

# PATAGONIA & BEYOND, (ZSB)

Buenos Aires to Santiago 34 Days, departing 20th March 2022



## TRIP OVERVIEW

**Trip Style:** Overlanding

**Route:** Buenos Aires to Santiago

**Duration:** 34 Days

**Transport:** Overland Expedition Vehicle, Local Bus, Ferry, Boat

**Accommodation:** Comfortable Hotel 2 nights  
Camping 16 nights  
Multishare Hostel 10 nights  
Wild Camp 4 nights  
Basic Hotel 1 night

**Meals:** Breakfasts x 22, Lunches x 19, Dinners x 20

**Physical Challenge:** ● ● ● ● ○

The trip may include multi-day treks at high altitude, walking for 5-8 hours per day.

**Lifestyle Challenge:** ● ● ● ● ○

This is a fairly challenging trip; you may well be travelling at high altitudes, across deserts or through cold and windy or hot and steamy areas. The terrain and roads may be rough and the facilities can be very basic or non-existent. There may be some long drive days followed by wild camps, and physically and mentally it can be tough, but there will be some rest days and time to relax as well.



# DAILY ITINERARY

## Day 1 - Buenos Aires (20th March 2022)

Border information: if you are starting your trip in Buenos Aires, you will most likely enter Argentina at Buenos Aires Ministro Pistarini International Airport, also known as Ezeiza Airport (IATA code: BUE/EZE).

Welcome to the cosmopolitan Argentine capital of Buenos Aires! There will be an important group meeting at 6:00pm at the joining hotel - please look out at the hotel reception for a note from your leader with more details about this meeting.

Please note that many of the optional activities will only be possible for those with extra time in Buenos Aires before the start of your trip with us - please contact the Sales team if you would like to book pre-tour accommodation with us to have extra time exploring Buenos Aires.

Accommodation: Hotel Mundial "A"

## Day 2 - Buenos Aires (21st March 2022)

**Meals:** Breakfast

Today is a free day to explore the incredible city of Buenos Aires, soak up the atmosphere of its streets, and discover its amazing culture, art, and music.

### Daily Activities

#### Optional Activities

Learn all about the cuisine of Argentina on a food tour of Buenos Aires visiting several incredible local top-class eateries that you won't find in the guidebooks!

Tour: 85 USD

Enjoy a free city tour of Buenos Aires

Tour: Free

Visit the strangely beautiful cemetery of Recoleta the final resting place of many ex-presidents and Argentine icons most famously including the tomb of Eva Peron

Entrance: Free

See a different side to Buenos Aires on a tour of its incredible street art with some of the local artists

Tour: 20 USD

Try your hand at the art of tango dancing with a private lesson in Buenos Aires

Lesson: 25 USD

Head out to a tango show in Buenos Aires' oldest cafe the Gran Cafe Tortoni - seeing a slice of iconic Argentine culture in an ideal and intimate setting

Show: 650 ARS

## Day 3 - Bahia Blanca (22nd March 2022)

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today we begin our journey from Buenos Aires with a full drive day across the pampas and grasslands of the province.

## Day 4 - Puerto Madryn (23rd March 2022)

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today we head south to the coastal town of Puerto Madryn.

## Day 5 - Puerto Madryn (24th March 2022)

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today we will have a free day for optional activities in and around Puerto Madryn. There is the opportunity to take a tour to the Valdes Peninsular to see its desolate scenery and abundant marine life, head out on a boat trip in search of dolphins and whales, or perhaps go for afternoon tea in a Welsh tea house in the nearby towns of Gaiman or Trelew.

### Daily Activities

#### Optional Activities

Set off on a boat trip from Puerto Madryn in search of playful Commerson's dolphins (all year) or Dusky dolphins (December to March) and Southern Right whales (May to December)!

