



Argentinian Explorer



AUSTRALIS AND SOUTHERN PATAGONIA IN 10 DAYS

This is the best option for those who wish to know the southern Patagonia, apart from the sea journey. These programs are full by visiting Ushuaia with its natural charm and El Calafate, the first place to visit the National Park Los Glaciares and the city of El Chaltén. The 7 days program only visits Ushuaia, that one of 10 days is completed with El Calafate and El Chaltén.



Navigating on board the Australis Cruises and visiting Ushuaia and El Calafate, in the Island of Tierra del Fuego in the middle of the Southern Patagonia, close to the Antarctica.

We will make an expedition voyage in one of the Australis float's ship: the traditional Via Australis, or on board the new member in this family, the Stella Australis. This itinerary can be done from Ushuaia or Punta Arenas. If we start the Australis cruise from Tierra del Fuego, we will visit first Ushuaia and its surroundings before starting the trip if we chose the seven days program or we will start from El Calafate in case we chose the longest program of ten days. But if our intention is to sail with the Australis cruise from the port of Punta Arenas, we shall start the voyage from El Calafate if our choice is to do the program in ten days to complete the route when the Australis cruise ends in Ushuaia. Otherwise, if we have availability for only seven days and we chose to sail from Punta Arenas, we will also tour Tierra del Fuego once the crossing is finished, but we will not be able to visit El Calafate before starting the navigation in Punta Arenas. As we can see, there are four possible ways to do this trip, depending on which port we will start our expedition in the Australis cruises.

Lets suppose that the expedition in the Australis cruise begins in Ushuaia. Before starting our trip by the legendary Beagle Channel, named like that in honor to the distinguished discoverer's ship of this passage: captain Fitz Roy, we will previously spend some days to visit the southern city in the World, Ushuaia. We will take advantage of the port from which city we will sail, so we will visit all those interest spots and natural charm which we cannot miss during our visit in this southern region. We suggest to do the City Tour along the most important and symbolical places in the city, with the Museum of the end of the World which was restored halfway through the last Century, in order to protect and understand our own heritages. During our visit to this city we cannot miss the famous "Presidio de Reincidentes", and old prison which worked from 1904 to 1947 and it was the place where many federal, provincial and militant dangerous prisoners, authors of serious and grave crimes, were locked. During our staying in this "fueguina" city, we will also visit the natural charm of the National Park Tierra del Fuego and its beautiful lakes. The national park is a strict Natural Reserve, which was home of the natives Yámanas in the past, where we will able to find several archaeological sites that belonged to this Group. We cannot either miss the tour in the "Train of the End of the World", which was authorized to transfer the prisoners who had to serve with public Jobs in different parts of the park, a long time ago. So we can complete our tour around this beautiful city, we also suggest to do the tour by the Fagnano and Escondido lakes.

Lake Fagnano, which is geographically divided between Chile and Argentina, it is also known by the natives Onas as the "Skyline Relief" (El Descanso del Horizonte). The name was given in relation to the illusionary straight line which the horizon creates and we can watch it in a continuous way over the lake. On the other hand, Lake Escondido is surrounded by big woods and it is famous because of the change of colour in the water depending on the day's time in which we will watch it and the sun's light that can get. It would be a good start to enjoy the "fueguinos" landscapes before sailing in the Australis cruises to a unic and fascinating expedition. This itinerary of seven days has the objective to make more interesting and unforgettable our staying in the city of Ushuaia and get an ideal expedition voyage in the Australis float at the end. During the ten days program we will visit the full southern Patagonia, because we include the National Park Los Glaciares at El Calafate.

Day 1 – Beagle Channel, Strait of Magallanes.

During the first hours in the afternoon we will do the check in in the city of Ushuaia, so we can embark in one of the expedition ships of Australis: Via or Stella. We will set sail from the most southern city in the World, Ushuaia, crossing the famous Beagle Channel, going through Cape Hornos, and then navigating the Strait of Magallanes. The Beagle Channel is a marine way, which was originated by different stages during the quaternary glaciations period, which was later ruled by the sea. It is defined in the north by Ushuaia and the other extremes are defined by some islands such as the Stewart, O'Brien, Gordon, Navarino e Nueva, among others. The southern region of the southamerican continent, that limits to the north with the Drake Passage, also known as the Hoces Sea, is the well-known Cape Hornos. This sea is distinguished for separate the american continent from the Antarctic Peninsula. The pasaje which joins the two biggest mass of water in the World (Pacific and Atlantic Ocean), is the famous Strait of Magallanes. It is located in the middle of Tierra del Fuego and some other islands of the Pacific Ocean and the Chilean Patagonia, it has an strategic location in the south limit of South America.

