



WANDER INTO WONDER

A Spring Odyssey through Chile, Patagonia, and Argentina

14-Day Private Journey • October 7–20, 2027

Day 1 — Thursday, October 7, 2027 | Arrival in Santiago

We will begin our journey from LAX to Santiago, Chile. We will be greeted by a professional English-speaking tour leader who will assist us with our private transfer from the airport to the hotel. The remainder of the day is free to relax and explore on our own. Drink in the views of the Andes looming large over Santiago from a local park. Walk to one of the largest shopping malls in South America, the Cenco Costanera, anchored by the Costanera Center tower — the tallest building in South America, with an observation deck on the 61st and 62nd floors with panoramic views of Santiago and the Chilean Andes.

Overnight: Hotel 45 by Director (Santiago.) <https://45bydirector.cl/>

Day 2 — Friday, October 8, 2027 | Santiago (B, L)

Santiago Food and Neighborhood Tour Our route moves from bustling markets (La Vega, Mercado Central) through colorful neighborhoods (Lastarria, Bellavista). We will sample classic Chilean flavors including empanadas, completos, anticuchos, chupe de mariscos, cazuela, pastel de choclo, and finish with mote con huesillos or sopaipillas. Along the way we will meet family-run vendors, taste street food and home-style cooking, and learn how ingredients and immigrant influences shape Chilean cuisine. **Maipo Valley Wine Tour** After the food tour, we board our coach for a wine tour of the Maipo Valley, known for its red wine varietals such as Cabernet Sauvignon and Carménère.

Overnight: Hotel 45 by Director.

Day 3 — Saturday, October 9, 2027 | Valparaíso & Viña del Mar (B)

Enjoy a full-day coastal escape from Santiago to Valparaíso and Viña del Mar. Wander Valparaíso's colorful hillside streets, murals, and funiculars, then relax in nearby Viña del Mar with its beaches, gardens, and seaside views. We have time for a seafood lunch and casual exploring on our own. *Highlights: vibrant street art and panoramic harbors, Pablo Neruda's house, beachside promenades, and the flower clock.*

Overnight: Hotel 45 by Director.

Day 4 — Sunday, October 10, 2027 | Santiago → Puerto Natales, Chile (B)

Flight to Punta Arenas. Upon arrival, board a coach to the bus station and then a public bus to Puerto Natales (journey approximately 3 hours). Upon arrival we will be transferred to our hotel. Note: All public bus tickets are first-class with reclining seats. After arrival, we have plenty of time to explore on our own. Possibilities are Muelle Histórico — the old wooden pier and Puerto Natales' most photographed spot, especially near sunset. Costanera waterfront walk — an easy promenade stroll with mountain views across the Última Esperanza fjord. La Mano — a fun sculpture stop along the same shoreline walk. If you want something more active, Cerro Dorotea is a 1-hour hike just outside town with sweeping views — but it involves a short taxi ride and a small landowner fee.



Day 4 — Sunday, October 10, 2027 | Santiago → Puerto Natales, Chile (B) (con't.)

Overnight: Best Western Patagonia (Puerto Natales)

https://www.bestwestern.com/en_US/book/hotels-in-natales/best-western-patagonia/propertyCode.79102.html

Day 5 — Monday, October 11, 2027 | Torres del Paine (B)(L)

Full-day private excursion into Torres del Paine National Park, often called South America's most beautiful national park, a spectacular wilderness of towering mountains, turquoise lakes, glaciers, and forests. The name "Paine" means blue in the Tehuelche language, referring to the striking color of its glacier-fed lakes. Inside the park we will stop at various viewpoints and enjoy gentle hikes along scenic trails surrounded by snow-capped peaks. Midday lunch is at Hostería Pehoé, overlooking the iconic Paine Massif. Keep an eye out for local wildlife — guanacos, foxes, or deer may be seen on the steppe. In the afternoon you return to Puerto Natales. *The exact route and stops may vary depending on weather, group pace, and time availability.*

Duration: Approximately 8 hours **Walking time:** 2 to 4 hours total (depending on stops and short hikes) **Difficulty:** Easy to Moderate; best for travelers wanting light activity with high scenic reward. Be prepared for strong winds and rapidly changing weather.

Overnight: Best Western Patagonia (Puerto Natales).

