

PATAGONIAN ODYSSEY - ADDITIONAL TRIP INFORMATION

- **FOOD & BEVERAGES** – All meals are included, typically comprised of the following:
 - Breakfasts are provided by each lodging facility, and will usually be a continental breakfast including breads with butter and spreads, ham, cheese, fresh fruit, yoghurt, cereal, sweet baked goods, coffee, tea, juices, etc., but will usually *not* include eggs.
 - Lunches will mostly be light, made up of a main course, such as fish, shellfish, chicken, pork, beef, pasta, sandwiches, salads, etc., and will include a soft drink, water or juice to drink.
 - Box Lunches, on the days when we are in more remote areas, will be made of ingredients as fresh as possible, such as deli meats and cheeses, olives, salads, breads, fruit, granola bars, chocolate, soft drinks, juices, etc.
 - Dinners will mostly be either at the hotel restaurant or a local restaurant nearby (and will include a wide variety of local and international offerings from meats and fish to vegetarian options), but will sometimes be a homemade meal of local Chilean cuisine made with fresh ingredients prepared by the Chilean member of the Wangulen team!

*Note: Alcoholic drinks are not included, but you can pay for them separately if you wish.
Local wines in both Chile & Argentina are wonderful, and you've gotta try a Pisco Sour!*

- **TIPS** – We have included all restaurant tips in the escorted portion of your program. Tips are always discretionary, but a rough guide follows:
 - Restaurants – On any part of your trip for which we will not be with you (a pre- or post-tour extension, for example), customary tips for restaurant service is 10% of the bill.
 - Bellhops – Although at most lodgings we will handle our own luggage, if a bellhop takes your luggage to your room, the usual US\$1 - 2 per bag applies.
 - Guides & Drivers – If you are satisfied with service, following is a typical guideline:
 - Transfers – same as bellhops, between US\$1 – 2 per bag,
 - Half day trips – US\$3 – 5 per person, or 10 – 15% of the tour price,
 - Full day trips – US\$5 – 10 per person, or 10 – 15% of the tour price.
 - Tour Hosts – US\$10 – 15 per day, or 5 – 10% of the tour price.
- **ENTRY FEES TO CHILE** – Chile collects a “reciprocity fee” from passport holders of certain countries before they can continue through immigration at the airport, the amount being the same which that country charges Chilean citizens for a travel visa. Current fees are as follows:
 - US\$ 61 Australia
 - US\$ 132 Canada
 - US\$ 131 United States
 - US\$ 23 Mexico

- **LUGGAGE** – One of the secrets to enjoyable travel is packing light. Because of weight limits set by airlines on internal flights, as well as space and weight limitations in our van, which will be our “home away from home” for 16 days, we require that each traveler bring no more than
 - 1 suitcase (limited to 20 kg., or 44 lb. AND 30cm x 46cm x 66cm, or 12” x 18” x 26”) and
 - 1 day pack for items you want to keep close to you.
 - **Fee per bag over these limits is \$200.**

Remember that we all need to share the space in the van; therefore, less luggage translates to more space, and more comfort, for all of us.

- **LAUNDRY** – Nearly every hotel where we will be staying will have laundry service. Additionally, most of the cities and towns on the Overland have 1-day laundry facilities, which charge by the kilo, and are less expensive than the hotel service.
- **CLOTHES** – Patagonia is a Weatherman’s nightmare, as the saying “in Patagonia, you can experience all 4 seasons in just one day” highlights. Instead of packing everything to cover any situation, it’s actually pretty simple: **we recommend taking layers of lighter clothes you can easily put on or take off, which can also be washed easier and reused.** Key items to bring are:
 - Light waterproof parka / windbreaker
 - Gloves
 - Cotton socks
 - Wool hat
 - Sun glasses / sun screen
 - Trekking / Walking pants
 - Waterproof overlay pants to wear over other pants if possible (golf-type)
 - Shorts & t-shirts (especially if touring in January or February)
 - Waterproof hiking / trekking shoes (big hiking boots aren’t necessary)
 - Swim suit (for hot springs!)
 - Thin layers of short and long-sleeved shirts to wear under clothing

- **WEATHER** – Conditions constantly change, especially in the far south (such as Torres del Paine in Chile and El Chalten in Argentina), where it can be sunny and warm, then suddenly a storm blows in with cold winds stronger than you can imagine! Most of our clients have enjoyed the extreme weather, saying that it made for a true Patagonia experience! In general, you can expect sunny, warm days (especially in January and February) mixed with rain showers, occasional high winds and possibly a little snow (in the shoulder months of October, November and March). Welcome to Patagonia!

