

Patagonia Guided Walking Holiday

Tour Style: Worldwide Multi-Centre

Destinations: Walking holidays in Argentina, Walking Holidays in Chile & Patagonia

Trip code: PGWHW

Trip Walking Grade: 3



HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

Travel to the far reaches of South America to a land of raw wilderness and natural beauty which straddles both Argentina and Chile. Towering, rugged pinnacles overlook turquoise lakes and the immense Perito Moreno Glacier, where huge chunks of ice calve into the water below. The sheer sides of Mount Fitzroy dwarf everything – an eye-catching centrepiece to the astonishing landscape. Time in Buenos Aires provides a complete contrast with its lively vibe and energetic tango shows.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- 15 nights' accommodation in en-suite rooms
- Full board from dinner on arrival to breakfast on departure, except 5 lunches and 1 dinner
- A full programme of guided walks led by local tour directors, local guides and an HF Holidays' leader
- All sightseeing and entrance fees
- Travel by air conditioned coach/minivan and internal flights
- Tips

HOLIDAYS HIGHLIGHTS

- 3 full days' walking in the majestic Torres del Paine
- Walk in the Los Glaciares National Park, with the granite towers of Mount Fitzroy and Cerro Torre
- Explore the 'End of the World' at Ushuaia, Tierra del Fuego
- Discover Buenos Aires, including a tango show with dinner
- Stay in lodges in the heart of Torres del Paine and Los Glaciares National Parks, amid breathtaking scenery
- See Patagonian wildlife, such as the flightless rhea, guanacos and condors

TRIP SUITABILITY

This trip is graded Activity Level 3.

Part day walks cover up to 4 miles (6½km). Full walking days offer a choice of walks between 8-14 miles (12-22½km), including harder options such as the lookouts to the Torres de Paine (4,200 feet (1,280m) of ascent) and Cerro Fitzroy (2,300 feet (690m) of ascent). Paths are generally well marked but there will be some rough terrain.



ITINERARY

Day 1: Flight From UK

Over night flight to Buenos Aires.

Day 2: Buenos Aires

We have a morning arrival and transfer to the hotel for 1 night. We include a walking tour of Buenos Aires followed by time to explore or relax after your long flight.

Day 3 - 5: Ushuaia

Flight from Buenos Aires to Ushuaia (3 nights) at the southern tip of Patagonia. We spend the next morning with a visit to the old Ushuaia penitentiary, lunch at leisure, then enjoy an afternoon cruise along the Beagle Channel with spectacular views over the capital of Tierra del Fuego and the mountains in the background. Opportunity to spot albatross, skuas, sea lion and Magellanic penguins. The next morning we travel to the End of the World railway station where we'll take a train ride through a backdrop of lenga woods, rivers, brooks and mountains. After a stop at La Macarena waterfall, continue into the Tierra del Fuego National Park where there will be chance to take short walks.

Day 6 - 9: Torres Del Paine

Flight to El Calafate and transfer into the heart of Chilean Patagonia, the Torres del Paine National Park. Reach the entrance to the park in the late afternoon. We stay near Laguna Verde, for 1 night.

The first walk in the park is a wonderful foretaste of days to come, on an easy clear path through grass meadows and beech woodland, passing clear mountain lakes framed by the magnificent Torres del Paine mountain range. Continue to Lago Grey for a view of the shimmering blue icebergs as they break off the nearby Grey Glacier, and then on to a breathtaking location near the base of the granite towers, for 3 nights.

Trek to the "Base Las Torres" viewpoint. Climb upwards into the Asencio Valley, stopping to admire the views of Lake Nordenskjöld and Almirante Nieto Mountain (2,670 m.) behind you. After resting at Refugio El Chileno, you will continue along the trail, passing through an age-old Lenga (Beech) forest and crossing plunging streams, to the Campamento Torres. Here you will climb steeply for about an hour up the side of the valley, through a rock-covered glacial moraine, to the "Base Las Torres" viewpoint. This magnificent spot rewards you with memorable views of the Torre Sur, at 2,850 m., the Torre Central (2,800 m.), the Torre Norte (2,600 m.), and the Cerro Nido de Cóndor.

Enjoy a half day trekking excursion in the Sarmiento sector. After a short transfer to the Lago Sarmiento park entrance head northward to the Laguna Amarga entrance. Discover a wide range of unique flora and fauna, usually including ñandú (a type of large, flightless bird) and wild guanaco (similar in appearance to the domesticated llama). Additionally you will see fascinating rock paintings created by the region's indigenous population in ages past.