3hrs: 47 USD

Visit the fascinating modern marine interpretation centre of EcoCentro Mar Patagonia and learn all about the unique ecosystems of the Patagonian sea

Entrance: 125 USD

Explore the intriguing Welsh village of Gaiman near Trelew and visit one of its iconic tea houses. Transfers by bus.

Teahouse entrances: 12 USD

Discover the incredible colony of sea lions at Punta Loma near to Puerto Madryn

Entrance: 100 ARS

Explore the incredible shipwrecks and rocky reefs under the water on a scuba diving trip in the Golfo Nuevo off the shore of Puerto Madryn

3hrs: 150 USD

Visit the outstanding Museum of Paleontology in the Welsh town of Trelew and see the impressive ancient remains

MEF Entrance: 95 USD

## Day 6 - Camarones (25th March 2022)

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today we will drive south along the coast and have an included visit to the incredible remote colony of Magellanic Penguins in Cabo Dos Bahias (Cape Two Bays), close to the town of Camarones. After seeing the phenomenal sight of thousands of penguins nesting on the shore, we will head to the nearby small town of Camarones.

### Daily Activities

#### Included Activities

Visit the penguin colony at Camarones

Included

## Day 7 - Jaramillo Petrified Forest (26th March 2022)

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

From Camarones we set off on an all day drive following the South Atlantic coast.

## Day 8 - El Calafate (27th March 2022)

**Meals:** Breakfast

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Today we leave the coast behind and head west across the country to the town of El Calafate, the gateway to the Perito Moreno Glacier.

## Day 9 - El Calafate (28th March 2022)

Today we will head out on an included full day guided visit to view the stunning Perito Moreno Glacier, one of the most spectacular sights in Patagonia.

### Daily Activities

#### Included Activities

Guided full day trip to the Perito Moreno Glacier

Included

#### Optional Activities

Boat trip beneath the Perito Moreno Glacier

1 hour: 1,000 ARS

Learn all about glaciers at the fantastic modern Glaciarium Museum in El Calafate and visit its cool ice bar in the basement!

Entrance to museum and ice bar: 600 ARS

## Day 10 - Torres Del Paine NP (29th March 2022)

**Meals:** Dinner

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Border information: Exit Argentina at Cerro Castillo and enter Chile at Cerro Castillo.

Today we will drive to the world-famous Torres del Paine National Park. This is one of the most outstanding areas of natural beauty in the world and a main highlight of the trip for many of our passengers and leaders! We will stop en route in Puerto Natales to stock up on supplies and pick up our local guides and cook who will accompany us during our time in the National Park.

Tonight we will camp at Camping Pehoe, a stunning campsite inside the National Park with incredible views of Los Cuernos mountains, which we will refer to as our 'base campsite'.

### Daily Activities

#### Included Activities

4 days in the rugged Torres del Paine National Park, trekking the W walk with a local guide

Included

## Day 11 - Torres Del Paine NP (30th March 2022)

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

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Embark on the W-Walk with a local guide. Places at the campsites are limited by the National Park, so we book them in advance of your trip. We will be trekking the W-Walk from West to East, to enjoy the spectacular views.

This morning we will wake early and transfer by truck for the morning Catamaran to cross Lago Pehoe. We will then set up camp at Paine Grande, before continuing on our hike towards Glacier Grey.

## Day 12 - Torres Del Paine NP (31st March 2022)

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

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Today we depart from our camp at Paine Grande and hike into the stunning French Valley. In the afternoon, we will make our way to Camp Cuernos.

The hike is approximately 8 hours.

### Day 13 - Torres Del Paine NP (1st April 2022)

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today we have a slightly easier day, we will hike from Camping Cuernos along the edge of Lago Nodenskjold, around Almirante Nieto and stay just outside Valley Ascencio. We will arrive at Camp Central after approximately 5 hours hiking.

### Day 14 - Torres Del Paine NP (2nd April 2022)

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

This is our final day of the W-Walk and the most spectacular. The day begins with a steady climb from our camp site up Rio Asencio. Be prepared for the final hour which is a relatively steep scramble up to the Tarn and Mirador Las Torres, affording great views of the iconic Towers.

