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T: 305-720-2539

F: 305-716-9216

info@latindiscover.com

TRIP DETAILS

15 days / 14 nts - Chile

Departures Daily

Trip Ref 1850

ITINERARY IN BRIEF

Santiago 2 nights

Pucon 1 night

San Martin de los Andes 1 night

Puyehue 3 nights

Punta Arenas 1 night

Torres del Paine 2 nights

El Calafate 2 nights

Puerto Natales 1 night



PRICES FROM \$3,495

National Parks of Patagonia

This comfortable nature trip offers close contact with Patagonia's spectacular nature. Hike and walk through the 8 most interesting and diverse national parks of Chilean and Argentinean Patagonia, staying mainly in cozy lodges and small hotels surrounded by nature's untouched beauty.

Day 1: Arrive in Santiago

On arrival at the international airport in Santiago, our guide will be waiting for you to take you to your hotel in Santiago. After check in and some time to relax, we will explore the Chilean capital in the afternoon, including a visit to the Plaza de Armas and the local market. Overnight in Santiago.

Day 2: From Santiago to the Lake District



Pucón. (Dinner)

Breakfast at hotel. After breakfast we will drive to the airport to board our one-hour flight to Temuco. This city is known as the capital of the Araucania Region, home to the indigenous Mapuche. After a short tour around the city, which includes the colorful fruit and vegetable market, we will drive to the resort town of Pucón which was founded by German immigrants in the 19th century. Due to its picturesque setting on the shore of the Lake Villarrica, by the imposing Villarrica Volcano and the surrounding national parks, Pucón attracts visitors from all over the world. In the afternoon we will take a gentle walk and visit the falls of Caburga. We will have dinner and stay overnight close to

Day 3: Hiking in Huerquehue National Park & Hot Springs

Breakfast at hotel. After breakfast we will go on our first full day excursion, into one of the oldest and most beautiful national parks in Chile: Huerquehue. A short drive will take us to the starting point of our hike, from where we will enjoy a nice halfday hike in the national park. Walking through a dense native forest of Coigue, Lenga and Araucaria trees, we will have good views of the smoking Villarrica Volcano and the extinguished Choshuenco Volcano during our hike. After two hours, we will arrive at three pristine lagoons, hidden among immense Araucaria trees at 1100 meters / 3,609 feet above sea level. After our hike we will have time for a relaxing bath in one of the natural hot springs outside the national park. Overnight and dinner close to Pucón. (Box Lunch, Dinner)

Day 4: Crossing the Andes to San Martín de los Andes (Argentina)

Breakfast at hotel. Today we will experience the natural contrasts between the Chilean and Argentinean slopes of the Andes. Crossing the mountains at 1,207 m / 3,960 ft, the countryside will change dramatically. Green rolling farmland and lush native forests in the Villarrica National Park will be replaced by the dry but very colorful Pampa of the Lanín National Park. The immense 3,747 m / 12,293 ft high Lanín Volcano will be a constant point of reference during the trip. On the pass we will drive through a spectacular forest of ancient Araucaria trees growing at the base of the volcano. In the afternoon we will reach San Martín de Los Andes situated at 700 m / 2,297 ft on Lake Lacar. Overnight in the center of San Martín de Los Andes. (Box Lunch)



Day 5: San Martin de los Andes to Villa La Angostura

Breakfast. During our scenic drive through the Seven Lake District, we will travel through the two famous national parks Lanín and Nahuel Huapi in Argentina. We will spend the night at a friendly hotel in Villa La Angostura near the Argentinean and Chilean Border.

Day 6: Villa La Angostura to Vicente Pérez Rosales N.P.

Breakfast. Today we will cross the Andes at an altitude of 1,308 m / 4,291 ft back into Chile. On our way to the Hotel Petrohué in the Vicente Pérez Rosales National Park we will stop in Frutillar, a charming town on the banks of the lake, celebrated for its architecture of 19th century German colonial style houses. We will continue driving around the Lake Llanquihue accompanied by the background of the perfectly coneshaped Osorno Volcano. Dinner and overnight at a hotel in the Vicente Pérez Rosales National Park on the shores of Lake Todos los Santos. (Dinner)



Day 7: Hiking in Vicente Pérez Rosales N.P.

Breakfast. Today we will discover Chile's oldest national park and hike on the Paso de la Desolacion that will take us to Cerro La Picada at an altitude of 1710 m / 5,610 ft. During the ascent we will enjoy fantastic views of Lake Todos Los Santos and the volcanoes Osorno, Tronador, Calbuco and Puntagudo. We will also have the opportunity to observe local trees and wildlife. The descent takes us to Playa Larga where a swim in the lake will be a refreshing reward. Dinner and overnight in the national park. (Box Lunch, Dinner)

Day 8: Puerto Montt - Punta Arenas

Breakfast. Early transfer to the airport in Puerto Montt, the flight will leave approximately at 10:00 a.m. After 2½ hours we will arrive to Punta Arenas, the southernmost town of the continent. It will be the starting point for our tour into the heart of Patagonia. Upon arrival, we will drive into town for a short city tour which will include views of the famous Strait of Magellan that separates the continent from the island Tierra del Fuego. On our drive to the hotel we will stop at the Penguin colony at the Otway Sound. The visit will be worthwhile as you will not only see the colony of Magellan penguins but may also spot other animals such as the Patagonian foxes, ñandús (South American ostrich) and condors. We will spend the night in Puerto Natales

Day 9: Torres del Paine National Park

Breakfast at hotel. After breakfast we will make our way to one of the most spectacular national parks in the world, Torres del Paine. We will pass through the typical Pampa steppes of the Magellan Region scattered with various old estancias (sheep farms). Before we will arrive at the internationally renowned Torres del Paine National Park in the late afternoon, we will visit the Milodón Cave where scientists have discovered the remains of a giant sloth. Overnight in a hostería in the park.