Continue to the Blue Lagoon (Laguna Azul). From this glacial lagoon, you'll enjoy a picture-perfect view of the Torres peaks. Ñandú (a type of large, flightless bird), wild guanaco (similar in appearance to the domesticated llama), indigenous foxes, and a wide variety of other unique fauna and flora can be observed in the surrounding area.

Day 10 - 11: To El Calafate, Argentina And The Moreno Glacier

Early departure towards the border with Argentina and continue across the wild Patagonian expanses. A lunch of delicious local food will be taken at a traditional Argentinian estancia. Continue to the small town of El Calafate for 2 nights.

Take a full day tour to the extraordinary views of the Perito Moreno Glacier, one of the world's only advancing glaciers, where the deep blue colours of the huge ice wall combine with the sounds of creaking and crashing. There is the chance to take an optional boat trip on the lake in front of the glacier.

Day 12 - 14: To El Chalten

Journey across the wilderness following the lakes Argentino and Viedma to the remote mountain town of El Chalten. Arrive in time for an afternoon walk to the Cerro Torre viewpoint and stay at the Hosteria Senderos for 3 nights.

The next day is an incredible full day walk to Laguna de Los Tres, close to Mount Fitzroy, with views of the jagged peaks of the Fitzroy range and the Andean wilderness.

We also travel further into the mountains on dirt roads to the breathtaking panoramas of the Laguna del Desierto, surrounded by lush native forest and complete with orchids. The lake is deep into the mountains among pristine natural surroundings where few people tread.

Day 15: To Buenos Aires

Transfer across the steppe to El Calafate and fly to Buenos Aires. Transfer to the hotel for 2 nights.

Day 16: Buenos Aires

A day at leisure, followed by a classic Buenos Aires experience this evening with a tango show and dinner.

Day 17 - 18: Return Flight

Morning at leisure before an afternoon flight to London.

ACCOMMODATION

Hotel Cyan Americas Towers, Buenos Aires - Patagonia

The Hotel Americas Towers is located in the centre of the city, in an attractive neighbourhood within walking distance of fashionable Recoleta and the pedestrianised Florida Street. The modern 4-star hotel has large rooms and an outdoor pool. We also stay here for the final 2 nights of our holiday.

Hotel Altos De Ushuaia, Ushuaia - Patagonia

An elegant hotel perfectly situated on a hill overlooking Ushuaia. You'll enjoy wonderful views of the city and the Beagle Channel. The restaurant's large windows are perfect for watching the sunset over the channel while enjoying your dinner. The rooms are comfortably furnished.

Hotel Estancia El Ovejero - Patagonia

The Hotel Estancia el Ovejero is the base for the first night at Torres del Paine, and is a family run hotel with a unique design and atmosphere. From horseshoe shaped napkin holders to saddle-bar stools this establishment combines cosiness with modern elements. After a long day's walk enjoy typical regional dishes in the restaurant and relax in the cosy common rooms.

Hotel Del Paine, Torres Del Paine - Patagonia

Hotel del Paine is located on the banks of the Serrano River on the southern boundary of the Torres del Paine National Park. Comfortable rooms with private facilities are complemented by a good restaurant.

Hotel El Quijote, El Calafate - Patagonia

In El Calafate, stay at the Hotel El Quijote, a comfortable 3-star hotel built in a Spanish style with lots of dark wood, and located in the centre of El Calafate, just a short stroll from the various shops and outfitters in this small town.

Hosteria Senderos, El Chalten - Patagonia

An attractive mountain lodge designed in the style of an old Patagonian estancia with comfortable, light and warm rooms and attractive restaurant, wine bar and a lounge corner with a log fire.

USEFUL HOLIDAY INFORMATION

Weather & Seasonality

Chile has great climatic diversity due to its length and position, crossing a tremendous range of latitudes. In Santiago, a Mediterranean type climate prevails: summers are generally dry, with maximum temperatures of 28°C; evenings are cooler. In Punta Arenas, the average summer temperature drops to 11°C. Rainfall here is lower, but wind chill and general dampness often make the area feel cooler. Weather here is unpredictable, particularly in the Torres del Paine National Park. Sectors within the park have their own microclimates, dependent upon geographical location and nearness to mountains and glaciers.

