

Chile, Argentina & Patagonia



TRIP OVERVIEW

Our fascinating tour offers a fabulous insight to Patagonia, combining two of South America's most famous cities - cosmopolitan Santiago with the elegant and vibrant Buenos Aires. Travel through the delightful colonial city of Valparaiso and the contrasting 'Garden city' of Viña del Mar. Enjoy a once-in-a-lifetime experience of sailing through magnificent glaciers, possibly spotting dolphins and seals and delight at the dominance of the stunning icebergs.

ITINERARY & DETAILS

This document aims to give you all the information that you require for a smooth and comfortable trip to Chile, Argentina and Patagonia. Please take the time to read this dossier to familiarise yourself with all the aspects of our tour. It includes important information such as visa requirements.

Your included meal guide:

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

DAY 1: UK to Santiago

Depart London on your scheduled, overnight flight to Santiago, via Sao Paolo.

DAY 2: Santiago D

On arrival in Chile, you will be met and transferred to your hotel for check. In the afternoon commence your tour of vibrant Santiago. Set against a spectacular backdrop of snow-covered Andean peaks this tour takes you to the city's historic heart, visiting beautiful baroque buildings and the provincial Santa Lucia Hill where Spanish conquistadors founded the city in the 16th century.

DAY 3: Santiago B

Following breakfast, today is a tale of two cities. Valparaiso is a colonial city presenting an excellent example of late 19th century urban and architectural development in Latin America, considered a World Heritage site by UNESCO. Enjoy a ride on a traditional cable car and delight in the outstanding colours of the clifftop homes, bohemian culture and outstanding sea views. Continue to the coastal city of Vina Del Mar, a sharp contrast to neighbouring Valparaiso. Known as the 'Garden City' with fascinating natural beauty you will enjoy the delightful expansive parks, fabulous architecture and crystal-clear waters of the Pacific Ocean. There will be an opportunity to visit La Sebastiana museum at an additional fee, famous for inspiring the Chilean Poet Pablo Neruda.

DAY 4: Santiago B

Today is at leisure for you to explore the energetic and cosmopolitan city of Santiago at your own pace. An optional excursion to the renowned vineyard of Santa Rita will be available.

DAY 5: Santiago to Puerto Natales B

Following breakfast transfer to Santiago airport for your flight to Punta Arenas.

On arrival, you will be met and enjoy a tour of the small isolated city of Punta Arenas. Continue to Puerto Natales, gateway to Parque Nacional Torres del Paine. This quaint town is situated on the shore of the Sound of Ultima Esperanza once you have checked in to your hotel the rest of the day is at your leisure.

DAY 6: Puerto Natales B/L

Today you will board a ship to sail the Channel of Last Hope, marvel at the awe-inspiring glaciers which sharply pierce the ocean from the southern continental ice field. Enjoy the stunning views as you sail past the famous Heritage Building, a slaughterhouse dating back to 1913 before continuing through the Senorot canal. Hopefully you will catch site of the Magellan Dolphins, frequent visitors to this area and possibly as a graceful sea lion

whilst admiring the Condor birds by a stunning waterfall. You will then disembark for a stroll towards the Serrano glacier along the shores of Tempanos Lagoon and through a native forest, the huge icebergs and amazing landscapes complete an unforgettable day.

DAY 7: Puerto Natales B/L

Considered the highlight of your trip, the National Park Torres del Paine is quite simply spectacular, internationally recognised as one of the most unique and beautiful places on the planet. Known for its soaring mountains, lakes, waterfalls and stunning blue icebergs that slice the glaciers and grasslands whilst sheltering rare wildlife such as guanacos. The three granite peaks of the Paine mountain range which dominate the landscape of the park spectacularly extend up to 2,500 metres above sea level. Following your lunch, you will embark on a short hike to the Grey Lake to witness the many icebergs originating from the Grey Glacier.

