

Patagonia's W Trek & Tierra del Fuego, Chile & Argentina *New*

Trek the famous 'W' route in the Torres del Paine and explore the magnificent wilds of Tierra del Fuego.



Group departures

See overleaf for departure dates

Holiday overview

Style	Trek
Accommodation	Hotels, Eco Camp, Camping
Grade	Moderate
Duration	16 days from London to London
Trekking / Walking days	On trek: 3 days Walks on: 4 days
Min/Max group size	4 / 12. Guaranteed to run for 4
Trip Leader	Local Leader Patagonia
Land only	Joining in Santiago, Chile Departing Buenos Aires, Argentina
Max altitude	Perito Moreno Glacier, 2,100m/6,890ft, Day 9

Private Departures & Tailor Made itineraries available



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Departures

2024 Dates:

Thu 15 Feb - Fri 01 Mar

Sun 06 Oct - Mon 21 Oct

Group prices and optional supplements

Please contact us on +44 (0)1453 844400 or visit our website for our land only and flight inclusive prices and single supplement options.

No Surcharge Guarantee

The flight inclusive or land only price will be confirmed to you at the time you make your booking. There will be no surcharges after your booking has been confirmed.

Will the trip run?

This trip is guaranteed to run for 4 people and for a maximum of 12. In the rare event that we cancel a holiday, we will refund you in full and give you at least 6 weeks warning. Many trips do fill up quickly - we advise you to book early if you want to secure a place(s) on the dates of your choice.

Insurance

We offer a travel insurance scheme - please contact us for details.

Private Departures

We can also offer this trip as a private holiday. A Private Departure follows exactly the same itinerary as the group departure but at dates to suit you (subject to availability) - please contact us with your preferred dates.

Tailor Made service

We pride ourselves on the level of quality and choice we provide for our clients who want a fully tailor made holiday. A holiday will be created especially for you by one of our well-travelled experts. They will be able to advise on the accommodation best suited to your needs, the sights you should visit (and those to avoid!) and the best walks and activities matched to your ability. In short, we will work together with you to create your perfect holiday. If you would like to explore the idea of a Tailor Made holiday with Mountain Kingdoms then please call us on +44 (0)1453 844400 or see the Tailor Made pages of our website for further inspiration.

Your guide



We use expert, English-speaking local guides who have an intimate knowledge of the area and an infectious passion for nature. They are very hard-working, attentive and helpful. You will have separate leaders for the Santiago, Torres del Paine and Argentinean elements of your trip.

Special notes

Booking time

Due to the high demand for accommodation at the award-winning EcoCamp in the Torres del Paine National Park, we strongly recommend that you book your place/s on this holiday at least three months in advance.

Your trip highlights

- Included city tour of the vibrant Latin city of Santiago
- Trek the spectacular W Route of the Torres Del Paine - Patagonia's most famous hiking route.
- See the iconic Torres del Paine from the Las Torres Viewpoint
- Stay in the stunningly located Eco Camp
- Experience the remarkable sights and sounds of the spectacular Perito Moreno Glacier
- Explore the landscapes and wildlife of wild and windswept Tierra Del Fuego - the very southern tip of South America
- Take a boat trip on the Beagle Channel to view the last lighthouse sailors see before reaching Antarctica

At a glance itinerary

Days 1-2	Fly London to Santiago. City tour and welcome dinner.
Day 3	Fly to Punta Arenas. Transfer to Eco Camp with lunch on way in Puerto Natales.
Day 4	Start W Trek and trek to Los Cuernos. Overnight camp.
Day 5	Trek to French Valley to Paine Grande. Camp.
Day 6	Trek from Pehoe Lake to Glacier Grey. Boat across Grey Lake to view glacier and transfer back to Eco Camp.
Day 7	Day hike to base of Las Torres.
Day 8	Transfer to border at Cerro Castillo. Cross into Argentina and drive to El Calafate.
Day 9	Full day visit to Pepito Moreno Glacier with boat trip and walk,
Day 10	Fly to Ushuaia and overnight.
Day 11	Visit Gable Island and Penguin Colony - with kayaks, boat ride and hike across island to Beagle Channel.
Day 12	Explore Tierra del Fuego - day hike, either Pampa Alta Path or coastal path. Take zodiac along Beagle Channel to Redonda Island. Paddle canoe to Lapataia Bay. Return to Ushuaia.
Days 13-14	Boat through Beagle Channel to view Les Eclaireurs lighthouse and Isla de Lobos. (possible walk). Transfer to airport for flight to Buenos Aires. Day at leisure in Buenos Aires.
Days 15-16	Depart Buenos Aires and fly home.

Trip summary

Combine two of South America's wildest and most spectacular regions in one active holiday. From the soaring granitic peaks of Chile's Torres del Paine National Park to the windswept 'End of the World' - Argentine Tierra del Fuego - this holiday is scenically stunning from start to finish.

