



## **Argentinian Explorer**



### **AUSTRALIS AND SOUTHERN PATAGONIA IN 14 DAYS**

*This is the perfect choice to know a big part of the southern Patagonia. Before embarking in the Australis expedition cruise, we will visit the old city of Punta Arenas and the natural charm of Puerto Natales, with the National Park Torres del Paine. After disembarking we will complete our memorable journey by visiting Ushuaia and El Calafate in the southern Patagonia Argentina.*



An ideal mix travelling on board the Australis Cruises and visiting the most attractive destinations in the Patagonia, from Torres del Paine until Ushuaia and El Calafate to the Perito Moreno Glacier.

This is the perfect alternative for those who wish to visit the whole Southern Patagonia in a very complete program in which the Patagonia is mixed with the journey on board the Australis Cruise along the channels and Straits in the South American region. We will start this journey with a visit to Puerto Natales city and Punta Arenas before getting on board the sea expedition to the capital of the end of the world, Ushuaia. Then, we will spend our last days of our trip in visiting the city of the end of the world, Ushuaia and the entrance to the National Park Los Glaciares, El Calafate. The city of Punta Arenas is very recognized because of its European style both in its design and its buildings, when it was the main port that allowed the passage between the two biggest masses of water in the world, the Pacific and Atlantic Ocean. Thanks to that, the city became into an important cosmopolitan and trading center in the southern limit of the American continent.

We will leave the city to Magdalena Island so we can visit one of the most important colonies of penguins in the Chilean Patagonia and make a trekking to know its history and the natural charm of the region. Then, we will go to the city of Puerto Natales, the entrance to the National Park Torres del Paine, one of the largest and most important in Chile. It was declared as a Biosphere Reserve by the UNESCO in 1978, we will find many natural charms such as its lakes, glaciers, rivers and mountains. We will have the opportunity to visit the millennial Cueva del Milodón (Milodon's Cave) and make a trekking so we can get amazed with the impressive Nordenskjöld lake, the famous Paine's Horns and the wonderful Grey Glacier among other attractions. We will also spend our time to explore the natural environment of the Monte Balmaceda and discover its millennial glaciers Balmaceda and Serrano, from Puerto Natales.

We will go on our journey, now we will start a navigation from Punta Arenas in one of the Australis expeditionary cruises to cross the Strait of Magallanes, Cape Hornos, the famous Beagle Channel and finally arrive in our destination port, the city of Ushuaia. Once we are in Ushuaia, we will explore the most important places in the city together with the natural beauties that the National Park offers to us. We will spend our time in visiting the city with the Museum of the End of the World and the famous Recidivists' Prison, making a trekking through the natural charms that the Tierra del Fuego National Park offers, to which we will get on board the Train of the End of the World and touring the amazing Fagnano and Escondido lakes.

We will complete this magnificent trip visiting Los Glaciares National Park in El Calafate. This national park, which is the second in size in the Argentinian territory, was declared as a Natural Mankind Heritage by the UNESCO, because it is one of the largest reserves of fresh water in the world. We will have the opportunity to visit the Perito Moreno Glacier inside the park, which is valued by many as the eighth world's wonder because of its panoramic and excellent views. We will also have the opportunity to spend a full day in a navigation through the huge Argentino Lake, which has the most southern location and it is the biggest one among the other Patagonic lakes in the Argentinian territory. During this navigation we will admire the impressive Upsala Glacier, an ice giant which is surrounded by many glaciers. We will end our perfect trip joining the Australis Cruise with the rugged and quiet Patagonia in the most southern area.

## Day 1 – City Tour Ushuaia

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Transfer from Ushuaia Airport to 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 military 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 2 – Tierra del Fuego National Park & Train of the End of the World

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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 Channel. 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 of prisoners who obeyed every day 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 slope surrounding the Pipo River until getting to the "Cascada de la Macarena" Station where we will have 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 gives 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 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.

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### **Day 3 - 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 Horns, 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 South American continent, that limits to the north with the Drake Passage, also known as the Hoces Sea, is the well-known Cape Horns. This sea is distinguished for separating the American continent from the Antarctic Peninsula. The passage which joins the two biggest masses 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 a strategic location in the south limit of South America.

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### **Day 4 - Cape Horn (Chile) and Wulaia Bay**

According to our fixed route, we will continue navigating by the Beagle Channel and Murray Channel, so then we can try to disembark (if weather conditions allow 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 across 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 is 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 naturalist 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.

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### **Day 5 - Garibaldi Glacier & Pia Glacier**

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 artery 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.

## Day 6 - Piloto & Nena Glaciers, Seno Agostini & Aguila Glacier

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In our fourth navigation day, we will go to the desert inlets of the Brecknock, Ocasión and Cockburn channels, so we can arrive to our first destination: Seno Chico. The Brecknock passage is a short length channel, but there are waves and runnings to take into account among its many islands. We will leave this route so we can get into the Cockburn Passage and keep safe from the big waves produced in the channel. We will finally get to Seno Chico so we can disembark in zodiac boats through the Alakaluf Fjord. This Fjord was named in honor to the ancient groups of nomad canoeros, who could make the Alakaluf ethnic Group in the last hundred years, also known as the Kaweskars. These fishermen and sea hunters lived in the archipelagos, fjords and channels surrounded by the Gulf of Penas and Brecknock Peninsula. We will continue through beautiful waterfalls to Piloto and Nena glaciers, where we would be able to know more about the origin of the glaciers and their repercussion on the Patagonic channels region. One of the most memorable experiences will be the sound produced when we go through fragments of ice from the glaciers. We will continue our crossing to the Glacier Águila Bay, where we can do a light trekking along its marvelous Beach and then we can surround its lagoon to arrive to the glacier.

