

2023

HARVARD ALUMNI TRAVELS

DISCOVER • LEARN • CONNECT • EXPLORE

ULTIMATE PATAGONIA

With Brian D. Farrell,

Monique and Philip Lehner Professor for the Study of Latin America

October 19–30, 2023



HARVARD

Alumni Travels



Ultimate Patagonia

Embark on a captivating 12-day journey to one of the most mysterious and secluded areas of the world, Patagonia. After touring Buenos Aires, known as the "Paris of South America," head south to the frontier town of El Chaltén, overlooking the stunning Mount Fitz Roy and the neighboring slender spires of Cerro Torre. Located in the middle of Glaciers National Park, El Chaltén is a top destination for hikers as well as travelers interested in geology, glaciology and wildlife. Our first stop will be the new and sustainably designed luxury lodge, the Explora El Chaltén with views of the Electric Valley and Marconi Glacier. Next, journey to El Calafate for a full-day exploration of the massive Perito Moreno Glacier. From there cross over the border into Chile to Torres del Paine National Park, whose towering granite horns, ice fields, and glaciers will inspire indelible memories. Check into the famed Explora Patagonia lodge. Its magnificent views of Paine Massif and Pehóé Falls will serve to inspire explorations of the surrounding park.

At each Explora lodge, choose from a variety of guide-lead excursions including half and full day hikes. In Torres del Paine horseback riding and a catamaran trip to the glaciers is offered as well.

Activity Level 3-5: 

CHOOSE YOUR ADVENTURE

This is a moderately active to active program, depending on which activity options you select. Excursions can be tailored to guests' specific interests and fitness levels. Hikes of different mileage and duration are offered. Activities include trekking, birdwatching, horse-back riding, and boat navigation of Lake Pehóé (Explora Patagonia)

Above: *Hiking in Patagonia.*
Cover: *Explora Patagonia under Torres del Paine.*

Study Leader



Brian D. Farrell is the Monique and Philip Lehner Professor for the Study of Latin America. He had previously served as director of the David Rockefeller Center for

Latin American and as a faculty dean of Leverett House of Harvard College.

As a professor of biology and curator of Entomology in the Museum of Comparative Zoology, Brian is an authority on the coevolution between insects and plants.

On this program Brian will lecture about coevolution, measuring biophilia, the biodiversity of Patagonia, and "Why We Animals Sing".

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Highlights

- **UNWIND** at three of Patagonia's top luxury lodges after each day of successful adventures.
- **CHOOSE** from tailor-made excursions including day hikes, horseback adventures, van and catamaran expeditions.
- **ENJOY** reflective walks amongst the majestic massifs of Mount Fitzroy and Paine Horns in the UNESCO Biosphere reserves of Los Glaciares National Park and Torres del Paine National Park.
- **LOOK** for guanacos, foxes, condors, flamingoes, huemul deer, black necked swans, rhea and more.

Perito Moreno Glacier

Schedule by Day

(B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner)

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19

U.S. / Buenos Aires

Depart the U.S. on an overnight flight to Buenos Aires, Argentina.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20

Buenos Aires

Arrive this morning in Buenos Aires. Transfer to the Alvear Icon Hotel located in Puerto Madero and designed to enjoy some of the most incredible views of the city. Begin your journey with a tour of the city's Main Square, Plaza de Mayo with its neo-classical cathedral, and Casa Rosada (Presidential Palace), the famed pink building from which Eva and Juan Perón addressed the masses. See La Boca with its colorful tin houses, explore San Telmo, one of the oldest neighborhoods in Buenos Aires, Barrio Norte and Palermo. In the evening enjoy a welcome cocktail and a private tango dance presentation followed by a welcome dinner.

Alvear Icon (D)

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21

Buenos Aires / El Calafate / El Chaltén

Depart on a morning flight to El Calafate, the area of the big glaciers on the southern

shore of Lake Argentino. Upon arrival transfer to the frontier village of El Chaltén. Visible on the northern horizon as you approach El Chaltén is the massive granite mountain of Mount Fitz Roy, named after the captain of the *Beagle*, on which Charles Darwin served as the naturalist. Check into the new Explora El Chaltén, Argentina Lodge with views to the Electric Valley and Marconi Glacier. *Explora El Chalten (B, D)*

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22 & MONDAY, OCTOBER 23

El Chaltén

Choose from tailor-made excursions hosted by knowledgeable and engaging guides including full or half day treks, ice hiking, and even rock climbing, depending on your preferences, abilities and skills. Explorations include Los Glaciares National Park, declared a world heritage site by UNESCO, the Southern Patagonia Mountain Range and the surrounding a of the Los Huemules National Reserve. Look for condors, Andean deer, torrent ducks, the Magellanic woodpecker, the Andean fox, and even the puma (cougar). Your tour director and personal excursion manager will assist you in choosing an excursion for each day.