DAY 8: Puerto Natales to El Calafate B

After breakfast, you will begin your journey to Argentina stopping for lunch en route. On arrival, you will be met by your local representative to check in at your hotel in El Calafate, the gateway to the Perito Moreno Glacier.

DAY 9: El Calafate B

The Perito Moreno Glacier known locally as the 8th Wonder of the World is the planet's 3rd largest reserve of fresh water and one of the continent's last advancing glaciers. Your full day tour will leave you in awe of the glaciers unfathomable beauty. Calving icebergs the size of skyscrapers you may witness the glaciers signature movement as they slowly detach.

DAY 10: El Calafate B

Full day at leisure in El Calafate to relax and unwind.

DAY 11: El Calafate to Buenos Aires B

Following breakfast transfer to the airport for your flight to the vibrant city of Buenos Aires. You will be met and transferred to your hotel. Evening at leisure.

DAY 12: Buenos Aires B/D

Enjoy a morning city tour commencing in the historic Plaza de Mayo, the site of the 1810 revolution and now a hub of political life. From here you will see the Casa Rosada government palace and its famous balcony where Eva Peron used to address the people. Continue to the picturesque and colourful neighbourhood of La Boca with its famous street 'Caminito' whose architecture reflects the European influence of the late 19th century. In the evening marvel at a traditional tango show whilst enjoying dinner. Tango originated in the 1880 ghettos which were populated by Italian and Spanish immigrants, Africans and gauchos. From this intersection rose the 'Compraditos', whose songs, lyrics, and dances reflect 'el duelo de cuchilleros', or knife fights characteristic of the social ambience. The tango rose from a mix of Cuban and Spanish rhythms, some polka, and according to some, also a bit of African music.

DAY 13/14: Buenos Aires to the UK or extension B

Transfer from your hotel to Buenos Aires Airport in time for your overnight flight back to the UK, via Sao Paolo, or continue on to your chosen extension.

ACCOMMODATION DETAILS & MAP

Accommodation

Your accommodation is selected for convenience, location, comfort or character, and can range from business hotels to leisure hotels. Hotel accommodation is generally rated as local three to four-star standard, but please note there is no international classification system for hotels, and differences in facilities and quality do exist between the UK and Peru. All group tours hotels have private bathroom facilities and air-conditioning, where needed. Rest assured that all accommodation used by Mercury Holidays is regularly inspected by our staff and partners to ensure that standards meet your needs.

Please note: final confirmation of your accommodation will be sent in a document, along with your final flight information, approximately 10 days before you travel.

Meals

Breakfast is always western style and served in the hotel each morning. Dinner (when included) will be taken in local restaurants or at the hotel. A variety of restaurants are visited giving you the chance to experience a range of dishes and flavours.



ON YOUR ARRIVAL

On your arrival into Chile you will be met by a representative from our local agent, holding a sign displaying: "Mercury Holidays". The Mercury Holidays/**Pure Chile** representative will show you to your transfer vehicle. If you cannot see your representative they will be at Exit Gate 4. There are many illegal taxis operating around Santiago Airport and they have been known to steal from tourists. Official taxis are dark blue in colour. If you need to contact your representative during you stay the details are:

Pure! Chile (during your stay in Chile)

Address: Nueva Providencia 2214, office 186

Contact number: 0056 9 5681 6943

Email: Sales1@pure-chile.com or info@pure-chile.com

Eurotur (during your stay in Argentina)

Address: Viamonte 486, Buenos Aire, Argentina

Contact number: 0054 11 4312-6077

Email: camila.udovicich@eurotur.tur.ar

Emergency contact information

Please find below the emergency contact details for **Pure! Chile** while in **Chile:**

Telephone: 0056 956816943 (24/7)

Please find below the emergency contact details for **Eurotur** while in **Argentina:**

When calling from a UK number: 0054 911 6878 1562 / 0054 911 4992 1369

When calling from a local number in Argentina: 11 6878-1562 / 11 4992-136

E-mail: 247@eurotur.tur.ar

WHAT TO PACK

- Sunglasses, sunscreen and hat in summer
- Comfortable walking shoes
- Warm clothing and thermals for winter
- Camera and charger/spare batteries
- An electric plug converter - the electricity supply is 220V. You will need a special three pin plug adapter in Argentina and a special two pin plug adapter for Chile.