Day 2 – Garibaldi Glacier, Pia Glacier & Glaciers Avenue

In the morning, we will enter Garibaldi fjord, once we will disembark to trek through the Southern Patagonian forest, we will climb to the base of a waterfall of the glacial era. Those who decide not to walk to the Garibaldi Glacier, will navigate to it as close as possible to appreciate the glacier from very near. During our second journey, the route card in the Australis cruise will guide us to navigate through the main arteria of the Beagle Channel, we will get into by the northwest side of the Pia Bay channel, so then we can make a descent in the glacier which has the same name. This snowdrift introduces in the Darwin mountain chain and it drains

by the Waters of its bay. We will continue our crossing on the Australis to the northwest of the Beagle Chanel so we can gaze at the amazing "Glaciers Avenue" which is a narrow way in the Beagle Chanel where we will be able to watch many spectacular ice tongs that descend from the Darwin mountain chain to the sea. The name for this way was in honor to the glaciers which are particularly located one beside the other and very short distance between them to navigate. Those glaciers are: Germany, Italy, France, Spain, Netherlands and Romanche.

Day 3 - Cape Horn (Chile) and Wulaia Bay

According to our fixed route, we will continue navigating by the Beagle Chanel and Murray Channel, so then we can try to disembark (if weather conditions allows us to) and appreciate the nature beauties in the Cape Horn National Park. We can realise about our arrival to this southern point, once we come accross with a 400 metres high hill. This place marks the most distant limit of the Group of the "fueguinas" islands, which is the most southern point in South America. It is also the point that defines the north extreme of the Drake Passage, it a sea which divides the American continent of the Antarctic Peninsula.

The National Park is located in the "End of the World", has been declared as a Biosphere Reserve in the 2005 by the UNESCO. During sunset, we will disembark in Wulaia Bay, current archaeological place which was home of one of the most greatest tribes in the region a long time ago: the Yámanas. It was in this very same bay that Fitz Roy, who discovered the Beagle Channel, found the main anglican mission during his second expedition with the famous english naturalista Charles Darwin. During our tour along the bay, we will have the opportunity to appreciate its magnificent flora and geography. We will do a trekking in the "magallánico" woods which will be waiting with a great quantity of floral species like lengas, coihues, ferns, among others, and then we will arrive to a viewpoint where we will have an Amazing view.

Day 4 - Tierra del Fuego National Park & Train of the End of the World

During the afternoon we will go to Tierra del Fuego National Park which highlights for being the only park with sea coast because it is located at the shore of the Beagle Chanel. Outside Ushuaia, we will go through the Valley of Pipo River to get to the entrance. We will get on board the Train of the End of the World which is outside the Tierra del Fuego National Park where we start in the Central Station until getting to the Tierra del Fuego National Park Station. We will have the excellent opportunity to meet the Southern Fueguino Railway which travels along one of the routes that were used in the past by thousands prisoners who obey everyday their routine in those legendary woods. The journey starts over the embankment that the prisoners made a long time ago, going through the Cañadón del Toro so then we can ascend a steep surrounding the Pipo River until getting to the "Cascada de la Macarena" Station where we will hace the possibility to descend to the restoration of a native camp or we can have the option to appreciate the amazing panoramic view of the fall's source. The train's horn give us the signal that we have to continue with the journey to get into the sub-antarctic woods.

Surrounding the Pipo river and the "turbales" area where the moss Sphagnum grows, the train ends the journey when it arrives at the Park's Station where we will descend to continue with the tour. Once we get into into the Tierra del Fuego National Park which was founded in 1960 and it is located in the region of the patagonic woods and the Andean mountain chain. Our tour goes to Ensenada Bay where we will be able to see the Redonda and Estorbo islands and the Montes Nevados in front of them which belong to the Sampaio mountain chain in Chile. Then we get to Roca Lake. We continue the way while we are surrounded by lengas, ñires and guindos woods until getting to the bridge of the Lapataia river, an ideal area to do trekking as there are many paths such as the Paseo de la Isla, Roca Lake, Black Lagoon, etc. We will go through a winding way where we will find the Green and Black Lagoons, this last one is an impressive "turbal", until flowing in the Beavers' dike which will guide us to Lapataia Bay. We will watch ducks, cauquenes, chorlos and many other aquatic birds over the coasts. In the Park we can see native remains left by the Yámanas, such as "concheros", accumulation of mollusk valves and other animals that were part of their every day meals.

Day 5 - Fagnano Lake & Escondido

Breakfast at the Hotel. We will go to Escondido Lake or Escondida Lagoon as it also frequently known. It is located in the Andes Mountain Chain in the middle of the fueguino chain, where we will be able to appreciate the wonderful view of the woods which are full of ñires, lengas; there we can also see the valleys that are surrounded by "turbales", such as the Carbajal Valleys, Las Cotorras and Tierra Mayor. During the trip we will be able to appreciate one of the most attractions as it is the Paso Garibaldi to 500 metres over the level of the sea, where the fueguino Andes are mixed and mistaken with the Escondido and Fagnano lakes. From this spot we start descending over the coast of the Escondido lake, then we go through the Hostería Petrel to continue our way to the sawmills.