Argentina experiences a similar diversity in climate with Buenos Aires enjoying warm summers and the south having much cooler and more unpredictable weather, but certainly with a share of warm sunny days.

Joining Instructions (With Flights)

For those travelling on our HF Holidays' group flight, please proceed to the arrivals hall once you have passed through passport control, customs and baggage reclaim, when you arrive at your destination. Your leader or local leader will assemble the group in the arrivals hall. Look out for the HF Holidays' sign.

Joining Instructions (Without Flights)

If you are arriving ahead of the group, and are meeting them at the first hotel, please leave a message at the hotel reception for the HF Holidays' leader or local leader, detailing your room number, and a mobile telephone number if possible. The leader will contact you once the group arrives. If you are arriving after the group, a message will be left for you at the hotel reception, welcoming you and giving details of the time and place to meet the group. If your flight arrives before the group flight and you would like to join the transfer to the first hotel, please contact our Abroad Administration team on (0)20 8732 1261. They will have a list of the relevant transfer costs.

Essential Information

Suggested Kit List

As you'll be carrying your own luggage at airports and between your transport and hotels we recommend you try to keep your luggage to a minimum. These items are a general suggestion of what to pack for an active outdoor and walking holiday; depending on your destination, you may need more of some things and less – or none! – of others. You'll know best what you prefer to wear when out walking or while taking part in other outdoor activities.

- Walking boots (worn in), with good ankle support and spare bootlaces
- Walking socks
- Walking sandals
- Lightweight fleece, waterproof trousers and jacket
- Shorts and short-sleeved t-shirts
- Long trousers and long-sleeved light coloured shirts with collars to protect from the sun.

Your clothing should ideally be pre-treated with insect repellent and in-built sun protection (available from specialist clothing stores such as Rohan, Cotswold Outdoor).

- Warm fleece, scarf/buff hat and gloves
- Torch
- Comfortable clothes and shoes for evenings and sightseeing
- Sun protection – sun hat, sunglasses, high factor sunscreen and lip protection
- Water bottle – at least 2-litre capacity
- Lightweight survival bag
- Small/medium rucksack (30 litre) and a liner or cover to keep contents dry
- Insect repellent
- Universal travel plug

Personal first aid kit including: personal medication, tissues, plasters, blister kit, painkillers, antiseptic wipes, Imodium, rehydration sachets

Essential Equipment

- Passport (and copies)
- booking confirmation
- insurance cover note
- HF Holidays' registration form

Please ensure you have access to emergency funds should you need them; carrying a credit card is probably the most convenient method.

Optional Equipment

- walking ('approach') trainers
- trekking poles
- camera
- umbrella
- binoculars

Please note that your HF Holidays' leader reserves the right to refuse to take any guest on a walk should they consider that a lack of suitable clothing/footwear may affect safety.

Safety On Your Holiday

Insurance is a condition of booking. Therefore, if you have not already arranged insurance, it is imperative that you do so, and advise us of the insurance company and policy number.

We have negotiated special holiday insurance and full details of this cover can be found in our brochure or at www.hfholidays.co.uk. There is no extra charge for pre-existing illnesses.

If you would like to purchase insurance from us, please call us on 020 8732 1220 or email holidayservices@hfholidays.co.uk.

For more information about healthcare abroad and its costs, please visit: www.dh.gov.uk/travellers.

If you are arranging your own travel insurance, please ensure it is adequate for your specific itinerary.

Generally, this should include cover for walking at altitudes over 2,000m - the highest point on the harder walks may go up to 2,700m.

Once you have made your booking, you will receive a pre-holiday questionnaire where we ask for details of next of kin and insurance details. You must complete and return this to us - we need to have this from you at least 10 weeks before travel.

Please also inform us of any medical situation which may affect your enjoyment of the holiday. This is important because our leaders have to consider both group and individual safety at all times.

Whilst out with the group, we respectfully request that you:

- Please listen to any safety instructions from the leader
- Keep group members in view, especially if weather or visibility is poor
- Please stay where you are if you become separated from the group. The leader will retrace their steps to find you.

Each leader carries a first aid kit but is not allowed to supply any medication including aspirin, paracetamol, antihistamines and antiseptic cream. You may wish to bring these items with you in your own kit (see Suggested Kit List).

In the unlikely event that your leader is incapacitated, please use any emergency kit in their rucksack and call emergency services on 911. Please then call our emergency number (sent in your final dispatch) and let us know there is a problem.