Our hike today is approximately 8 hours for the return trip (16km). We will spend the night at Camp Central again.

### Day 15 - Tierra Del Fuego (3rd April 2022)

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today we have an early start to leave Torres del Paine and head south to cross the Magellan Straits onto the island of Tierra del Fuego.

Tonight we will wild bush camp somewhere in the desolate wilds of the Chilean side of Tierra del Fuego.

### Day 16 - Ushuaia (4th April 2022)

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch

Border information: Exit Chile at San Sebastian, enter Argentina at San Sebastian

Today we cross over to the Argentine side of Tierra del Fuego and drive to the incredible port town of Ushuaia, the southernmost city in the world!

### Day 17 - Ushuaia (5th April 2022)

We will have a free day in the remote town of Ushuaia, with plenty of time for optional activities such as a visit to the hauntingly beautiful Tierra del Fuego National Park, boat trips to see the scenery and wildlife of the Beagle Channel, or heading out horse riding along the coast.

## Daily Activities

### Optional Activities

Beagle channel boat trips

4 hours: 2,040 ARS

Explore Tierra del Fuego National Park on a day tour from Ushuaia

4 hour guided tour: 1,450 ARS

Learn all about Tierra del Fuego's history and nature at the Museum of the End of the World in Ushuaia

Entrance: 300 ARS

Delve into Ushuaia's past and learn about it's maritime tradition and former prison colony at the Maritime Museum

Entrance: 400 ARS

Take a journey along the Rio Pipo on the Train to the End of the World. Once built by prisoners at Ushuaia's old penal colony

Train trip: 44 USD

## Day 18 - Tierra Del Fuego (6th April 2022)

**Meals:** Lunch, Dinner

Border information: Exit Argentina at San Sebastian, enter Chile at San Sebastian.

Today we start heading back north and back onto the Chilean side of Tierra del Fuego. Here we will visit the small King Penguin colony that have recently set up home at the remote Bahia Inutil (Useless Bay).

### Daily Activities

#### Included Activities

Head out to the remote corner of Chilean Tierra del Fuego. If time allows, visit the King Penguin colony at Bahia Inutil, the only colony of these type of penguins outside of Antarctica

Included

## Day 19 - Argentinian Patagonia (7th April 2022)

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Border information: Exit Chile at Integracion Austral, enter Argentina at Integracion Austral.

Today we continue our journey north, crossing the Magellan Strait back to the mainland and then heading across the Argentine border.

## Day 20 - El Chalten (8th April 2022)

**Meals:** Breakfast

Today we will continue north, overlanding across the Patagonian steppe and to the small town of El Chaltén, situated in Los Glaciares National Park and famous for its incredible mountains, glaciers and world-class trekking opportunities.

## Day 21 - El Chalten (9th April 2022)

We will have a day to enjoy the stunning Los Glaciares National Park and the incredible scenery of the nearby Mt. Fitz Roy. There are lots of trekking and walking opportunities here, as well as boat trips, horse riding, and many other fantastic options.

### Daily Activities

#### Optional Activities

Enjoy a spectacular kayaking trip down the Rio de las Vueltas taking in some incredible views of the surrounding mountains

Min 2 passengers: 150 USD

Visit the majestic Lago del Desierto, a remote and serene lake surrounded by stunning forests and mountains

Full day cycling tour: 500 USD

Horse riding and trekking around El Chalten

2 hours ride inc transfer: 60 ARS

Head on a rock-climbing course in the magnificent landscapes surrounding El Chalten

Full day course: 163 USD

Take a boat out onto the stunning Viedma Lake and get up close to the Viedma Glacier to see its impressive facade.

2.5hr boat trip: 1,100 ARS

## Day 22 - Rio Pinturas (10th April 2022)

**Meals:** Dinner

Today we start heading north again with a full day drive along the famous Ruta 40 (Route 40).