The adventure begins in the cosmopolitan city of Santiago in Chile where you will have a guided tour of this vibrant Latin city. You then fly to Punta Arenas and transfer to the superb EcoCamp in the heart of the Torres del Paine National Park in Chilean Patagonia. From the EcoCamp you will head off to trek along the so called 'W Trek', the most famous hiking route of the Torres del Paine, where you will enjoy fabulous views of this spectacular region. You will return to the EcoCamp and make a full day trek along the Las Torres trail to view the iconic granite towers that give the national park its name.

You then cross into Argentinian Patagonia for a full day visit to the mighty Perito Moreno Glacier, famous for the awesome spectacle of the snout calving vast chunks of ice into the lake below. You then fly south to Ushuaia at the very tip of South America and head off into the wilds of Tierra del Fuego. Here you will visit a penguin colony, travel by boat on the Beagle Channel and hike through the dense forests of the Tierra del Fuego National Park, known for its dramatic landscapes of snowy mountains, glaciers, tundra and wind-sculpted trees as well as its stunning wildlife sightings.

Finally, flying back to Buenos Aires, your travels end in one of the most cosmopolitan of all South American capital cities, where you have the option of extending your stay to make the most of your time in Argentina.

Your trip itinerary

Day 1: Fly London to Santiago

Fly overnight from London to Santiago in Chile.

Overnight: In flight

Day 2: Morning arrival in Santiago. Meet transfer rep and transfer to hotel. Afternoon Santiago city tour. Welcome dinner.

Flights from the UK usually land in Santiago in the morning. Upon arrival at Santiago airport you will be met and transferred to your hotel.

Later this afternoon you will be picked up from your hotel and driven downtown to the Plaza de Armas, the historical centre of Santiago. The most famous sights here are the Metropolitan Cathedral and the Central Post Office which was originally built as a house for the Spanish conqueror Pedro de Valdivia. On the northern side of the square you will see the neoclassical Tribunales de Justicia building which houses the Supreme Court, ex-parliament and some beautiful gardens.



From the Plaza you will be driven towards Alameda, the main street in the city centre, and to the Presidential Palace - Palacio La Moneda. A model of 18th century colonial architecture, the palace is one of Santiago's most famous landmarks and a symbol of Chile's turbulent political past as well as its independence. From here you will go to the Lastarria district and climb Cerro Santa Lucia - the hill where Pedro Valdivia founded Santiago in 1541. There are great panoramic views of the city from the top. Afterwards you return to Lastarria and travel through this cosmopolitan neighbourhood lined with cafes, restaurants, shops, bookstores and small theatres. At the end of the tour you will be driven back to your hotel.

In the evening there will be a welcome dinner with your fellow travellers before retiring for the night.

Overnight: Hotel 45 By Director Or Similar, Santiago (Meals: BLD)

Day 3: Fly Punta Arenas. Transfer to EcoCamp via Punta Natales (meet guide and have lunch). Cocktail and briefing on arrival.

You will make an early start this morning, transferring to the airport for the 4 hour flight to Punta Arenas (your flight may be via Puerto Montt, but as this is just a 20 minute touchdown you stay on the plane). Try to request a seat on the left hand side of the plane, because, weather permitting, you have some excellent views of the Patagonian Andes and see the Torres del Paine which you will be trekking so close to in a few days' time. You will also have a bird's eye view of many stunning lakes and glaciers. It is interesting to contrast the lush scenery around Puerto Montt with the dryer landscape close to Santiago.

You will be met at Punta Arenas Airport and drive to Torres del Paine National Park (380km/240miles). During the "southern" summer the sun sets in this region at around 11pm, so you should have plenty of time and light to admire the Patagonian steppe, with its guanacos and snow-peaked mountain horizon. Along the way you will make a couple of stops, firstly at Punta Natales, a small but lively town on the shores of Seno Ultima Esperanza, Last Hope Sound, where you will have lunch. Here you will probably notice a change in temperature - Punta Arenas is renowned for the wind that can whip through the town. The second stop is at La Cueva de Milodon, a huge cave where the remains of a giant prehistoric ground sloth which inhabited the area 10,000 years ago, were discovered by a German explorer in the 1890s. A further 2 hours drive brings you to the Torres Del Paine. You will complete the formalities at the entrance to the National park and arrive at EcoCamp in time for a welcome drink, a briefing about your stay and a good dinner.

Overnight: Eco Camp, Torres Del Paine - Standard Domes (Meals: BLD)

Day 4: Trek to Los Cuernos - around 6 hours walking, 16km/10 miles.

Departing EcoCamp after breakfast you head off to walk the W trek. You will be away from the EcoCamp for 2 nights spending the nights camping along the trail. Soon you will be hiking along the shores of the wonderfully scenic Nordenskjold Lake. This fabulous turquoise blue lake is named after a Swede, Otto Nordenskjold Lake who discovered it at the beginning of the 20th century. In this region you may be lucky enough to spot some of the rich wildlife found here, which includes many guanacos (a wild camelid, native to South America and closely related to the llama) and perhaps even the elusive puma, as well as birds such as condors and eagles. Apart from a few ups and downs the trail is relatively flat and easy and in the spring Chilean firebush blooms brilliant red alongside the trail. You will have time along the way to stop to admire some of the most impressive peaks in the park, Los Cuernos, the Horns as well as Paine Grande, which dominate the skyline before arriving at your welcome campsite, set in a scenic location on a hillside and enjoying fine views.

