

Overview

Though our past hikes on the Milford Track/New Zealand, Inca Trail/Machu Picchu, Glacier/US, and various areas of Switzerland/Austria were particularly memorable, I 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 a wide range of areas on the Patagonian Andes, it is easy to see how Torres del Paine 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 and private reserves stretch 1242 miles across the Andean wilderness. Interestingly, during my last visit with a small party of 5 Explora hikers, we had several opportunities to observe giant condors flying overhead, while never seeing another human being outside of our own tiny group!

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. With the likes of high-touch Explora Patagonia, Eolo Patagonia, and Singular Patagonia, rest assured, no roughing it here!

<p>ARGENTINA</p> <p>Temperature Highs: Low 80's Lows: Mid 60's</p> <p>Area 2.8 Million SQ KM 1.1 Million SQ MILES</p> <p>Population 40.6 Million</p> <p>Language Spanish</p> <p>Capital Buenos Aires</p> <p>Currency Pesos</p>	<p>CHILE</p> <p>Temperature Highs: Mid 80's Lows: Mid 50's</p> <p>Area 756,096 SQ KM 291,930 SQ MILES</p> <p>Population 17.3 Million</p> <p>Language Spanish</p> <p>Capital Santiago</p> <p>Currency Chilean Peso</p>
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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, the 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 include a rooftop bar with park views, a small outdoor pool, and a spa featuring a Jacuzzi, steam room, sauna, and gym. Perhaps the Singular's biggest asset is its high-energy, engaging staff and outstanding service!

Meals: Lunch, Dinner

Accommodations: Singular Santiago

Day 3

Discretionary Santiago Private Touring

With Bohemian Castaria neighborhood as your base, you may opt to take a half day tour of Santiago's fun central district.

Meals: Breakfast

Accommodations: Singular Santiago

Day 4

Fly Santiago/Puerto Natales + Drive Puerto Natales/Torres del Paine

This morning you will travel to Torres del Paine, a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve containing a complex intertwining of ecosystems. Upon arrival, you will be checked-in to Explora Patagonia.

Explora Patagonia (RL)

The extraordinary Explora Patagonia is our favorite luxury lodge in the entire 1,242 ft. stretch of the Patagonia Andes. The 49-room Explora Patagonia, Chile 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 montage 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. Perhaps not as architecturally striking as the Singular, the Explora 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 Jacuzzis 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/horseback riding options, this place is certainly worthy of a 4-night stay. Of special note, Explora is the only lodge in Patagonia with its own bred and trained stable of 26 horses (including Arabian!). All horses have been raised on the Ibanez Estate, not far from the Explora property.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Accommodations: Explora Patagonia

Day 5 - 7

Explora Patagonia Excursions

Depending on your physical fitness level and general interests, Explora offers a wide variety of hiking and horseback options ranging from beginner to experienced in a number of astounding environments. While on my Patagonia scouting trip, I viewed two pumas in one afternoon hike! (RL)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Accommodations: Explora Patagonia

Day 8

Drive Torres del Paine/El Calafate

You will be privately transferred to the quaint village of El Calafate set in a remote Patagonia landscape and check-in to Eolo Patagonia. You will have a chance to explore the Perito Moreno glacier. Centerpiece of Los Glaciares National Park, Perito Moreno measures 18 miles long, 3 miles wide, and nearly 200 feet high (approximately 20 stories!)

Eolo Patagonia (RL)

In-house manager, Valentin Virasoro, and his staff create an intimate, family-style, atmosphere at Eolo that makes you feel most welcome. With only 17 suites, this simple, upscale lodge, located approx. 15 miles from El Calafate, is truly a heavenly ranch-style property. All rooms offer varying sweeping views of Lago Anita Valley, Ago Argentino, and Torres del Paine. Similar to other high-end lodges in Patagonia, Eolo offers extensive hiking, biking, and horseback riding activities in the surrounding picturesque areas. Please note, we arrange a separate private tour excursion to the Perito Moreno Glacier from Eolo. The lodge includes a small indoor pool and a TV room for those who need a CNN fix. Noted chef, Juan Pablo Bonaver, makes dinner here a delicious, fine dining experience, though no fancy clothes required. No exaggeration in saying that the braised lamb I had here was perhaps the most tender and delicious I have had anywhere.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Accommodations: Eolo Patagonia

Day 9

Perito Moreno Excursion/El Chalten

Home to Mount Fitz Roy, Cerro Torre, Viedma Glacier and Lago Del Desierto, this full-day excursion is worth the beauty that El Chaltén holds.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Accommodations: Eolo Patagonia

Day 9

Fly El Calafate/U.S or 1-2 Nights in Buenos Aires Option