



Landscapes & Lakes of Chile & Argentina

Private Tour | 15 Days | Physical Level 2

Santiago - Puerto Varas - Bariloche - El Calafate - Las Pampas - Buenos Aires

Starting and ending in two vibrant capital cities, this tour takes you through the breathtaking landscapes of southern Chile, crossing the Andes into Argentina. Along the way, you'll explore stunning lakes, majestic glaciers, and towering mountains that define the beauty and allure of this remarkable region.

- Savour Chile's exceptional wines
- Marvel at Osorno Volcano
- Explore Los Glaciares National Park
- Experiences life on an estancia
- Discover Buenos Aires' lively barrios

TOUR MAP



LAKES & LANDSCAPE OF CHILE & ARGENTINA PRIVATE TOUR INCLUSIONS:

- All accommodation
- Meals as stated
- All sightseeing and activities with entrance fees
- Domestic flights economy class
- All shared transportation and transfers
- English speaking local guides

Not included in the tour: international flights, visas, drinks, optional excursions, insurance of any kind, customary tipping, meals not included early check in or late check out and other items not specified on the itinerary.

PRIVATE TOURS:

These tours are designed for those who want some independence and flexibility. They offer the choice to explore local cuisine, leisure time for optional activities or excursions, and travel when it suits you. Our Private Tours offer excellent value holidays alongside the assurance that most of your arrangements are taken care of. You will also be accompanied by a dedicated and professional guide whose knowledge will turn your holiday into an unforgettable experience.

PHYSICAL LEVEL 2:

All our tours feature a physical rating to help you select the right holiday for you. To travel on any of our tours requires unaided mobility and the ability to stroll around the sights. 'Landscapes & Lakes of Chile & Argentina' is rated as a physical level 2 tour. A reasonable level of fitness is required but it's more about spending time on your feet rather than covering large distances. You'll be getting on and off coaches and boats, walking around the sights and climbing some steps.

- There will be sightseeing on foot for both short and extended periods of time.
- Guests are expected to climb on and off canoes/boats unassisted.
- The Andean Crossing Is approximately 13hours of travelling across lakes, mountains and rugged landscapes

Of course, the local guides will always endeavour to provide the highest level of service and assistance; however, they cannot be expected to cater for customers who are unfit to complete the itinerary.

ITINERARY CHANGES:

It is our intention is to adhere to the day-to-day itinerary as printed; however, the order of events or sightseeing may change as we look to improve our tours or as local conditions dictate; in these circumstances we will make the best possible arrangements whilst maintaining the integrity of your trip.

DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 1: Arrive Santiago

Meals: D

Arrive to Santiago, Chile, where you will be met and transferred approximately one hour to your hotel. The rest of the day is at leisure to explore your surroundings.



Destination Information

Santiago – The capital and largest city of Chile, located in a valley surrounded by the Andes Mountains. It is the political, cultural, and economic hub of the country, known for its modern skyline, historic architecture, and vibrant neighbourhoods. The city offers a mix of colonial heritage and contemporary urban life and serves as a gateway to nearby wine regions.

Day 2: Explore Santiago

Meals: B

The first stop is the Plaza de Armas, the central square that sits at the heart of Santiago's old colonial core. Founded over an Inca settlement, the square is home to many landmarks, including the stunning 18th-century Metropolitan Cathedral, the early 19th-century Royal Court Palace (now the Natural History Museum), and the Central Post Office.



Move on to the Government Palace before continuing to San Cristobal Hill.

Destination Information

Santiago - Santiago is a vibrant and cultural city set on the plains of the Andes and home to 40% of Chile's population. Split into 32 boroughs (comunas), each area has its own distinct character, yet all the streets are alive with the energy of the city.

The Metropolitan Park of Santiago – The largest green area in the city, covering over 700 hectares and making it the fourth-largest urban park in the world, as well as the largest in Latin America.

Day 3: Valparaiso

Meals: B, L, D

After breakfast set off on an enchanting journey, as you venture west towards the captivating Pacific Ocean. The first stop takes us to Valparaiso, and as you explore the winding streets and hidden alleys, you'll uncover the city's hidden gems, including art galleries, cozy cafes, breweries, mesmerizing graffiti, exquisite old houses, and the house of the famous Chilean Poet, Pablo Neruda.



