



Patagonia Trek

Glaciers and National Parks

PIONEER EXPEDITIONS



ITINERARY

Patagonia Trek • Argentina

15 DAYS • 14 NIGHTS

El Calafate – El Chalten – Cerro Fitz Roy – Laguna de los Tres – Cerro Torre – El Chalten – Loma del Pliegue Tumbado – El Calafate – Perito Moreno Glacier – Torres del Paine National Park – Paine Towers – Puerto Natales – Rio Grande – Ushuaia – Ushuaia

HIGHLIGHTS

- View one of the most spectacular viewpoints of Cerro Fitz Roy – Laguna de los tres.
- Climb fantastic mountains including Loma del Pliegue and the unmissable Paine Towers
- Visit the picturesque El Chalten
- Explore Ushuaia, the southernmost city in the world.

TOUR ESSENTIALS

Tour Style	Trekking /Exploring
Tour Start	El Calafate
Tour End	Ushuaia
Accommodation	Refuge, Lodge and Camping
Included Meals	14 Breakfasts, 8 lunches, 6 Dinners
Difficulty Level	Difficult
Group Size	Max. 14people

ARGENTINA TREKKING HOLIDAY



This Patagonia Holiday is perfect for anyone looking for a once in a life time adventure holiday. Starting at El Calafate and goes all the way down to Ushuaia, visiting Fitz Roy and Cerro Torre (maybe the two most emblematic mountains of Patagonia) as well as Perito Moreno Glacier (only one in the world that shows a closure and rupture process), Torres del Paine National Park in Chile and eventually across the Magellan Strait into Tierra del Fuego to end our tour in the “city of the end of the world”.



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ARGENTINA *an overview*

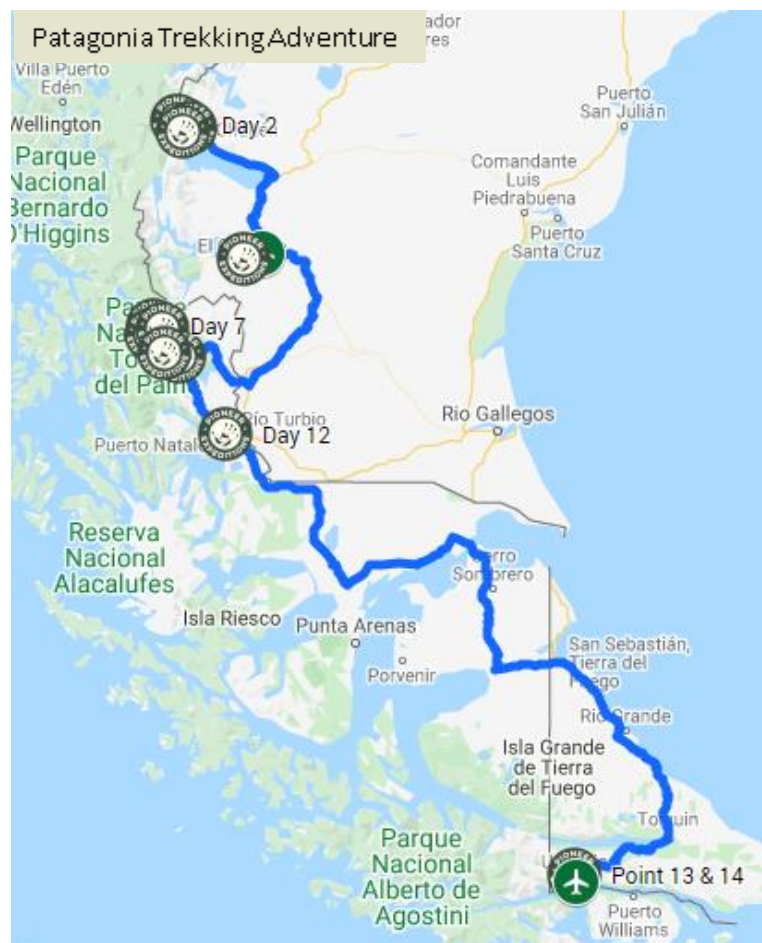
Holidays in Argentina offer a diverse and unforgettable experience. The vast South American Nation is not only home to Buenos Aires, the large cosmopolitan capital, but also boasts the highest peak of the Andes mountain range, Aconcagua, as well as the most extensive deserts and impressive waterfalls. Explore the infinite space between the impenetrable jungles in the north and world-class ski resorts overlooking the beautiful lakes in the south. If you are looking for 'off-the-beaten-track' with spectacular natural beauties and diverse wildlife, then Argentina is for you. So why not **Do Something Extraordinary!**

WHY PIONEER EXPEDITIONS?

