

Pure Patagonia: Chile & Argentina

Go Beyond Tour | 16 Days | Physical Level 2

Buenos Aires (2N) – Bariloche (2N) – Puerto Varas (2N) - Puerto Natales (1N) – Torres del Paine (2N) – El Calafate (3N) – Buenos Aires (1N)

Discover the natural beauty and wilderness of Patagonia on a journey from cosmopolitan Buenos Aires and the lakes of Bariloche and Puerto Varas to Torres del Paine and the magnificent Perito Moreno Glacier.

- Journey through the breathtaking Lake Districts of Argentina and Chile
- Explore the spectacular Torres del Paine National Park
- Marvel at the awe-inspiring Perito Moreno Glacier
- Discover the traditions of gaucho life with an authentic Patagonian estancia experience

TOUR MAP



PURE PATAGONIA: CHILE & ARGENTINA

- Return international economy flights, taxes and current fuel surcharges (unless a land only option is selected)
- All accommodation
- Meals as stated
- All sightseeing and entrance fees
- All transportation and transfers
- English speaking National Escorts (if your group is 10 or more passengers) or Local Guides
- Specialist advice from our experienced travel consultants

The only things you may have to pay for are personal expenditure e.g. drinks, optional excursions or shows, insurance of any kind, customary tipping, early check-in or late check-out and other items not specified on the itinerary.

GO BEYOND TOURS:

Venture off the beaten track to explore fascinating destinations away from the tourist trail. You will discover the local culture in depth and see sights rarely witnessed by other travellers. These tours take you away from the comforts of home but will reward with unique culture, interactions with local people the experiences of a lifetime.

PHYSICAL LEVEL 2:

All our tours feature a physical rating to help you select the right holiday for you. To travel on any of our tours requires unaided mobility and the ability to stroll around the sights. 'Pure Patagonia: Chile & Argentina' is rated 2 on the physical level scale. A reasonable level of fitness is required but it's more about spending time on your feet rather than covering large distances. You'll be getting on and off coaches and boats, walking around the sights and climbing some steps.

- There will be sightseeing on foot for both short and extended periods of time
- Walking over some uneven paths, steps, boardwalks and natural terrain
- Getting on and off boats during lake and glacier excursions
- Exploring national parks where paths and viewpoints may be uneven
- The walkways at Perito Moreno Glacier include numerous steps and sections of uneven terrain
- Spending extended periods outdoors in Patagonia's changeable weather, which can include strong winds
- Some longer journeys by road between destinations

Of course, our National Escorts and Local Guides will always endeavour to provide the highest level of service and assistance; however, they cannot be expected to cater for customers who are unfit to complete the itinerary.

JOINING YOUR TOUR:

The tour is 16 days in duration including international flights.

Travellers booked on 'Land Only', the price includes your arrival/departure airport transfers if arriving/departing on the start and conclusion date of your tour or you booked pre or post tour accommodation with Wendy Wu tours. Please advise your international flight times to Reservations.

Join the tour on Day 1 in Buenos Aires and end the tour on Day 14 in Buenos Aires. Please refer to your final itinerary for more specific meeting instructions pertaining to your departure.

ITINERARY CHANGES:

It is our intention to adhere to the day-to-day itinerary as printed; however, the order of events or sightseeing may change as we look to improve our tours or as local conditions dictate. In these circumstances we will make the best possible arrangements maintaining the integrity of your trip.

DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 1: Travel overnight to Buenos Aires Meals: D



Fly overnight to Argentina's cosmopolitan capital, Buenos Aires, arriving the following morning. On arrival you will be met and transferred to your hotel, a journey of approximately 1 - 1.5 hours.

Depending on your time of arrival, the rest of the day is yours to relax and begin soaking up the atmosphere of this vibrant city, before enjoying an Argentinian-style welcome dinner this evening.

Please note: *Early check-in is not included. If you wish to extend your stay before your tour, please contact our Reservations team to discuss the available options.*

Destination Information

Buenos Aires - The vibrant capital and largest city of Argentina, famous for its tango music, European-style buildings, and rich food.

