

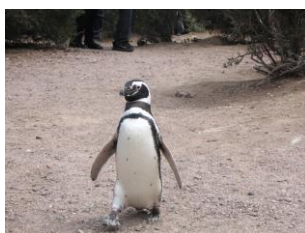
# Patagonia Walkabout



## Wild Majesty

**Magellan arrived in 1520, Darwin in 1832,  
Now, IT'S YOUR TURN in 2023/24!!!**

**The astonishing thing is how little it has changed, the carved spires of Torres del Paine, the blue glaciers and the stern magnificent loneliness.**



**At world's end, the adventure begins: 22 days from Santiago to Buenos Aires**

### **Now including:**

Pucon with the impressive Villarrica Lake & Mt Villarrica, the spectacular Lakes District of Chile & Argentina, Los Glaciares & Fitzroy National Parks in Argentina. Stay 4 nights in Torres del Paine National Park 'stunning, then *Tierra del Fuego* 'the end of the world', **finishing** in Buenos Aires.

Optional Iguassu Falls Extension

**This is your opportunity to visit the end of the world!**

**Latin Link Adventure offers you a fabulous experience in this remote and spectacular part of the world.**

Departure Dates	Cost from Santiago to Buenos Aires	Iguacu Falls Ext
12Nov 2024	NZ\$14750	\$1030
8 Mar 2025	NZ\$14750	\$1030
Costs subject to airline increases and currency fluctuations		

### **Inclusions:**

All airfares economy class between Santiago & Buenos Aires, accommodation comfortable hotels, tours & sightseeing as per itinerary, services of experienced Tour Manager and local guides, all internal transport, taxis, buses, ferryboats etc,

**Not included:** Tips, most lunch & dinner, travel insurance, personal spending

**To book:** Send completed reservation form with deposit of \$750 to secure your place

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# Information Sheet Patagonia 2024/25

## **Patagonia Walkabout**

Patagonia, an exceptional part of the world. Think of Queenstown and Central Otago then multiply it by 100 minus all the people. It's just spectacular!

We start out by flying from Santiago to Temuco to visit Pucon with its spectacular setting on Lake Villarrica with stunning Mt Villarrica. After a relaxing stop, travel overland through to the Lakes District where there are crystal clear lakes, spectacular and imposing glaciers, remote and magnificent national parks, combined with the endless snow-capped peaks of the Andes not to mention the condors, flamingos and abundant bird life.

One of the 'must sees' in this remote part of the world is the trip between Puerto Varas in Chile and Bariloche in Argentina. This trip takes us through perfectly conical shaped mountains, deep blue lakes by bus and boat. The incredible scenery keeps all aboard clicking away furiously on any device that takes a photo! Hike in the spectacular Fitzroy National Park amongst some of the most gorgeous mountain scenery in the world and stay in the cute mountain town of el Chalten.

The glaciers in Los Glaciares National Park are awesome, especially the impressive Perito Moreno. They are the size of Buenos Aires city and display vibrant hues of blue and green. Sculptured icebergs of different sizes, float by on the lake.

Next is the stunning Torres del Paine National Park where the granite pillars soar almost vertically above the Patagonian steppe with turquoise lakes, roaring rivers, creeping glaciers and dense forests provide a hikers paradise. Enjoy 4 nights in the park at our stunning eco lodge.

What really takes folk by surprise is the abundant wildlife, guanacos (from the camel family), foxes, condors by the score, flamingos, rheas, penguins, seals, beavers, all in their natural habitat, as well as, geese, birds and ducks. If you're lucky, it may be possible to glimpse the elusive puma!

Literally at the end of the world, Ushuaia's location is astounding with jagged glacial peaks rising dramatically from sea level to 1500m.

Return home via Buenos Aires and explore the "Paris of the Americas" and perhaps the opportunity for an optional side trip to the mighty Iguazu Falls.

The trip is limited to 12 people. The tour costs are based on a minimum of 6 people travelling .

**Cost for 22 days from Santiago to Buenos Aires, 12Nov'24 \$14750,8 Mar'25 \$14750**

**Single room supplement \$3200**

NB These costs are based on you flying internationally to/from South America with LATAM Airlines. Should you travel on another airline a surcharge may apply.

