

# Chile to Argentina: Santiago, Patagonia & Buenos Aires

Pre-departure information for your tour



## Passport & visa requirements

- This tour visits Chile and Argentina. In order to enter these countries, U.S. and Canadian citizens need a valid passport with an expiration date extending at least six months beyond the date of reentry.
- We recommend having at least two blank passport pages for entry stamps.
- Upon arrival in Chile, you will receive a Chilean tourist card that you must keep in your passport for the duration of your visit.
- There is no visa required for U.S. or Canadian citizens to enter any of the countries visited on this tour. However, in accordance with Argentine law, Canadian citizens must pay a reciprocity fee equivalent to \$92USD per person prior to departure. To prepay your reciprocity fee, please visit the Argentine National Immigration Directorate online. At this time, Argentina has suspended the reciprocity fee for U.S. Citizens. Please check with VisaCentral or the State Department website for the latest rule changes.
- If you are not a U.S. or Canadian citizen, you must contact each country's consulate for your specific entry requirements.

## Tour pace

- You will walk for about 3 hours daily across moderately uneven terrain, including rocky ground and unpaved trails.
- Travellers should be healthy enough to participate in all included walks without assistance. Adding optional excursions may increase the total amount of walking on your tour.
- You should feel comfortable managing your own baggage at times. You should also feel comfortable getting in and out of Jeeps and small boats on the tour extension.
- Go Ahead Tours and the Tour Director who accompanies your group are unable to provide special, individual mobility assistance to travellers on tour. The responsibility of the Tour Director is to ensure the group as a whole enjoys a relaxing and informative journey, and he or she cannot be relied upon to provide ongoing, individualized assistance to any one traveller.

- If you have any mobility concerns or physical restrictions, please contact our Customer Experience Team.

## Transportation & arrival information

- Round-trip flights booked through Go Ahead Tours arrive in Santiago and depart from Buenos Aires. A representative from Go Ahead Tours will meet you at the airport and take you to your hotel. Please remain in the arrival lounge, as the representative might be escorting one of your fellow travellers to the bus at the time of your arrival.
- Transfers to and from the airport at your destination are included for travellers who have purchased their flights through Go Ahead Tours. Travellers who purchase their own flights may request airport transfers with Go Ahead Tours for an additional cost.
- Flights from Santiago to Punta Arenas and El Calafate to Buenos Aires are included in the price of your tour. (The tour extension also includes round-trip flights from Buenos Aires to Iguazú Falls, as well as a train ride, Jeep ride, and boat ride in Iguazú National Park.)
- All other included transportation on this tour is by private motor coach.

## Baggage allowance

- Please note that our travellers are limited to one checked bag and one carry-on bag per person due to storage limitations on motor coaches and other transfers, which may include train connections or flights.
- Contact your airline(s) for baggage size and weight restrictions for your flights, which may include on-tour flights in addition to your round-trip flights to and from tour. Please note that your included on-tour flights may have more restrictive baggage limits.
- Some airlines may impose additional charges if you choose to check any baggage or exceed baggage size and weight restrictions. Be advised that you are responsible for any baggage fees incurred on all flights.
- Make sure you label your baggage and keep valuables, medication, and documents in your carry-on bag.

## Clothing & packing tips

- We recommend packing lightweight, loose-fitting clothing that can be easily layered to accommodate varying temperatures, as well as a light jacket.
- In the fall and winter, weather in Patagonia is prone to extreme variance. Snow and strong winds are not uncommon.
- A sturdy pair of walking shoes or sneakers is recommended for sightseeing.
- A sun hat, sunglasses, and raingear will help you stay comfortable in all types of weather. You may also wish to pack a swimsuit.
- Long pants, long-sleeved shirts, and insect repellent are recommended for certain activities.
- Binoculars are handy for a closer look at local wildlife and scenery.
- A small bottle of hand sanitizer may be helpful when other facilities are not readily available while on the road.
- You may want to pack dressier attire if you plan to visit a high-end restaurant or attend a special performance.
- It is preferable not to visit churches or other religious sites with bare legs and shoulders (and entrance may be denied on this basis).