Day 2: Buenos Aires Meals: B, L, D



Today, discover the highlights of Buenos Aires on a guided tour of Argentina's enigmatic capital for approximately 3.5 hours. Explore the historic Plaza de Mayo, admire the distinctive Casa Rosada and Metropolitan Cathedral, stroll along the colourful streets of La Boca, and visit the elegant Recoleta district. You'll also explore the famous Recoleta Cemetery, renowned for its elaborate mausoleums and the resting place of Eva "Evita" Peron.

Later, enjoy a 2-hour hands-on empanada-making workshop. Learn how this much-loved Argentine speciality is prepared, from selecting the ingredients and spices to mastering the traditional folding technique, before sampling your freshly made empanada, accompanied by a glass of wine.

This evening, experience the drama of the tango with a traditional performance at one of Buenos Aires' oldest and most iconic tango venues. Enjoy an evening of music, dance and authentic Argentine cuisine as you experience one of the country's most cherished cultural traditions.

Destination Information

Recoleta - An elegant district of grand architecture, leafy avenues and historic Recoleta Cemetery, resting place of many notable Argentinians.

La Boca - A colourful neighbourhood known for its brightly painted buildings, tango heritage and lively Caminito street.

Empanada - Argentine empanadas are savory baked or fried pastries with flaky wheat dough, traditionally filled with spiced ground or hand-cut beef, onions, cumin, paprika, hard-boiled eggs, and green olives.

Day 3: Buenos Aires - Bariloche

Meals: B



Take a 2-hour flight to San Carlos de Bariloche, beautifully situated on the shores of Lake Nahuel Huapi in the heart of Argentina's Lake District. On arrival, you'll be met and transferred to your hotel for approximately 30 minutes, taking in the region's spectacular scenery of crystal-clear lakes, forested hills and snow-capped Andean peaks along the way.

The remainder of the day is yours to spend at leisure. You may choose to stroll along the picturesque lakeshore, explore Bariloche's charming town centre with its distinctive Alpine-style architecture, or browse the city's renowned chocolate shops and inviting cafés.

Destination Information

Bariloche - San Carlos de Bariloche (commonly called Bariloche) is a town in Argentina's Patagonia region. It borders Nahuel Huapi, a large glacial lake surrounded by the Andes Mountains.

Day 4: Bariloche Meals: B



This morning, enjoy a 3-hour exploration of the spectacular landscapes surrounding Bariloche on the scenic Circuito Chico route. Travel through the beautiful Nahuel Huapi National Park, where forested hills, shimmering lakes and dramatic mountain scenery create some of Patagonia's most impressive views.

Your journey begins at Cerro Campanario, where you'll take a chairlift to the summit and enjoy panoramic views across the surrounding lakes, islands, mountains and the city of San Carlos de Bariloche below. Continue to the picturesque Llao Llao area, where you'll visit the charming San Eduardo Chapel and see Puerto Pañuelo, located on the shores of Lake Nahuel Huapi.

Continue around the circuit, passing Lopez Bay at the foot of Cerro López, crossing Lake Moreno at its narrowest point and travelling alongside the tranquil waters of Laguna El Trébol before returning to Bariloche.

Destination Information

Parque Nacional Nahuel Huapi - A vast, protected area in the Lake Distrit of Argentinean Patagonia. The park is known for Nahuel Huapi, its largest glacial lake. San Carlos de Bariloche, known for its chocolate industry, and the resort of Villa La Angostura are on its shores. The Andes form its western border and include soaring Mount Tronador, a dormant volcano. The forest areas are home to rare pudu deer.

Day 5: Bariloche - Puerto Varas Meals: B



Today, embark on one of South America's most spectacular journeys as you cross the Andes from Argentina to Chile via the Andean Crossing. Combining boat journeys and overland transfers, this full-day adventure, of around 10-11 hours, connects Argentina's Lake District with Chile's dramatic Lake and Volcano Region.