Overnight: Camp Cuernos (Meals: BLD)

Day 5: Trek French Valley/Valle Frances and continue to Paine Grand Refuge - around 6 hours walking, 18km/11 miles.

Today you will be trekking right into the heart of the Paine Massif. You turn away from Nordenskjold Lake and trek uphill for a couple of hours to the Italino campsite at the entrance to the French valley. You will be trekking in wonderful forest of big Lenga trees with Paine Grande Mountain visible over to your left. After a further steep uphill climb for another hour you reach the Paine Grande Lookout, set in an impressive mountain cirque, a wonderful spot where the Lenga forest meets the snowy mountains which tower above you here. You will then descend, with the way back down being as impressive as the ascent, to come out above Lake Pehoe, another fabulous blue lake. You follow on alongside the lake to your refuge for the night, located on the banks of Lake Pehoe.



Overnight: Camp Paine Grande (Meals: BLD)

Day 6: Trek from Pehoe Lake to Grey Glacier - around 4 hours walking, 14km/8 miles. Boat across Grey Lake. Transfer to EcoCamp

Departing the refuge you make your way along a quiet valley until after trekking uphill you reach the western end of the W trek, the point where the foot of Paine Grand meets Grey Lake. From the Grey Glacier Lookout you will see the vastness of the Southern Patagonian Icefield and the Grey Glacier, a monster of ice and snow. Grey lake itself is dotted with huge icebergs which have broken off the glacier. After admiring the views from the lookout you will take a boat across Grey Lake to view this glacier spectacle from close up.

You will then transfer by vehicle back to the comforts of the EcoCamp and to get mentally prepared for tomorrows walk!

Overnight: Eco Camp, Torres Del Paine - Standard Domes (Meals: BLD)

Day 7: Day hike to base of Las Torres - 8-10 hours walking, 21km/13 miles, 914m/2,998ft of ascent/descent.

Today is a fairly long and hard day, but is very rewarding. If the weather is clear, you will get the most awesome views of the three impressive granite towers of Paine.

The first two or three hours of the walk are quite easy with a good and relatively flat trail. Then the ascent becomes steeper, trekking alongside the roaring Ascencio River. Navigation is made easy by the red blobs of paint strategically placed on the boulders. You will have fine views of Lago Nordenskjold as you glance backwards. If the sun is out and there is not too much wind, it can be very hot so ensure you drink lots of water (there are many opportunities to fill up your bottle from streams). You will be grateful to reach the Refugio Chileno - a very pleasant and well-kept refugio which sells drinks and snacks and a good place for a water refill although you will have several opportunities to fill your water as you continue upwards along the stream.

Leaving Refugio Chileno, you walk upwards through the lenga forest for an hour or so until you reach a signpost for the Torres campsite. After following a stream upwards you will reach a rocky moraine and then it is steeply uphill for roughly another hour before you reach the high point, the fantastic Mirador, at 900m/2,952ft, the lookout point for the Towers of Paine,. You can perch on the large boulders overlooking the lake and enjoy your lunch whilst taking many shots of the 3 dramatic towers. You will be able to contemplate the awesome feats of the climbers who have ascended these inspiring giants. It can be a very windy spot here so ensure you have your windproof clothing to hand.

After this feast of mountain scenery you will descend the same way back to Las Torres.

Overnight: Eco Camp, Torres Del Paine - Standard Domes (Meals: BLD)

Day 8: Transfer to Cerro Castillo on border. Cross into Argentina and transfer to Calafate.

Today it's adios to Chile but not to Patagonia! After breakfast you will sadly leave the EcoCamp and the fabulous Torres del Paine but the adventure continues with more scenic treats to come. You drive to the border with Argentina at the town of Cerro Castillo. Here you cross into Argentina and then drive to El Calafate, the main town of Argentine Patagonia, which has the only airport of this vast region. Calafate is located on the edge of Lake Argentino and is the gateway to the outstanding natural wonders of the Los Glaciares National Park. The main street of Calafate has many cafes, bars, shops and restaurants and is a very enjoyable place to spend an evening or two.

You will meet your Argentinian guide in Calafate.

Overnight: Hotel Lar Aike or Similar, El Calafate (Meals: B L)

Day 9: Full day visit to Perito Moreno Glacier including boat trip along glacier and 2-3 hour walk.

After breakfast, a one hour's bus drive will take you to one of the world's most spectacular glaciers - the Perito Moreno. When you arrive at the site, you will not go straight to the viewing platforms opposite the main face of the glacier, but instead, walk round to view the majestic splendour of the less frequented north face.