- **CURRENCY** – The official currency in Chile is the Chilean Peso, and in Argentina is the Argentinean Peso, both distinct, with no relation. Only in certain areas near the border can you pay with either currency. Following is a guide to paying for local goods and services (see below for exchange rates and denominations):
 - **Chile** – very few places will accept US Dollars or even less, Euros or other currencies. Tips can always be given in Dollars, but it's best to carry Chilean Pesos just in case you see some local handcraft, postcards, etc. you would like to buy. It is always best to try to keep as small of change as possible, since many stores will not be able to give change for bills even as low as Ch\$5,000 (US\$10). ATM machines are readily available, which give local currency from your account. We will help you get and/or exchange money whenever you need it.
Note: You can pay with credit cards in only the larger stores.
 - **Argentina** – most places will accept US Dollars, but not Chilean Pesos. If you pay in Dollars, you will most likely get change in Argentinean Pesos, which is good so you will have small change. ATM machines are readily available, which give local currency from your account.
Note: Most places do not accept credit cards in Argentina.

- **EXCHANGES and CURRENCY DENOMINATIONS** – as of August, 2010 are:
 - **Chile** - US\$1 = **Ch\$500** (no cents in Chilean currency) with denominations as follows:
 - Bills - \$1,000 \$2,000 \$5,000 \$10,000 and \$20,000
 - Coins - \$1 \$5 \$10 \$50 \$100 and \$500
 - **Argentina** - US\$1 = **Ar\$4.00** with denominations as follows:
 - Bills - \$2 \$5 \$10 \$20 and \$100
 - Coins – 5 cents 25 cents 50 cents and 1 peso

- **BORDER CROSSINGS** – During our Overland Odyssey, we cross between Chile and Argentina 4 times, and since each crossing has 2 different border stations (one in each country). We pass through the 2nd busiest crossing (between Puerto Varas, Chile and Bariloche, Argentina) and the most remote in Chile between the Chacabuco Valley and Lago Posada, Argentina. Please make sure you have your passports easily available on the days we cross, since it can be a little hectic. Following is some more information about entering each country:
 - **Chile** - All of us will need to get out of the van and make a line together to show our passports and entry documents (always keep the paper you receive when you enter Chile, and keep it in your passport!). We will have your forms filled out for you so you don't have to worry about them. Please make sure you don't enter with any fruits, vegetables or processed meats, as the fines are high.
 - **Argentina** - Most likely you won't need to go inside, but if you get out of the van, stay close as they might call all of us in to check our documents.

- **ACTIVITIES** – Throughout our tour we will have different activities each day, depending on our destination. All of the activities are easy to moderate, and only require generally good physical condition. If you do not want, or cannot participate in any given activity, one of us will stay behind and we will make up our own activity. Activities are not compulsory, but are provided to enhance your Patagonian experience. Following are examples of our activities:
 - Taking a chairlift up to a spectacular lookout point,
 - Boat rides to visit, for example, some unique marble caves,
 - Easy hiking to get a close-up view of the Horns in Torres del Paine
 - More difficult hiking up to the Condor's Lookout in Torres del Paine
 - Afternoon excursion to the Perito Moreno Glacier, plus an optional navigation
 - Soft trekking to visit a hanging glacier in the forest
 - Museum visits, and much more!
- **MAIL** – Most travelers like to pick up post cards along our adventure to send back to friends and family members. Some of our destinations, but not all, will have a post office where you can buy stamps and send them. If you already have stamps, you can always leave them with the hotel and they will send them for you.
- **INTERNET** – Even though the point of delving into Patagonia is to disconnect and enjoy being in such pristine surroundings, we know it's also important to stay in touch with your loved ones back home (and hopefully tell them what a wonderful time you are having!). Most of our hotels will have internet access, and if not, many of the towns will have internet cafes, where you can also transfer photos from memory cards to CDs and even call home at reasonable rates. Ask us if you need more details about specific locations.
- **INSURANCE** – Travel insurance is not included in your tour, but is required. In documents to follow, we will ask for your insurance contact information.
- **PARTICIPANT PLEDGES** – “I, as a traveler on this hosted tour, pledge to:
 - Be on time, or catch up with the rest of the group at my own expense,
 - Travel with both my sense of wonder and my sense of humor,
 - Be a responsible traveler, leaving only footprints, and taking only photos,
 - Be a respectful traveler, both of the local culture and of fellow travelers,
 - Rotate seats on the van with other travelers during the course of the trip,
 - Communicate any grievances with the tour leader promptly, privately, and appropriately,
 - Understand that wondrous travel experiences require a positive attitude, patience, flexibility and the ability to laugh. If I can't relax and enjoy the unexpected, I pledge to stay at home!”

If there is something we haven't covered in this document or our communications to date, just let us know.