- Loo paper for public WCs
- Binoculars
- Personal first aid kit containing travel pills, rehydration powder, plasters, stomach settlers, antiseptic creams, aspirin etc
- Anti-bacterial hand gel
- Swimwear

WHAT YOU NEED FOR YOUR TOUR

Visas

British citizens currently do not need a tourist visa to enter Chile and Argentina. Visa requirements are subject to change and obtaining a visa is the responsibility of the traveller and not Mercury Holidays. We recommend you check with your destinations' Tourist Board or Embassy prior to departure for the most up to date guidelines regarding these.

Tour Guides - Local Guides

This is a fully escorted tour meaning that you will be met by a local guide in each of the cities that you visit, ensuring that you have first-hand knowledge at all times.

Private Tour

If you have booked a private tour then you will be accompanied by a Driver Guide or a Driver and Local Guides. These will be available to you during all scheduled sightseeing. Private Tours can depart on any day of the week depending on flight and train schedules and the opening days of the attractions. They will follow the itinerary as described in the brochure unless you have been advised otherwise and you will still have all of the same meals, sightseeing and local excursions included.

Tipping

It is at your customary/discretion to tip both your driver and guide. We would recommend to tip approximately £2 per person per day. This is a total of £24 per person to budget for tips on your trip. Tips will be collected at the beginning/end of your tour. Tips are accepted in the local currency.

Currency Exchange

The currency in Chile is the (Chilean Peso (CLP/CH\$)). The currency in Argentina is the (Argentinian Peso (ARS)). US Dollars are widely accepted should you wish to keep an alternative currency on you. We recommend

that you exchange your currency before you leave the UK. It is important that you budget carefully and ensure you have the right form of currency before you arrive in the country. Cash machines will also be available throughout the tour in order to withdraw money in your local currency.

Personal Expenses

You will need to take money with you to cover any personal purchases such as souvenirs, laundry, any meals not included in the itinerary as well as drinks and any additional snacks. Approximately £500- £600 per person will be sufficient for the duration of the tour. It is a good idea to try and maintain a supply of small notes and change in the local currency for tipping or small purchases.

Group Size

The minimum number of travellers in your group will be 10, and the maximum will be 35. If in the unlikely event there are less than 10 people booked on your tour date, we will endeavour to reduce any disruption to your holiday and try to operate your tour with lower passenger numbers. If we are not able to operate your departure date, then you may be asked to change to a different date and a full refund will be made available to you should this alternative not be suitable.

Health and Vaccinations

It is your responsibility to check any health and vaccination requirements applicable to your booked arrangements. We can only provide general information about this. Health and hygiene facilities and disease risks vary from country to country. You should take health advice about your own needs as early as possible and in good time before your departure. Sources of information include; www.fco.gov.uk, www.travelhealthpro.org.uk, www.hpa.org.uk, your General Practitioner or a specialist clinic.

Itinerary Changes

The order of events and sightseeing may vary according to local conditions or for operational purposes. The schedules of the domestic airlines in country are subject to frequent changes. For this reason, we have indicated approximate times only. Your local guide will inform you of any schedule changes as they are informed of them. Some road construction &/or weather conditions may lengthen the driving times. Our intention is to adhere to the day-to-day itinerary as printed; however, order of events and sightseeing may vary according to local conditions.