The snout of the glacier always has huge chunks of ice calving into the lake and if you are lucky you will witness the sights and sounds of this amazing natural phenomenon. You continue your walk along the shores of the lake and your guide will be able to tell you all about the formation of the glacier and explain the many features you will see. Arriving at the network of walkways and viewing platforms you will have time at leisure to enjoy the stunning views of the 60 foot high face of the glacier and undoubtedly take numerous photographs.



You will then get to experience this amazing sight from a different angle, by taking to the water. The navigation of the Argentine Lake aboard the 'Brazo Rico' allows you to appreciate the sheer scale of the Perito Moreno Glacier. Arriving at the southern end of the channel of the ice floes, your boat will take you along the wall of the glacier and across the lake for great views of any calvings as they take place.

Overnight: Hotel Lar Aike or Similar, El Calafate (Meals: B L)

Day 10: Fly to Ushuaia for three night stay.

Today your adventure continues with a flight to Ushuaia, the capital of Tierra del Fuego and a town at the very end of the world. The town is located on the shores of the Beagle Channel, with the snow-peaked Martial Mountains spanning the horizon. The name Tierra del Fuego (Land of Fire) was given to the region by the Portuguese sailor Hernando de Magallanes, who while he was sailing through the Magellan Strait in 1520 saw the campfires of the indigenous peoples, the Ona. Until the mid-twentieth century Ushuaia was a penal colony for political prisoners and criminals, but nowadays it is better known as the jumping off point for cruises to Antarctica. Tierra Del Fuego is also well known for its fantastic hiking in the Parque Nacional Tierra del Fuego, the only coastal national park in Argentina. This park was created to protect the Subantarctic forest and its native flora and fauna. This is an area of incredible if stark beauty where a surprising variety of wildlife thrives in these somewhat forbidding and windswept landscapes.

Ushuaia town, although it has somewhat of a frontier feel about it, is a lively place with many bars, coffee shops, restaurants and shops.

Overnight: Hotel Tokeyen or Similar, Ushuaia (Meals: B L)

Day 11: Visit Gable Island and Penguin Colony - hike, kayak and boat ride and hike across island to Beagle Channel.

After breakfast, you set off for Gable Island, a must-see for those seeking magic at the world's end. This full-day excursion will take you out into the very middle of the Beagle Channel. You arrive at the Lasiphashaj River, and then decked out in the rubber boots and life-jackets which will be provided, you will start your adventure in canoes, paddling down the river that leads to the sea. Along the way you should encounter a wide variety of seabirds and perhaps also sea lions, who enjoy sunbathing on the little islands which you will come across on your way down to the Estancia Harberton. After a short stop on terra firma, you take a motor boat out into the Channel towards Martillo Island, where you will have the opportunity to see breeding penguins. You then travel on by boat to Gable Island, located on the northern side of the Beagle Channel. You will have lunch here. This beautiful island, part of the Estancia Harberton, is home to pristine wildlife and has a rich history. After lunch you will hike across the island, crossing over beaver dams and through forest to reach the shore of the Beagle Channel from where you will take a boat back to Ushuaia. Throughout the day, your guide will be on hand explain all that you are seeing, all the different bird and plant species, as well as the history of the first civilization on this mystical island. With vast, open, landscapes and buffeting winds, there's a real end-of-the-world feeling to today's excursion!



Overnight: Hotel Tokeyen or Similar, Ushuaia (Meals: B L)

Day 12: Explore Tierra del Fuego. 3 hour walk, either Pampa Alta Path or Coastal Path. Zodiac along Beagle Channel to Redonda Island. Canoe to Lapataia Bay and return to Ushuaia.

Another fabulous day in Tierra del Fuego! After breakfast you drive to the western end of the Tierra del Fuego National Park where you will trek for several hours, taking either the Pampa Alta Path or the Coastal Path (Senda Costera), visiting one of the Park's most beautiful stretches of shore, where native vegetation flourishes. Your guide will help you identify the typical flora of the region - this includes the lenga beech, ñire trees, cohiue flowers, orchids, canelo and notro trees.

After about 3 hours walking you arrive at Lake Roca, a beautiful emerald green glacial lake framed by stunning mountains, which straddles the border here between Argentina and Chile. You will board a zodiac boat, to sail along the famous Beagle Channel to Redonda Island, a national reserve where you will have lunch while enjoying a stunning view of the surrounding landscape. You have time to explore the Island and watch the Magellan Cormorants which nest in the rocky walls. Later, after you have a through briefing on paddling techniques, you will make an excursion by canoe, an easy paddle for an hour or so across the pristine water of lagoons and rivers to reach Lapataia Bay, with the opportunity for many more wildlife sightings as you paddle. Lapataia Bay was once home to Tierra del Fuego's first inhabitants, a hunter gatherer people who lived in the area and moved between the islands of Tierra del Fuego by canoe, subsisting on a diet of shellfish and animal meat. You may see the grassy mounds here which mark their settlement. This area is the furthest south that you can reach by road in the Western hemisphere and marks the end of the Pan American Highway.

