



# NORTHBOUND PATAGONIAN ODYSSEY

**Recently Upgraded!**

Experience the culture, history, myths and inexpressible beauty of Patagonia in this small group, fully-escorted overland tour through Southern Chile and Argentina.

US\$ **4,490** per person

16 days / 15 nights

**Includes Internal Airfare**

\$690 single room supplement

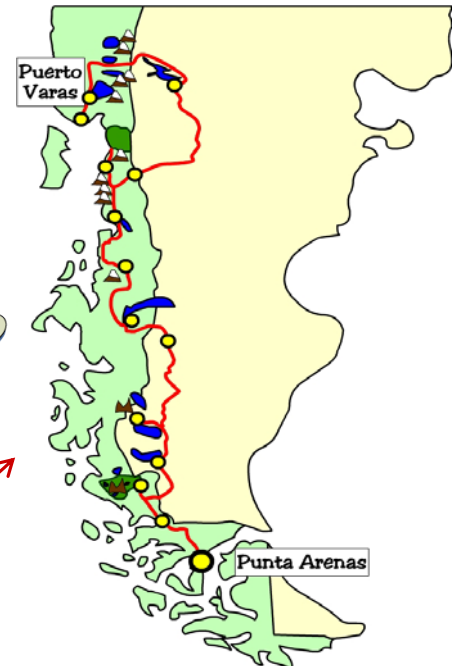
## Lodging – Northbound Tour

### Night Hotel\*

|       |                                |
|-------|--------------------------------|
| 1     | Indigo, Puerto Natales         |
| 2     | Cerro Guido, Torres del Paine  |
| 3     | El Quijote Hotel, El Calafate  |
| 4,5   | Kaulem, El Chaltén             |
| 6     | La Posada Inn, Lago Posada     |
| 7,8   | Terra Luna Lodge, Pto. Guadal  |
| 9     | El Reloj, Coyhaique            |
| 10,11 | Puyuhuapi Lodge & Spa          |
| 12    | La Casona B&B, Futaleufú       |
| 13    | Sol del Nahuel, Bariloche      |
| 14    | La Posada, Villa La Angostura  |
| 15    | Cabanas del Lago, Puerto Varas |

\* Substitutions of at least equal quality might be necessary depending on availability.

-  Torres del Paine
-  Moreno Glacier
-  El Chaltén
-  Mount Fitz Roy
-  Wide open Pampa
-  Argentina's Route 40
-  Southern Beech forests
-  Lake General Carrera
-  The Carretera Austral
-  Bariloche & Lake Nahuel Huapi
-  Volcanoes & the Andes Mountains
-  Lakes District in Chile & Argentina



## Daily Itinerary

### Day 1 Puerto Natales, Chile

Arrive in **Punta Arenas** where we will meet you at the airport to begin our Odyssey. First we will drive over to the **Otway Sound** to **visit a colony of Magellanic Penguins**. Once back on the highway we head north and make our way into the town of **Puerto Natales**, in an unbelievable setting on the **Last Hope Sound**. We'll have a welcome dinner to discuss trip.

### Day 2 Torres del Paine, Chile

Today we enter Chile's most visited park, **Torres del Paine**, which was designated a UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve in 1978, being the home to at least 25 species of mammals, including **guanacos, pumas and foxes**, as well as more than 115 species of birds. We will see various lakes, the famous **North and South Towers** and of course the **Paine "Cuernos" (Horns)**. We will take an **easy 1-hour hike to reach the best view of the Horns in the park**, have our box lunch and take another **hike to the Condor's Lookout**, offering us amazing views of the park. Then we'll make our way to a working ranch just outside of the park for dinner and a good night's sleep.

### Day 3 El Calafate, Argentina

This morning we leave Torres del Paine and make our first border crossing of the trip at the town of **Cerro Castillo**. We will drive through part of the **Pampa** as we make our way into **El Calafate** for lunch. You will have some time to stroll around and shop, then you will take an **afternoon tour for a close-up view of the Perito Moreno Glacier**, one of the most active glaciers on the planet, often with sections of ice calving off every few minutes. The almost constant sound of ice cracking and shifting inside the glacier is something you will never forget. Once back in town, we will have a buffet-style dinner.