Departing from Bariloche, travel through some of Patagonia's most remarkable scenery, crossing the crystal-clear waters of Nahuel Huapi Lake and Todos los Santos Lake. Along the route, pass through lush temperate rainforests and rugged mountain landscapes, with unforgettable views of the iconic Osorno Volcano, famed for its perfectly symmetrical cone shape.

As you pass through remote ports and mountain landscapes, follow a historic route that has connected Argentina and Chile for centuries. Used by indigenous communities and early explorers, the Andean Crossing offers a fascinating combination of natural beauty, culture and history.

The lake crossing will be shared with other passengers, and you will be met by a private transfer on arrival at Puerto Varas pier.

Destination Information

Osorno Volcano - A 2,652-metre-tall conical stratovolcano lying between Osorno Province and Llanquihue Province in the Los Lagos Region of southern Chile. It stands on the southeastern shore of Llanquihue Lake, and also towers over Todos los Santos Lake.

Day 6: Puerto Varas - Puerto Octay Meals: B



Today, discover the cultural heritage and scenic beauty of Chile's Lake District on the Route of the Settlers. This picturesque journey explores the legacy of the German immigrants who settled in the region, with charming lakeside towns, traditional architecture and spectacular volcanic landscapes.

Begin in Llanquihue for approximately 30-45 minutes, a town founded by German settlers, where you'll have time to explore the lakeside promenade and admire the distinctive wooden architecture that reflects the area's European heritage.

Continue along the shores of Lake Llanquihue, for a further 45-60 minutes, enjoying wonderful views across the water towards the surrounding volcanoes. Arrive in Frutillar, one of the region's most charming towns, known for its beautifully preserved German-style buildings, colourful gardens and peaceful lakeside setting. You will have approximately 1.5 - 2 hours to explore the town and admire views of the impressive Osorno and Puntiagudo volcanoes.

Continue to Puerto Octay, a historic heritage town located on the shores of the lake. Explore its traditional centre and tranquil lakeside surroundings for an hour, before returning to your hotel in Puerto Varas.

Destination Information

Puerto Octay - A town and commune in Osorno Province located on the north shore of Llanquihue Lake in Los Lagos Region in the south of Chile. It was settled by German colonists in 1852. Puerto Octay was an important port with regular traffic to Puerto Varas before the railway opened in 1912.

Day 7: Puerto Varas - Puerto Natales

Meals: B



Transfer to Puerto Montt for 30 minutes to take a 2-hour flight to southern Patagonia. On arrival, transfer to your hotel in Puerto Natales in a picturesque setting, home to a wealth of different species of birds and mammals as well as the largest ice field on the planet.

PLEASE NOTE: Where possible you will be booked on a direct flight from Puerto Montt to Puerto Natales, followed by a transfer of approximately 30 minutes. However, these flights do not operate daily and schedules can change with little notice, so if it is not possible for this flight to be taken, you will instead fly to Punta Arenas and take a scenic transfer through the Patagonian steppe of approximately 4 hours.

Destination Information

Puerto Natales - Puerto Natales was founded in 1911 as a port for the booming sheep industry. Nowadays it is more commonly known as the gateway to the Torres del Paine National Park, with tourism being a key contributor to the town's economy.

Day 8: Puerto Natales - Torres del Paine National Park

Meals: B, L, D



Depart Puerto Natales and travel to your hotel in the southern sector of Torres del Paine National Park, your base for exploring one of Patagonia's most spectacular wilderness areas. Surrounded by rivers, mountains and glaciers, settle in and prepare for an unforgettable experience immersed in the natural beauty of the region.

Begin the Miradores del Paine excursion, a full-day exploration through the eastern sector of the park. Follow the Paine River through breathtaking landscapes, stopping at some of the park's most impressive viewpoints, including Salto Grande, where the waters of Lago Nordenskjöld flow into Lago Pehoé.

Continue through the vast Patagonian scenery, with views across Lago Nordenskjöld, Lago Sarmiento and the dramatic mountain landscapes of the Torres del Paine massif. Keep watch for native wildlife along the way, including guanacos, foxes and a variety of birdlife that inhabit this remarkable wilderness.