We will navigate the waters of different channels, such as Brecknock, Occasion, Cockburn and Magdalena with the main objective to get to the Seno Agostini. This is a fjord located in the region of Magallanes and the Chilean Antarctic territory, its characteristic is long and narrow, has steep walls on deep water. Divides the two sectors of the Mountain Range Darwin, the mountainous area called Navarro in the southwestern with a predominant presence of ice and the mountain range that covers Monte Buckland in the far north, named after an exceptional Italian explorer Alberto de Agostini. In the afternoon we will sail towards Aguila Glacier to disembark and walk along the Antarctic-Patagonian forest, an extremely wet and cold place, finally we will meet the Águila Glacier located in the Alberto de Agostini National Park. It is worth making the trek in this majestic place where we can feel that we are very small in the middle of this amazing place.

## Day 7 - Magdalena Island & Punta Arenas

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During our last day of navigation we will go to Island Magdalena to try to make a disembark at the beginning of the day. This natural spot is distinguished for being the Natural Monument Los Pingüinos together with the small island Marta, one of the most outstanding group of penguins in the Chilean Patagonia. Another important attraction in the island is its lighthouse, an old one declared as a National Historical Monument which guides the navigators who go through the Strait of Magallanes. We will do a trekking to this high and illuminated tower to appreciate all the natural charm that the region offers, among them the important group of "magallánico" penguins. If we do this expedition crossing during September and April, we will replace this experience with a descent to Island Marta to enjoy watching the seals which we will be able to watch from our zodiac boats. This replacement is done because the groups of penguins in the mating period only stay in the island from October to March, every year. We will end our sea expedition by disembarking in the city of Punta Arenas when midday comes.

## Day 8 - Puerto Natales - Parque Nacional Torres del Paine

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Breakfast at the hotel. We will leave the city of Puerto Natales to go to the north to 24 km so we can visit the Milodon's Cave which is on our way to the main place: the Torres del Paine National Park. There are 3 caves and a group of rocks that are known as the Devil's Chair which were discovered at the end of the XIX century and it is the place where the remains of a huge herbivore mammal were found at the end of the Pleistocene. The most important cave is 30 metres high with a 75 metres front and 195 metres deep. Its origin it's due to the erosive effect of the mud which comes from the Puerto Natales basin when the ice blocks gone in the quaternary age. We will get to the Milodon's Cave, an anthropologist treasure which is considered as the place where the first men of the Patagonia lived. We will continue our tour to get into the Torres del Paine National Park that covers an area of 240.000 he.

While we get closer to the park we will see a mixture of lakes, glacier lagoons, hills and splendid vegetation. Inside the Torres del Paine National Park we will be able to visit the Nordenskjöld Lake which emerald waters get to the mountain's base which at the same time it fuels the Salto Grande that origins a very peaceful lake like the Pehoé lake. We will start a trekking very near the Pingo River through a path that crosses the river, then we go through a sand area that limits the lake's bank which are surrounded by ice in the coast of the lake and a unic scene as the Grey Glacier next to many hills, woods and the Paine mountain chain. Then we will return to Puerto Natales.

## Day 9 - Balmaceda & Serrano Glaciers

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Breakfast at the hotel. We will set sail from Puerto Natales navigating the Last Hope (Ultima Esperanza) sine where we will be able to watch natural scenario with native woods of coihues, canelos, lengas and ñires, apart from calafates and many sea fauna, from seals, cormoranes until seagulls. We will arrive until the Balmaceda Mountain which is 2035 metres high and it is located in the Bernardo O'Higgins National Park which belongs to the Andean Mountain Chain. We will watch the Balmaceda Glacier with its ice breaking-off to the freezing waters of thte fjord and also we will be able to watch the Serrano Glacier which is located to the north and it is possible to go through the continent. We will see an ice created lagoon very near the glacier. We will return to Puerto Natales.

*Anmerkung:It only operates on Sundays from april to august.*

## **Day 10 - From Puerto Natales to El Calafate**

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Breakfast at the hotel. Then we will travel to El Calafate to continue discovering the treasures that the southern Patagonia has for us, as the emblematic Glacier Perito Moreno or experience the customs of the country men in a typical Patagonian ranch enjoying a delicious asado. Transfer from Puerto Natales to Hotel in El Calafate.

## **Day 11 - Perito Moreno Glacier**

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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 through 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 phenomom, 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 huges ice blocks.

## **Day 12 - Navigation along the Argentino Lake - Estancia Cristina Full**

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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 13 - An afternoon in the Patagonian Countryside enjoying a typical barbecue**

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Breakfast in the hotel. Before sunset we leave El Calafate to visit a typical styled Patagonian estancia which is very close to the centre of the City and it is located at the foot of the mountain of the same name. We receive a snack of pure mate cocido and fried cake, which shows us their local customs. Later we start a trekking to the Calafate Stream in order to reach a viewpoint with a privileged view, while we taste a good Patagonian wine. Back in the estancia, we will be able to attend a round-up of sheep using dogs, we visit an old shed which is used for sheep shearing and the facilities with their farmyards and sheep dips. During the shearing season, we can take advantage of this true art. In the evening, we have dinner in the estancia restaurant by tasting empanadas, stews and the main dish: roast lamb with salads from the garden. It will be possible to attend a folklore show in which we enjoy the typical Patagonian dances.

## **Day 14 - Return to Buenos Aires**

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



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 RESERVAR

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