There are no 'hidden surprises' on arrival. Here is our long list of **INCLUSIONS:**

- All economy flights on scheduled airlines as per itinerary
- All accommodation twin/double share with private bathroom (except Torres NP share facilities)
- All breakfasts, 5 lunches, 5 Dinners
- All transport costs, taxis, buses, trains etc
- All transfers to/from airport, bus stations
- All entrance fees and sightseeing as per itinerary.
- All entrance fees into National Parks as per itinerary
- Services of professional local English-speaking guides
- Services of professional Tour Manager
- Pre-Departure Information Booklet plus phrase book

And exclusions:

- International flights to Santiago & back from Buenos Aires \*\*
- Travel Insurance – mandatory for travel to South America
- Medical costs – *make sure your tetanus is up to date.*
- See your Pre-Departure Booklet for suggested precautions.
- Food – (for lunches & dinners on days where not included) allow \$35 USD per day.
- Visas – no visas required for this spectacular journey for NZ Passport holders.
- Tips & gratuities to local guides allow US\$250.

### *NOTE ON FLIGHTS*

**\*\*International flights on LATAM Airlines Auckland–Santiago & Buenos Aires–Auckland are in addition to costs stated above. As there can be seasonal specials on airfares these can vary between NZ\$2500 and \$3000 depending on when they are purchased. We will quote you the best airfares at the time of booking and keep you informed on any seasonal specials between time of booking and departure.**

All flights are with scheduled airlines, Latam & Aerolineas Argentinas

All flights are booked by Latin Link Adventure and all LAN flights are eligible for Qantas Frequent Flyer Points.

**Optional - Extension to the spectacular *Iguazu* Falls from NZ\$1030 per person)**

Included

Accommodation: 2 nights Puerto Iguazu with breakfast

Transfers and flights to/from Iguazu

Full day sightseeing on Argentine & Brazil side of the Iguazu Falls

Day	Program	Overnight
1	<p><b><u>Auckland – Santiago - Temuco</u></b>  Depart Auckland for Santiago with LATAM Airlines. Cross the dateline and gain a day, arriving midday.  Afternoon departure on LATAM Airlines to Temuco. On arrival transfer to our comfortable hosteria in Pucon, a small city located right next to Lake Villarrica and at the foot of the spectacular Mt Villarrica and in the vicinity of three parks and a large ski resort.</p>	Pucon
2	<p><b><u>Pucon</u></b>  See the natural beauty surrounding Pucón on the excursion to the Caburgua eyes, some magnificent natural pits in the core of the Valdivian rainforest. Impressive views of Mt Villarrica overlooking the lake. We also visit the Saltos del Mariman park for a hike and after, relax in the thermal hot pools.  This evening enjoy a 'Welcome to Chile' dinner!</p>	Pucon (B,D)
3	<p><b><u>Pucon – Puerto Varas</u></b>  We travel south by bus through rolling farm country to Puerto Varas (City of Roses) in the Chilean Lakes District. The setting of this small town on the lake is picture postcard stuff, sparkling lake with snowy cone shaped mountain as a backdrop.  There's time to explore the town this afternoon and a hike around the lake .</p>	Puerto Varas (B)
4	<p><b><u>Puerto Varas</u></b>  Depart from hotel in Puerto Varas to Puerto Montt and then to Chiloé Island, rich in traditions and myths, and famous for the locals' warmth and hospitality. We sail through the Chacao Channel to Ancud, famous for its market. Afterwards, visit the Regional Museum to learn more about the history of the island, and then visit Fort San Antonio, where the Spanish retreat from American territory was signed. Later, take a hike up the Huaihuén Hill, which offers a spectacular view from the top.  Arrive in Dalcahue, visiting the traditional handicraft fair with wool and wood products.  Castro is famous for its picturesque houses on stilts called Palafitos. Visit to the Crafts Fair of Castro, where the articles made of wool, wood, and stone are sold. Return to the hotel in Puerto Varas.</p>	Puerto Varas (B)
5	<p><b><u>Andes Crossing - Puerto Varas - Bariloche</u></b>  Even more magnificent scenery as you travel across, via a series of bus, boat combinations literally through the Andes. This is a full day of the most spectacular scenery you have ever encountered. There are spectacular views of the Orsorno volcano.  Finally, you will arrive at San Carlos de Bariloche, the Switzerland of the Americas, a fabulous location on the banks of Lake Nahuel Huapi surrounded by stunning snow-capped Andean peaks.</p>	Bariloche (B)
6	<p><b><u>Bariloche</u></b>  The day to explore and enjoy the spectacular scenery, the panoramic views from the Campanario chair lift and Cerro Otto Gondola. How much stunning scenery can you handle? Have those cameras ready.</p>	Bariloche (B)

