

South America Trekking Trip

November 13 - December 1, 2018

Trip Leader: Isabel Bravo



Come with us to explore South America covering the metropolitan capitals and some of the world's most beautiful and pristine natural reserves of Central and Southern Patagonia in Argentina and Chile. You will have a memorable, active vacation and learn about the region. You will remember it for life!

Time flies so before we know it we will be heading south. Highlights of your trip include 8 full days of trekking in Central and South Patagonia (Argentina and Chile). Seven of the 19 days will involve travel (including international travel) and 4 days will focus on sightseeing.

HIKE LEVELS

Level A: Hikes are high*** difficulty and physically demanding.

Level B: Hikes are medium** to low* level of difficulty.

Both A and B hikes will be offered on five of the hiking days.

On three of the hiking days, the whole group will explore the region together. These will be Level B hikes. (Level B will be the only choice on those days).

***Low :** Many activities are optional and involve fairly easy hikes/travel. Trips may include short hikes of 2-3 hours generally at low elevations.

****Medium:** More active trips involving hiking over moderate terrain with vehicle support and at elevations below 1,000 meters (3,300 feet). Trips are long hiking days with lots of wilderness and invigorating activities.

*****High:** Hikes are demanding or strenuous. We will be hiking and trekking over steeper and more rugged terrain or higher elevations. Long hours of hiking with **no drop outs**. For example, base of Las Torres (day 14) is around 1,500 meters (5,000 feet) and that altitude is around the highest you would ever get in the park (unless you are a climber).

Argentina (Day 1 to 9)

Day 1, 2: We will fly direct Toronto to Buenos Aires to discover the city of tango and Carlos Gardel, with a tango show/dinner and a full day tour. Stay at Hotel InterSur or similar (4 Star)

Day 3, 4, 5: we will fly to Ushuaia, the most southern point of South America which is the gateway to Antarctica. We will spend two days here; visit Tierra del Fuego National Park with a boat adventure. Next day hiking to the Ushuaia Summit or Emeraldal Lagoon. Stay at Los Acebos (4 Star)

Day 6: we will fly to El Calafate and drive to El Chalten to hike.

Day 7: we will visit Mirador Capri with impressive views of Mount Fitz Roy and glaciers. You will hike the full day through the Lengas forest and along river de las Vueltas. Accommodation will be at Hosteria Senderos or Hotel El Pilar.

Day 8: we will travel to “El Calafate” for ice trekking and a boat tour. **This particular day trip, given its effort level is only suitable for people between 10-65 years of age.** People over 65 years of age will have an alternative hike and boat tour, but no less impressive to see the Glaciar Perito Moreno. Crampons are provided and you will receive ice trekking instructions.

Day 9: we will travel to Torres del Paine (5 hour drive). We will pass through Customs. Lunch at the Argentina-Chile border (on your own). Accommodation will be at the Hosteria Las Torres (or similar accommodation).

Chile (Day 10 to 18)

Torres Del Paine

Day 10: We will cross the Argentina border to Chile to start hiking the National Park of Paine. Accommodation will be at the Hosteria Torres which is in the middle of the park. Patagonia is considered one of the most spectacular places for hiking, mountain climbing, bird watching and photography.

Days 11-14: We will hike the various trails and mountains in the Park. Be prepared for spectacular views, lakes, mountains, forest and wildlife.

Day 11 for your hiking dreams you will experience your first full day touring/hiking at the National Park of Paine, with trekking and boat tour at Grey Lake and Glacier.

Day 12 includes Laguna Amarga and Patagon (Hike B) to see the painting of Aónikenk people and the animal species like guanacos, rheas, foxes, condors, etc.

Day 13 you will hike the Huella del Puma or Path of the Puma (Hike A) which includes a horseback ride and hike to the summit of Cerro Paine at 5000 feet). After passing the tree line, you will see breathtaking views of many natural landmarks such as the three towers of Paine, the Paine river valley and a few lakes that you may recognize from the day before. Lunch at the summit. Sendero de los Lagos or Lakes Trail (Hike B) is also very impressive with different views of the mountains and lakes. One way trip to pick up point with no drop out.

Day 14 Hike A is a treat as you head to Ascencio Valley or Base of the Torres Lookout, which is the most characteristic hike in Torres del Paine but one of the most difficult trails too. On Hike B see Salto Grande, the park’s most spectacular waterfall and hike the Mirador Cuernos (The Horns) trail.

Day 15 is a long travelling day; we go by private ride from Torres del Paine to Punta Arenas airport. From there, we fly to Santiago, Chile. Ground transportation takes us to the Hotel Plaza San Francisco 4 Star (or similar). The balance of the day is leisure time for you.

Day 16-18: Discover Santiago with its colonial architecture, tour of the city, wine tasting and lunch at Santa Rita winery.

Day 18: The morning is leisure time. Checkout at the hotel is noon. Travel to the airport in the late afternoon for your return flight to Toronto arriving in Toronto at 0600 hours.