From here it is a 45 minute drive back to Ushuaia for your last night in southern Patagonia.

Overnight: Hotel Tokeyen or Similar, Ushuaia (Meals: B)

Day 13: Boat through Beagle Channel to view Eclaireurs Lighthouse and Isla de Lobos. Transfer to airport for flight to Buenos Aires and drive to hotel.

In the morning you will sail through the Beagle Channel to see the famous Les Eclaireurs lighthouse which marks dangerous rocks at the entrance to Ushuaia Bay, as well as the southern tip of Argentina - south of here lie only some small islands and Antarctica. This is the last point on the mainland which sailors to Antarctica will see! The waters surrounding the lighthouse are a wildlife dream, as penguins and both South American and fur sea lions are spotted regularly. Bird life is abundant too, with black eyebrow albatrosses, steamer ducks and upland

geese often seen on the nearby islands. Finally sailing back, you will approach the Isla de los Lobos, another of the fine wildlife sights along the Beagle Canal and famous especially for its sea lions - this rocky outcrop is home to hordes of South American sea lions, characterized by large heads and an orangish color, as well as South American fur seals. If you sail close enough you may hear the barking of the sea lions.

Later you will transfer to the airport for your flight to Buenos Aires where you will met and taken to your hotel.

Overnight: Casa Sur Art Hotel or Similar, Buenos Aires (Meals: B D)

Day 14: Day at leisure to explore Buenos Aires.

Buenos Aires is a cosmopolitan and lively Latin capital, and you will have time today to explore a little and see some of the sights.



Overnight: Casa Sur Art Hotel or Similar, Buenos Aires (Meals: B)

Day 15: Transfer to the airport for the flight to London.

Today there will be a single timed group transfer to take you to the international airport for your overnight flight to London.

Overnight: In flight (Meals: B)

Day 16: Arrive London.

Our grading system

Patagonia's Torres del Paine W Trek and Tierra del Fuego is graded as a Moderate trekking holiday, as described below.

Moderate

Holidays in this grade typically involve 5 to 10 days of walking or trekking. They will often venture into more remote country and can cross mountain passes. Altitudes though are still relatively low, going no higher than around 4,300m/14,000ft. Accommodation can include simple hotels, tea houses, lodges and camping.

What the price includes

Mountain Kingdoms aims to offer the best value for money. We do not charge extra for meal packages or apply local charges and try to ensure that all the key elements of your holiday are included.

What's included:

- ✓ Economy class return air fares from the UK & UK Departure Tax (flight inclusive bookings)
- ✓ Single, timed, group airport transfers for international flights on arrival and departure
- ✓ Domestic flights in Chile and Argentina and transfers
- ✓ All road transport by private vehicles.
- ✓ All sightseeing where specified
- ✓ Comfortable hotel accommodation in Santiago, Calafate, Ushuaia and Buenos Aires, twin share on B&B basis
- ✓ Full board in the EcoCamp and in campsites on the W trek in the Torres del Paine.
- ✓ 13 breakfasts, 8 lunches and 6 dinners.
- ✓ English-speaking leader/guides - separate guides in Chile and Argentina.
- ✓ Activities in Tierra del Fuego including walks, boat trips, zodiacs, canoes and kayaks where applicable.
- ✓ Carbon offset for clients taking our flight-inclusive option
- ✓ A free Mountain Kingdoms Kitbag

Airport transfers

The cost of a transfer to/from the airport is included in the price of your holiday. This is a single group transfer which is arranged to coincide with the timings of the group flights. If you book your own flights which arrive/depart at different times to this, or we book flights at your request that have different timings, we will be happy to provide a quote for a separate transfer. Please contact us should you require any further information.

What's not included:

- ✗ Travel insurance
- ✗ Visa fees where applicable
- ✗ Lunches and evening meals except where specified as included
- ✗ Optional trips
- ✗ Airport departure taxes (if applicable), excepting UK Departure Tax
- ✗ Tips

Water-to-Go Reusable Bottle Campaign

We have joined the campaign to help cut down on the use of plastics and, in particular, single-use water bottles. To do this we have teamed up with the revolutionary company, Water-to-Go who have developed a multi-use drinking bottle with a reusable filter that eliminates over 99.9% of all microbiological contaminants. This makes water from virtually any source safe to drink and significantly reduces the need for travellers to buy bottles of water wherever they are in the world.

Our clients who are not given a free Mountain Kingdoms kit bag for their holiday (these are required for certain treks), will instead receive a free Mountain Kingdoms Water-to-Go bottle. These unique Water-to-Go bottles can also be purchased from us at a discounted rate.

For further information about our campaign visit [For further information about our campaign visit <https://www.mountainkingdoms.com/water-to-go-reusable-bottle-campaign>](https://www.mountainkingdoms.com/water-to-go-reusable-bottle-campaign).

Your accommodation

We will endeavour to secure the hotels named in the itinerary but if our first choice of hotel is not available we will book a suitable alternative of a similar standard.