Pioneer Expeditions are one of the few specialists that really *do* off the beaten track and unique adventures. The team have a real passion for wildlife and adventure travel which we love to share with our clients. We delight in searching the world for new destinations, new experiences and creating the most incredible adventures.

We like to introduce our clients to unique, the different, and the incredible. Whether it is through wildlife tracking, sea kayaking, snorkelling, trekking, rafting, cycling or observing wildlife in its natural environment, we want to give you the real Pioneer experience.

From the moment you choose to travel with Pioneer Expeditions until you return back home, you are supported by our dedicated team. We listen to what you want and can create an itinerary around your specific needs, working with your budget and with a commitment to responsible travel. Alternatively, our small group tours have a maximum of 14 people, making it a much more personal experience.



ITINERARY

DAY 1: Arrive at EL CALAFATE AIRPORT and relax in EL CALAFATE

We welcome you at Calafate airport and transfer to town to check in at your accommodation. You get the rest of the day to enjoy the town and later you have your welcome dinner.



Overnight:
Lodge



Meals:
D



Distance:
Approx. 30min transfer



Activity:
Travel

DAY 2: Take the bus to EL CHALTÉN where you will start your trek to LAGUNA CAPRI

After breakfast we take our bus for the 220 km long drive to El Chaltén, a small and picturesque village at the foot of Fitz Roy & Cerro Torre massif. We make a stop half way to enjoy local pastries and hot coffee. Once in El Chaltén, we will meet fellow travellers coming up North and start our trek. We carry in our packs only the necessary items for this 2 nights and 3 days in which we'll overnight in our Full Camp inside the National Park.

What we don't need is left behind at our office and you will find it back at your accommodation when we arrive back to El Chaltén on day 4.

We hike up a gentle slope on Fitz Roy trail to gain height over the River de las Vueltas valley up to the first viewpoints over Fitz Roy massif. From these first viewpoints, another 2 hours of gentle walking across bogs and forests take us to our camp, from where we will enjoy a spectacular view of all the Fitz Roy group spires rising from the surrounding glaciers.

Hike to Laguna Capri: 3.5 Miles
Altitude El Chalten: 404 meters above sea level
Altitude Laguna Capri: 300 meters above sea level
Elevation: 300 meters
Walking time: 3 hours.



Lodging at Poincenot Campsite in double tent (rural area)

Full Camps are pitched up early in the season, so we find the camp ready upon arrival. It offers comfortable igloo type tents for 1 or 2 passengers, with insulation mat and sleeping bags. The camp also features a spacious dining tent, a kitchen tent, tables, benches or chairs and a full set of table service and kitchenware. The sanitary services are latrine-type (rural area).



Overnight:
Campsite



Meals:
B, LB, D



Activity:
Trekking



Distance:
3-4 hours' drive

DAY 3: Continue the trek to CERRO FITZ ROY, LAGUNA DE LOS TRES

Early in the morning, before the first coffee, we can try to catch the morning. It's a spectacular start to the day but the day offers so much more.

After breakfast, carrying only day personal items such as our parka, gloves, our camera, water bottle and box lunch, we hike along Fitz Roy trail up to Rio Blanco, climbers basecamp to the east side of the mountain. From here a steep 1 h trail leads us to one of the most spectacular viewpoints of the National Park: Laguna de los Tres, with its zephyr blue colour, lies at the foot of the massif, offering full close up views of Fitz Roy massif spires and glaciers. Each wall rises something from 600 to 1500 metres above the surrounding glaciers. Fitz Roy, with its 3405 metres above sea level, is considered the "King of Patagonia" and also considered one of the three most beautiful mountains on Earth (together with Alpamayo in Perú and K2 in the Karakoram). We hike back to Laguna Capri in the late afternoon. Walking time is 5 to 6 hrs.