Please note that destinations may change depending on weather conditions and availability.

ACCOMMODATION

We are staying in first/tourist class hotels and inns in the heart of national parks and central locations. Amenities will depend on the different hotels but by and large may include WIFI, TVs, safe deposit box, meeting areas, and great views. Hotels will be confirmed at the time of the booking.

TRIP COST

Double Occupancy - \$8635 CAD **plus** the cost of the international* and domestic flights

Single Occupancy - \$11,340 CAD **plus** the cost of the international* and domestic flights

***International Flights from Toronto to Buenos Aires and from Santiago to Toronto:** *Price to be determined. Airfares available mid December 2017*

Domestic Flights within Argentina and Chile: Price estimate is a total of \$1363 CAD per person (\$810.00 + \$553.00 taxes) which includes all 3 flights. There will be 2 flights within Argentina and 1 flight within Chile. *Airfares available mid December 2017*

| Date | Flight Number | From / To | Departure Time | Arrival Time |
|-------------|----------------|---------------------------------|----------------|--------------|
| 16 NOV 2018 | AR1896 16NOV 4 | Buenos Aires, AR / Ushuaia, AR | TBA | TBA |
| 19 Nov 2018 | AR1878 19NOV 7 | Ushuaia, AR / Calafate, AR | 09:00 | 10:20 |
| 28 Nov 2018 | LA 284 28NOV 2 | Punta Arenas, CL / Santiago, CL | 19:30 | 22:50 |

WHAT IS INCLUDED

- 17 nights' accommodation at first/tourist class hotel with buffet breakfast
- 13 lunches and 13 dinners (meals as per the itinerary-fixed menu without drinks) including gratuities
- Access to 3 courtesy rooms to use on our final day in Santiago after you checkout of your room at Hotel San Francisco, Santiago, Chile. (We depart for the airport at 5 pm)

- Private ground transportation in Argentina and Chile, including all transfers and tours as per the itinerary
- Tours with English speaking guides
- Entrance fees to all sites
- Hotel portorage (1 piece of luggage per person)
- Gratuities to drivers, guides, hotel and service charges

WHAT IS NOT INCLUDED

- Ground Transportation to and from Toronto Pearson Airport
- International Airfare: Toronto to Buenos Aires, Argentina and Santiago, Chile to Toronto
- Domestic Airfare: There will be 2 flights within Argentina and 1 flight within Chile
- Early check-in or late check-out at the hotels
- All alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages purchased at the hotels or restaurants
- Gratuities to waiters for those meals not included in the package
- Gratuities to the housekeeping staff
- Additional excursions and extra meals not included in the package
- Telephone calls, laundry and other items of a personal nature
- Travel and Medical insurance. *Cancellation and medical insurance should be purchased at time of booking. Travel by Coco TPI will be able to provide each person with the cost based on their age and medical condition.*
- Entry visa for Argentina: *Consult with Travel agent about how to purchase. Canadians must purchase a visa before arriving in Argentina. As of Sept 20, 2017 the cost quoted is \$ 92.USD. At this time there is no visa requirement to enter Chile.*
- Items not mentioned above

Registration opens October 15, 2017

HOW TO REGISTER

Go to haltonoutdoorclub.ca; Choose "Schedules" from the horizontal menu; click on "Overnight / Extended Trips" to find this trip. There are 20 spots available. To register, make payment to HOC and to the travel agent as described in #1 below.

PAYMENT SCHEDULE

- 1. Starting Oct 15, 2017:** register online and also contact the travel agent. Pay the \$25 fee online to HOC when you register and contact the travel agent to make Deposit #1 of \$500.
- 2. Dec 14, 2017:** Final day to pay Deposit #1 of \$500 per person to the travel agent.

3. Mar 14, 2018: Deposit #2 of \$500 per person is due. This amount is refundable up to 90 days prior to trip departure.

5. Aug 10, 2018: Full balance is due. Non-refundable. After this date all payments are non-refundable.

Cancellation Notes:

Full Refund: If the trip is cancelled due to a lack of participants, you will receive a full refund.

Full Refund minus \$25 HOC fee: if you cancel by Dec 15 2017, Deposit #1 of \$500 will be refunded. (After Dec 15, 2017, Deposit #1 is non-refundable.)

\$500 Refund: The \$500 deposit you make on March 14 2018 (Deposit #2) is refundable if you cancel between Mar 15 2018 and early Aug 2018. (You can cancel up to 90 days before departure to qualify for this refund)

No Refunds: are issued after the Aug 10, 2018 full balance is paid.

TRAVEL AGENT

Travel By Coco: Coco Toth

Office direct line: 905-679-3294

Cell: 905-746-3239

Email: coco@travelbycoco.ca

203-1131 Nottinghill Gate

Oakville, ON L6M 1K5

Oakville office regional address and phone number: 905-896-6948

TICO# 50013851

Isabel will be available to answer any questions you may have
at the HOC Fall Info Fair on Nov 3, 2017

3 Oct 2017