Dietary Requirements

Please contact us as far in advance as possible if you have any specific dietary requirements and we will do our best to meet your needs.

If you require a specific meal on the flight, please let us know as soon as possible, and no later than 96 hours before travel.

Vaccinations & Health

Before booking, you should check with your doctor to see if any health precautions are needed. The following websites provide a wealth of information on travelling and health: www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk
www.traveldoctor.co.uk

Vaccines: Diphtheria, Hepatitis A, Typhoid & Tetanus vaccinations are recommended. Rabies is sometimes recommended too.

Passports & Visas

Passport

For both Chile and Argentina, a full passport is required for the duration of the stay.

Visas

No visa is required for British citizens with full right of residence in the UK. Those who do not have British passports with full right of residence in the UK should check requirements with a Chilean and Argentinian embassy or consulate.

Citizens of Australia may be required to pay a processing fee on arrival at Santiago airport; please check at the time of travel.

Australian and Canadian citizens must pay a reciprocity fee online prior to their arrival in Argentina (other countries should contact their embassy for advice). This used to also apply to American citizens but recently changed; please ensure you check in advance in case the situation changes. Please see www.migraciones.gov.ar/ for further information.

Payment should be made no more than three months prior to the expected arrival date. A printed receipt will have to be submitted to Immigration authorities on arrival. Failure to pay this fee in advance may result in refusal of entry in Argentina.

As of 9th May 2020, Australian citizens will need a visa to enter Chile. The maximum length of stay is 90 days. The visa must be applied for at the Chilean consulate closest to your place of residence. The cost is approximately 145 USD. Other passport holders and nationalities should consult the embassy for advice.

Useful Information

Spanish is spoken in both Chile and Argentina; some basic pleasantries include:

'Hola' – Hello
'Adiós' – Goodbye
'Sí' – Yes
'No' – No '
Por favor' – Please
'Gracias' – Thank you
'¿Habla usted inglés?' – Do you speak English?

Luggage

Luggage Allowance

1 piece checked-in luggage, max. 23kg. Size should not exceed 158 linear cm. Hand luggage allowance is max. 5kg. These maximums are determined by the internal flight luggage allowance.

Please check details of your airline's baggage allowance, as shown on your e-ticket. Remember to also check any connecting flights you may have booked.

Lost Or Damaged Luggage

If your bag or its contents are damaged or lost while in the airline's care, this should be reported to the baggage service agents at the airport on arrival. They will assess the damage; in some cases, the airline may decide to settle your claim immediately.

You will be given a reference to quote to your insurance company if an immediate settlement is not possible - in many cases, baggage claims can only be accepted in writing. A baggage claim form must be obtained from the airport.

Local Currency

The unit of currency in Chile is the Peso and in Argentina, the Argentinian Peso. Neither is easy to obtain outside of their respective countries, so it is advisable to take US\$ which is the preferred foreign currency.

Dollars in cash are easy to exchange and can often be used in everyday transactions – particularly in Argentina, less so in Chile. Major credit cards are accepted in most places. You should ensure that you have access to emergency funds, probably by means of a credit card. Traveller's cheques are not advised.

We recommend you budget on needing approximately US\$60-70 per person, per day as spending money to cover your drinks, meals which are not included – and, of course, any souvenirs you may wish to buy

Tipping

Tips are included on this holiday.

Local Time

GMT/UTC -3 hours

Electricity

In both countries, the supply is 220V, 50Hz. Round two-pin plugs are used but flat threepin plugs may be needed in Argentina. We recommend you take a universal plug to cover all options.

ATM Availability

There are also cash-point machines at airports and town centres which can be used to withdraw cash

Suggested Reading & Maps

Lonely Planet, Argentina (Aug 2018) and Chile & Easter Island (Oct 2018)

Bruce Chatwin, In Patagonia (Dec 1998)

Footprint Handbook, Patagonia (Nov 2016)

Moon Handbooks, Patagonia (Dec 2017)

Although you won't need them, if you'd like any maps of the destination, you can obtain some in advance from The Map Shop: www.themapshop.co.uk

HOW TO BOOK

When you're ready to book, you can choose to **book online** or book **over the phone**. Our website offers secure online booking for our holidays, is available 24/7, and offers more in-depth information about all our holidays. If you prefer to call us, our experienced and knowledgeable team are available to answer any specific questions you have and can offer guidance as to which holiday is best suited to your needs.

