

BACKROADS OF PATAGONIA, (ZSU)

Ushuaia to Santiago 23 Days, departing 23rd December 2020



TRIP OVERVIEW

Trip Style: Overlanding

Route: Ushuaia to Santiago

Duration: 23 Days

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

Accommodation: Comfortable Hotel 1 night
Wild Camp 2 nights
Camping 9 nights
Multishare Hostel 8 nights
Basic Hotel 2 nights

Meals: Breakfasts x 13, Lunches x 12, Dinners x 11

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 - Ushuaia (23rd December 2020)

Welcome to the incredible port town of Ushuaia, the southernmost city in the world! 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.

Important note from September 2018 departures: The full W-Walk is now included in this tour. If you wish to remain at our base camp, please inform us at time of booking so that we can arrange your meals and guides.

If you arrive early to Ushuaia, there are options 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. Please note that many of the options listed below will only be possible for those with extra time in Ushuaia 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 Ushuaia.

In Ushuaia we stay in a comfortable Hotel just out of town. There are regular shuttles into town from here.

Border information: if you are starting in Ushuaia, you will most likely enter Argentina at Ushuaia Malvinas Argentinas International Airport (IATA code: USH).

Accommodation: Hotel Tolkeyen A'''

Daily Activities

Optional Activities

Beagle channel boat trips

4 hours: 2,040 ARS

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

Entrance: 400 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

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

4 hour guided tour: 1,450 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 2 - Tierra Del Fuego (24th December 2020)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

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

We start our journey with a full day drive across to the Chilean side of the island of Tierra del Fuego, and a ferry crossing onto the mainland.

Day 3 - Torres Del Paine NP (25th December 2020)

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

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!

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 4 - Torres Del Paine NP (26th December 2020)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

From September 2018, the full W-Walk will be included as part of your trip Kitty.

Embark on the full 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 the look out for Glacier Grey. The walk returns by the same route.

Day 5 - Torres Del Paine NP (27th December 2020)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

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.

Day 6 - Torres Del Paine NP (28th December 2020)

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 7 - Torres Del Paine NP (29th December 2020)

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 Ascencio. Be prepared for the final hour which is a relatively steep scramble up to the Tarn and Mirador Las Torres, with great views of the iconic Towers.

Our hike today is approximately 8 hours for the return trip (20km) and we will stay the night at Camp Central again.

Day 8 - El Calafate (30th December 2020)

Meals: Breakfast

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

Today we leave Torres del Paine behind us and head across the border to the town of El Calafate, the gateway to the Perito Moreno Glacier.

Day 9 - El Calafate (31st December 2020)

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

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

Explore the Perito Moreno glacier on an incredible full day expedition trekking through the forests and onto the glacier itself using crampons (please note that this is an alternative to the regular tour as there will not be enough time for both - however you will stop at the main viewpoint on your way back to El Calafate at the end of the excursion)

Full day : 9,300 ARS

Boat trip beneath the Perito Moreno Glacier

1 hour: 1,000 ARS

Day 10 - El Chalten (1st January 2021)

Today we have a short drive across the Patagonian steppe to the tiny town of El Chaltén, situated in Los Glaciares National Park and famous for its incredible mountains, glaciers and world-class trekking opportunities.

Day 11 - El Chalten (2nd January 2021)

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

Go Ice Trekking on the Cagliero Glacier

Full day: 205 USD

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

Trek around the walking trails of Los Glaciares National Park taking in the marvellous vistas of the Fitz Roy mountain range

Full day: Free

Day 12 - Argentinian Patagonia (3rd January 2021)

Meals: Lunch, Dinner

Today we will have a full day drive north along the famous Ruta 40 (Route 40). Please note that the road from here all the way to Futaleufú is rough and mostly unpaved meaning that the going is slow.

Day 13 - Cerro Castillo NR (4th January 2021)

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, probably one of the most stunning areas in South America. We will arrive in the beautiful mountains of the Cerro Castillo National Reserve.

Daily Activities

Included Activities

Enjoy a traditional Chilean BBQ

Included

Day 14 - Cerro Castillo NR (5th January 2021)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today we have a free day to hike to the stunning 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 15 - Puyuhuapi (6th January 2021)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today we drive through the Chilean fjords to Queluat National Park, where we can take a short 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 16 - Futaleufu (7th January 2021)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Today we continue to the rafting mecca of Futaleufú.

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 17 - Bariloche (8th January 2021)

Border information: Exit Chile at Rio Futaleufú, enter Argentina at Rio Futaleufú.

Today we continue our journey to the picturesque town of Bariloche in Argentina's Lake District.

Day 18 - Bariloche (9th January 2021)

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

Daily Activities

Optional Activities

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

Full day hire, including helmet: 900 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

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

Entrance: 200 ARS

Horse riding around Bariloche

Half day riding: 1,750 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

Day 19 - Pucon (10th January 2021)

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

Today we will drive through the scenic Ruta de los Siete Lagos (Seven Lakes Route) to the beautiful Lake District of Chile and the lakeside town of Pucón.

Day 20 - Pucon (11th January 2021)

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

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

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

Trek up the snowcapped volcano Mt Villarica

Chairlift : 10,000 CLP

Tour: 95,000 CLP

Day 21 - Buchupureo (12th January 2021)

Meals: Lunch, Dinner

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

Day 22 - Santiago (13th January 2021)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Today we have a leisurely breakfast, before heading 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 wine tasting at a vineyard in San Javier

Included

Day 23 - Santiago - End Date (14th January 2021)

Meals: Breakfast

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.

Please note there is no accommodation included on the trip tonight - please contact your sales agent if you would like to arrange some extra nights of accommodation here after your trip.

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.

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 overlanding 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 24th September 2020**