Continue to the renowned Casablanca Valley. This picturesque region is celebrated for its exceptional wineries and cherished Chilean traditions. Along the scenic route, you will visit a prestigious winery, treating your taste buds to a premium wine-tasting experience that showcases the valley's finest flavours.

Destination Information

Valparaiso - A historic coastal city that once served as South America's primary port until the Panama Canal opened in 1914. With its UNESCO World Heritage status and reputation as Chile's cultural capital, Valparaiso is a treasure trove of history and European influence.

Day 4: Travel to Puerto Varas

Meals: B, L, D

This morning you will transfer to the airport for your flight to Puerto Varas. On arrival transfer to your hotel and enjoy lunch at a local restaurant.

This afternoon begin your city tour with a stop on the waterfront to appreciate the view of the city from the bay and the sculpture "Aurora" with Lake Llanquihue in the background. Visit the main tourist attractions; the Church of the Sacred Heart of Jesus (depending on opening times), and the Old Quarter where the first German settlers settled. Descend towards the downtown area bordering the beautiful Lake Llanquihue with the backdrop (weather permitting) is the imposing Osorno Volcano. Enjoy a good coffee at the end of your tour.

**Destination Information**

Puerto Varas - A charming town in southern Chile, located on the shores of Lake Llanquihue and framed by views of the Osorno and Calbuco volcanoes. Known for its strong German heritage, the town features distinctive architecture, cozy cafes, and picturesque scenery. It is a key destination in Chile's scenic Lake District.

Church of the Sacred Heart of Jesus - Built between 1915 and 1918, in the Monumental Baroque style, is an exact replica of a Church in the Black Forest of Germany, where some settlers came from when they arrived in our area from 1852 onwards.

Day 5: Petrohue Falls and Osorno Volcano

Meals: B, L

Today you will embark on a scenic journey to Vicente Perez Rosales National Park, following the picturesque Llanquihue Lake. Once inside the park, the first stop will be the awe-inspiring Petrohué Waterfalls. After spending approximately 45 minutes at this magnificent site, continue towards Todos los Santos Lake.



Return to Ensenada for lunch before continuing to the majestic Osorno Volcano. Along the way you will stop at the Crater La Bubble.

Destination Information

Petrohue Falls – A stunning series of waterfalls formed by the Petrohué River. The falls cascade over volcanic rock, with the striking Osorno Volcano as a scenic backdrop. Known for its emerald-green waters and powerful flow, Petrohué Falls is a popular spot for exploring the Lake District and is surrounded by lush forests and dramatic landscapes.

Osorno Volcano – A strikingly symmetrical stratovolcano located in the Los Lagos Region of southern Chile. Standing at approximately 2,652 meters (8,738 feet), it is known for its iconic conical shape, often resembling Japan's Mount Fuji. The volcano is part of the Andes Mountain range and is surrounded by lush forests and picturesque landscapes. Osorno is also an active volcano, with its most recent eruption occurring in the early 20th century, but it is closely monitored for volcanic activity.

Day 6: Andean Crossing

Meals: B, L

After breakfast you will begin a full day of travelling as you embark on the Andean Crossing. This is a breathtaking route that connects Chile and Argentina through the Andes Mountains. The scenic journey combines bus and boat rides, taking you across pristine lakes and rugged mountain landscapes. The journey begins in Puerto Varas, Chile, and ends in Bariloche, Argentina, passing through spectacular locations like Lake Todos los Santos and Nahuel Huapi National Park. Along the way, enjoy views of volcanoes, lush forests, and snowcapped peaks, making it a unique way to explore the natural beauty of the Patagonia. You will stop for lunch enroute. On arrival in Bariloche you will transfer to your hotel.



Please note today will be a full day of travel, with all services provided on a shared basis alongside other travellers and locals.