Explora El Chalten (2B, 2L, 3D)

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 24

El Chaltén / El Calafate

This morning we'll travel to El Calafate to see the Perito Moreno Glacier. This glacier offers an overwhelming sight and deafening roar

every time one of its ice towers breaks into multiple icebergs and plunges into the water. A boat ride on Lake Argentino will afford an opportunity to view the impressive glacier up close from a totally different perspective. Transfer back to our hotel for the night situated on the banks of Lake Argentino. *Xelena Hotel (B, L)*

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25

El Calafate / Torres del Paine National Park

Depart El Calafate, today and ascend the high Patagonian plateau from where you can appreciate the whole Santa Cruz River Valley, Lake Argentino, and the Andes Mountains in the background. Watch for guanaco and other wildlife. After driving through Patagonia's windswept landscape, cross from Argentina into Chile to Torres del Paine National Park, declared a Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO. Check into the luxurious and exclusive Explora Patagonia Lodge, renowned for its architecture, cuisine and views. *Explora Patagonia (B, D)*

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26; FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27; & SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28

Torres del Paine National Park

By far, the most impressive sight in southern Chile is Torres del Paine National Park, known as the crown jewel of Patagonia. The dramatic mountain formations of towering rock, windswept pampas, ice fields, and glaciers, make it an impressive and



Tango dancers; Horseback riding under Torres del Paine



unforgettable sight. Look out for herds of guanacos and rheas, flamingos, condors, foxes, geese, and black-necked swans. Lakes and lagoons in hues of blue, green, gray and ochers abound. Each evening at cocktail hour, choose from a variety of excursions. Activities range in difficulty from easy to challenging and include navigating the Pehoé Lake via catamaran, small van trips, full or half-day treks, or horseback riding. On Saturday evening gather for a farewell dinner.

Explora Patagonia (3B, 3L, 3D)

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29

Torres del Paine National Park / Punta Arenas / Santiago / U.S.

Depart this morning for Punta Arenas, Chile's southernmost city, located on the Strait of Magellan opposite Tierra del Fuego. Fly to Santiago and transfer to the international section of the airport for flights back to the U.S. (B, L)

MONDAY, OCTOBER 30

Return to U.S.

Arrive in U.S. and connect to your home airport.



OCTOBER 16–20, 2023

Optional Pre-Trip Extension: Iguazú Falls

Roaring out of the jungle and hurtling over cliffs between Brazil and Argentina, the Iguazú Falls are one of the natural wonders of the world. The two nights at this extraordinary place (Gran Meliá, inside the park) offer ample time to relax

and see the cataracts surrounded by luxuriant rain forest, beautiful exotic birds and intriguing bromeliads and butterflies. Exploration from the Brazilian side is thrilling. Take a boat to see the falls from the lower river, approaching the base of the falls. Extension includes one extra night in Buenos Aires and two-night's accommodations in Iguazú (taxes included), buffet breakfast every day, two lunches, entrance fees, transfers, and leadership. Airfare is additional and quoted separately. Alvear Icon Hotel and Hotel Gran Meliá Iguazú



OCTOBER 29–NOVEMBER 4, 2023

Optional Post-Trip Extension: Easter Island

After an additional night's stay in Santiago, depart the next morning for Easter Island (Rapa Nui). Located 2,600 miles west of Santiago in the South Pacific Ocean, this mysterious island has a visual impact few places in the world can equal. Hundreds of moais, tight-lipped basalt statues unique in the whole of Oceania, are scattered throughout the island. Accommodations on Easter Island are at Explora Rapa Nui, which offers the only truly high-end accommodation. Built in local volcanic stone and imported wood, the hotel curves discretely along a hillside overlooking the island's south

coast. All rooms as well as the dining room have a panoramic sea view. The extension includes one night at Airport Holiday Inn on departure, one night at the Ritz Carlton in Santiago on your return and three nights at the Explora Rapa Nui on Easter Island, all excursions, breakfasts in Santiago and all meals and an open bar at the Explora, transfers, guides and gratuities to Explora staff at Easter Island. Airfare to Easter Island is not included.

The Explora Lodges

Explora Chaltén

Guests at this new and sustainably designed luxury lodge wake to absolutely breathtaking views of the snow-covered peaks of Patagonia's Los Huemules Natural Reserve. Travelers can also access the trails and monumental ice floes of one of South America's most epic attractions, Los Glaciares National Park a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The lodge offers an open bar, full-service gourmet restaurant, and 1,300 square-foot spa. Expert guides lead custom designed explorations that can cover a full day or half day in small groups of 8 or less. Wi-Fi is available in the common areas.