## Day 23 - Cerro Castillo NR (11th April 2022)

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Border information: Exit Argentina at Ingeniero Pallavecini, enter Chile at Puerto Ingeniero Ibáñez.

Today we will drive across the border into the magnificent scenery of the Chilean Carretera Austral, possibly one of the most stunning areas in South America, with the beautiful mountains of the Cerro Castillo National Reserve.

In Cerro Castillo we will camp in a lovely family-run campsite with basic facilities, where we will enjoy a Chilean BBQ.

### Daily Activities

#### Included Activities

Enjoy a traditional Chilean BBQ

Included

## Day 24 - Cerro Castillo NR (12th April 2022)

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

We have a free day here to enjoy optional activities such as hiking to the turquoise waters of Laguna Cerro Castillo or to go horse riding.

### Daily Activities

#### Optional Activities

Explore the beautiful mountain scenery of Cerro Castillo on a horse riding trip

2hr 15min ride: 18,000 CLP

Hike to the stunning Laguna Cerro Castillo

NP entrance: 10,000 CLP

## Day 25 - Puyuhuapi (13th April 2022)

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today we drive through the Chilean fjords to Queluat National Park, where we can take a walk in the enchanted forest to see the spectacular Hanging Glacier.

## Daily Activities

### Included Activities

Visit the stunning Queulat National Park and take a trek through the 'Enchanted Forest' to view the magnificent Hanging Glacier

Included

### Day 26 - Futaleufu (14th April 2022)

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today we continue to the rafting mecca of Futaleufú, a frontier town on the northern end of the Carreterra Austral, bordering Argentina. The Rio Futaleufú is one of the premier white water rafting rivers in the world, but the town is also a great spot for mountain biking, trekking and canyoning.

### Day 27 - Futaleufu (15th April 2022)

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

We have time in Futaleufu to relax and enjoy the surroundings or to do optional activities.

## Daily Activities

### Optional Activities

Head out for an exhilarating rafting or kayaking trip on the Grade 5 white water rapids near Futaleufú (if time allows)

2-6 hours. 5 pax minimum: 65,000 CLP

### Day 28 - Bariloche (16th April 2022)

**Meals:** Breakfast

Today we continue our journey to the picturesque town of Bariloche in Argentina's Lake District. We will see a definite change in the landscape today as the vegetation becomes more lush and green as we come out of the Patagonia region and into the forests of the Lake District.

### Day 29 - Bariloche (17th April 2022)

We will have a free day to enjoy the beautiful mountain town of Bariloche and the stunning surrounding lakes, mountains and forests. We have options to explore the area by foot, mountain bike, kayak or boat.

## Daily Activities

### Optional Activities

Horse riding around Bariloche

Half day riding: 1,750 ARS

Discover the incredible scenery of the Nahuel Huapi Lake and the Victoria Islands on a boat trip from Bariloche

Full day trip: 1,800 ARS

Hire mountain bikes to explore the forests and hills surrounding Lake Nahuel Huapi and Bariloche

Full day hire, including helmet: 900 ARS



Explore the nearby Lago Gutierrez and take in its amazing views from the water on a half-day tandem kayaking trip

1/2 day: 790 ARS

Visit the interesting Fenoglio Chocolate Museum in Bariloche and learn all about the towns tradition of chocolate making

Entrance: 200 ARS

## Day 30 - Pucon (18th April 2022)

Border information: Exit Argentina at Mamuil Malal, enter Chile at Mamuil Malal.

Today we journey through the Andes into Chile and continue to the town of Pucón via the scenic Ruta de los Siete Lagos (Seven Lakes Route).

## Day 31 - Pucon (19th April 2022)

We will have a free day in Pucón to enjoy a range of optional activities, including a sunrise expedition to climb the Villarica volcano which looms over Pucón, heading out horse riding through the surrounding forests, or an evening visit to the nearby natural hot springs.