Lodging at Poincenot Campsite in double tent (rural area)

Hike Fitz Roy Trail to Laguna de Los Tres: 11 miles roundtrip
Altitude Laguna de Los Tres: 1170 Meters above sea level
Elevation: 1070 meters from Camp Poincenot
Walking time: 5 to 6 hours.
Hike Fitz Roy Trail to Laguna de Los Tres: 11 miles roundtrip



Overnight:
Campsite



Meals:
B, LB, D



Activity:
Trekking



Distance:
N/A

DAY 4: Hike the CERRO TORRE trail to EL CHALTÉN, discovering the beautiful mountain ranges on route

Today we hike around Laguna Capri to get to the Lagoons Madre and Hija Valley and down to Fitz Roy river valley, where we meet Cerro Torre trail. The trail runs along beech forest, bogs and shrub land. From the camp, a short hike takes us to Laguna Torre, enclosed by moraines and with the Glacier Grande calving in its west side. It is usual to see icebergs pushed by the wind in the coast of the lagoon. The thin and elegant 3128 metres of Cerro Torre group and the Adela range in the background complete this spectacular view. In the afternoon we hike back to El Chalten along Cerro Torre trail.

Hike Camp Poincenot – Laguna Torre – El Chalten: 13 miles roundtrip
Altitude Laguna Torre: 634 meters Above sea level
Elevation: 234 meters
Walking time: 7 to 8 hours.
Hike Camp Poincenot – Laguna Torre – El Chalten: 13 miles roundtrip



Overnight:
Lodge



Meals:
B, LB



Activity:
Trekking



Distance:
N/A

DAY 5: Start your day in EL CHALTÉN before heading off towards LOMA DEL PLIEGUE TUMBADO

This mountain, 1500m tall, is located immediately south of Cerro Torre valley and offers some of the best views over the different group of mountains, glaciers and lakes that features the area. From the lower terraces to the summit, you can get spectacular views of Fitz Roy, Torre and the spectacular glacier valley in between both. From the summit the bonus is the sight of Paso del Viento and some of the mountains that stick out from the Patagonian Icefield. According to the group capacity, we choose the lower terraces or try the summit, a long but gentle climb in scree. The lower part of the mountain is covered by shrub land and forest. We are back in Chalten by late afternoon.

Hike El Chalten – Loma del Pliegue Tumbado: 12 – 13 miles
Altitud Loma del Pliegue: 1298 meters above sea level
Elevation: 894 meters
Walking time: 7 to 8 hours
Hike El Chalten – Loma del Pliegue Tumbado: 6 miles



Overnight:
Lodge



Meals:
B, LB



Activity:
Trekking



Distance:
N/A

DAY 6: Relax at EL CHALTÉN or go on an optional excursion

This day is at leisure to visit the town or to go on optional excursions around the area.

We recommend the optional excursions offered in the town such as Viedma Ice trek. Trekking on glacier, using crampons. This activity is physical demanding, but allow us to enjoy a trek on ice and a boat trip in Viedma Lake. Also, you can discover the town or other optional excursions with less physical effort.

In the late afternoon, we return to El Calafate.



Overnight Lodge



Overnight:
Lodge



Meals:
B



Activity:
Leisure



Distance:
Approx. 4 hour drive

DAY 7: Depart EL CALAFATE to visit one of the World's Natural Wonders: PERITO MORENO GLACIER

We dedicate this day to one of the World's Natural Wonder: the Moreno glacier. This ice field- type glacier flows down from the Patagonian Icefield, a big sheet of ice that with its 22.000 square kilometres is the third largest glacier area in the world, after Antarctica (14 M sq. km) and Greenland (1 M sq. km). Because unusual favourable local conditions, this glacier is the only one in the world that shows a closure and rupture process. The road leads to the very front of the glacier, which will be only meters away from your eyes. The roar of the chunks of ice falling inside the glacier or from the glacier into the lake, the frequent collapse of the front seracs into the turquoise water, makes this an unforgettable experience.