Day 7: 7 Lakes Route

Meals: B, L

Today's excursion visits the northern area of the Nahuel Huapi National Park, the famous Road of the 7 Lakes and the Villages of Villa la Angostura and San Martín de los Andes. The itinerary starts by following the road around the Lake Nahuel Huapi, with a short stop at Villa La Angostura, before continuing along the well-known "Seven Lakes Road". Pass by the Lakes: Correntoso, Espejo, Hermoso, Machónico, Villarino, Falkner and Lacar, picking a special spot to sit down and enjoy a picnic lunch beside one of these lakes. With another short stop at San Martín de los Andes you will then return to Bariloche.

**Day 8: Bariloche at leisure**

Meals: B

A free day in Bariloche with endless possibilities to explore the beauty of Argentina's Patagonia at your own pace.

Start by strolling through the town's charming streets, lined with Swissstyle architecture, artisanal chocolate shops, and cozy cafés. You can visit the scenic Nahuel Huapi Lake, where you can relax on its shores or take a boat trip to explore the nearby islands. For outdoor enthusiasts, head to the Cerro Campanario or Cerro Otto for panoramic views of the surrounding mountains and lakes. If you're feeling adventurous, you can hike or bike. For a more cultural experience, visit the Patagonia Museum or enjoy local cuisine at one of Bariloche's many restaurants.

**Destination Information**

Bariloche – San Carlos de Bariloche is a picturesque city in the Argentine Patagonia, located on the shores of Lake Nahuel Huapi and surrounded by the Andes Mountains. The city features Swiss-style architecture and is famous for its chocolate shops, giving it a charming alpine atmosphere. Bariloche also serves as a gateway to Nahuel Huapi National Park, where visitors can explore diverse ecosystems and enjoy breathtaking views.

Day 9: Travel to El Calafate

Meals: B, D

After breakfast transfer to the airport for your flight to El Calafate, Argentina. On arrival you will be met and transferred to your hotel, where you have the rest of the day at leisure.



Destination Information

El Calafate – A small town in southern Patagonia, Argentina, known as the gateway to the breathtaking Los Glaciares National Park, serving as a base for those visiting exploring the stunning Perito Moreno Glacier, one of the few advancing glaciers in the world. The town features a charming atmosphere with shops, restaurants, and cafes that offer local cuisine and artisanal products. El Calafate is also known for its rich wildlife, including guanacos, condors, and a variety of bird species.

Day 10: Full Day Perito Moreno tour

Meals: B, L

Touring today takes you into Parque Nacional Los Glaciares for views of the immense Perito Moreno Glacier. En route to the glacier stop at the pier for a short boat trip to the south wall where you will get an amazing feel for its sheer size, more than 3 miles wide and over 20 stories high – it is a true highlight of Patagonia.



Day 11: El Calafate at leisure

Meals: B

Today is yours to explore as you wish.

Begin by exploring the town itself, with its quaint streets filled with artisanal shops, cafés, and restaurants offering local specialties like Patagonian lamb. For a cultural touch, visit the Glaciarium, a fascinating museum dedicated to glaciers, where you can learn about the region's ice fields and enjoy the ice bar experience. If you're up for an adventure, consider visiting the nearby Laguna Nimez Reserve, a short walk from town, where you can observe a variety of bird species, including flamingos, while enjoying views of Lake Argentino.



Destination Information

The Glaciarium - A modern museum dedicated to the study and understanding of glaciers and the Southern Patagonian Ice Field. It offers interactive exhibits, 3D documentaries, and educational displays that explain the formation, movement, and significance of glaciers. One of its unique features is the GlacioBar, the first ice bar in Argentina, where visitors can enjoy drinks in an entirely icesculpted environment.

Day 12: Travel to Buenos Aires

Meals: B, D

This morning transfer to the airport for your flight to Buenos Aires.

On arrival check-in at your hotel with time to rest before a delightful tango show and dinner. The La Ventana Tango Show tour is the best way to see one of Buenos Aires' most exciting, authentic and spectacular tango shows. The evening takes place in a converted restaurant and theatre at the heart of San Telmo, a historic barrio rich in tango culture. You'll get to taste delicious, traditional Argentine food, try unique local wines as well as see the height of passionate tango.