Later on we continue descending to the north to another water mirror: the Fagnano Lake which is considered the largest of the Island of Tierra del Fuego with its 100 km and it is internationally famous because of the sport fishing. A hundred years ago the Onas used to call it "the Horizon Break" (El Descanso del horizonte), which honours the catholic priest Monseñor José Fagnano who

was the first administrator of the region. Then we will go for a walk along this magnificent lake enjoying all of its natural beauties. Going on our tour, we will know the Tolhuin town which was founded in October 1972, at the edge of the Fagnando Lake in the very centre of the woods.

Day 6 - City Tour Ushuaia

Breakfast at the Hotel. We will do a very special tour in the morning as we start knowing the magic of the city of Ushuaia which is very famous for being recognized as the "End of the World" (also known as the most southern city of all). We will also visit the Museum of the End of the World which started working in 1979. It was firstly for families and then became part of the heritage in Ushuaia. This museum shows its collections in five different rooms where there are glasses that honour those people linked with the local history such as the explorers, natives, etc. We will know the main and most famous attractions that Ushuaia has: the old Recidivists' Prison which is known because of its exciting and strong history, every year many visitors go visiting it because of its prison architecture and also because of its history.

It is important to highlight that it worked from 1900 to 1947 and the city started growing more and more around this prison where today many and important cruises and transatlantic. We will enjoy the building, its corridors and even today we can feel the pain the people suffered. This militar prison worked firstly in the Staten Island in San Juan de Salvamento, then it was transferred to Cook Port until it was settled in Ushuaia for humanitarian reasons. It accommodated sentenced people like the anarchist Simón Radowitsky or Cayetano Santos Godino known as the big eared shorty or the writer Ricardo Rojas. We will visit the Port, the Paseo del Centenario, an excellent panoramic spot where there is the monument for the Ushuaia's Centennial and then, the Beban House an important architectural heritage, which was bought in Sweden and made in Ushuaia between 1911 and 1913 by Don Tomas Beban. Is one of the most ambitious buildings in the city.

Day 7 - From Ushuaia to El Calafate

Breakfast at the Hotel. Transfer from the hotel to Ushuaia Airport. Reception and transfer from EL Calafate Airport to the hotel.

Day 8 - Perito Moreno Glacier

Breakfast at the hotel. We will start from El Calafate going along the southern coast of the Argentino Lake touring approximately 80 km of the patagonic steppe in the andean mountain chain to Los Glaciares National Park, which is the andean patagonic woods where the nothofagus cover the green area. After going thorough the Centinela and Mitre rivers and the Rico branch we will get into Los Glaciares National Park. As soon as we go along the Rico Lake we will be able to appreciate the first ice floes that floats in the water. Then we will see the Perito Moreno Glacier which we will appreciate very close thanks to the runways which give us the possibility to have an ideal view. It is considered the eighth world's wonder because of the spectacular view that offers to the visitors. It was declared as a Mankind Heritage in 1981 by the UNESCO. It is famous all around the world as it shows a very curious and surprising phenomenon, it is still one of very few quantity of glaciers that is in constant advance and movement. As a result, it is produced the accumulation, breaking-off and landslide of its huge ice blocks.

Day 9 - Navigation along the Argentino Lake - Estancia Cristina Full

Breakfast in the hotel. We dedicate the day to the Cristina Estancia. We leave in the morning in a boat from the Punta Bandera Port in the direction of the Estancia and on the route we pass great icebergs and the incredible landscape of the western face of the Upsala Glacier before we enter into the Cristina Canal and disembark at the Estancia. We visit the Costumbrista Museum which was the old sheep shearing works and after we make our Patagonian journey by a 4x4 up mountainous tracks until we reach the Continental Ice Camp Site where we begin a short hike over the surface that has been eroded by the glaciers. Later we go until the appearance of the Cañadón de los Fósiles (the waterbed of the fossils) where there is a reservoir of marine fossil remains. Note: This program is over irregular ground and involves a reasonable amount of effort and is not suitable for children less than 12 years old.

Day 10 - Return to Buenos Aires

Breakfast at the hotel. Transfer from the hotel to El Calafate Airport. End of our services.

 CONSULTAR

 RESERVAR

ARGENTINIAN EXPLORER

Av. Callao 531 Piso 3° Depto. "B", (C1022AAR) Ciudad Autónoma de Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Teléfono: +54 11 4371-8055 - **email:** ventas@argentinianexplorer.com - **Web:** <http://argentinianexplorer.com>