



## **PATAGONIA OFF THE BEATEN PATH**

### **7 days - Nature & Hiking in “Los Huemules” Nature Reserve - Argentine Patagonia**

Discover Patagonia's best-kept secret and tread off-the-beaten-path on this 7-day trip exploring hidden trails and valleys in the private Los Huemules Nature Reserve.

Hike to the hidden Cagliero Glacier and spectacular Loma del Diablo lookout. Experience the Perito Moreno Glacier on an ice hike or take a boat ride to the front of the ice walls. Investigate the flora and fauna of the region, in particular, try to spot the shy Andean deer. Get amazing panoramic views of Cerro Torre and Mount Fitz Roy from the Loma del Pliegue Tumbado lookout. Soak up some of the cultural highlights and enjoy tasty Argentinian cuisine, Argentinian steak, empanadas (filled dumplings) and wines. Explore the capital of the glaciers El Calafate and the picturesque mountain village El Chaltén.

**Don't miss out on this excellent experience!**

#### **Trip Highlights:**

- Hidden trails & valleys in the Los Huemules Nature Reserve: Hike to the hidden Cagliero Glacier and spectacular Loma del Diablo lookout
- Experience the Perito Moreno Glacier on an ice hike or take a boat ride to the front of the ice walls
- Encounter the very shy Huemul (Andean Deer) and marvel the north face of Mount Fitz Roy
- Get the best panoramic view to Cerro Torre & Mount Fitz Roy – Loma del Pliegue Tumbado lookout
- Local cuisine: Argentinian steaks, locro (stew) and Malbec red wine

#### **Insider Tip:**

- Sweeten your life and buy some facturas (sweet pastries) in one of the tiny bakeries in El Chaltén

#### **Trip Info:**

|                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| Trip Length:           | 7 days   |
| Start/End of the trip: | from / to El Calafate  |
| Group Size:            | min. 2 persons – max. 8 people   |
| Departures:            | individual on request (with the possibility to book other people on this trip) |
| Trip Style:            | hiking & nature  |
| Best Season:           | October to April   |

#### **What's included:**

- Accommodation: 6 nights in hotels in double room with private bathroom
- Meals: 6 x breakfast, 6 x box lunch
- Local English/Spanish speaking certified trekking guide (day 2-4) (WFR) and during the excursion to the Perito Moreno Glacier (day 6)
- Transport: all public and private transfers as per the detailed itinerary
- Boat ride across the Argentino Lake along the Perito Moreno Glacier
- Airport pick up & drop off
- Entry Fees/Admission: to Los Glaciares National Park
- Emergency equipment: including a first-aid kit and VHF-equipment

#### **What's excluded:**

- Meals and beverages not indicated on the itinerary
- Tour guide on the days of transfer
- Optional trips (e.g. on day 5 + 6)
- Tips/gratuity, local payments
- International and domestic airfare and airport charges nor excess luggage fees
- Travel insurance is not included in this tour. Travel insurance is mandatory to buy.

#### **Activity level:**

Level 2 – **Moderate** - Suitable for people who are reasonably fit and hike at least once a month. Participants should be able to walk with their daypack (15 lbs) 4-8 hours a day with some strenuous ascents and descents. The equipment for your belongings must be carried by you throughout the duration of the trip day (rain gear, fleece or light down jacket, trekking poles, gloves, hat, camera, lunch and water for the day, and also gear for good weather conditions).



## **Itinerary:**

### **Day 1 – El Calafate - Mountain Village El Chaltén**

Upon arrival at El Calafate airport a private transfer will take you to the bus station (without a guide). In the afternoon you are heading to El Chaltén with a regular bus (without a guide, driving time appr. 3 hours), taking a break at the Estancia La Leona. El Chaltén is a lovely village in the mountains that will be your starting point for the next days. Overnight: Hotel in El Chaltén in double room with private bathroom (Hosteria El Paraiso or Hosteria Fitz Roy or similar). (-/-/-)

### **Day 2 – Hiking in the "Los Huemules" Nature Reserve to the Cagliero Glacier**

In the morning you will meet your trekking-guide for the next hikes. A short panoramic transfer will bring you to the "Los Huemules" Nature Reserve, where you hike to the hidden Cagliero Glacier. Maybe you encounter the very shy Huemul (Andean Deer). The Refugio Puesto Cagliero, from where you have a privileged view to the glacier and the summit of Cerro Neumeyer, invites you for a break. Altitude of Refugio Puesto Cagliero: 500m. Appr. walking time: 6-7 hours, elevation gain of approx. 350 m (1,150 ft) ascent and descent. Private transfer back to the hotel.