**Day 13: Buenos Aires City Tour**

Meals: B

Enjoy a half-day city tour that covers the most iconic sights and neighbourhoods of Argentina's vibrant capital. Take in the historic Plaza de Mayo, where you can see key landmarks such as the Casa Rosada, the presidential palace, and the Metropolitan Cathedral. Explore San Telmo, the city's oldest neighbourhood, known for its cobblestone streets and tango culture. Visit La Boca, famous for its brightly painted houses, street art, and the bustling Caminito street. You'll also pass through the modern waterfront area of Puerto Madero, with its sleek skyscrapers and parks.

**Destination Information**

La Boca - A vibrant and colourful neighbourhood, known for its rich artistic heritage and strong Italian immigrant influence. Famous for its iconic Caminito street, La Boca features brightly painted houses, lively tango performances, and numerous street artists showcasing their work.

Day 14: Estancia day at El Ombu

Meals: B, L

After breakfast travel to El Ombu de Areco, 123 kilometres from Buenos Aires. It offers precisely what the Celtic origin of its name translates to; a place to rest. Once at the estancia there is an amazing asado lunch with a selection of meat cuts prepared in the traditional Argentinean way and accompanied by a wide choice of salads and potato dishes. Following lunch, you are invited to relax at the pool, enjoy a stroll in the park, go horseback-riding, and cycling or engage in one of the other numerous activities on offer at the Estancia, learning what life here is all about.



Day 15: Depart Buenos Aires

Meals: B

At the appropriate time, transfer to the airport for your onward travel arrangements.



LAKES & LANDSCAPES OF SOUTH AMERICA TRAVEL INFORMATION

VISAS:

New Zealand passport holders currently do not require a visa to enter, Argentina and Chile. Your passport needs to be valid for at least six months beyond your intended return date to New Zealand.

Please note the visa procedures and requirements may change at any time. These changes are often made by the relevant embassy or consulate; Wendy Wu Tours acts as a third party and has no influence on the process of a visa. Your travel consultant will inform you if any changes are applicable prior to your departure.

INSURANCE:

We strongly recommend that you take out a policy as soon as you pay your deposit. Wendy Wu Tours cannot in any way be made liable for any additional cost incurred by the customer on any tour due to the customer not having adequate travel insurance.

We also encourage all customers to take a copy of their travel insurance documents (especially relevant international contact numbers) with them while on tour. We advise that you check the inclusions and procedures for lodging claims prior to your departure. These documents should be stored separately from the original.

EATING IN SOUTH AMERICA:

Eating in Chile and Argentina is a rich cultural experience that reflects the countries' diverse landscapes, climates, and traditions. Both countries are known for their high-quality meats, seafood, and wines, but they also offer unique regional dishes and culinary influences.

Eating in Chile

Chile's cuisine is shaped by its long coastline, fertile valleys, and diverse geography, offering an abundance of fresh seafood, produce, and meats.

Ceviche: Chilean ceviche is made with fresh raw fish (typically white fish) marinated in lemon or lime juice, with onions, cilantro, and sometimes a bit of spicy pepper. It's a coastal specialty.

Congrio (Conger Eel): A popular dish often grilled or fried, with the creamy Caldillo de Congrio (conger eel soup) being a national favourite.

Empanadas: Chilean empanadas are typically filled with beef, onions, hard-boiled eggs, and olives. The version called Empanada de Pino is especially popular.

Pastel de Choclo: A dish similar to shepherd's pie, it's made with ground beef, chicken, corn, and eggs, topped with a creamy corn mixture and baked.

Chile is one of the world's top wine producers, famous for its Carmenère, Cabernet Sauvignon, and Sauvignon Blanc. The wine-growing regions, like the Colchagua and Maipo Valleys, are perfect for wine tasting and food pairings.

Eating in Argentina

Argentina is globally renowned for its beef, especially the traditional asado (barbecue), which is at the heart of Argentine social life. Along with meats, Argentina offers a range of delicious pastas, pizzas, and sweets, thanks to its Italian and Spanish heritage. Owing to the large Italian immigrant population, Argentina offers excellent pasta dishes like ravioli, gnocchi (traditionally eaten on the 29th of each month for luck), and lasagna.

Asado: The Argentine barbecue is a slow-cooking method using various cuts of beef, ribs (costillas), sausages (chorizo and morcilla), and other meats like lamb or pork. It's often enjoyed with friends and family as a communal meal.