A Note on the Night Skies of Patagonia

Once we leave the lights of Santiago and the central coast behind, the journey south into Chilean and Argentine Patagonia reveals some of the darkest and most spectacular night skies on Earth. Far from major cities and under exceptionally clear air, the region offers outstanding conditions for stargazing. On clear nights the Milky Way arches brightly overhead, the Southern Cross stands high in the sky, and the Magellanic Clouds are easily visible to the naked eye. Many travelers describe these nights as among the most memorable of their trip. When we are in Patagonia and have a clear night, make sure to step outside and look up. Give your eyes a few minutes to adjust, and enjoy a celestial display that requires no special equipment — only clear skies and a sense of wonder.

Tip: October nights in Patagonia are often cold and windy. A warm jacket, hat, and gloves make outdoor stargazing much more comfortable.

Day 6 — Tuesday, October 12, 2027 | Puerto Natales, Chile → El Calafate, Argentina (B)

After breakfast, transfer to the bus station for the first-class public bus ride to El Calafate (journey approximately 5 hours). After arrival, we have time to explore on our own. Check out Reserva Laguna Nímez, an easy 1–1.5-hour walking loop right at the edge of town along Lago Argentino. Look for swans, flamingos, and 80 other bird species. Mirador Lago Argentino, a quiet viewpoint over the lake, especially good near sunset. The Glaciarium Patagonian Ice Museum was built to entertain and educate about ice, glaciers and the Southern Patagonian Ice Field. You can visit the Glaciobar, the only bar in the world constructed completely from glacial ice. Happy hour, anyone?

Overnight: Esplendor by Wyndham



Day 6 — Tuesday, October 12, 2027 | Puerto Natales, Chile → El Calafate, Argentina (B) (con't.)

<https://www.wyndhamhotels.com/esplendor/el-calafate-argentina/esplendor-el-calafate/overview>

Our hotel has amazing views of the Andes Mountains and Lago Argentino. There's also a spa. Book before you leave U.S.A.

Day 7 — Wednesday, October 13, 2027 | Los Glaciares National Park & Safari Náutico (B)

Full-day private tour of Los Glaciares National Park centered on the Perito Moreno Glacier — one of the few advancing glaciers on earth. The glacier descends from the Continental Ice Field between towering mountains and meets the turquoise waters of Lake Argentino. We will travel to the eastern side of the Magellan Peninsula and stop at panoramic viewpoints that showcase the glacier's immensity. Follow scenic walking trails along the glacier's edge, stop for photos, and watch huge ice blocks calve into the lake. Additionally, enjoy a 1-hour Safari Náutico. This incredible boat trip is a unique chance to see the face of the Perito Moreno Glacier from an entirely different perspective. Sailing across the rippling waters of Lake Rico, where the glacier dazzles against the bright blue sky, we'll watch as huge chunks of ice break off and thunder into the water below, creating huge waves and a deafening roar. Safari Náutico: Reaching the iceberg channel, our boat will stop in front of the glacier for a spectacular view of the high wall of ice. After the cruise, we will spend some time following the walking trails through the forest surrounding Perito Moreno or stay put to admire the views. It's a day you'll never forget.

Duration: Approximately 8 hours Included: Private navigation for Safari Náutico. Walking time: 1.5–3 hours total (spread throughout the visit) Difficulty: Easy to Moderate. People with knee issues may feel the stairs. Cold wind exposure during Safari Náutico.

Overnight: Esplendor by Wyndham El Calafate

Day 8 — Thursday, October 14, 2027 | El Chaltén (B)

Full-day private excursion to El Chaltén, Argentina's trekking capital, framed by the snow-capped spires of the Fitz Roy range. The route follows legendary Route 40 along Lake Argentino toward the La Leona River, skirting La Leona Canyon. After a coffee-and-cake stop, continue to Lake Viedma for sweeping views of glaciers and jagged peaks. In El Chaltén we visit the Interpretation Center and then walk to three classic viewpoints: Chorrillo del Salto (short forest walk to a waterfall), Mirador de los Cóndores (named for the Andean condors that regularly soar over the valley, riding thermals off the cliffs), and Mirador de las Águilas, where the panorama of valleys and peaks, including Fitz Roy on clear days, is outstanding. We should expect payoff views disproportionate to the effort. Return to El Calafate in the afternoon.

Duration: Approximately 12–13 hours Included: Private excursion. Walking time: 3 to 6 hours total Difficulty: Moderate; best for active travelers with a basic level of fitness; trails are short/moderate and non-technical.