		Sample the local chocolate and ice-cream, they are delicious!	
7		<p><b><u>Bariloche - el Chalten</u></b>  Fly south to el Calafate a small town on Lago Argentino, gateway to Los Glaciares National Park, Argentina.  Drive to the other side of Lago Argentino to the small town of El Chalten, gateway to the Fitzroy National Park. There is more fabulous scenery, maybe an opportunity to spot an armadillo!</p>	Bariloche (B)
8&9		<p><b><u>el Chalten</u></b>  We have two whole days to explore. There are long or short walk options, amidst the stunning scenery of Fitzroy National Park or you can relax in the peace and tranquillity of this lovely mountain town.</p>	el Chalten (B)
10		<p><b><u>El Chalten - el Calafate</u></b>  We return by bus to Calafate and have time to explore the town this afternoon or possibly visit the Glaciarium..</p>	el Calafate (B)
11		<p><b><u>Full day tour to Perito Moreno Glacier</u></b>  Full day tour to this amazing feat of nature, surely one of the natural wonders of the world!!!  The Moreno Glacier is one of the world's few advancing glaciers. This 60-80 metre high, 4km long river of ice periodically dams the Brazo Rico of Lago Argentino. Towers of ice fall and break into icebergs! Amazing to see!  <b>Optional:</b> Ice Trek onto the glacier</p>	El Calafate (B)
12		<p><b><u>Calafate – Torres del Paine National Park</u></b>  Today we cross by bus from Calafate Argentina and re-enter Chile and enter the spectacular Torres del Paine National Park  <b>You have heard about it, now see for yourself!</b>  Superb views of the famous Andean cordillera and lakes.  You will be surprised at the wildlife in this area, Andean condors, flamingos, guanacos (llama family) wandering across the road, foxes, and many Canadian geese. You may be lucky and catch a glimpse of the elusive puma.   Stay 4 nights in the park and enjoy the peacefulness and scenery. Our accommodation is in the eco sustainable Eco Camp Domes. It has been yet another stunning day.</p>	Torres (B,L,D)
13		<p><b><u>Trek Towers Base or Laguna Azul Trail</u></b>  Choose from the easier Laguna Trail or the more difficult Towers Base trek.  Time for a great breakfast and lots of enthusiasm!  <b>Either:</b>  Full day Visit to Laguna Azul sector, walk to the lookout point through Lenga forests, continue to the Fauna Trail to watch the Park's local flora and fauna, closely.  Depart EcoCamp: 09:00 hrs, arrive back 18 hrs approx.  Approximate total walking time on the different lake trails: 3,5 hours. Distance: 5 km   <b>Or</b>  Our goal is to complete the most famous trekking trail in Torres del Paine NP. We walk from the camp site towards Hostería Las Torres and connect with the winding uphill path to Ascencio</p>	Torres (B,L,D)

		<p>Valley, the valley which supports the eastern face of the Towers' base. Dry mountain spots, beech forests and small rivers are passed along the scenic walk into the valley. It's not a difficult walk, but energy should nevertheless be saved for the final challenge: the moraine. This mass of boulders is the last guardian before our face-to-face meeting with the uplifting Torres del Paine. The moraine is sufficiently steep to consider doing it slowly and with care. After a considerable effort, the Towers come into full view, rising majestically before us with the glacial lake visible below. This is one of the most breathtaking sights in the world! The famous Torres del Paine (2, 900 m/ 9, 400 ft) consist of three gigantic granite monoliths, the remains of a great cirque sheared away by the forces of glacial ice. Is there any better place to have lunch? Of course! But since we are in Patagonia, at the feet of the mighty Torres del Paine, we will enjoy life, the view, and a bite to eat! Once everyone is ready, we backtrack along the same trail through Ascencio Valley, and return to the EcoCamp.</p> <p>Approximate walking time: 8 hrs round trip Distance: 21 km round trip</p>	
14		<p><b><u>Western Lakes &amp; Glacier Grey Boat trip or Cerro Ferrier Hike</u></b></p> <p>Choose from the easier Western Lakes &amp; Glacier Grey Boat trip or the more difficult Cerro Ferrier Hike</p> <p><b>Either</b></p> <p>We start off driving across the park, admiring the view of Paine Grande and its snowy peaks, and Los Cuernos with its black, granite horn-like spires. We stop at Pudeto Dock to leave travellers doing Grey Trek and some viewpoints on the way observing and photographing herds of guanacos, Andean condors, and interesting flora. As we walk along the shores of the stunning Lake Pehoe, we will see the furious Salto Grande waterfalls where the water from Lake Nordenskjold cascades down into Pehoe. From here, we drive up to Grey Lake and wander along the beach. Here we enjoy a tasty box-lunch by the lake before embarking on a boat ride across the icy waters to the towering blue walls of Glacier Grey. After this incredible up-close look at the glacier, we drive back to EcoCamp</p> <p>Approximate walking Time 2 hours</p> <p><b>Or</b></p> <p>We begin the drive to Lake Grey where you should pause and raise your eyes to the huge peaks of the east. This wind-swept rock monster is Cerro Ferrier which, standing at 1599m/5246 ft, makes a rewarding (but intense) hike. First, you'll pass through a forest that gives a fascinating insight into the diversity of austral trees. Here you'll meet all the classics, lenga, coihue, ñire, and if you're lucky you'll meet the famous South American deer, the huemul, which is a national natural monument.</p> <p>Approximate walking time: 4 hrs round trip Distance: 12 km round trip</p>	Torres (B,L,D)
15		<p><b>Sarmiento Lake &amp; Fauna or French Valley</b></p> <p><b>Either</b></p> <p>This predominantly flat trek boasts stunningly diverse natural scenery and offers the chance to feast your eyes upon a startlingly blue lake, which is secluded from all the other water systems of the area. There will be ample opportunity to spot many graceful guanacos and elegant grebes along the way. First, we will examine the geology of the area's turbidite rock folds, before descending the isthmus which separates Lake Sarmiento from Lake Sarmiento Chico (the two lakes were once</p>	Torres (B,L,D)