The excursion combines scenic drives with short walks and panoramic viewpoints, offering the opportunity to appreciate the park's unique geology, flora and fauna. Weather permitting, enjoy striking views of the iconic granite peaks before returning to your hotel in the late afternoon to relax and enjoy the surrounding tranquillity.

You will be travelling for approximately 8 hours today, with various stops throughout the park and short walks of around 5-15 minutes along well-maintained paths at viewpoints.

Please note: *Weather conditions in Torres del Paine can be unpredictable and may affect the operation and order of activities. Your guide will make any necessary adjustments locally to ensure the best possible experience and safety conditions. The order of excursions may therefore vary depending on weather and operational considerations.*

Destination Information

Torres del Paine National Park – Located in Chile's Patagonia region, Torres del Paine National Park is known for its soaring mountains, bright blue icebergs that cleave from glaciers and golden pampas (grasslands) that shelter rare wildlife such as llama-like guanacos. Some of its most iconic sites are the 3 granite towers from which the park takes its name and the horn-shaped peaks called Cuernos del Paine.

Day 9: Torres del Paine National Park — Meals: B, L, D



Today, continue exploring the spectacular landscapes of Torres del Paine National Park with a full-day excursion combining some of the region's most iconic viewpoints with an unforgettable journey to Grey Glacier.

Begin with a visit to Mirador Los Cuernos, one of the park's most impressive viewpoints, offering sweeping views of the distinctive Cuernos del Paine peaks, Lago Nordenskjöld and the surrounding granite massif. Continue through the park, stopping at scenic viewpoints along the way for short walks, photography opportunities and insights into the area's unique geology, flora and wildlife.

Enjoy a packed picnic lunch at the Pingo Café area, surrounded by the breathtaking scenery of Torres del Paine. In the afternoon, continue to the Grey sector and board a catamaran for a memorable 3-hour navigation across Lago Grey. Sail among floating icebergs towards the towering face of Grey Glacier, part of the Southern Patagonian Ice Field, and experience one of Patagonia's most impressive natural wonders.

Return to your hotel in the late afternoon to relax and enjoy the peaceful surroundings of the park. You will be exploring the national park for approximately 9 hours in total.

Walking and terrain: *This excursion involves approximately 1.5–2 hours of walking in total, divided into several shorter walks of 10–30 minutes. The terrain includes gravel trails, boardwalks and access paths to viewpoints, with some gentle inclines. For the Lago Grey navigation you will need to walk across a stoney beach to board the boat. A reasonable level of fitness is required to fully enjoy the experience.*

Day 10: Torres del Paine - El Calafate Meals: B, D



After breakfast, depart Torres del Paine National Park and begin your journey of approximately 6 hours across the vast Patagonian steppe towards the Argentine border. Enjoy spectacular views of open plains, distant mountain ranges and the unique landscapes of southern Patagonia as you travel towards El Calafate, the gateway to the glaciers of Los Glaciares National Park.

Cross the border between Chile and Argentina with assistance from your National Escort before continuing to El Calafate. You will arrive in the early afternoon to enjoy the remainder of the afternoon at leisure and familiarise yourself with this lively town, situated on the shores of Lago Argentino.

This evening, travel out of the town through the dramatic landscapes surrounding El Calafate, learning about the region's native flora and natural environment along the way. Stop at a scenic viewpoint overlooking the lake, where you can enjoy panoramic views across the water towards the distant Andes.

Continue to an archaeological site featuring ancient rock paintings dating back more than 2,000 years, offering a fascinating insight into the lives and beliefs of Patagonia's earliest inhabitants. The experience concludes inside a specially prepared cave overlooking Lake Argentino, where you'll enjoy a traditional dinner inspired by regional flavours in a unique and atmospheric setting.

Return to your hotel after an evening combining Patagonia's landscapes, history and gastronomy.