Overnight: Esplendor by Wyndham El Calafate



Day 9 — Friday, October 15, 2027 | El Calafate → Ushuaia, Argentina (B)

Transfer from the hotel to El Calafate Airport for our flight to Ushuaia. Upon arrival, private transfer to the hotel. We have plenty of time to unwind and explore in the southernmost city in the world. Sunset: 8:15 p.m. Right from the hotel: Martial Glacier hike. Our hotel sits directly on the road up to Cerro Martial, so this trailhead is essentially at our doorstep. Enjoy sweeping views of the Beagle Channel on a short hike to the glacier. Small entrance fee (roughly \$10–15 depending on season). Carolyn is gathering ideas for an optional group excursion to hike near the glacier which information will be provided to travelers at a later date.

Day 9 — Friday, October 15, 2027 | El Calafate → Ushuaia, Argentina (B) (Cont'd.)

Or head downtown to explore (via the hotel's free shuttle, running until ~10 PM): End of the World Sign. Museo del Fin del Mundo, a small museum on local history, indigenous peoples, and the town's penal-colony past. Go shopping on Av. San Martín. Costanera waterfront walk — a flat, easy 1.3 km promenade along the Beagle Channel, running from Plaza Malvinas Argentinas past the Ushuaia sign, the port, and out to the naval base. About 15 minutes end to end, longer if you stop for photos. Laguna Negra — a cozy, well-loved chocolate café; try the "submarino" (hot milk with a chocolate bar you melt in yourself). Good spot to warm up mid-walk. Make reservations for dinner at a restaurant overlooking the water. This hotel also has shuttles to the Cerro Castor ski resort.

Overnight: Los Acebos Ushuaia Hotel which has lovely views of the Beagle Channel.

<https://losacebos.com.ar/>

Day 10 — Saturday, October 16, 2027 | Tierra del Fuego & Beagle Channel (B)

Tierra del Fuego National Park — Half-day Private Tour. Hotel pick up and drive through the slopes of Mount Susana toward Ensenada Bay. Enjoy views of Redonda and Estorbo Islands and the snow-capped peaks of Chile's Mount Sampaio chain. Continue to Roca Lake for a leisurely walk to the Lapataia River and views of Condor Hill (the natural border with Chile). Explore Green and Black Lagoons, beaver dams, and peat bogs. Duration: Approximately 5 hours. Walking time: 1 to 2.5 hours; easy walk.

Train of the End of the World. Scenic steam train journey through Tierra del Fuego National Park on the southernmost railway on earth. Narrow-gauge line built to move convicts and logging wood in the days when Ushuaia was a penal colony. The route crosses the Pipo River at Cañadón del Toro, stops at Cascada La Macarena, continues through sub-Antarctic forest and past former prison work areas and the Turbal sphagnum moss bog, ending at Estación del Parque.

Beagle Channel Navigation — Half-day Group Tour. Boat journey from the Don Eduardo Arturo Brisighelli pier through the Beagle Channel. Pass landmarks including Mount Olivia, Cinco Hermanos, Estancia Figue, Estancia Túnel, the Escarpados Range, and the Encajonado River. Reach Les Éclaireurs Lighthouse, Seal Island (sea-lion colony), and Bird Island (multiple seabird species). Return via Paso Chico. Duration: Approximately 3 hours.

Overnight: Los Acebos Ushuaia Hotel.



Day 11 — Sunday, October 17, 2027 | Ushuaia → Buenos Aires (B, D)

Transfer to Ushuaia Airport for the flight to Buenos Aires (flights TBD). Upon arrival, private transfer from Aeroparque Airport to the hotel.

7:00 PM — Dinner & Tango Show at La Ventana (with Tango Lesson or Wine Tasting)

Evening at La Ventana in the historic San Telmo district, housed in a restored traditional conventillo. Live show featuring thirty-two performers — tango orchestras, folkloric musicians, dancers, and singers — accompanied by dinner combining classic Argentine flavors with international touches and Argentine wines. Option of a tango lesson or wine tasting. Duration: Approximately 5 hours.

Overnight. Esplendor by Wyndham Buenos Aires Tango.

<https://www.wyndhamhotels.com/esplendor/buenos-aires-argentina/esplendor-buenos-aires-tango/overview>

Day 12 — Monday, October 18, 2027 | Buenos Aires (B)

Four-hour guided introduction to Buenos Aires. Stroll through the elegant Recoleta Cemetery to see historic mausoleums, then enjoy a hands-on mate experience (with starter kit — gourd, bombilla, and yerba) while learning local customs. Sample classic treats such as alfajores and empanadas at neighborhood cafés.