Hotel 45 By Director or Similar, Santiago

This chic, contemporary hotel is around a 30 minute drive from the airport with a selection of shops and restaurants within easy walking distance. Rooms are light and bright with a good range of amenities including minibars and free Wi-Fi. The hotel has two bars and its own restaurant where a buffet breakfast is served.



Eco Camp, Torres Del Paine - Standard Domes

Unique in Patagonia this camp has been operating in its current location within the Torres del Paine National Park since 2005. The complex is made up of various sized geodesic domes: large domes house the dining room, a bar, lounge and relaxation areas, with smaller sleeping domes reached via a network of wooden boardwalks. Built over a wooden floor the strong canvas domes are built to withstand all weathers and offer twin beds, all bedding, electric light and attractive decoration. In standard domes, bathroom facilities are shared, with toilets and showers housed in separate domes. 'Luxury' domes have en suite facilities - these are available at a supplement and are subject to availability.



Camping

For our camping service we provide typical mountain tents with enough room to sleep 2 people in comfortable conditions. Your trek staff will set up the tents and camp for you each day. We include all camping gear except for a sleeping bag - you will need to bring your own. Additionally, the camping sites along the trek will have mountain bathroom facilities in good condition.



Hotel Lar Aike or Similar, El Calafate

The Hotel is placed on the main avenue in El Calafate, overlooking Argentino Lake, a few minutes from downtown Calafate and surrounded by lush vegetation. Outstanding views of the lake and beautiful gardens which contrast with the barren Patagonian landscape, within a cosy and relaxed environment.



Hotel Tolkeyen or Similar, Ushuaia

Located right on the edge of the Beagle Channel the Tolkeyen Hotel combines a cosy welcome with a rural setting and great views. It is a 40 minute walk, 5 minute drive, from downtown Ushuaia but there is a regular free hotel shuttle. The hotel construction is rustic being made from wood and stone from the area, and comfortable rooms have all facilities. The hotel has a good restaurant and offers free Wi-Fi.



Casa Sur Art Hotel or Similar, Buenos Aires

This appealing boutique hotel is situated in the Recoleta District of the city. The elegantly styled rooms come complete with mini-bar, ipod dock, air-conditioning and free Wi-Fi. The hotel has its own spa, restaurant and lobby bar.

Meal arrangements

Price includes all breakfasts, most lunches and some dinners as specified in the itinerary. Full board on trek in the Torres del Paine. Total meals: 13 x breakfasts, 8 x lunches and 6 x dinners.

Flight arrangements

Flight inclusive from price

Our 'Flight inclusive from' price is based on the best fare available at the time of printing. As airfares change on a constant basis, this should be used only as a guide price. Rest assured that, at the time of booking, we will endeavour to get the best possible price for the flights you need. Remember, the earlier you book the greater your chances of securing the best fare.

Flight inclusive packages booked through Mountain Kingdoms are protected through our ATOL bonding scheme.

Flight upgrades and regional Airports

Please call us on +44 (0)1453 844400 for flight options from regional UK airports, Business Class upgrades, alternative airlines and stopovers. Please also check our website for the most up to date flight inclusive 'from' prices.

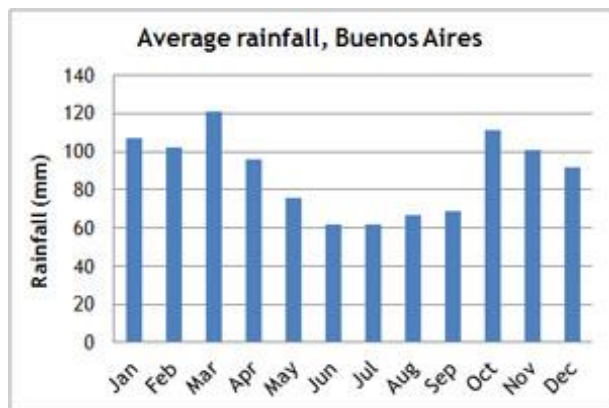
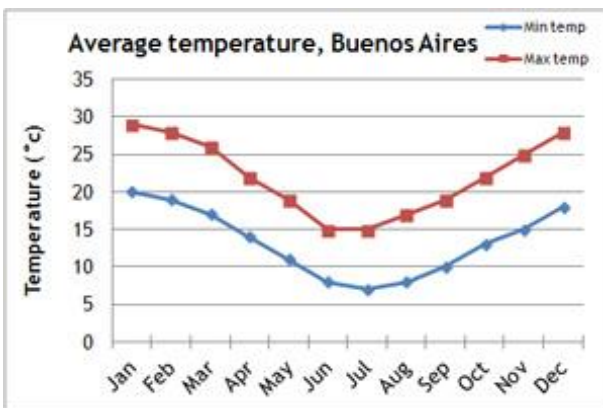
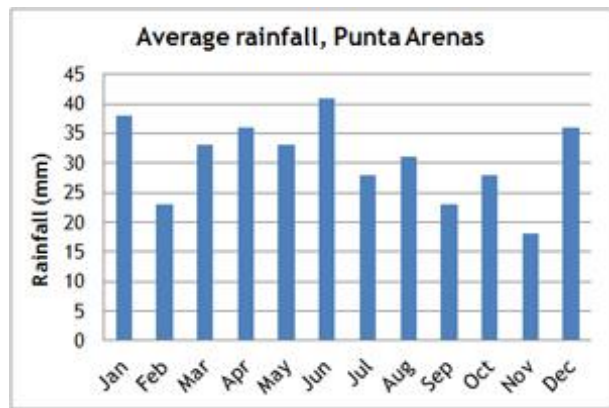
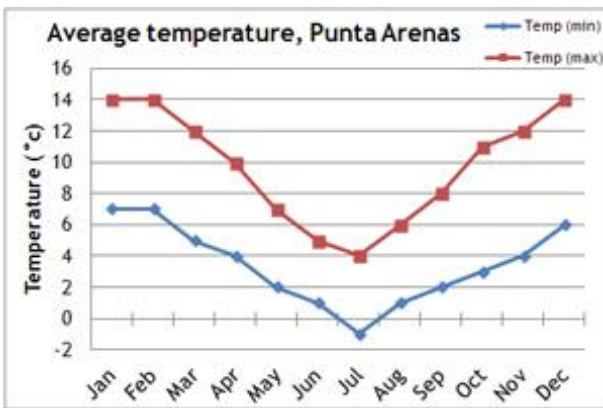
Further information