Please note: *The crossing between Chile and Argentina involves international border procedures, which can vary depending on local conditions and passenger numbers. Your National Escort will assist throughout the process to ensure a smooth journey.*

Walking and terrain: *This experience involves some short walks on uneven ground, including access to viewpoints and the archaeological site. A reasonable level of mobility is required, particularly when exploring the outdoor areas and cave surroundings.*

Destination Information

Patagonian Steppe – Also known as the Patagonian Desert - is the eighth-largest desert in the world. Covering roughly 673,000 to 800,000 square kilometres in southern Argentina and Chile, it is a cold, windy, semi-arid plain bounded by the Andes Mountains to the west and the Atlantic Ocean to the east.

El Calafate - Set on the shores of Lake Argentino, El Calafate is the gateway to the glaciers of southern Patagonia. Its greatest draw is the spectacular Perito Moreno Glacier, surrounded by the dramatic scenery of Los Glaciares National Park.

Day 11: Perito Moreno Glacier Meals: B, L



Today, spend the day visiting one of Patagonia's most spectacular natural wonders, the magnificent Perito Moreno Glacier, located within the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Los Glaciares National Park. Depart from your hotel and travel towards this extraordinary frozen landscape, where towering walls of ice meet the turquoise waters of Lake Argentino.

Before reaching the main viewpoints, enjoy a short walk along the Los Témpanos Channel trail, offering beautiful views across the lake and the floating icebergs that have broken away from the glacier. Continue to the panoramic walkways, where you will have time to explore the different viewpoints and admire the sheer scale and beauty of Perito Moreno Glacier. Weather and conditions permitting, you may even witness the dramatic sight and sound of ice calving into the water below.

Later, enjoy a boat navigation on the Safari Náutico for approximately 1 hour, bringing you close to the glacier's immense ice walls for a completely different perspective. From the water, admire the glacier's deep crevasses, striking blue ice formations and the powerful landscape that surrounds it.

Please note: *Perito Moreno Glacier is a dynamic natural environment and ice calving events cannot be guaranteed, as they depend on weather and natural conditions. The order of activities may be adjusted locally if required to ensure the best possible experience.*

Walking and terrain: *This is an easy-level excursion including approximately 2–3 hours of walking at a leisurely pace around the boardwalks. The route includes well-maintained wooden boardwalks, paved walkways and gently sloping paths, with some stairs between viewpoints. The Safari Náutico boat navigation lasts approximately 45–60 minutes and involves a short boarding ramp.*

Destination Information

Perito Moreno Glacier - One of Patagonia's most spectacular natural wonders, this vast glacier flows into Lago Argentino. From the surrounding walkways, watch for immense chunks of ice calving naturally from its towering face and crashing dramatically into the water below.

Day 12: A Day on a Gaucho Estancia Meals: B, L



Today, experience the traditions and landscapes of rural Patagonia with a visit to an authentic working estancia (ranch) located within Los Glaciares National Park. Travelling approximately 1.5hours from El Calafate along the scenic "Road of the Estancias", enjoy spectacular views as the landscape changes from open Patagonian steppe to dramatic mountain scenery framed by the Andes and the southern shores of Lake Argentino.

Upon arrival, receive a warm welcome at the traditional quincho, where you can enjoy a hot drink and homemade pastries while learning about the history of this estancia. Originally established as a sheep farm, the estancia continues to preserve Patagonia's rural traditions.

Explore the ranch with a guided walk through the facilities, gaining insight into traditional Patagonian life and the daily work of a working estancia. Visit the historic shearing shed, now a small museum, to discover the importance of wool production and the traditional techniques once used by local ranchers.

Depending on ranch activities and weather conditions, you may also have the opportunity to witness traditional gaucho demonstrations, including cattle work, rein handling or seasonal farming activities. There is an opportunity to take an optional horseback ride (payable locally), to accompany a gaucho guide to explore the surrounding landscapes, while the rest of the group can enjoy a scenic walk with views across Lake Argentino and the Patagonian wilderness.

The experience concludes with a traditional Patagonian *asado* (barbecue), featuring lamb slowly roasted over an open fire (dietary requirements catered for if notified in advance). Enjoy lunch at the quincho while listening to stories of early settlers and ranch life, surrounded by spectacular views of the Andes and the estancia landscape.