## What's Included? **Everything**, so you can enjoy your vacation!

- Small group experience (max. 8 travelers) with personalized service
- Lodging in 3 to 4-star category (hotels, cabins and lodges, **No Camping**)
- Bilingual Tour Hosts who will escort you throughout the tour
- All meals, including soft drinks, water and juices (alcoholic drinks extra)
- Snacks and drinks while we are in the van together
- Daily activities, including soft trekking, boat rides, national park visits, etc.
- Transportation in extremely comfortable Mercedes Benz Sprinter minibus
- Fun, relaxed atmosphere to help make this your best travel experience ever!

## Day 4 El Chaltén, Argentina

This morning you will be able to [visit a nature sanctuary](#) at the edge of town and take a couple of hours to stroll around the lagoons, the home of hundreds of birds and ducks. Then we will leave El Calafate, head east around **Lake Argentino**, then up and around the northern side of the equally turquoise **Lake Viedma**. The beauty in front of us grabs our attention and pulls us in to our destination for the day of **El Chaltén**, where trekkers and climbers from around the world come to tackle the immense **Mount Fitz Roy**, **Las Torres** and numerous other mountains, and enjoy the vast glaciers in **Glacier National Park**. You will have the remainder of the [afternoon free to stroll through this unique, fast-growing town](#), 100% built around backpackers and other travelers.

## Day 5 El Chaltén, Argentina

Today you can either relax around El Chaltén or choose between various activities, such as: [1\) Mountain and Ice Trekking](#) for those prepared for a fairly difficult full day hike to and from Tower Lagoon, including ice-trekking on the Tower Glacier, [2\) Day cruise and Ice Trekking](#) on Lake Viedma and the Viedma Glacier, or [3\) Day trip to the Laguna del Desierto](#) for a hike to visit a glacier followed by a typical Argentinean lunch. Whatever you decide, we're sure the combination of tired muscles, clean mountain air, and a good hot meal will help us all sleep like babies!

## Day 6 Lago Posada, Argentina

Today will be our longest day on the road, as we tackle the famous **Route 40** up through the **steppes of Argentina**. Adjectives used to describe this road include: vast, desolate, isolated, untamed, owned by nature's fury, and above all, unforgettable. This area is one of the last remaining stretches of wide-open, undeveloped Pampa on the planet, which surprisingly supports a multitude of wildlife. Our destination for the day is the town of **Lago Posada**, the most remote destination of our trip, where we will [visit some "Caves of the Hands"](#), then stay at a comfortable Inn for the night.

## Day 7 Puerto Guadal, Chile

After breakfast we will head along some wind about roads as we make our way back to the border, crossing into Chile at the most remote vehicle border crossing in the country. Then we head west into the **Chacabuco Valley** and follow the river of the same name. The conservationist Douglas Tompkins, founder of the North Face outdoor clothing company and Esprit, recently purchased this entire valley and is converting it into a nature preserve. Today's drive will be a [Patagonian safari](#), where you will most likely get to see more wildlife than on any other part of the trip, including guanacos, rheas, foxes, and hopefully some condors. Then we enter Chile's **Carretera Austral**, or "Southern Highway" (which is actually a dirt road most of the way), head north and drive along the incredible glacier-blue waters of the **Baker River**. We will make it to our beautiful lodge for the next two nights on the shore of **Lake General Carrera**, Chile's largest, in time to walk around the grounds and enjoy the surroundings.

## Day 8 Puerto Guadal, Chile

Today is another day to relax in the middle of a majestic environment: on the shores of Chile's largest, bluest lake, with a view of Patagonia's highest peak, **San Valentín**, on the other side. After breakfast we will take a [full day hiking excursion](#)

up to a lookout point over the entire valley. Thousands of years ago this area was all covered by ice, then water, and is replete with marine fossils. The area, with astounding views of the lake and ice fields from here is a perfect place for our lunch. Then we return to the lodge for dinner and a pisco sour.

## Day 9 Coyhaique, Chile

After having breakfast in the lodge, we take a drive of roughly one hour to the town of **Puerto Tranquilo**, where we will take a [boat ride to see some amazing Marble Caves](#). Then we continue up the Carretera Austral and enter a valley that became a river of flowing lava after the 1991 eruption of the Hudson Volcano, leaving behind a "**Rio de la Muerte**" (River of the Dead), a riverbed of scorched tree trunks as a reminder of nature's power. Then we drive up the curvy **Devil's Throat**, around the incredible **Cerro Castillo** (Castle Mountain), and into the **Simpson River Valley**, where we find our lodging for the night in the city of **Coyhaique**, the largest we will see for 5 more days, where those workaholics among us can check their emails before heading back into nature!