When we receive your booking, we send you a full Trip Dossier which contains details of any visas and vaccinations required, a suggested gear and clothing list and lots of useful information. If you do have queries at this initial stage do call us on 01453 844400 and we will be pleased to offer advice.

The nature of adventure travel

Every effort will be made to keep to this itinerary but we cannot guarantee that things may not change, either before you travel or while you are away. By its very nature, adventure travel involves an element of the unexpected, particularly in more remote areas. A variety of factors such as adverse weather conditions, changes to local schedules and difficulties with transportation can all contribute to the need to make changes to the itinerary, often at the very last minute. Our Operations Manager and your Trip Leader will make every effort to maintain the integrity of the original itinerary and minimise the impact of any changes, but an easy-going and flexible nature is a real asset! Please note that all timings and distances given are approximate.

Climate information



Extensions

Extending your holiday

If you would like additional inspiration on how or where to extend your holiday please call us on 01453 844400. Alternatively, you can download a range of extension information sheets on our website, at www.mountainkingdoms.com.



Extra hotel nights in Buenos Aires or Santiago

If you would like to see more of the vibrant Latin cities of Buenos Aires or Santiago we would be delighted to book additional hotel nights from our selection of accommodation. We can also assist with flight and hotel upgrades.



Iguazú Falls

Visit one of nature's most awe-inspiring sights on a 2 or 3 night extension to Iguazú Falls. Fly from Buenos Aires to Puerto Iguazú and visit both the Argentine and Brazilian sides of the Iguazú National Park in the company of an expert guide. Walk along the park's many trails that wind through rainforest, and feel the raw power of the falls from numerous viewing points. The extension includes accommodation in a good quality hotel in Puerto Iguazú, flights and all airport transfers.

Why book this holiday with Mountain Kingdoms?

- This is an exciting trip taking you to some of the most spectacular corners of Patagonia including the iconic Torres del Paine and the incredible Perito Moreno Glacier.
- Travel to the southernmost tip of South America with a rare opportunity to see the stark beauty and incredible wildlife of Tierra del Fuego.
- Visit two of South America's most vibrant and cosmopolitan cities with the opportunity to extend your holiday with extra hotel nights or upgrades in either Santiago or Buenos Aires.
- The extensive experience of our office team, combined with the knowledge, contacts and attention to detail of our local partners, means you are assured of a high quality holiday. We would be glad to talk to you about the detail of either this trip or any of the other tempting tours and treks we offer in this part of the world.
- Our maximum group size is 12 for this trip. This provides for a genuine small group travel experience and helps reduce the negative aspects often associated with larger trekking groups.
- If you wish to fly with a specific airline, from a regional UK airport or on alternative dates to the main group we would be happy to arrange this for you. Please contact our Flights team for flight options, quotes and further information.
- As part of our commitment to 'Tourism Declares a Climate Emergency', we will be carbon-offsetting all international flights booked through us by donating funds to the Ecoan Tree Planting Project in Peru.

If we've tempted you to take your next holiday with us, we advise you to check availability and you can do this via our website: www.mountainkingdoms.com or by calling the team on +44 (0)1453 844400. Bookings can be made online, by phone or by completing a booking form and returning it to us. We can also provisionally hold places if you need time to consider your options.

Mountain Kingdoms - distinctly different

Truly independent

In an age where many so-called 'independent' travel companies have in fact been bought out by multi-national giants, we remain fiercely independent with all the benefits this offers our clients.