Physical Accessibility

This tour is accessible to most people with a good level of fitness and normal mobility. It involves climbing of steep stairs and getting on and off coaches. This tour is not suitable for anyone with walking difficulties. All our tours feature a "Tour Pace" to help find the right holiday for you. To travel on any of our tours requires unaided mobility and the ability to stroll around the sights, climb stairs and get on and off coaches and boats. The tour pace for Chile, Argentina and Patagonia is challenging. A higher level of fitness as required as you may be on your feet for most of the day though this will be interspersed with regular breaks and vary from day to day. You will be walking around the sights, getting on and off coaches, trains, boats and climbing steps which may be irregular. There may be some time spend at high altitude. You will stay in variety of hotels, possibly including overnight trains, and accommodation standards may not match those you are used

to at home. Our 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.

Credit Card Information

As normal practice you may be asked for your credit card details on check-in at the hotel in order to cover any extras incurred during your stay. If you do not have a credit card, you may be asked for a cash deposit. American Express, Diners Club, MasterCard and Visa are widely accepted in hotels.

Travel Insurance

We strongly recommend that you and all members of your party are suitably insured as soon as you book your holiday. It is a condition of booking that you must have suitable travel insurance. It is important that you purchase travel insurance that suitably covers your participation in whatever activities you may undertake at the time that you make your booking. To assist you with this, we have arranged travel insurance in partnership with Holiday Extras. To arrange your travel insurance with Holiday Extras, please call **0800 781 4237** and quote **'WK830'** for preferential rates. Please ensure you provide us with the name of your insurer, policy number and their 24 hour emergency contact number as soon as possible. Mercury Holidays will not be liable for any costs incurred by you due to your failure to take out suitable travel insurance from the date of booking.

FLIGHT INFORMATION

IMPORTANT: Please note that final flight details, including terminal, airline and baggage allowance, will be confirmed on your final documentation which will be sent to you approximately 10 days before departure. A printed E-ticket is no longer required at check-in, all you need to do is present your passport to the staff at the desk and your boarding pass will be given to you.

Airport Extras

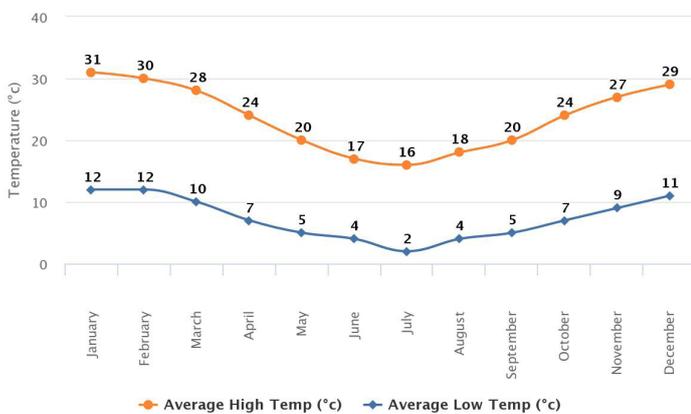
If you wish to arrange Airport car parking, lounges or accommodation at preferential rates, we recommend you book this in advance with Holiday Extras Tel. 0871 360 2000, quoting HX313.

Please Note: It is compulsory to recheck luggage in Sao Paulo when connecting with a domestic flight.

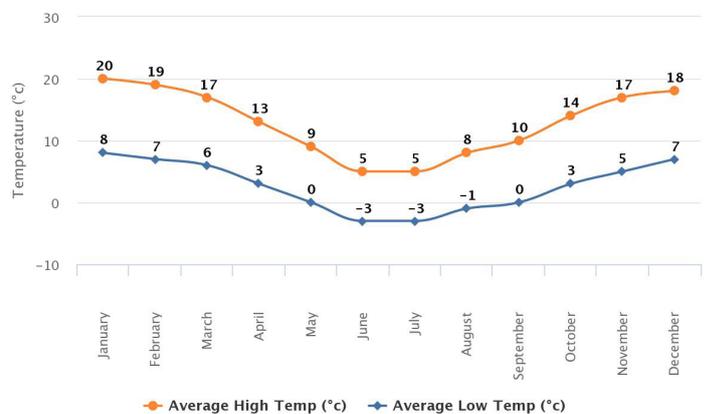
WEATHER AND CLIMATE

Weather can vary quite considerably throughout the year, so please familiarise yourself with the climate charts below.