### Daily Activities

#### Optional Activities

Trek up the snowcapped volcano Mt Villarica

Chairlift : 10,000 CLP

Tour: 95,000 CLP

Explore the spectacular Lake District near Pucón by mountain bike

Full day hire : 10,000 CLP

Take part in a fantastic canyoning expedition through the gorges of the Chilean Lake District near Pucón

Canyoning tour: 25,000 CLP

Horseriding or hikes around Pucon

Horse riding (3hrs): 35,000 CLP

Explore the stunning views and hiking trails of the nearby Huerquehue National Park

Entrance to NP and public bus fare : 7,000 CLP

Head on an exciting white-water rafting trip on the rapids of the Trancura River near Pucón

Rafting : 25,000 CLP

Relax in the soothing waters of the Pozones natural hot springs

Entrance : 12,000 CLP

Learn all about Pucón and the history of its people on a free walking tour of the town

Tips only : Free

## Day 32 - Buchupureo (20th April 2022)

**Meals:** Lunch, Dinner

Today we will leave the Chilean Lake District behind and head to the coast to the laid back, farming village of Buchupureo, where we can relax by the beach.

## Day 33 - Santiago (21st April 2022)

**Meals:** Breakfast

This morning we head into the wine region where we will make a stop at a vineyard for a wine tour and tasting. In the afternoon we continue our journey to the cosmopolitan Chilean capital of Santiago.

### Daily Activities

#### Included Activities

Whet your palette during winetasting at a vineyard in San Javier

Included

## Day 34 - Santiago - End Date (22nd April 2022)

Border information: if you are finishing in Santiago, you will most likely exit Chile at Santiago Arturo Merino Benítez International Airport (IATA code: SCL).

Today is a free day to explore the cosmopolitan Chilean capital.

Today is the end day for passengers finishing their trip in Santiago. Please note there is no accommodation included on the trip tonight - please contact the Sales Team if you are interested in booking extra nights of accommodation in order to fully explore and take part in some of the optional activities listed below.

Accommodation:

### Daily Activities

#### Optional Activities

Discover all of Santiago's sights on a hop-on/hop-off bus around the city

Tour: 21,000 CLP

Learn more about Santiago and its history on a free walking tour of the centre from a knowledgeable local guide

Tour: Free

Take in the breathtaking vista of the city skyline backdropped by the mighty Andes from the viewpoints at Cerro San Cristobal or Cerro San Lucia

Cable car: 2,500 CLP

## ITINERARY DISCLAIMER

The routes, activities and places visited described in these notes are intentions and are meant as a rough guide only. By their very nature, overland itineraries need to be flexible and the regions that we are travelling through are often unpredictable. We intend to follow the planned route but exact night stops and inclusions cannot be guaranteed and it sometimes happens that we decide to make a change to our planned itinerary. This may be for a variety of reasons; climatic, road or bureaucratic conditions may demand it. Changes to the itinerary may occur with little notice so please be prepared for modifications to your trip.

#### Drive Times

Drive times are listed in the day-to-day itinerary. These are the approximate number of hours that the vehicle will be in motion, and does not include any time taken for coffee or lunch stops, border crossings, photo stops, activities en route, comfort breaks, shopping stops, toilet stops, etc. The times given are approximate estimates only and whilst given with the best of intentions, the drive times are heavily dependent on traffic, road conditions, weather, police roadblocks, and many other factors.

### **Accommodation and Meals Included**

The type of accommodation and included meals are listed for each day of the itinerary. These listings show our intention and on most departures the listings will be accurate. However due to the flexible nature of overland itineraries, climatic, bureaucratic or road conditions may demand changes to our listed intentions or groups may simply decide to amend the plans from time to time.