Overnight Lodge

Optional excursion recommended: Safari Nautico – Boat trip in The Tempanos channel. (This excursion is not included in the program).



Overnight:
Lodge



Meals:
B

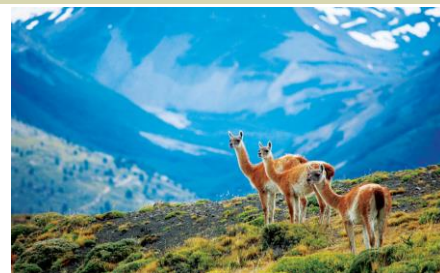
Activity:
Exploring



Distance:
Approx. 1-2 hours' drive

DAY 8: Early start in EL CALAFATE to drive to the beautiful TORRES DEL PAINE NATIONAL PARK

It's an early start to the day with a 6 hrs drive to our camp in Paine. We drive across the steppe, still following by parts the legendary route 40, to get around Sierra de Los Bagues, an impressive range in between Calafate and Paine. We cross the Argentinean Chilean border at Cancha Carrera/ Cerro Castillo. After the border crossing, we start our final sprint to Paine National Park, World Heritage by the UNESCO (United Nations Education, Science and Culture Organization). Approaching the Park, we start to see the different mountains that feature the area: Paine Grande, the Horns, Admiral Nieto and the Towers. Once we entered the Park, we go for a short 1 to 2 hs walk to get familiar with the landscape, the wind and the rich wildlife: guanacos, lesser rheas, condors and all types of wetland and buzzard birds will be available for our eyes and cameras. There will also be plenty of flowers for you to appreciate and photograph. Back in the bus, we reach our camp at the foot of Paine massif.



Altitude Las Torres Full Camp: 100 meters above sea level

Walking time: 1 to 2 hours

Lodging at Las Torres Full Camp

Full Camps are pitched up early in the season, so we find the camp ready upon arrival. It offers comfortable igloo type tents for 1 or 2 passengers, with insulation mat and sleeping bags. The camp also features a spacious dining tent, a kitchen tent, tables, benches or chairs and a full set of table service and kitchenware (area with sanitary services).



Overnight:
Camp



Meals:
B, LB, D



Activity:
Travel and Trek



Distance:
Approx. 6 hour drive

DAY 9: Hike from PAINE TOWERS into the ASCENSIO RIVER VALLEY



Early in the morning we start walking towards the bridge over the Ascensio River, head trail for the world famous Paine towers. We "warm up" hiking a steep one hour slope, to get inside the valley itself, a narrow "V" shape alpine valley coming from inside the Paine massif. A gentle downhill leads us to Refugio Chileno, a cosy and comfortable mountain lodge, which can be a good turnaround point for those not willing to make a full day hike. We then walk in a gentle slope along the river side and inside beech forest. A final climb on moraine take us to the Towers viewpoint: a glacier origin lagoon and the three towers rising vertically 1000m from the glacier. The lack of breath will be either because the climb and the sight!!!! We go back to our camp on the same way we came.

Lodging at Las Torres Full Camp in double tent (area with sanitary services)

Hike to Refugio Chileno: 4 miles round trip (4 hours walking)
Hike to Las Torres: 11 miles round trip (8 hours walking)
Altitud Las Torres foot: 866 meters above sea level
Elevation: 766 meters from Camp Las Torres
Walking time: 7 to 8 hs



Overnight:
Camp



Meals:
B, LB, D



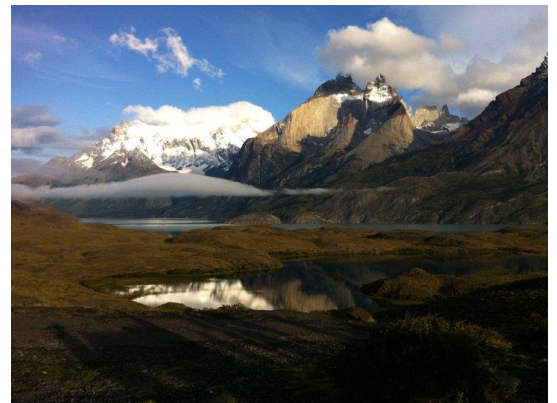
Activity:
Trekking



Distance:
N/A

DAY 10: Cross LAKE PEHOE CROSSING on a catamaran and continue the trail to the FRENCH VALLEY