## Day 10 Puyuhuapi Fjord, Chile

This morning we have a beautiful drive through the Simpson River Valley, past numerous waterfalls, then into what many consider to be Chile's most beautiful park, **Queulat National Park**. Here we will take a [hike to see the Hanging Glacier](#). The road on this section of the trip is packed with scenic beauty so varied and breathtaking, your cameras will get a workout! After our box lunch we will take a 30-minute boat ride across the water to our lodging for the next 2 nights at a location also isolated, in the middle of the Chilean temperate rain forest. [Rest of afternoon free to enjoy the various Hot Springs](#).

## Day 11 Puyuhuapi Fjord, Chile

Today we will take a break from driving and enjoy the peaceful environment around us. We will take a [hike of approximately 2 hours into the temperate rainforest](#) and have our lunch at the end of the trail right on the fjord. In the afternoon we will return to the lodge where you will be able to relax and soak in the thermal baths near the hotel before dinner.

## Day 12 Futaleufú, Chile

This morning we can sleep a little later than usual, as we won't cross the fjord again until early afternoon. We will have lunch in the town of Puyuhuapi before continuing north along the Southern "Highway" passing through the crossroads town of **La Junta**. Then we leave the Carretera Austral, turning east into the valley, where we will drive along the **Futaleufú River**, known around the world as one of the top whitewater rafting rivers, and on into the town of **Futaleufú**. We will check into our local B&B right on the town square and have a hot, home-cooked meal.

## Day 13 San Carlos de Bariloche, Argentina

After breakfast we take the short drive to the border and cross into Argentina. In Trevelín, we will [visit a museum dedicated to Welsh colonization](#) in the area. We then make another [stop at a museum established by Carlo Benetton covering indigenous life up through modern times](#), then drive through the towns of **Esquel** and **El Bolsón**, where we will have lunch and [browse the local handcraft fair](#). Continuing, we reach Argentina's 2<sup>nd</sup> most popular vacation destination: **San Carlos de Bariloche**, on **Lake Nahuel Huapi**. We will check into our nice hotel for the night in time to enjoy its spa facilities.

## Day 14 Villa La Angostura, Argentina

This morning we will **take a chairlift up Campanario Hill** with its breathtaking 360-degree view of all the lakes and snow-capped peaks. We will then drive back into town for lunch, after which you can stay and **stroll through the streets of Bariloche**, known for its high quality leather products and of course its huge assortment of local, handmade chocolates. In the afternoon we'll drive up to the town of Villa La Angostura.

## Day 15 Puerto Varas, Chile

This morning we make our way up the pass to the busy border crossing, leaving Argentina for the last time on our trip. Then we head down the other side, pass between the **Puyehue and**

**Casablanca volcanoes**, drive along the **Puyehue Lake**, with a tremendous view of the **Osorno and Puntiagudo volcanoes**. We turn south on the Pan American highway (if we turn north, we could make our way up to Alaska!), have an all-you-can-eat lunch (our farewell dinner), enter the town of **Frutillar**, visit the **open-air colonial museum**, and then drive down to our final destination of **Puerto Varas**, a beautiful lakeside town on the shore of **Lake Llanquihue**. In the evening, you can test your luck at the beautiful casino by the shore.

## Day 16

This morning you will be transferred to **Puerto Montt** either for your flight back to Santiago or to continue your vacation.

### Upcoming Departure Dates:

(S) = Southbound (N) = Northbound

**2010 – November 22 (N)**

**2011 – January 14 (S), March 14 (N)**

Start with a  
**Glaciers Cruise**  
through the  
**Beagle Channel.**

*(Highly recommended  
by previous clients!)*

Ask for details!



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Want to **extend** your Patagonian vacation?

It's easy!

- Spend more time in **Santiago/Valparaiso/Wine Country**
- Explore **Torres del Paine** in more detail
- Take a **Glaciers Cruise** from Ushuaia to Punta Arenas
- Tango and live it up in **Buenos Aires**
- Witness the amazing beauty of **Iguazu Falls**
- Immerse yourself in the mystery of **Machu Picchu**
- Hit the beaches and nightlife in **Rio de Janeiro**

Ask us how!