### **Optional Activities**

A selection of optional activities is listed in the day-to-day itinerary. This list is designed to be a helpful guide as to what is commonly available in each location, and is neither an exhaustive list, a guarantee that the activity is available, or an endorsement or recommendation. Certain activities may not be available on your particular visit and it may not be possible to do all the activities listed in the time available at each destination. It is recommended to give yourself extra time in your joining or ending city if you would like to participate in some optional activities there. Prices listed are for entrance only and do not include transport costs to and from the sites or local guides unless indicated. The prices are displayed according to our latest information and in the best faith, but prices do fluctuate due to exchange rates, season, numbers of participants, and simple increases from the operator, and therefore any prices listed are a guide only and cannot be guaranteed. If you partake in any optional activities, you do so at your own risk and it must be clearly understood that your participation is your own decision and does not form part of your contract with Dragoman. You may be required to sign/complete a waiver form or optional activity form for some optional activities. For more information around activity safety and insurance, please see the Essential Information document.

## **EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION**

In the event of a real emergency once you have left your home country, please contact us on our out of office hours number. If you cannot get through on the phone, please leave a message with your name, reference number, contact details and a message with the help that you need and we will get back to you. Please bear in mind that real progress or action may not be possible until normal office hours, depending on the issue.

If your flight is delayed, please inform us as soon as you can and then make your way to the joining hotel as instructed in the Joining Point section of these notes.

**Out of hours Number: +44 (0) 7985 106564**

## **A FEW RULES**

We expect all group members to act respectfully towards our staff and other group members. Bullying will not be tolerated.

Engaging in commercial or exploitative sexual activities, committing acts of violence or threatening violence towards local people, other group members or any member of our staff is not allowed. Any customer engaging in such activities will be required to leave the trip immediately with no refund of the trip price.

You must at all times comply with the laws, customs, foreign exchange and drug regulations of all countries visited and conduct yourself in accordance with our responsible travel policy. Any customer found contravening such laws or regulations will be required to leave the trip immediately with no refund of the trip price.

Although we are aware that in some parts of the world taking, carrying or selling drugs, or carrying weapons may be legal, it is not acceptable for Dragoman customers and our tour leaders have the right to ask you to leave the trip immediately with no refund of the trip price if you are found to be engaging in such activities.

## **ISSUES ON THE TRIP**

While we always endeavour to provide the best possible holiday experience, due to the nature of travel and the areas we visit sometimes things can and do go wrong. Should any issue occur while you are on your trip, it is imperative that you discuss this with your group leader or our local partner straight away so that they can do their best to rectify the problem and save any potential negative impact on the rest of your trip.

We recognise that there may be times when your group leader may not be able to resolve a situation to your satisfaction. If this is the case please contact our customer relations department on [customer-relations@dragoman.co.uk](mailto:customer-relations@dragoman.co.uk).

You may also choose to provide details in your feedback questionnaire which we ask you to complete at the end of your trip, but we do ask you to be aware that it is very difficult for us to provide any practical help after the trip is complete.

## **IMPORTANT NOTES**

### **OVERLANDING LIFESTYLE**

Dragoman was founded in 1981, and has had many years of experience of leading overland trips across 4 continents. Overlanding is all about sharing a great travelling experience with like-minded people. On your trip you'll travel in one of Dragoman's purpose-built iconic expedition vehicles on an off-the-beaten-track adventure along rugged roads, experiencing the sights, sounds and smells of the world up-close. Your journey will be overland, sometimes across vast distances, so some long days spent driving are inevitable - but these will be interspersed with breaks of a day or two at a destination or activity.

On an overland journey, you are more than just a passenger and everyone gets involved setting up camp - we supply the tent but it's up to you to pitch it! As part of your trip, you will be assigned a truck job which could be collecting firewood or water, luggage loading, organising food, stores, etc. Like all great adventures, the more you put in the more you'll get out! For more details of how an overland trip works, please see the Essential Information document.