Rest of the day on your own. Relax by the pool or explore on your own. Av. de Mayo is a destination in its own right: a grand, Belle Époque avenue often compared to Champs-Élysées, lined with historic cafés and old bookshops. The Plaza de Mayo & Casa Rosada is Argentina's political and historical heart and the presidential palace. Palacio Barolo is a striking early-1900s building designed around Dante's *Divine Comedy*, with a rooftop lighthouse and city views. Guided tours are the only way to see beyond the lobby, so book ahead. San Telmo is one of the city's oldest and most emblematic neighborhoods. It still maintains much of its original architecture, with historic mansions, cobbled streets and patios with fountains. Avenida Corrientes witnessed the golden age of tango in the 1930s and 40s and is now known as "the street that never sleeps" because of its busy nightlife and many theatres.

Overnight: Esplendor by Wyndham Buenos Aires Tango.

Day 13 — Tuesday, October 19, 2027 | Fiesta Gaucha at El Ombú de Areco (B, L)

Full-day VIP group excursion to El Ombú de Areco, an exclusive estancia (ranch) in San Antonio de Areco. Travel from Buenos Aires with a guide who shares insights about the region. Explore the historic downtown of San Antonio de Areco. At the estancia you may ride horses, take a ride in a traditional sulky, or simply relax and enjoy the landscape. A buffet of cold cuts, cheeses, and beverages is followed by a country-style barbecue featuring premium Argentine meats. Dessert is accompanied by live folklore music and a short demonstration of the bond between gauchos and their horses. Duration: Approximately 9 hours.

Overnight: Esplendor by Wyndham Buenos Aires Tango.

Day 14 — Wednesday, October 20, 2027 | Departure (B)

Transfer from the hotel to Ezeiza Airport for our flight back to the USA. (International airfare is not included.)



Lodging Summary

Hotel 45 by Director — Santiago (Nights 1–3) 4-star. Address: Carmencita 45, Las Condes, Santiago de Chile Website: <https://45bydirector.cl/> • Phone: +56 2 2498 3000

Best Western Patagonia — Puerto Natales (Nights 4–5) 4-star. Address: Camino Natales, Puerto Bories, KM 2.5, Natales, Magallanes, Chile Website: bestwestern.com Phone: +52 55 5162 2243

Esplendor by Wyndham El Calafate (Nights 6–8) 4-star. Address: Av. Juan Domingo Perón 1143, El Calafate, Santa Cruz, Argentina Website: <https://esplendorelcalafate.com/en/> • Phone: +54 2902 49-2456

Los Acebos Ushuaia Hotel (Nights 9–10) 4-star. Address: Luis Fernando Martial 1911, Ushuaia, Tierra del Fuego, Argentina Website: <https://losacebos.com.ar/> • Phone: +54 2901 44-2200

Esplendor by Wyndham Buenos Aires Tango (Nights 11–13) 4-star. Address: Rivadavia 947, Ciudad Autónoma de Buenos Aires, Argentina Website: wyndhamhotels.com • Phone: +54 11 4121-6700

Practical Considerations

This itinerary is designed with private guides, quality hotels, and a balanced mix of scenery and culture. It is not a pure luxury, zero-effort vacation. Please consider the following so you can decide if it matches your expectations and physical comfort level:

- Weather in Patagonia is famously changeable. Strong winds, sudden cold, and rain are common even in October. Layered clothing and a flexible attitude are essential.
- Some terrain is uneven. Boardwalks and short trails at Perito Moreno involve stairs. Paths in Torres del Paine and Tierra del Fuego can be rocky or muddy.
- Several travel days are long. The day trip to El Chaltén involves significant driving. Border crossing and flight connections also require patience. These days reward you with extraordinary scenery, but they are not leisurely.
- Early starts are part of the rhythm. Full-day excursions typically depart between 8:00 and 8:30 a.m. to make the most of daylight and weather windows.

If you want pure luxury, zero early starts, and no walking beyond a city sidewalk, this is not the trip. If you want to stand in front of one of the world's great glaciers, sail beside its towering walls of ice, stand in the shadow of Torres del Paine, and reach the southernmost city in the world—while still sleeping in good hotels and being guided by professionals—then this itinerary delivers.

A journey of genuine scale, beauty, and meaning.

October 2027 Departure