The full-day estancia experience will take approximately 8 hours, and you will return to El Calafate in the early evening.

Destination Information

Quincho - A covered outdoor or semi-closed social structure in South America - especially popular in Argentina, Uruguay, and Paraguay - built specifically for hosting barbecues, known as asados, and family gatherings.

Asado - A traditional technique and social gathering for open-fire barbecues in South America, especially famous in Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay. It features a variety of beef cuts, sausages, and offal cooked slowly over wood or charcoal embers on a grill called a parrilla.

Gaucho - A gaucho is a skilled South American horseman and cattle herder, similar to a North American cowboy. They are a traditional symbol of freedom and rural pride in Argentina.

Day 13: El Calafate – Buenos Aires Meals: B, D



Transfer to El Calafate Airport for your 3-hour flight to Buenos Aires, then transfer to your hotel. Depending on your arrival time, enjoy some time at leisure to relax or take a final stroll through the vibrant streets of the capital.

This evening, celebrate the end of your adventure with a farewell dinner at a renowned wine bar and restaurant in the Palermo district. Discover Argentina's celebrated wine heritage with a guided tasting hosted by an expert sommelier, sampling a selection of premium wines from across the country's renowned wine regions, paired with local gourmet bites.

Learn more about Argentina's winemaking traditions, iconic grape varieties and distinctive terroirs before enjoying a final dinner with your fellow travellers, sharing memories from your epic journey through Patagonia.

Days 14 - 16: Depart Buenos Aires Meals: B



Today marks the final day of your Patagonian adventure. Bid farewell to Argentina & Chile as your journey through vibrant cities, dramatic landscapes and rich cultural heritage comes to an end.

After breakfast and check out, enjoy today at leisure. According to your flight time, you will be transferred to the airport for your flight, arriving home 2 days later.

Please note: *Late check-out is not included. If you wish to extend your stay after your tour, please contact our Reservations team to discuss the available options.*

TRAVEL INFORMATION

VISAS:

Australian passport holders currently do not require a visa to enter **Chile & Argentina**.

Please be advised that your passport must have at least six months validity left on it when you arrive back into Australia.

Please note the visa procedures and requirements may change at any time. These changes are often made by the relevant embassy or consulate, Wendy Wu Tours acts as a third party and has no influence on the process of a visa.

For the latest information on visa procedures, processing times and requirements, please kindly refer to our website https://www.wendywutours.com.au/help-and-advice/passports-and-visas/

EATING IN ARGENTINA & CHILE:

The cuisines of Argentina and Chile reflect the character of Patagonia, where local traditions are shaped by the region's mountains, lakes, grasslands and long coastlines. High-quality meats, fresh seafood and seasonal produce feature prominently, alongside excellent wines from both countries. Traditional dishes such as Argentine asado and empanadas sit alongside Patagonian specialities, offering a flavour of the culinary heritage found across the region.

Your itinerary has been carefully crafted to introduce you to the flavours of Argentina and Chile through a variety of memorable dining experiences. The cost of your tour includes some meals, however you will also have the opportunity for some free time around mealtimes to experience the local restaurants for yourself. At these times meals will be at your own expense. The meals which are included in your tour are clearly stated on each individual day of the itinerary. In Torres Del Paine National Park you will be staying in a fully inclusive lodge, which includes house beers and wines.

Throughout your journey, you'll enjoy regional specialities, from traditional Patagonian cuisine and authentic estancia dining to locally produced wines, gourmet experiences and meals that celebrate the unique character of each destination.

Dining in Argentina and Chile is a relaxed and sociable experience, with an emphasis on sharing good food in welcoming surroundings. While meals are typically served individually, sharing dishes is common in some restaurants and during traditional asados. Expect generous portions, excellent grilled meats, fresh seafood, seasonal vegetables and locally produced wines (at your own expense) to feature throughout your journey, alongside opportunities to experience the culinary traditions that make both countries such rewarding destinations.