We start the morning with an early 1hr drive which takes us to Port Pudeto to board the catamarán that crosses Lake Pehoe twice a day. Once at the far side of the lake, we leave unnecessary items in our tents and we set out to the French Valley trail. The trail skirts Paine Grande south slopes and Lake Skottberg, to take us after 2 and a half hours of continuous ups and downs, to the hanging bridge upon the French River. This breath-taking location is at the foot of both the 2700mts South East face of Paine Grande (to the west) and the Horns, with its characteristic black sedimentary topping, to the east. We continue walking 1 h further by Italian camps to reach breath-taking viewpoints over the area. After lunch and photos we retrace our steps back to Paine Grande Full Camp.



Full Camp Refugio Pehoe in double or single tent (area with sanitary services)

Hike up French Valley: 11 miles round trip
Altitude Pehoe Refuge Full Camp: 100 Meters above sea level
Altitude French Valley: 763 meters above sea level. (intermediate viewpoints)
Elevation French Valley: 663 meters from Pehoe Refuge
Walking time: 5 to 6 hs



Overnight:
Camp



Meals:
B, LB, D



Activity:
Trekking



Distance:
Approx. 1 hour drive



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DAY 11: Discover GREY GLACIER Viewpoint and LAKE GREY SHORE

Lake Grey trail leads from Pehoe valley across ridges to reach Grey valley. This magnificent valley flows down 60 km from the Patagonian Icefield, featuring the huge glacier calving down in the grey colour lake. Our trail skirts the lake, going up and down the western slopes of Paine Grande, offering some of the most impressive sights of the Park. From the high sections of the trail, many different viewpoints allow us to see the south end of the lake where the blue icebergs gather, the mountains rising far in the distance above glaciers Grey and Tyndall, and of course lake and glacier Grey. We reach the main viewpoint, a rocky point somewhat 2hrs away from Pehoe, with views over the Lake and Glacier Grey and the surrounding glaciers and mountains. We come back along the same trail, crossing bogs, shrub lands and forest. By noon we take the boat to cross Lake Pehoe back and then we go to our accommodation in Puerto Natales, a picturesque fishermen town located in the shores of the Ultima Esperanza (Last Hope) fiord.

Overnight Lodge

Hike to Grey Lake viewpoint:	2.4 miles roundtrip
Altitude Grey Glacier viewpoint:	465 meters above sea level
Elevation:	365 meters from Pehoe Refuge
Walking time:	4 to 5 hs
Hike to Grey Lake viewpoint:	2.4 miles roundtrip



Overnight:
Lodge



Meals:
B, LB



Activity:
Trekking



Distance:
N/A

DAY 12: PUERTO NATALES to USHUAIA

Long drive today, though quite worthwhile. We continue south to reach the legendary Magellan Strait, which we will keep on sight up to Primera Angostura, where we board the Ferry in which we will cross the Strait. This Pass, discovered by Hernando de Magallanes in 1520, was the natural and logical way to all vessels until the Panama Channel was open at the beginning of the XXth century. You will find yourselves wondering how those brave men dare to sail those waters in such fragile caravels!!!

Once in Tierra del Fuego (literally, Land of Fire, due to the fires seen by the first white sailors in the coast, done by the local Indians to cook and heat) we enter back Argentina through Paso San Sebastián. Once in Ushuaia a transfer will take us to our hotel.

NB. For groups over 10 we will spend the night at Estancia Las Hijas, where a lamb cooked in the classical Patagonian bbq style will be waiting for us.

Accommodation: Bed in refuge in a shared room. The ranch has a dining room, bathrooms and showers will be available on this day.

Additional meal included: dinner

Overnight at lodge



Overnight:
Refuge



Meals:
B



Activity:
Driving



Distance:
N/A



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DAY 13: USHUAIA – Tierra del Fuego National Park

You will enjoy this entire day by your own, to choose the optional activity that better fit your desires.