Empanadas: These vary by region but are commonly filled with beef, chicken, cheese, or ham. The northern provinces feature empanadas seasoned with cumin and paprika.

Argentina is famous for its Malbec, especially from the Mendoza region, which is known for producing world-class red wines. Torrontés, a fragrant white wine, is another Argentine specialty, particularly in the Salta region.

Lunch and Dinner Times: In both countries, lunch is typically the main meal of the day, and dinners can be late, often starting around 9 PM.

Drinking bottled water and eating well-cooked food is strongly recommended. It's much safer to stick to bottled, treated or boiled water. Ice, along with salads or fruits washed in tap water should likewise be avoided. All the restaurants we visit will be researched and inspected regularly to ensure that they follow the strictest health, cleanliness, and safety guidelines.

Those with dietary requirements will be well catered for - just make sure to inform your booking agent of any specific requirements well in advance of your trip.

ACCOMMODATION:

Your accommodation is selected for convenience of location, comfort or character, and can range from business hotels to lodges. Hotels are generally rated as local four-star standard, but please note that there is no international classification system for hotels and differences in facilities and quality may exist between New Zealand and South America. If you experience any difficulty, please speak to your Local Guide. Rest assured that all hotels used by Wendy Wu Tours are regularly inspected by our staff and our partners to ensure that standards meet your needs.

SOUVENIRS:

We want to be able to give you an opportunity to buy souvenirs, so we include some stops at museums or exhibitions that demonstrates a craft or product unique to that region with pieces available to buy. We understand that souvenir hunting is not for everyone, so we aim to take you to places that hold local interest. We trust you will enjoy these opportunities to learn about local arts and crafts and understand their historical and cultural importance.

TRANSPORT:

Coaches: Coaches with air conditioning are used for city sightseeing, short excursions to the countryside and longer transfers where necessary. Travel between major cities is easily accessible, faster, and safe, while road conditions in rural and mountainous areas are impacted by rainy conditions.

Planes: Internal flights are based on economy class, with reputable airlines. Within South America flights are often changed multiple times before departure, both timings and flight numbers. The utmost care will be taken to ensure that your final documents will have the latest information, however your local guide will confirm this in destination. Boarding passes can be collected directly at the airport. The flights booked as part of your itinerary will always reflect the best timings to suit the touring itinerary, with direct flights wherever possible, however due to limited schedules some flights may require an early departure or late arrival.

Ferries: In southern Chile, ferries are a key mode of transportation, especially in regions like Patagonia and the fjords. Ferries operate between Puerto Montt and Puerto Natales, among other routes.

Andean Crossing:

Puertos Varas (Chile) to Bariloche (Argentina)

This is the most popular and picturesque Andean crossing. It's a combination of bus and boat rides that take travellers through stunning landscapes of lakes, forests, and mountains. This journey is on a shared basis.

PUERTO VARAS TO BARILOCHE IN 1 DAY:		
PUERTO VARAS OFFICE	8:00am	Depart by bus from Puerto Varas office to Petrohue, Passing Lake Llanquihue
PUERTO VARAS - PETROHUE	8:00am 10:00am	Enjoy the impressive view of the Osorno Volcano, as it dominates the landscape. Enter the Vicente Perez Rosales National Park
PETROHUE - PEULLA	10:00am 12:00am	Sail to Peulla, navigating across Lake Todos los Santos. Breathtaking views of the Osorno and Puntiaquedo volcanoes and Cerro Tronador can be seen
LUNCH AT PEULLA	12:30pm 15:00pm	Arrive in Peulla, an ecological lodge and a paradise for nature lovers. Enjoy lunch
PEULLA - PUERTO FRIAS	15:00pm 17:00pm	Board the bus destined for Puerto Frias, close to Chilean customs for border crossing. Cross the Andes Mountains, following the route to Puerto Frias
PUERTO FRIAS - BLEST	17:00pm 19:00pm	Sail across Lake Frias for 20 minutes aboard the Victoria del Sur, heading towards Puerto Alegre. Upon arrival, take the 3rd bus journey to Puerto Blest
BLEST - PUERTO PANUELO	19:00pm 20:00pm	Your final sailing s across Lake Nahuel Huapi, heading to Puerto Panuelo
PUERTO PANUELO - BARILOCHE	20:00pm 21:00pm	Upon arrival in Puerto Panuelo take a bus for the final leg of this crossing, to Bariloche. Check into your hotel on arrival.