Those with dietary requirements will be catered for - just make sure to inform your booking agent of any specific requirements well in advance of your trip.

INSURANCE:

It is a condition of your booking that you are insured for the duration of your trip. We recommend comprehensive travel insurance to cover cancellation, medical requirements, luggage, repatriations and additional expenses. At a minimum, the policy is required to cover medical requirements including medical evacuations / repatriations. The choice of insurer is yours. We strongly suggest you purchase insurance at the time you pay your deposit. This is because cancellation fees and charges are payable from that time.

We may request you to provide evidence that you have taken out and paid for a policy to comply with this condition. If you fail to provide a certificate of currency of insurance within a reasonable time after our request, then this will be deemed a cancellation by you and standard cancellation fees will apply.

DEVELOPMENT IN ARGENTINA & CHILE:

Argentina and Chile offer a diverse range of destinations, from vibrant cities and well-developed tourist areas to remote regions of Patagonia, where infrastructure and facilities are naturally more limited. While tourism standards are generally high, you may encounter differences from those you are accustomed to in Australia. Roads, footpaths and public areas may vary in condition, and uneven surfaces, limited lighting or unmarked changes in terrain may occasionally be encountered. All our suppliers meet local safety standards as a minimum.

We want you to have an enjoyable and memorable holiday, so we ask that you take extra care, use your common sense, pay attention to local signage and follow any advice provided by your guide.

ACCOMMODATION:

Your accommodation is selected for convenience of location, comfort or character, and can range from business hotels to remote lodges. Hotels are generally rated as local three to four-star standard, but please note that there is no international classification system for hotels and differences in facilities and quality may exist between Australia and South America. All group tour hotels have private bathroom facilities and air conditioning where needed.

In Torres Del Paine National Park you will be staying in a fully inclusive lodge, which includes house beers and wines.

If you experience any difficulty during your stay, please speak to your Local Guide. Rest assured that all hotels used by Wendy Wu Tours are regularly inspected by our staff and our partners to ensure that standards meet your needs.

PORTERAGE:

Please be aware that porterage is not included on our tours in Latin America. You will therefore need to be able to handle your own luggage within the hotel and when using transportation like coaches.

TRANSPORT:

Coaches: Coaches with air conditioning are used on our group tours for city sightseeing, short excursions to the countryside and longer transfers where necessary. However, minibuses may be used for smaller groups (under 10 passengers). Road conditions in Argentina and Chile are generally good, although some journeys - particularly in the remote regions of Patagonia - are along gravel roads and mountain routes. Distances between destinations can be considerable, and weather or traffic conditions may occasionally extend journey times. For this reason, the timings listed in the itinerary are approximate and should be used as a guide only.

Planes: Internal flights are based on economy class, with reputable airlines. Within South America flights are often changed multiple times before departure, both timings and flight numbers. The utmost care will be taken to ensure that your final documents will have the latest information, however your local guide will confirm this in destination. Boarding passes can be collected directly at the airport. The flights booked as part of your itinerary will always reflect the best timings to suit the touring itinerary, with direct flights wherever possible, however due to limited schedules some flights may require an early departure or late arrival.

TIPPING POLICY:

Local tipping is customary in Latin America; however, this can often lead to awkwardness in knowing when it is appropriate to tip and how much, as well as ensuring you have a suitable amount of change available at the time. For your convenience, with years of experiences in providing the best customer service, Wendy Wu Tours operates a kitty system on our Group Tours so your National Escort will look after this aspect of your trip for you. It also ensures that the amounts paid are reasonable for you but still fair for the local people. The amount is stated on each Group Tour page and will be advised again on your final documentation. Tipping is in US Dollars and will be collected by your National Escort on arrival and distributed throughout the tour on your behalf. Any additional tipping on any of our tours is welcomed at your discretion. Further guidance for tipping contributions will be outlined in your final documentation.