Our office is open: Monday to Friday: 9am – 7pm Saturday: 9am – 1pm Sunday & Bank Holiday Monday: closed

PAYING YOUR DEPOSIT

To secure the holiday of your choice, you will need to pay a deposit: UK & European Holidays: £150 per person and Worldwide Holidays: £250 per person. You can pay your deposit by debit or credit card with no additional card fees charged or make an online BACS payment directly into HF's bank account, please see details under BACS payments. You can also pay your deposit by cheque within seven days of booking. Cheques should be made payable to 'HF Holidays Ltd' with your booking reference / Order ID on the back.

NON-MEMBER FEE

Non-members can join our holidays by paying a Non-Member's fee of £30 per person per holiday. Alternatively, full membership is available from £100 – visit hfholidays.co.uk/membership for details.

BACS PAYMENTS

Please quote your booking reference / Order ID when you make your payment online: Bank Name: Svenska Handelsbanken AB (publ) Account Name: HF Holidays Ltd Account Number: 35923304 Sort Code: 40-51-62 IBAN: GB92HAND40516235923304 Swift / Bic Code: HANDGB22

Once we have received your booking and deposit, we will send a confirmation invoice to the lead name. Please check this carefully. For bookings 'with flights' it is essential that the names on your booking confirmation invoice match those on your passport for bookings overseas. Please advise us immediately of any errors. Any name changes after the balance of your holiday has been paid will be subject to a fee levied by the airline.

MANAGE MY BOOKINGS

Payments can also be made through the Manage My Booking function on our website. Click on the link at the top of our homepage. This is available to all customers who provide an email address at the time of booking.

YOUR FINAL BALANCE

The balance is due 10 weeks before departure. As with paying your deposit, you can pay your final balance by debit or credit card, make an online BACS payment directly into HF's bank account or pay by cheque.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

Travel insurance is an important part of any booking and essential for one of our holidays. HF Holidays works with specialist. Insurance Brokers Campbell Irvine Direct. For more information or to obtain a quote call them on 01702 427 236 or visit hfholidays.co.uk/insurance

PEACE OF MIND

ATOL:

The air holidays and flights in this brochure are ATOL-protected, since we hold an Air Travel Organiser's Licence granted by the Civil Aviation Authority. Our ATOL number is ATOL 710. In the unlikely event of our insolvency, the CAA will ensure that you are not stranded abroad and will arrange to refund any money you have paid us for advance bookings. For further information visit the ATOL website atol.org.uk

MEMBER OF ABTOT:

HF Holidays is a member of ABTOT (The Association of Bonded Travel Organisers Trust Limited) which provides financial protection under the Package Travel, Package Holidays and Package Tours Regulations 1992 for HF Holidays Ltd and in the event of their insolvency, protection is provided for the following: 1. non-flight packages commencing in and returning to the UK; 2. non-flight packages commencing and returning to a country other than the UK; 3. flight inclusive packages that commence outside of the UK and Republic of Ireland, which are sold to customers outside of the UK and Republic of Ireland. 1, 2 and 3 provides for a refund in the event you have not yet travelled. 1 and 3 provides for repatriation. Please note that bookings made outside the UK and Republic of Ireland are only protected by ABTOT when purchased directly with HF Holidays Ltd.

TRIP NOTE VALIDITY

These Trip Notes are valid based on the date printed at the bottom of the page. They will occasionally be updated post booking and pre-departure. We will send you the latest trip notes prior to departure through a link in your pre departure documents or we can send you a copy in the post if preferred.

In booking this trip you should be confident in your ability to participate in all activities described in these Trip Notes. If you have any doubt about your suitability you should call HF Holidays and ask to speak to one of the team about this itinerary.

The information in these Trip Notes is given in good faith. Where differences exist between the Trip Notes and our current brochure, the Trip Notes supersede the brochure. All holidays can be subject to unexpected changes; so please be prepared to be flexible where necessary. At times, it may not be possible to follow the itinerary as planned due to weather conditions, political, physical or other factors. In these circumstances we will make the best possible alternative arrangements to maintain the integrity of the original itinerary.

PRICE GUARANTEE

We promise that our earliest published prices will always be the best and if we reduce our holiday price after your booking has been confirmed, we will pass this reduction on to you. Our price promise applies if any subsequent offer price is for an identical holiday, duration, location and date and does not cover any optional extras, flights or additional services.

Document produced: 19-09-2021