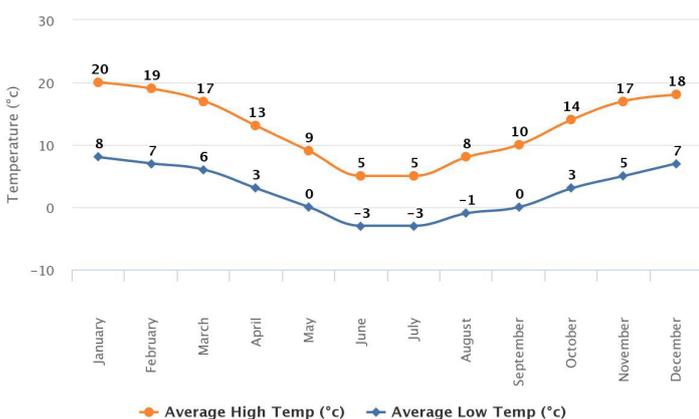
Average Temperature (°C) Graph for Santiago



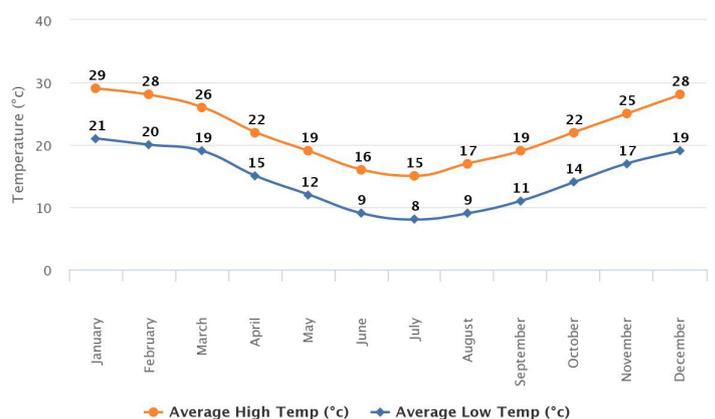
Average Temperature (°C) Graph for Puerto Natales



Average Temperature (°C) Graph for El Calafate



Average Temperature (°C) Graph for Buenos Aires



Iguaçu Falls Extension

If you have not yet booked this fabulous extension, there is still time to do so. Please contact 0333 003 0522



TRIP OVERVIEW

Declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1984, Iguazu National Park is home to incredible waterfalls with water falling from an average height of 70 metres. Explore the routes of the Upper Circuit, Lower Circuit and Devil's Throat. These various trails allow you to get closer to some of the smaller waterfalls as well as enjoy stunning panoramic views at the top of these majestic falls.

ITINERARY & DETAILS

This document aims to give you all the information which you will require during your Iguazu Falls extension.

Your included meal guide:

B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner

Day 13: Buenos Aires to Iguazu B

Transfer from your hotel to Buenos Aires for your flight to Iguazu. Upon arrival transfer to your hotel.

Day 14: Iguazu B

Today you will explore the Argentinian side of the falls. Declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1984, Iguazu National Park is home to incredible waterfalls with 275 jumps of water falling from an average height of 70 metres. You will walk along footbridges which offer an awe-inspiring view of the falls. Return to your hotel in the evening.

Day 15: Iguazu B

Today you will depart on a tour of the Brazilian side of the falls. Return to your hotel and spend the rest of your afternoon at leisure.

Day 16: Iguazu to Buenos Aires B

Transfer from your hotel to the airport for your flight to Buenos Aires where you will spend the evening.

Day 17: Buenos Aires to the UK B

Transfer from your hotel to the airport for your flight to the UK.

Hotel information

Iguazu (3 nights): 4★ Viale Cataratas Hotel

Av. das Cataratas, 2420 - Vila Yolanda, Foz do Iguazu - PR, 85853-000, Brazil.