		<p>a single mass of water), walking along a slight slope, and ambling beside the eastern edge of Lake Sarmiento Chico. We will eventually arrive at an impressive bay on the western side of Lake Sarmiento, admiring a breathtaking view which could easily be mistaken for a piece of art! Then we start the ascent back to the van, and along the way we will stumble across an awe-inspiring, panoramic vista of Lake Sarmiento from its western shore, looking towards its eastern coast glimmering on the horizon. From here we drive back eastwards along the northern shore of Sarmiento Lake until we reach the starting point of the Fauna Trail. As we walk northwards along the trail, we see park fauna on the Patagonian plains including guanacos, ostrich-like ñandús and maybe the occasional puma print! We pass by Goic lagoon and after an approximate 5 km relaxed walk we reach the Laguna Amarga ranger station where we're picked up and driven back to EcoCamp.</p> <p>Approximate walking time: 5 hrs Distance: 10 kms</p> <p><b>Or</b> <b>Navigation on Lake Pehoe and Hike along French Valley</b> Boat across the Pehoe Lake and trek up the French Valley in the middle of the Paine Massif. Depart EcoCamp: 08:00 hrs, arrive back: 19.00 hrs approx. Boat across Pehoe Lake: 30 min each way. Approximate walking time: 6 hrs round trip. Distance: 11 km round trip.</p>	
16		<p><b><u>Torres – Puerto Natales</u></b> Early transfer on zodiacs and sail down the Serrano river. Connect with the catamaran and sail the Ultima Esperanza fjord to see the Balmaceda &amp; Serrano Glaciers passing other large glaciers, remote estancias, cascading waterfalls, a huge cormorant, and sea lion rookery. With luck we'll spot a condor or two. Continue to the pretty town of Puerto Natales (population 18000) in the late afternoon.</p>	Puerto Natales (B,L)
17		<p><b><u>Puerto Natales - Punta Arenas</u></b> Today take a bus through this rugged, mountainous area, geographically remote from the rest of the country. Through the wild landscape to Punta Arenas, situated on the Magellan Strait. This is the liveliest and most interesting city in this far corner of the world, featuring many mansions and other imposing buildings dating back to the wool boom of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. As the best and largest port for thousands of miles this port attracts ships from the burgeoning South Atlantic fish industry as well as Antarctic research vessels and tourist ships.</p>	Punta Arenas (B)
18		<p><b><u>Punta Arenas</u></b> A morning excursion by boat will take you to Isla Marta and Magdalena, in the famous Magellan Strait, a unique opportunity to watch sea lions, a superb penguin colony and many other species. In the afternoon take time to explore Punta Arenas</p>	Punta Arenas (B)
19		<p><b><u>Punta Arenas – Ushuaia</u></b> Today you will travel by local bus even further south to Ushuaia, the world's most southern town which is a supply port for the Antarctic.</p>	Ushuaia (B)