NB. For groups over 10 – we will have slept at Estancia Las Hijas the previous night.

Groups of 10 people or more who have slept at Estancia Las Hijas the previous night:

In the morning we learn about the ranch activities and how dogs deal with the sheeps. By mid morning we continue south to visit Lago Fagnano in the middle of Andes Mountains, to continue to our last destination: Ushuaia, the southernmost city of the World. In the afternoon we continue to Tierra del Fuego National Park.



Afternoon at leisure.

Overnight at lodge



Overnight:
Lodge



Meals:
B, BL

Activity:
Exploring



Distance:

DAY 14: Take a boat from USHUAIA to the legendary BEAGLE CHANNEL

After breakfast we walk to the Ushuaia Tourist Pier for a full day of activities: we will navigate the Beagle Channel to the iconic Les Eclaireurs Lighthouse, we will see Los Lobos Island and Los Patos Island, we will visit the Acatushun Museum in the pioneering Estancia Harberton and we will have the unforgettable opportunity to walk among penguins on Isla Martillo..

We recommending taking some food and drink for this day.

Overnight at Lodge



Overnight:
Lodge



Meals:
B



Activity:
Wildlife



Distance:
N/A

DAY 15: Time to say goodbye as you are transferred from USHUAIA to USHUAIA AIRPORT

You will have the morning on your own to discover the town of Ushuaia, which is located in the north coast of the Beagle channel. Then town features interesting museums and its typical architecture. In the afternoon we are transferred to Ushuaia airport to take our flight to Buenos Aires. Our services end at the airport.



Overnight:
N/A



Meals:
B



Activity:
Travel



Distance:
Less than an hours' drive





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OPTIONAL EXCURSIONS

El Calafate

Safari Nautico: when you go to see Perito Moreno Glacier, you can opt to take the boat trip that approaches to the front of the glacier.

Minitrekking: this is a trek on Perito Moreno Glacier. If you opt for this option, you do not go with the group to see Perito Moreno Glacier, instead you go on a different excursion (it has to be booked in advance).

Ushuaia

Trekking Laguna Esmeralda: 6hrs walk through Tierra Mayor Forest, until Laguna Esmeralda, with its turquoise water.

Glacier Vinciguerra and Laguna de los Tempanos: a walk to see the natural environments in the area, until reaching Glaciar Vinciguerra and its lagoon.

Kayak activity in Lago Escondido

El Chalten: you have the option to do Lago del Desierto Boat trip and see Fitz Roy Mount from a different angle.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

INCLUDED

- Bilingual tour leader during all the activities.
- Mountain guides while on trek.
- Moreno Glacier excursion.
- Lake Pehoe boat trips (in and out).
- Beagle channel boat trip
- Visit to Estancia Harberton
- All transfers El Calafate airport – El Calafate - El Chalten – El Calafate – Torres del Paine – Puerto Natales - Río Grande – Ushuaia – Ushuaia Airport.
- During the trip we combine private and regular buses.
- Lodging as shown above.
- 14 breakfasts, 8 lunch boxes and 6 dinners as detailed.

NOT INCLUDED

- Entrance Fees to National Parks
- Medical and Life Insurance
- Tips
- Drinks/Beverages (all foods are without alcoholic or non-alcoholic drinks)
- Flights or Airport taxes.
- Port tax at Ushuaia
- Optional excursions. The recommended optional activities match the timetable of our program.
- Services not shown or detailed in the program.



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

ACTIVITY DURATION	5-7 hours per day
SEASON	October through April
BEST TIME TO GO	December through March
GROUP SIZE	2-14 pax.
EXPEDITION SCHEDULE	There are weekly departures between October and April. Tailored dates to suit also.
DIFFICULTY LEVEL	Our grades have been designated based on our perception of the degree of physical activity you are likely to require to enjoy the adventure. These are only a guideline. This itinerary has a 'Difficult' level 5 – 7 hours of activities per day). This means that you will need more than a basic level of fitness and some specific training may be required.