Contact number: 0055 45 2105-7200

With audacious style and impressive architecture, Viale Cataratas is located on the main tourist avenue of Foz do Iguazu, also known as Route of Iguassu Falls. All rooms offer air-conditioning, flatscreen TV, mini-bar, hairdryer and kettle.

Buenos Aires (1 night): 4★ Kenton Palace

Defensa 383, C1065 AAE, Buenos Aires, Argentina
 Contact number: 0054 11 4331-2020

Personal Expenses

You will need to take some extra money with you to cover any meals not included, drinks and personal purchases such as souvenirs and laundry.

Tour Guides

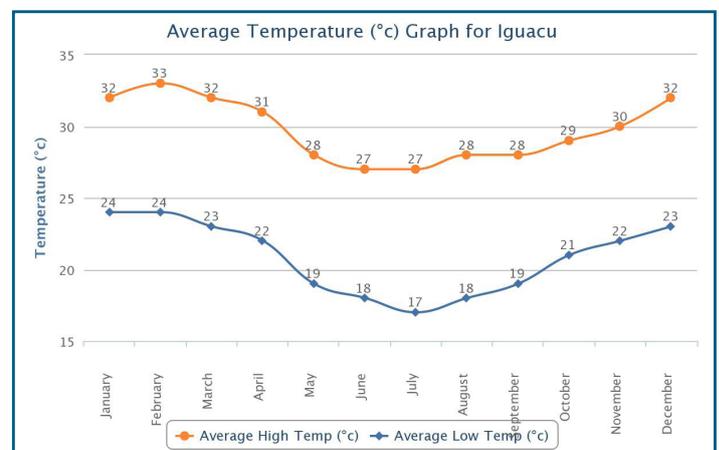
This add-on is escorted by a tour guide.

Please note

This extension takes place after your main tour.

WEATHER AND CLIMATE

Weather can vary quite considerably throughout the year, so please familiarise yourself with the climate charts below.



FLIGHT INFORMATION

Please note: Final hotel and flight details will be confirmed on your final documentation which will be sent to you approximately 10 days before departure.

For any further enquiries or for more information call us on **0333 003 0522**

Buenos Aires City Stay Extension

If you have not yet booked this fabulous extension, there is still time to do so. Please contact 0333 003 0522



TRIP OVERVIEW

Discover why so many people fall in love with the 'Paris of the Southern Hemisphere'. Buenos Aires provides a seductive mix of stunning European architecture, old-world languor and elegant neighbourhoods where colonial buildings and lively outdoor markets can be found at every turn. Influenced by the great European cities, this eclectic metropolis is guaranteed to captivate your senses during your 2 night stay, the perfect way to complete your tour through Patagonia.

ITINERARY & DETAILS

This document aims to give you all the information which you will require during your extension to Buenos Aires.

Hotel

Your 2 night stay will take place at the following hotel;

4★ Kenton Palace on a Bed & Breakfast basis. Offering 82 modern rooms with free Wi-Fi and a plasma TV, the Kenton Palace is perfectly located just 300 metres from the Main Square and Argentina's Government House. The accommodation features parquet floors and all rooms are fitted with air-conditioning.

Hotel information

Defensa 383, C1065 AAE, Buenos Aires, Argentina
Contact number: 0054 11 4331-2020

Any alternative hotels or board basis will have been confirmed at booking. Please speak to our reservations department if you are unsure.

Personal Expenses

You will need to take money with you to cover personal purchases, laundry service, souvenirs, plus lunch, dinner and drinks.

Tour Guides

Your stay in Buenos Aires is not escorted by a tour guide. All internal transfers are included.

Please note

This extension takes place after your main tour.



Kenton Palace Buenos Aires



FLIGHT INFORMATION

Please note: Final hotel and flight details will be confirmed on your final documentation which will be sent to you approximately 10 days before departure.

For any further enquiries or for more information call us on **0333 003 0522**