a wide variety of birds.

- **Lodging in a Hostel room with shared bathroom.** / Meals we provide: Breakfast
- **Alternative: Hosteria or Inn, double or single room with private bathroom** / Meals we provide: Breakfast

Day 8 ■ El Calafate – Torres del Paine National Park

Early start for a 6 hs drive to our camp in Paine. We drive across the steppe, still following by parts the legendary route 40, to get around Sierra de los Baguales, an impressive range in between Calafate and Paine. We cross the Argentinean Chilean border at Cancha Carrera/ Cerro Castillo. After the border crossing, we start our final sprint to Paine National Park, World Heritage by the UNESCO (United Nations Education, Science and Culture Organization). Approaching the Park, we start to see the different mountains that feature the area: Paine Grande, the Horns, Admiral Nieto and the Towers. We enter the Park by Porteria Sarmiento. A rich wildlife: guanacos, lesser rheas, condors and all types of wetland and buzzard birds, will be available for our eyes and cameras. We'll stop in the Lake Nordenskjöld and in Salto Grande viewpoints for short walks. In the afternoon we continue to visit the westernmost side of the National Park, lake Grey area, where a short and easy hike along the south shore of the lake allow us to enjoy the blue icebergs that calving from the glacier in the northern side of the lake are pushed by the wind to this side.

Lake Pehoe Full Camp keeps the style of Laguna Capri and Cerro Torre Full Camps, but combined with the first class facilities provided by the campsite: good and clean bathrooms and hot water showers, water and electricity in each camping site.

- **Lodging at Camping Pehoe Full Camp in double or single tent (area with sanitary services)** / Meals we provide: Breakfast, box lunch, dinner.

Day 9 ■ Paine Towers – Ascencio River Valley

We drive an tour to get to Estancia Cerro Paine, headtrail for the world famous Paine towers. We "warm up" hiking a steep one hour slope, to get inside the Ascencio river valley, a narrow "V" shape alpine valley coming from inside the Paine massif. A gentle downhill leads us to Refugio Chileno, a cozy and comfortable mountain lodge, which can be a good turnaround point for those not willing to make a full day hike. We then walk in a gentle slope along the river side and inside beech forest. A final climb on moraine take us to the Towers viewpoint: a glacier origin lagoon and the three towers rising vertically 1000 mts from the glacier. The lack of breath will be either because the climb and the sight!!!! We go back to our camp on the same way we came. Walking time: 7 to 8 hs.

- **Lodging at Camping Pehoe Full Camp in double or single tent (area with sanitary services)** / Meals we provide: Breakfast, box lunch, dinner.

Day 10 ■ Lake Pehoe crossing – French Valley

Early in the morning a short drive takes us to Port Pudeto to board the catamarán that cross lake Pehoe twice a day. We carry only the necessary stuff to be 2 days and 1 night away from our Camping Pehoe Full Camp, where the rest of our luggage will stay. One in the far side of the lake, we leave unnecessary items in our tents and we set out to the French Valley trail. The trail skirts Paine Grande south slopes and lake Skottberg, to take us after 2 hs and a half of continuous ups and downs, to the hanging bridge upon the French River. This breathtaking location is at the foot of both the 2700 mts south east face of Paine Grande (to the west) and the Horns, with its characteristic black sedimentary topping, to the east. Keen hikers can go on and reach the upper viewpoints of the valley, from where you see the whole group of spires that feature the high valley: Hoja (Blade), Máscara (Mask), Espada (Sword), Catedral (Cathedral), Aleta de Tiburón (Shark Fin) and the magnificent Fortaleza (The Fortress).

Walking time for those who reach the upper viewpoints: 8 to 9 hs. For those reaching the lower viewpoints: 5 to 6.

We retrace our steps back to Refugio Pehoe Full Camp.

- **Lodging at Refugio Pehoe Full Camp in double or single tent (area with sanitary services)** / Meals we provide: Breakfast, box lunch, dinner.

Day 11 ■ Glaciar Grey viewpoints

Lake Grey trail leads from Pehoe Valley across ridges to reach Grey valley. This magnificent valley flows down somewhat of 60 km from the Patagonian Icefield, featuring the huge glacier calving down in the grey colour lake. Our trail skirts the lake, going up and down the westerns slopes of Paine Grande, offering some of the most impressive sights of the Park. From the high sections of the trail, many different viewpoints allow us to see the south end of the lake where the blue icebergs gather, the mountains rising far in the distance above glaciers Grey and Tyndall, and of course lake and glacier Grey. We reach the main viewpoint, a rocky point somewhat 2 hs away from Pehoe, with views over the Lake and Glacier Grey and the surrounding glaciers and mountains. We come back along the same trail, crossing bogs, shrublands and forest. By noon we take the boat to cross lake Pehoe back and then we go to our accommodation in Puerto Natales, a picturesque fishermen town located in the shores of the Ultima Esperanza (Last Hope) fiord.

- **Lodging in a Hostel room with shared bathroom** / Meals we provide: Breakfast, box lunch
- **Alternative: Hosteria or Inn, double or single room with private bathroom** / Meals we provide: Breakfast, box lunch

Day 12 ■ Puerto Natales – Río Grande

Long drive today, though quite worthwhile. We continue south to reach the legendary Magellan Strait, which we will keep on sight up to Primera Angostura, where we board the Ferry in which we will cross the Strait. This Pass, discovered by Hernando de Magallanes in 1520, was the natural and logical

way to all vessels until the Panama Channel was open at the beginning of the XXth century. You will find yourselves wondering how those brave men dare to sail those waters in such fragile caravels!!! Once in Tierra del Fuego (literally, Land of Fire, due to the fires seen by the first white sailors in the coast, done by the local Indians to cook and heat) we enter back Argentina through Paso San Sebastián. A couple more of hours to reach Estancia Las Hijas, where our Full Camp will be waiting for us, as well as a lamb cooked in the classical Patagonian barbecue style. A dinning saloon, toilettes and showers are available tonight.