Explora Patagonia

This famous lodge was designed as the perfect base from where to explore Torres National Park. Nestled between the Paine Horns and the turquoise waters of Lake Pehoé the lodge offers 40 different explorations—either hiking and horseback riding—to some of the most beautiful areas of the park. The hotel's rooms offer amazing views to the Paine Massif, Paine River or Salto Chico Falls and are the perfect combination of simplicity and comfort in order to ensure a deep rest after a day of exploration. Guests staying at Explora are welcome to use the heated pool, sauna and the outdoor hot tubs, located steps away from the Paine River. Gourmet cuisine is offered at the dining hall and there is an open bar. Free Wi-Fi in Common Areas.



Rates per Person

DOUBLE OCCUPANCY **\$14,695**

SINGLE OCCUPANCY **\$18,285**

IGUAZU PRE-TRIP EXTENSION

DOUBLE OCCUPANCY **\$1,990**

SINGLE OCCUPANCY **\$2,840**

Price is based upon a minimum of 8 passengers. Roundtrip airfare to Iguazu Falls is not included. Approximate roundtrip airfare from Buenos Aires to Iguazu is \$450 per person, coach class and subject to change.

EASTER ISLAND POST-TRIP EXTENSION

DOUBLE OCCUPANCY **\$3,890**

SINGLE OCCUPANCY **\$4,995**

Price is based upon a minimum of 8 passengers. Round trip airfare to Easter Island is not included. Approximate roundtrip airfare from Santiago to Easter Island is \$804, coach class and subject to change.

SAMPLE INTERNATIONAL COACH AIRFARE

BOSTON/BUENOS AIRES/SANTIAGO/BOSTON **\$1,218**

Not included, price as of May 2022. Quoted separately & subject to change.

TOUR COST INCLUDES: Nine nights' hotel accommodations • In-tour airfare (Buenos Aires to Calafate and Punta Arenas to Santiago) • Professional tour director throughout program • Professional English-speaking Argentinian or Chilean guides at all locations • Meals as set forth in the itinerary • Welcome dinner with cocktails, wine, and beer • House beer, wine and soft drinks included at all group lunches and dinners • Open bar at the Explora Chaltén and Explora Patagonia Lodges (except for premium liquors and wines) • Transportation via private motor coach • Bottled water during touring • Airport transfers for those using or meeting group flights • Full program of briefings, lecturers, guided field trips, and presentations • Baggage handling • Gratuities to wait staff, guides, tour director, and drivers • All service charges, entrance fees, and taxes • Pre-departure information.



AIR ARRANGEMENTS U.S. domestic and international airfare is not included in the program rates. Valerie Wilson Travel, Inc., can help with airline arrangements for this trip and can be reached at 800-447-3560. You are also welcome to book your air transportation through your local travel agent, an online travel site, or the airline of your choice. Passengers traveling on the pre-trip and post-trip extensions will be invoiced separately for the extension airfare.

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What to Expect

This exclusive expedition is designed for Harvard Alumni Travels alumni and friends who are interested in learning about the history, culture, and superb natural areas of Patagonia. This is a moderately active to active program. Excursions specifically tailors to a passengers' interests and fitness level. Hikes of different mileage and duration are offered. Excursions include trekking, birdwatching, horseback riding, boat navigation of lakes (southern Patagonia). The trip takes place at in the Southern Hemisphere's spring. Typically, the weather is warm in Buenos Aires (approx. 71-57° F). The average daytime temperature in El Calafate is 57°F and Chaltén is 55°F. Sites in Torres del Paine are usually cold in the early morning and late evening but can be sunny and warm during the day with average high and low temperatures of between 57°F to 37°F. Winds, which can be strong, are frequent in the southern Patagonia area, and weather, is unpredictable. Since some travel will be in remote areas, everyone must be flexible concerning time schedules, weather, and dust. To enjoy this trip, a spirit of adventure and anticipation and the desire to explore spectacular natural areas are musts. There are a couple of relatively long drives, which are necessary for the chance to explore the superb scenery of Patagonia. Travel is by regularly scheduled jet aircraft, boat (for some optional day excursions), and motor coach. There are no altitude issues on this trip.

*Left (top to bottom):
Guanacos;
Explora Chalten;
Patagonia Lagoon;
Traveller at Los Tres Lagoon*

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Visit: alumni.harvard.edu/travel/trips/PATAGONIA-2023

Step 2

Click the Blue “**Register Today**” button and fill out the online form with your contact information and payment details.

Step 3

Look for an **email confirmation** from Harvard Alumni Travels.

All bookings are conducted online only.

Find complete trip-specific terms and conditions on the trip web page (link above).



For full terms and conditions, please review on **HARVARD ALUMNI TRAVELS'** webpage, at alumni.harvard.edu/travel or contact us at **800-422-1636**