

A World Away Travels

adventure travel's complete experience...

PO Box 596 ~ South Fork, CO 81154 ~ USA
Phone 1-888-438-3612 ~ Fax 1-707-516-7651 ~ email info@aworldawaytravels.com
www.aworldawaytravels.com

Mountains of Patagonia

January 24-February 10, 2001

The towers of Fitzroy and Torres del Paine may be the most stunning peaks in South America. These glacier-sculpted mountain pillars soar 8,000 feet straight up from the windswept plains of Patagonia. Hiking through this region and camping in a series of spectacular places we reach the base of both these extraordinary monuments. Our routes traverse through the Patagonia pampa passing cascading waterfalls, southern beech forests, enormous glaciers and crystal clear lakes. Our challenging day hikes through these snow clad mountains, granite needles and walls offers us an opportunity to spot guanacos, condors and rheas in the dramatic settings of Chile's Paine National Park and Argentina's Los Glaciares National Parks. We begin in Santiago, then fly to Punta Arenas where a scenic drive takes us to Paine National Park for five days of hiking in this majestic land. Next our travels bring us to the Moreno Glacier en route to Los Glaciares National Park for another three days of breath taking hiking below the granite walls of Fitzroy and the stunning vertical pinnacle of Cerro Torre; the ultimate ending to this Patagonia hiking odyssey. *Moderate touring and 9 (day) hikes from Base Camps*

Days 1-2 Travel to Santiago, Chile

Departing from the United States late in the evening you will arrive in Santiago early the next morning. Upon your arrival we will transfer to the Hotel Vegas, a colonial style hotel close to the center of town. The Hotel Vegas is in a quiet district located in a protected national monument on a plaza. The remaining portion of the morning is free to relax before joining the group for lunch. In the afternoon we will tour the Concha y Toro Vineyard and continue to the Cajon del Maipo. The Maipo is a fantastic canyon with a rushing river running below Towering Andean Peaks. In the evening we will dine at the vibrant bohemian barrio of Bellavista located in one of the oldest sectors of Santiago. The area is full of superb restaurants, art galleries, bars, clubs, and artisan stalls selling crafts. Accommodations: Vegas Hotel
No meals included en route to Chile

Days 3-4 Punta Arenas/Estancia Pionero

On what can only be considered the most spectacular air trip of a lifetime, we pass over incredible Patagonian peaks on the 1,500 mile flight to the southern tip of Chile. Even in flight the distinctively jagged peaks that characterize Patagonia are striking. Arriving in Punta Arenas southern Patagonia's largest city, we will check into the Plaza de Armas hotel. Before dinner we will visit the fascinating Salesian Museum to learn the history of the people in the region we are visiting. The night will be spent at the Plaza de Armas. Day 4 will begin with a drive to Estancia Pionero, near the entrance of the spectacular Torres del Paine National Park.

Days 5-9 Torres del Paine National Park Trek

Approaching Paine we will almost certainly have a chance to see some of the park's abundant wildlife. Black neck swans, rhea, condors, flamingos, parrots, silver fox, and herds of guanacos (type of llama) are common to the area. Our exploration of Torres del Paine begins with a boat ride with a across Lago Pehoe. This emerald blue glacial lake gives insight to the possible origin of the park's name; "paine" meaning "pale blue" in Tehuelche. Arriving at the northern shore we hike around the glacial expanse extending

from the abrupt peak of Cuernos del Paine. Continuing, we reach our first of many spectacular camps by late afternoon. Day six is reserved to explore the surrounding area. We will hike up the Valle Frances and cross French Glacier to reach British Camp. Descending to our *refugio* we enjoy a gourmet dinner. Day 10 involves hiking to a lookout propped beneath the massive three towers for which the park is named. In the morning we drive across the border into Argentina, before stopping for the night at Calafate on the shores of lago Argentino.

Days 10-11 *Lago Roca/Moreno Glacier*

As we hike around the justifiably famous Moreno Glacier the loud sound of cracking ice gives a humbling reminder of the power that formed the dramatic landscape surrounding us. One of the fastest growing glaciers in the world it has been known to change dramatically, and once drained an entire lake in just 12 hours. In the morning we climb Cerro Cristal with views of Paine and Fitzroy peaks to the foreboding expanse of the Great Patagonian Icecap.

Days 12-15 *Fitzroy Hike*

Los Glaciares National Park is a renown mecca for hikers, and is highlighted by the Fitzroy Massif (11,703). Each day we venture away from our comfortable base camp, hiking to meadows teeming with alpine wildflowers and diverse bird populations. From glacial formed vistas you will watch marvelous Andean condors soar gracefully above the backdrop of across Cerro Torre (10,280') and Poincenot (10,131').

Day 16 *Puerto Natales*

Connect with your flight to Santiago.

Days 17-18 *Return to United States*

Trip Cost: \$3095 (6-8 participants) Single Supplement: \$275

Internal Flights: \$350 Days:17

The cost of the trip will include everything while you are in Chile. This includes all tours, lectures, accommodations, food, permits, and ground transportation. The price does not include international air fares, visa fees, airport tax, personal expenses, and alcoholic beverages.