## Health

- There are no major health risks associated with travelling to any of the countries on this tour.
- At least 60 days prior to departure, check with your doctor or healthcare provider for the latest updates and entry requirements, or visit the Center for Disease Control and Prevention website at [cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov).
- Take proper care with sun exposure, as the sun can be especially strong in some of the regions on this tour.
- Drink bottled water only. Refrain from ingesting tap water, including when brushing your teeth.
- Avoid eating fresh fruits and vegetables unless they're cooked or washed in clean water and peeled.
- If you have medication that you take daily, be sure you have enough for each day of the tour and any possible delays encountered.
- If you have dietary restrictions and/or food allergies please notify Go Ahead Tours at

least 30 days prior to your departure by logging in to your account and updating your traveller info. To update this information closer to your departure date, please call our Customer Experience Team.

## Cuisine

- With its lengthy Pacific coastline, it's no surprise that Chile is one of the world's seafood capitals. Ceviche, mussels with salsa verde, and seafood empanadas are all not to be missed.
- While in Patagonia, be sure to try Patagonian lamb, a regional specialty.
- In Argentina, perhaps the most common dish is the asado, a series of salt-rubbed meats, ribs, and chorizo sausages cooked over a fire pit on metal grills and crosses. For dessert, try dulce de leche, a sweet, honey-and-milk paste in pastries.

## Electricity & air conditioning

- Chile operates on 220 volts and uses Types C or L plugs with two round pins or three round pins, respectively.
- Argentina operates on 220 volts and uses Types C or I plugs with two round pins or three flat pins, respectively.
- We recommend packing a universal adapter, as well as a voltage converter if you plan on using your own hairdryer or other device without a built-in converter.
- The strength of the air conditioning in some hotels in this region may not be as strong or as cool as what you might be used to in the U.S. or Canada. When air conditioning is available, it is usually regulated seasonally and controlled centrally by the hotel.
- Your hotels may provide hairdryers, irons, and other small appliances. However, these amenities cannot be guaranteed.

## Connectivity

- Wi-Fi is available in most hotels, though some charges may apply. In more remote locations, internet access may be limited and is not guaranteed.
- There is no Wi-Fi on any of the motor coaches
- Please contact your mobile service provider

for information on roaming charges.

## Time zones

- Argentina and mainland Chile are three hours behind Greenwich Mean Time (GMT) and two hours ahead of Eastern Time (ET). Argentina does not currently observe Daylight Saving Time, though the country decides on a year-by-year basis. Chile stopped observing Daylight Saving Time in 2015.
- In February, when it's noon in New York City, it's 1pm in Chile and Argentina.

## Currency

- You will use the Chilean peso in Chile and the Argentine peso in Argentina.
- Better rates of exchange are usually available overseas, although it's worth ordering some currency from your local bank to use when you first arrive.
- We strongly advise that you take debit/bank cards and credit cards, which can be used to withdraw cash at local banks as needed.
- You can use most debit/credit cards at ATMs on the international networks Cirrus and Plus, but make sure to check with your home bank about withdrawal fees.
- Inform your bank and credit card company of your travel plans so that they won't confuse your international purchases for fraudulent charges.
- International banks and businesses primarily accept debit and credit cards that work with the EMV chip system. If you do not already have at least one debit or credit card with a chip in it, we strongly recommend requesting one from your bank prior to your tour.

## Tipping

- At the conclusion of your tour, it's customary to offer your Tour Director and driver a gratuity in local currency. Please keep current exchange rates in mind.
- We recommend tipping the equivalent of \$7USD to \$10USD per person per day for your Tour Director and the equivalent of \$3USD per person per day for your driver.
- If applicable, we also recommend the

equivalent of \$2USD per local guide.

- Tips can only be paid in cash.

## Purchasing excursions on tour

- Most optional excursions will be available for purchase while you are on tour.
- Your Tour Director will only accept cash (in USD only), Visa, or MasterCard as payment for excursions.
- Please be advised that if you pay for an excursion by credit card while on tour, it may take up to three months for your card to be charged.
- Some optional excursions may only be purchased in advance. See page four of your tour itinerary for more information. International travel is, by its very nature, unpredictable. We must therefore reserve the right to change this itinerary, without advance notice, to meet with local conditions at the time of travel. We appreciate your understanding. Please refer to our website for Terms & Conditions, dates, and prices.