

# Patagonia Walkabout



## Wild Majesty

**Magellan arrived in 1520, Darwin in 1832,  
Now, IT'S YOUR TURN in 2017/18 !!!**

**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 3 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
3 Mar 2018	NZ\$12300	\$925
10 Nov 2018	NZ\$12500	\$950
2Mar 2019	NZ\$12500	\$950
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 \$500 to secure your place

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# Information Sheet Patagonia 2018/9

## Patagonia Walkabout

Patagonia, where the scenery in this part of the world is stunning. Think of Queenstown and Central Otago then multiply it by 100 minus all the people. It's just plain 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 endless snow-capped peaks of the Andes not to mention the condors, flamingoes and abundant bird life.

One of the 'must sees' in this remote part of the world is the trip between Puerto Montt in Chile and Bariloche in Argentina. This trip takes us through perfectly conical shaped mountains, deep blue lakes by bus. It must make Mr Kodak smile as everyone is clicking away furiously.

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 of Perito Moreno in Los Glaciares National Park are awesome. They are the size of Buenos Aires city and display vibrant hues of blue and green and have sculptured icebergs of different sizes.

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 create a hikers paradise. Enjoy 3 nights right in the park in our stunning eco lodge.

What really takes folk by surprise is the abundant wildlife, guanacos (from the camel family), foxes, condors by the score, flamingoes, rheas, penguins, seals, beavers, all in their natural habitat, as well as, geese, birds and ducks.

Literally at the end of the world, Ushuaia, its setting 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 the opportunity for an optional side trip to the mighty Iguassu 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, 3 Mar 2018 \$12300, 10 Nov 2018 \$12500, 2 Mar 2019 \$12500**

**Single room supplement \$2700**

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, 4 lunches, 4 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\$200

*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\$1100 and \$2000 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, Lan Argentina & 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 Iguassu Falls from NZ\$925 per person)**

Included

Accommodation: 2 nights Puerto Iguacu with breakfast

Transfers and flights to/from Iguacu  
 Full day sightseeing on Argentine & Brazil side of the Iguacu Falls

Day		Program	Overnight
1	Sat	<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	Sun	<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	Mon	<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	Tues	<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	Wed	<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	Thurs	<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. Sample the local chocolate and ice-cream , it's delicious !</p>	Bariloche (B)

7	Fri	<p><b><u>Bariloche - el Chalten</u></b>  Fly south to el Calafate a small town on Lago Argentina, 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	Sat & Sun	<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	Mon	<p><b><u>Tour to Viedma Glacier - el Calafate</u></b>  The glacier located in the National Park in the Province of Santa Cruz is the largest in Argentina. This glacier flows directly to the Southern Patagonian Ice Shelf until reaching Viedma Lake. The front face is 40 metres above the lake. The highest point is at the heart of the ice field between 1.500 and 2.200m. With arid edges and beautiful mountains covered with snow and its dimensions 85km long and 20km wide, this is an amazing sight. It breaks away from the wetlands of the Mariano Moreno range by the valley that is located between Mt Huemul (2.677m) and Mt. Campana (2.570 m).  Located 17 km south of el Chalten a small picturesque bay called Tunel Bay, a natural bay a few hundreds of metres away from the delta that forms the river. We will sail south by the bay allowing us to keep close to shore so we can see the stunning Mt. Fitz Roy as well as Mt. Huemul. Once we arrive at Hornos Cape (Far south east), the boat turns west and we will feast our eyes on the stunning Viedma glacier. We will sail alongside the front of the glacier and will be able to enjoy the sight of huge icebergs, warm blue skies and walls that reach 40mts above the lake. This area is ideal for lectures on glaciology given by our guides. We return by bus to Calafate</p>	el Chalten (B)
11	Tues	<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	Wed	<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. Stop at Milodins Cave, now declared a national monument.  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.  Stay 3 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	Thurs	<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!</p> <p><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</p> <p><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 Valley, the valley which supports the eastern face of the Towersq 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 an adequate amount of precaution. 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.  Approximate walking time: 8 hrs round trip  Distance: 21 km round trip</p>	Torres (B,L,D)
14	Fri	<p><b><u>Mirador Condor Hike or French Valley Hike</u></b>  Choose from the easier Mirador Condor hike or the more difficult French Valley Hike</p> <p><b>Either:</b>  <b>Walk to Mirador Condor</b>  An easy walk reaching a superb lookout point where the main view is the southern face of Paine Massif and vast areas where Chileans condors and other local birds fly.  Depart EcoCamp: 09:00 hrs, arrive back: 13 hrs approx.  Approx walking time: 2 to 3 hrs round trip  Distance: 4 km miles round trip.</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 hrs approx.  Boat across Pehoe Lake: 30 min each way.  Approximate walking time: 6 hrs round trip.  Distance: 11 km round trip.</p>	Torres (B,L,D)

15	Sat	<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 rookery, sea lion rookery and 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)
16	Sun	<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)
17	Mon	<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)
18	Tues	<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)
19	Wed	<p><b><u>Ushuaia – Beagle Channel / Penguin Colony</u></b>  This morning we take an amazing boat trip down the famous Beagle Channel, passing cormorant colonies &amp; Martillo Island to watch the magellanic penguins, to visit the Harberton Estancia, a location, as close as most of us will get to the Antarctic!  On our return, enjoy great views of Fagnano &amp; Escondido lakes.</p>	Ushuaia (B)
20	Thurs	<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 saw mill. Continue your excursion towards glimmering 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	Fri	<p><b><u>Ushuaia -Buenos Aires</u></b></p> <p>You will be transferred to the airport for your flight to Buenos Aires . On arrival you will be transferred to your hotel Accommodation: Wilton Palace Hotel</p>	Buenos Aires (B)
22	Sat	<p><b><u>Buenos Aires- Auckland</u></b></p> <p>Day at leisure .Its delightful just to wander around the San Telmo Square and Antique Markets , Tango dancers in the streets . great atmosphere !</p> <p>This evening transfer to the airport for your LAN Airlines flight via Santiago Or extend your trip to Iguazu</p> <p><b><u>Iguazu Extension</u></b></p> <p>Transfer to the airport for our afternoon flight to Iguazu then transfer to your hotel</p>	(B)
23	Sun	<p><b>Iguazu (B)</b></p> <p>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	Mon	<p><b>Iguazu –Buenos Aires (B)</b></p> <p>You will be transferred across the border to airport for your flight to Buenos Aires domestic airport where you will be transferred to the international airport for your flight</p>	(B)

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**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 Third World 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 a number of 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, semi-hemisphere 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 with privacy. Additionally since 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 on line - <http://ecocamp.travel/en/staying/?ref=standar>

Should you prefer to have a more luxurious Dome with your own bathroom a supplement of NZ\$540 per person applies .