20		<p><b><u>Ushuaia</u></b>          You'll travel 11 km to Tierra del Fuego National Park, watching the scenery change as you pass the urban outskirts. Pass beautiful bodies of Patagonian water and soon encounter the majestic Mt Susana. The old prison, now the site of the End of the World Train, will mark the departure point for the train. Board the train and enjoy the views as the railway takes you across peat bogs and bridges before making a stop at Macarena Waterfall Station where you'll learn about the region's indigenous people, the Yamana. Climb to a scenic viewpoint, then continue your sightseeing train journey through the park, ending up at the old sawmill. Continue your excursion towards shimmering Ensenada Bay, where you'll see the rocky Redonda and Estorbo Islands, as well as the majestic, snowy Sampaio Mountains. At Roca Lake, meander along the gushing Lapataia River towards Condor Hill, then stop at the otherworldly Green and Black Lagoons. After your adventure has finished, you'll be dropped back to your hotel in Ushuaia.</p>	Ushuaia(B)
21		<p><b><u>Ushuaia -Buenos Aires</u></b>          You will be transferred to the airport for your flight to Buenos Aires. On arrival you will be transferred to your hotel</p>	Buenos Aires (B)
22		<p><b><u>Buenos Aires- Auckland</u></b>          Day at leisure. It's delightful just to wander around the San Telmo Square and Antique Markets. Admire the Tango dancers in the streets – what an atmosphere!</p> <p>This evening transfer to the airport for your LAN Airlines flight via Santiago, arriving Auckland Day 24 Sunday</p>	(B)
22		<p>Or extend your trip to Iguazu.  <b><u>Iguazu Extension</u></b>          Transfer to the airport for our afternoon flight to Iguazu then transfer to your hotel.</p>	
23		<p><b><u>Iguazu (B)</u></b>          Travel to the Argentine side of the falls, these falls defy description! Enjoy the majesty of the world's most spectacular waterfalls. Set in pristine rainforest with countless birds and butterflies, situated on the borders of Paraguay, Argentina and Brazil, they plunge in a series of gigantic waterfalls over 3kms long and more than 80 metres high. The thunderous roar of crashing water and the multicoloured mist is natural beauty at its best. It is undoubtedly one of the world's most impressive sights. Later see the mighty Devils Throat Cataract. We then transfer across the border to the Brazilian side of the falls for a tour from a different perspective.</p>	Iguazu (B)
24		<p><b><u>Iguazu – Buenos Aires (B)</u></b>          You will be transferred across the border to the airport for your flight to Buenos Aires domestic airport where you will be transferred to the international airport for your flight.</p>	(B)

### **Note about the Itinerary**

This itinerary is subject to alteration on occurrence of any unpredictable conditions and circumstances which may arise in this delightfully chaotic continent. Please remember also that we are travelling in countries, where things do not always go as planned. The main thing is to be flexible and open to change. You will be kept up to date with changes.

### ***A note about the Ecocamp Domes in Torres del Paine National Park***

Patagonia EcoCamp design was inspired on the traditional Kawesqar hut resembling an igloo and a dome at the same time. The instinctive engineering ability of the Kawesqar can be easily understood these days. The semi-hemispherical structure of the EcoCamp domes is formed by several isosceles triangles that provides uniform distribution of the stress caused by severe wind loads. Wind speed in Patagonia often surpasses 160-180km per hour which makes traditional straight and flat walls extremely vulnerable if the structure is meant to be light. Other significant aspect is that rounded bodies minimize the external surface in contact with the cold environment allowing less exchange of temperature with the warm interiors. Finally, the semi-hemispherical design gave Kawesqars the maximum internal space in relation to the surface they had to cover, with valuable and sometimes scarce animal skins.

These domes in Torres del Paine have vitrified wooden floors and are 2m/6.5ft high with a diameter of 4m/12ft, allowing plenty of space for sleeping comfortably.

They are resistant to the strongest Patagonian winds, rains, and snow and come equipped with two single beds, fleece sheets, blankets, and feather quilts.

There are round windows in the ceiling to observe the stars of Patagonia before falling asleep.

There are comfortable and well illuminated shared toilets, divided for male and female. Both have showers with hot water, w.c., hand wash, special furniture and warm details that will make you feel at home. Each shower is located inside a closed space where you can dry yourself in privacy. Be aware the facilities are powered with solar panels generators. There is no electric capacity to plug devices such as hair dryers, electric shavers, etc.

You can view the domes online - <http://ecocamp.travel/en/staying/?ref=standar>

Should you prefer to have a more luxurious Dome with your own bathroom a supplement of NZ\$1890 per person applies.