We generally find that most customers appreciate the convenience of our tipping policy, but we do recognise that it may not suit everyone. As this is a group tour, we ask that everyone follows the same protocol to be fair to other group members and to ensure smooth operation of your tour. Tipping while on holiday is common in most parts of the world and South America is no exception. We will provide suggested tipping amounts with your final documents for your convenience; however, tipping is entirely at your own discretion.

SOUVENIRS:

There are plenty of interesting souvenirs to discover throughout Argentina and Chile, from traditional handicrafts and locally made textiles to Argentine leather goods, Chilean artisan products and regional food and wine. There will be opportunities during your tour to browse local markets, artisan shops and specialist stores to pick up memorable keepsakes from your journey.

GROUP SIZE:

Most of our groups consist of 10 travellers or more and will be accompanied by National Escorts. There will usually be no more than 18 travellers in each group.

All our departures are guaranteed to operate with a minimum of 10 travellers booked (unless cancelled due to factors beyond our control). However, at our discretion we may operate departures with a smaller group size as we try to operate advertised departures wherever it is viable to do so.

PACKING LIST AND CLIMATE:

On this tour, you will travel through a variety of landscapes across Argentina and Chile, from vibrant cities and the Lake District to the remote wilderness of southern Patagonia, where weather conditions can change quickly. We recommend packing versatile clothing that can be layered, including breathable T-shirts, comfortable walking trousers, a warm fleece or insulated jacket for cooler days and evenings, and a waterproof and windproof outer layer for protection against the elements. A hat, scarf, gloves and warm socks are also recommended, particularly for time spent outdoors in Patagonia.

Comfortable walking shoes or sturdy trainers are essential for exploring scenic viewpoints, national parks and outdoor excursions. A small daypack that fits within your main luggage or hand luggage is also recommended for carrying daily essentials such as water, a camera and additional layers while sightseeing.

Please refer to our website or brochure for detailed temperature charts.

LUGGAGE:

All travellers are limited to two items of luggage each, a suitcase with a maximum weight of 20kg and one piece of hand luggage with a maximum weight of 5kg. It is essential that your luggage is lockable. Please note that authorities will only allow bottles onto the aircraft if they have been checked in as main baggage. Bottles in hand luggage may be confiscated.

EXCHANGING CASH:

The currency in Argentina is the Argentine Peso (ARS) and the currency in Chile is the Chilean Peso (CLP). We recommend carrying some local currency for smaller purchases, particularly when travelling to more remote areas where access to ATMs and card facilities may be limited. It is advisable to keep some smaller notes with you, as smaller shops, cafes and local vendors may not always have sufficient change for larger denominations. ATMs are widely available in major cities and tourist areas, and we recommend using an ATM located inside a bank where possible.

Most major credit cards are accepted in hotels, restaurants and larger establishments, although acceptance may vary in smaller towns and remote regions. Please be aware of any charges applied by your bank or card provider for overseas transactions. Debit cards are also widely accepted, but withdrawal limits may apply, so we recommend checking with your bank before travelling.

PERSONAL EXPENSES AND OPTIONAL TOURINGS:

Personal Expenses - You will need to take some extra money to cover drinks, laundry and souvenirs, plus any additional sightseeing that may be offered to you.

Optional tours may be offered in each city you visit during your tour at an additional cost. These are not included in the standard itinerary and will only be available if time permits. Each option will be communicated and arranged locally by your National Escort/Local Guide.

VACCINATIONS AND YOUR HEALTH:

We recommend that you contact either your GP or Travelvax (1300 360 164) for advice on vaccinations and travel health. Travelvax has a comprehensive website that you may also find useful www.travelvax.com.au

BEFORE YOU LEAVE:

We strongly recommend registering your travel plans with www.smartraveller.gov.au as in the event of an emergency, Australian Consular assistance will be more readily available. You can also access the Australian Government's travel advisory service for up to date information about your destination on the same website.

AFTER YOUR BOOKING:

Once you have booked with Wendy Wu Tours, you will receive a confirmation invoice including a visa application form (if applicable), and a help sheet. Your final documentation pack will be sent to you approximately 2-3 weeks prior to departure.

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