APPROPRIATE DRESS:

When traveling in Chile, Argentina, and across the Andes, dressing appropriately is key to staying comfortable while navigating diverse climates and landscapes. The weather can vary widely depending on the region and season, so it's important to pack with flexibility in mind.

Layering is Key: Both countries have varied climates, from the arid Atacama Desert in northern Chile to the cool, windy Patagonia in the south. Layering allows you to adapt to changing temperatures throughout the day.

Comfortable Footwear: Whether you're walking through cities, hiking in Patagonia, or crossing the Andes, sturdy, comfortable footwear is essential.

Weather Considerations: Seasons are reversed in the Southern Hemisphere, so winter (June-August) can be cold in Patagonia, while summer (December-February) can be very hot in northern regions like the Atacama Desert.

Appropriate Dress for Andean Crossing (Cruce Andino)

The Andean Crossing between Chile and Argentina (often from Puerto Varas to Bariloche) involves varying altitudes and weather conditions, so dressing in layers is crucial for comfort during the journey. Here's what to wear:

Warm Layers: Even if you're crossing in summer, the temperatures can drop at higher altitudes or during the boat trips across the lakes. Wear a base layer, followed by a fleece or sweater, and a windproof jacket on top.

Waterproof Jacket: The Andean Crossing involves outdoor travel, often by boat, where you can experience rain or wind. A good waterproof and windproof jacket is important.

Comfortable, Sturdy Footwear: There's some walking involved during the crossing, so comfortable shoes, like hiking boots or sturdy sneakers, are recommended. Choose shoes with a good grip, as some paths can be wet or uneven.

Hat and Gloves: If you're crossing in cooler months, pack a beanie or hat and gloves to protect yourself from the wind and cold, especially during boat rides or while waiting at high-altitude points.

Sunscreen and Sunglasses: Even if it's cool, the sun at higher altitudes can be intense, so wearing sunscreen and polarized sunglasses is essential to protect your skin and eyes.

Summer (December-February): Lightweight clothing for daytime heat, especially in northern regions, but always bring a jacket for cooler evenings and the Andean crossing.

Winter (June-August): In Patagonia and mountainous regions, pack winter gear—insulated jackets, thermal layers, hats, and gloves. For cities, a warm coat is sufficient.

TIPPING POLICY:

Tipping while on holiday is common in most parts of the world and South America is no exception. We will provide suggested tipping amounts with your final documents for your convenience, however tipping is entirely at your own discretion.

LUGGAGE:

All travellers are limited to two items of luggage each: a suitcase with a maximum weight of 20kg and one piece of hand luggage with a maximum weight of five kilograms. It is essential that your luggage is lockable. Please note that authorities will only allow bottles onto the aircraft if they have been checked in as main baggage. Bottles in hand luggage may be confiscated.

PORTERAGE:

Please be aware that portorage is not included. You will therefore need to be able to handle your own luggage within the hotel and when using transportation like boats and coaches.

VACCINATIONS AND YOUR HEALTH:

We recommend that you contact either your Doctor or Health centre for advice on vaccinations and travel health. Safetravel has a comprehensive website that you may also find useful www.safetravel.govt.nz

BEFORE YOU LEAVE:

We strongly recommend registering your travel plans with www.safetravel.govt.nz as in the event of an emergency, New Zealand Consular assistance will be more readily available.

Up until the day you travel, it is vital you keep up to date and familiarised with the entry requirements as these can change at short notice. You are personally responsible for completing any entry forms, conducting any covid tests (if necessary), etc and adhering to countries' specific entry requirements.

You can also access the New Zealand Government's travel advisory service for up-to-date information about your destination on the same website.

AFTER YOUR BOOKING:

Once you have booked with Wendy Wu Tours, you will receive a confirmation invoice including a visa application form (if applicable), and a help sheet. Your final documentation pack will be sent to you approximately 2-3 weeks prior to departure.

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