## SAFETY STANDARDS

We run adventure journeys in off the beaten track areas, which often have poor infrastructure. You should expect that some of these areas do not adhere to 'Western' safety standards. For more information, please see the Essential Information document

## MEDICAL ASSISTANCE IN REMOTE AREAS

We will be travelling to areas in remote locations where medical assistance will not be available, and communications may be sparse. We do not carry satellite phones on our regular trips. Therefore, if you have a medical condition such as a heart condition that would put you at risk, we would suggest that this is not the trip for you. Also, please be aware that should an emergency occur, there is likely to be a considerable delay in accessing medical care, and by joining our trip you accept this risk.

## VISAS, HEALTH, INSURANCE & MONEY

Before you travel there are vital things to consider such as:

- Any visas needed for your trip
- Any vaccinations needed (please consult your GP or travel clinic)
- Organising your local payment (the kitty)
- Buying travel insurance (insurance is compulsory to be allowed to join our trips)

For more information on these topics, please see the Essential Information Document.

## PATAGONIA NOTES

This trip will be travelling to the southernmost point of South America, and you should expect extreme weather conditions. It can be bitterly cold and very windy with heavy rain at any time of the year, even during the summer. The weather changes extremely fast so you should expect four seasons' weather in one day. Therefore please remember to prepare accordingly - this is a tough trip and should not be taken lightly.

We suggest you take plenty of good quality warm, waterproof and windproof clothing and use the layering system to keep warm. As you will spend a number of nights camping, we recommend you bring a good camping mat, a good quality 4 season sleeping bag, a sleeping bag liner and a small pillow to keep comfortable.

Patagonia's peak season is the summer (Mid November to February). The days are long, typically temperatures are around 20°C during the day, dropping to 8°C at night, though whilst generally warm in the summer, it can often be very windy, with rain. If you are travelling during the peak season be aware that activities and camp sites sell out fast and you will be sharing the trails with a greater number of fellow trekkers. Please note that due to the popularity of the region, we also find that prices can increase significantly during high season.

In the shoulder season the days are much colder, but often clearer and brighter, with fewer people on the trails, though be aware that some activities may not have opened fully. Springtime (October to November) brings the colourful spring blooms. March to May is the best time to see the autumn foliage and makes for stunning photographs. If you choose to travel at this time, be sure to pack a good down jacket and a 4 season sleeping bag and liner, as the nights can be very cold. During the shoulder season there is an option to upgrade into basic cabins or hostels at some of the campsites that we stay in along the way. Please budget an extra USD10-15 per night for such upgrades.

## THE W WALK

We include the full 4 day W walk in Torres del Paine NP as standard in our kitty. This includes transfers to the start and finish points, camping equipment, full board and the services of an English speaking local guide throughout the trip.

The W walk involves 4 days of trekking and 3 overnight stays away from the truck. Your tents will be set up at pre-booked campsites at Paine Grande, Los Cuernos and Las Torres, and meals included. It is important to bear in mind that you will have to carry your own personal effects for the duration of the trek, e.g. sleeping mat, sleeping bag, clothes, toiletries, snacks, water, etc. Some days of the W walk can be shortened for those wishing to trek slightly shorter distances, for example on Day 2 it is possible to trek to the first view point and return to Paine Grande via the same route, reducing the trek by half. It is possible to hire porters for the W walk at a cost of CLP150,000 per porter. Their maximum load is 15kg. We recommend that you put your bag into a waterproof liner or dry sack before giving it to a porter. In high season (mid November to mid March) we recommended contacting your travel consultant to book your porter in advance.

For anyone who wishes to stay at our base camp, this can be arranged in advance through your travel consultant. This package will include camping and full board at our base camp at Camping Pehoe, as well as the opportunity to join the W walkers for guided single day hikes to Glacier Grey and the Las Torres viewpoint. Transfers will be provided your crew in the truck.

Please note that the price is the same whether you choose to stay at the base camp, or take part in the full W walk; however in order for us to make arrangements for meal provisions, you must tell us in advance if you will not be trekking the W walk.

## ARGENTINA NOTES

## CHILE NOTES

Please ensure you have an up to date version of these notes. **These notes were printed on the 27th February 2020**