Overnight: Hotel in El Chaltén in double room with private bathroom (Hosteria El Paraiso or Hosteria Fitz Roy or similar). (B/BL/-)

### **Day 3 – Hiking in the "Los Huemules" Nature Reserve to the Loma del Diablo Lookout**

Today you hike in the "Los Huemules" Nature Reserve to the spectacular "Loma del Diablo" lookout, from where you can marvel the north face of Mount Fitz Roy (altitude of lookout: 1050m). Appr. walking time: 5 hours, elevation gain of approx. 600 m (1,970 ft) ascent and descent. Private transfer in/out from the hotel to the nature reserve.

Overnight: Hotel in El Chaltén in double room with private bathroom (Hosteria El Paraiso or Hosteria Fitz Roy or similar). (B/BL/-)

### **Day 4 – Hike to the Loma del Plique Tumbado Viewpoint**

Today you take a hike to the viewpoint "Loma del plique tumbado", where you can get the best panoramic view to Cerro Torre & Mount Fitz Roy (altitude of lookout: 1550m). Appr. walking time: 8 hours, walking distance: elevation gain of approx. 1,300 m (4,265 ft) ascent and descent. Overnight: Hotel in El Chaltén in double room with private bathroom (Hosteria El Paraiso or Hosteria Fitz Roy or similar). (B/BL/-)

### **Day 5 – El Chaltén - El Calafate**

Today you can choose an optional half-day or full-day-excursion to Del Desierto Lake or you have some time to discover this idyllic place on our own, go on a short hike to the viewpoints "Condores & Aguilas" or to the waterfall "Chorillo del Salto". In the evening, you take a regular bus back to El Calafate (without a guide, appr. 3 hours).

Overnight: Hotel in El Calafate in double room with private bathroom (Hotel Picos del Sur or similar). (B/BL/-)

### **Day 6 – Perito Moreno Glacier – boat ride on Argentino Lake or ice hike**

Today you participate in a guided visit of the incomparable Perito Moreno Glacier in the Los Glaciers National Park that is part of the Southern Patagonian Ice Field. If you are lucky you will witness the glacier calving. Furthermore, you take a boat ride over the Argentino Lake along the imposing ice walls of the glacier (appr. 1 hour).

Alternatively, you can choose between an ice hike on the huge Perito Moreno Glacier or a full day boat ride on Argentino Lake visiting several glaciers (at additional costs).

Overnight: Hotel in El Calafate in double room with private bathroom (Hotel Picos del Sur or similar). (B/BL/-)

### **Day 7 – Airport Drop Off**

Private transfer to the El Calafate airport or to the bus station. (B/BL/-)

## **Gear list:**

### **Official Papers**

- Valid passport
- Airline tickets



### Luggage

- Duffel bag - extra-large for all the rest of your luggage, which you do not need on trekking days
- Backpack (40 liter) for the trekking days
- Rain cover for your backpack
- Luggage tags
- Passport pouch or money belt

### Clothing

- Bring a few lightweight, easily washable items for travel and evening wear during nights spent in hotels
- Windstopper-Fleecejacket - Sweater
- Hiking pants, lightweight, synthetic and loose-fitting – quick dry
- Hiking shorts, lightweight and synthetic
- Shirts (long sleeve)
- T-Shirts, synthetic
- Polypropylen Underwear or similar
- Hiking socks, blister-free

### Outerwear

- Rain jacket, waterproof and breathable (Goretex, Sympatex etc.)
- Rain pants, waterproof and breathable, side-zip pants are highly recommended

### Clothing Accessories

- Sun hat
- Hat (warm) - Beanie
- Bandana – Scarf
- Gloves – Fleece

### Footwear

- Sturdy hiking boots, waterproof, lightweight, broken in, aggressive tread - over ankle
- Sandals or flip-flop (thongs)

### Travel Accessories

- Water bottle – 500ml
- Headlamp or Meg lite
- Sunglasses and retainer strap
- Sun blocker + 20 and lip balm
- Toiletry kit
- Towel
- hand sanitizer gel
- Personal prescription medication
- Insect repellent / Mosquito repellent
- Watch with alarm or travel clock
- **Trekking poles**

### Optional equipment

- Camera, memory cards and batteries
- Small binoculars for bird watching
- Thermos
- Spare contact lenses or glasses
- Ear plugs
- Several Ziploc plastic bags

***If you have any further questions, please don't hesitate to get in touch!***