- **Lodging at Full Camp in double or single tent (area with sanitary services)** / Meals we provide: Breakfast, box lunch

Day 13 ■ **Río Grande - Tierra Mayor valley**

In the morning we learn about the ranch activities and how dogs deal with the sheep. By mid morning we continue south to Solar del Bosque, a small and cozy mountain refuge located in the Tierra Mayor valley, where we'll spend the rest of the day. After lunch, those who wish to can by their own visit Laguna Esmeralda, a beautiful lagoon with Glacier Ojos del Albino in the background (a quite easy trail). On the way back to our lodge across terrain that has been modified by the beavers, which were introduced in the area from Canada by middle of the last century.

- **Lodging in Mountain Lodge with shared bedrooms and bathrooms** / Meals we provide: Breakfast, box lunch, dinner.

Day 14 ■ **Ushuaia – Tierra del Fuego National Park– Beagle Channel boat trip**

We leave behind the valley and a half an hour drive leads us to Ushuaia, the southernmost city of the World. We leave our luggage in our hostel or hotel (we will not check in, as it is still early in the morning) and continue to Tierra del Fuego National Park. This National Park is in the south west corner of the argentinean side of the Island, thus in the border with Chile. The main attraction of the Park and the whole Island actually are the mountains coming down to the sea. We make a short hike in this area. In the afternoon, a boat trip in the Beagle channel allows us to see the different species of sea birds and mammals that live in this corner of the Earth.

- **Lodging in a Hostel room with shared bathroom** / Meals we provide: Breakfast and box lunch.
- **Alternative: Hosteria or Inn, double or single room with private bathroom** / Meals we provide: Breakfast and box lunch.

Day 15 ■ **Ushuaia – Ushuaia Airport**

Morning at your own to visit the town, which is located in the north coast of the Beagle channel. Then town features interesting museums and its typical architecture. In the afternoon we are transferred to Ushuaia airport to take our flight to Buenos Aires. Our services end at the airport.

Meals we provide: Breakfast.

Service Details

Included:

- Bilingual tour leader during all the activities
- Mountain guides while on trek.
- Moreno Glacier excursion.
- Lake Pehoe boat trips (in and out).
- Beagle channel boat trip.
- All transfers El Calafate airport – El Calafate - El Chalten – El Calafate – Torres del Paine – Puerto Natales - Río Grande – Ushuaia – Ushuaia Airport.
- During the trip we combine private and regular buses.
- Lodging as shown below.
- 14 breakfasts, 11 box lunch y 10 dinners as detailed below.

Not included:

- Entrance fees to National Parks.
- Medical and life insurance.
- Tips.
- Drinks and beverages (all foods are without alcoholic or non alcoholic drinks).
- Flights or airport taxes.
- Port tax at Ushuaia.
- Optional excursions.
- Services not shown or detailed in the program.

Notes

Argentina Discovery holds the right of changing the itinerary or cancel any of the activities when any natural cause (or any other cause of any type) justifies it in order to look after the group safety.

Lodging

We offer the Full Patagonia Adventure in three different type of accommodations.

Base Accommodation (PAT – 00) Hostel Room

The Base Offer (PAT 00) lodge is shown in the following chart.

NIGHTS	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14
(PAT 00) Hostel room with shared bathroom	x				x	x	x				x			x
Full Camp double basis (rural area)		x	x	x										
Full Camp double basis (area with sanitary services)								x	x	x		x		
Mountain Refuge with shared room and bathroom													x	

Accommodation (PAT – 01 and PAT- 02) Double or Single Room with Private Bathroom

These alternatives lodge as shown in the following chart, in double base (PAC 01) or single base (PAC 02) during all the trip but one night (at Solar del Bosque, in which this option is not available)

They differ from the previous one that passengers stay in Hotels, Hosterias or Inns in double room with private bathroom (not in a Hostel) and the single room option is available.

When you choose single base, you have single base accommodations at the Full Camp tents too.

NIGHTS	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14
(PAT 01) Hostel room with shared bathroom	x				x	x	x				x			x
Full Camp double basis (rural area)		x	x	x										
Full Camp double basis (area with sanitary services)								x	x	x		x		
Mountain Refuge with shared room and bathroom													x	
(PAT 02) Single base option available	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x

Meals

Meals included in the trip are shown in the following chart.

DAYS	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15
Breakfast		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x
Box Lunch		x	x	x	x			x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
Dinner	x	x	x	x	x			x	x	x		x	x		

List of suggested personal equipment:

- Backpack, 50 lts or so
- Thermal underwear
- Trekking shoes or boots
- Trekking pants
- Fleece
- Parka and overpants
- Gaiters
- Gloves
- Thermal socks
- The necessary spare cloth
- Wool hat
- Sun hat
- Sun glasses
- Sun screen (UV is very strong during the southern spring, from september thru december)
- Personal items
- Lamp
- Trekking poles (recommended, if you are use to them)
- Personal medication
- Personal documents to cross the border between Argentina and Chile.

Weather in Patagonia is unpredictable. Not very cold, but it is usually windy. To dress in layers is the best advice.

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