Value for money prices with an emphasis on quality

We are not in the business of cutting our itineraries and services to the bone to offer eye-catching cheap prices. We use some of the best airlines, and typically 3 or 4 star hotels in cities. We include the majority of meals and private transport for road travel. We use excellent equipment and appoint well-trained staff and leaders. Last year, over 98% of our clients rated their Mountain Kingdoms holiday as 'excellent' or 'good'. We are members of AITO and bound by their quality charter.

Complete financial security

You can book with us confident that your holiday has full financial protection. Flight inclusive holidays are financially protected by the Civil Aviation Authority under ATOL licence number 2973 and 'Land Only' holidays are covered by a bond secured with ABTOT.

No Surcharge Guarantee

Your peace of mind is important to us so we have a No Surcharge Guarantee on all Land Only and Flight Inclusive bookings. This means that there will be no change to the price of your holiday once we have confirmed your booking, regardless of fluctuations in exchange rates or fuel prices.

Award winning Responsible Tourism

We feel strongly that all our holidays should benefit local communities, protect the environment and respect local traditions, religion and heritage. You can read more about the charities we support and our Responsible Tourism commitments and initiatives on the following page or at www.mountainkingdoms.com.

Genuine small group travel

Almost all of our holidays have a maximum group size of just 12, plus leader. This provides more contact with your leader, readier access to off-the-beaten-path areas, greater interaction with local communities and a reduced environmental impact.

Loyalty Discount

If you have previously travelled with us we recognise your loyalty with a discount on future trips.

Booking your holiday - it couldn't be easier

Once you've chosen your Mountain Kingdoms holiday you can book online, call the office or complete and post a booking form which can be found in our brochure or downloaded from our website. If you would like to hold a place on one of our trips, whilst you make up your mind, please give us a call to make a provisional booking. This is a no-obligation, no-cost booking and we will hold your place until space comes under pressure or we need your decision.

Comprehensive information

When we receive your booking we send you a full trip dossier which contains details of visas and vaccinations required, a suggested gear and clothing list and lots of useful information. In fact, everything you need to know to give you peace of mind and allow you to prepare for your trip of a lifetime.



RESPONSIBLE TOURISM STATEMENT CLIMATE EMERGENCY PLAN



For over 33 years, Mountain Kingdoms has been offering people the chance to visit amazing places on this extraordinary planet. We now offer trips to all corners of the world, but we are conscious that inevitably our holidays have a detrimental impact on the world around us, and we want to do all we can to reduce our carbon emissions. We are a signatory to Tourism Declares a Climate Emergency, along with a growing number of like-minded, reputable tour operators. For more information, please visit www.tourismdeclares.com

From 2020 onwards, we will be focusing on how we can reduce the carbon emissions that our holidays produce, and how to counterbalance this carbon by supporting carbon offset measures. Here are some of our current and future plans to minimise the impact of our business as a whole:

Carbon Offsetting

Already doing:

- ✓ We have been offsetting carbon since 2007, but will be increasing our donations to the [Ecoan tree planting project](#) in Peru this year. This is with a trusted partner where the funds go directly to a project where the community plants trees on its own land.

Will do:

- ✓ We are working on making our carbon offsetting more accurate and targeted.
- ✓ In future, we will add to that a further estimate for carbon produced by hotels, local road travel, trains and internal flights to arrive at a carbon offset sum for each trip we operate.
- ✓ Carbon offsetting will be included in our holiday prices. For our Flight Inclusive holidays it will include the international flight and any emissions produced by inland travel and accommodation. Our Land Only prices will include the cost of offsetting emissions caused by inland travel and accommodation.

Reducing Carbon Emissions

Already doing:

- ✓ We already offer the majority of our customers a free filtered water bottle which means they can instantly cut down on their single-use plastic consumption. This will be an ongoing project.
- ✓ We already predominantly use locally owned hotels, but will continue to ensure that, where possible, we use these rather than multinational chains.
- ✓ We have joined the Tourism Declares a Climate Emergency initiative to stand alongside like-minded travel companies, to work together to initiate best practices to make tourism as sustainable as possible.

Will do:

- ✓ We will re-evaluate our flights to make sure we are using the most fuel efficient airlines with the youngest fleets and, where possible, direct flights for each trip.
- ✓ We will stop offering unnecessary optional flights – for example our Everest sightseeing trip.
- ✓ We will eliminate unnecessary staff flights wherever possible.
- ✓ We will look at minimising internal flights.
- ✓ We will be asking all our worldwide agents and suppliers to look at their own carbon footprint and encourage them to reduce it.
- ✓ We will promote our more low impact trips to give customers an informed choice.

As part of our wider commitment to Responsible Tourism, we will continue to support a number of charities with whom we have had a long standing relationship over many years. These include: Shiva Charity in Nepal (Ginette Harrison School), Simien Mountains Mobile Medical Service and Porter Welfare, as well as setting aside a sum for emergency disaster relief should the need arise.