Day 10: Hiking in Torres del Paine National Park

Breakfast at hotel. Torres del Paine National Park is without doubt a must-see for every traveler in Chile. It is one of the most beautiful and awesome places in America. Our full day excursion will include visits to Lago Grey with its imposing glacier, the Salto Grande ("big waterfall"), Salto Chico and the administration center. Short hiking excursions will allow us to observe various kinds of animals: guanacos, flamingos, ñandús, condors, among others. A filling picnic lunch will be served on our way. Overnight in the park. (Box Lunch)

Day 11: Crossing the Patagonian Steppe to El Calafate (Argentina)

Breakfast at hotel. After breakfast we will drive to the border village and estancia Cerro Castillo. We will cross into Argentina and continue on through a deserted Patagonian landscape until we arrive at the town of El Calafate on the shores of the immense Lake Argentina. Overnight in or close to El Calafate.

Day 12: Los Glaciares National Park



Breakfast at hotel. On a full day excursion into the Los Glaciares National Park, we will have the opportunity to see various spectacular sceneries. A visit to the Perito Moreno Glacier will be the highlight of our day. This glacier with its 60 m / 197 ft wall of ice is one of the few in the world that are still growing. Approaching as close as possible, we will take our time to observe it from all angles. After a nice picnic with great views of the glacier we will go on a hike in the national park. We will also be able to organize an optional short hike on the glacier with an expert local guide. Return to El Calafate in the afternoon and overnight at the hotel. (Box Lunch)

Day 13: El Calafate to Puerto Natales (Chile)

Breakfast at hotel. Crossing the flat and widespread Pampa, we will start our trip back to Chile and enjoy a nice picnic on the way. Occasionally, we may see guanacos, ñandús or even flamingos. Arrival at Puerto Natales on the shores of Ultima Esperanza Fjord ("Last Hope Fjord"). We will stay in Puerto Natales overnight.

Day 14: Flight back to Santiago de Chile

Breakfast at hotel. Drive to the airport in Punta Arenas and flight back to Santiago (approx. 4 hours). Transfer to our hotel in Santiago and overnight.

Day 15: Fly out from Santiago

Breakfast at hotel. Transfer to the international airport in Santiago.

Type of Service	Price per person		
	2009/2010 Departures	Double	Single Suppl.
Group German	October: 10 November: 7 / 28 January: 9 February: 6 March: 6	\$3,495	\$875
	October: 17		

Group English	November: 14 January: 16 February: 13 March: 13		
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Hotels: Santiago: [Hotel Torremayor](#) ; Pucón area: [Hotel Landhaus San Sebastián](#) ; San Martín de los Andes (Argentina): [Hotel Le Chatelet](#) ; Puyehue: [Hotel Termas de Puyehue](#) ; Petrohué: [Hotel Petrohué](#) ; Punta Arenas area: [Estancia Posada Río Verde](#) ; Torres del Paine: Hostería Mirador del Paine; El Calafate (Argentina): Hotel Sierra Nevada ; Puerto Natales: [Hotel Costaustralis](#)

Prices subject to change without notice

Tour includes: 14 overnights with breakfast (sometimes at rustic National Park Lodges), 5 lunch boxes and 5 dinners, transfers and excursions with driver and German or English speaking guide from / to Santiago de Chile, entrance fees.

Not included: International and domestic Air fares, airport taxes, meals other than above mentioned, wine, beer or liquor with meals, porter, gratuities, personal expenses.

Notes:

- Prices per person in USDollars.
- National flights: Client must book the following flights: Santiago - Temuco on Day 2, Puerto Montt - Punta Arenas on Day 8 and Punta Arenas - Santiago on Day 14.
- Inner-chilean flight rates; with all taxes and fuel surcharge included; and subject to confirmation by LAN: US\$ 480,- per person
- Activities/Fitness: This tour was especially designed for nature lovers; during several days (see itinerary) tourists are free to participate in exciting hiking excursions of medium length (half day) and fitness level.
- Many National Parks are off main roads and access ways are not always paved. Road conditions are weather dependent. Depending on the size of group minivans or small buses are used.
- Booked hotels may vary in each tour depending on availability or size of group. The hotel may be changed in case group is too big and more rooms are needed.
- Depending on the size of group minivans or small buses are used. Minimum 5 and Maximum 12 passengers.
- Reservation deadline is 60 days prior to departure. When the group has less than the minimum pax, we reserve the right to cancel the group.

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Ways to
contact us

email: info@latindiscover.com or **Skype:** latindiscover
Tollfree: 1-866-369-8046 USA
Tel: 305 720 2539 USA, (506) 2290 4017 Costa Rica