Patagonia & Easter Island: Exploring The Uttermost Ends of The Earth (Recce Tour)
Argentina & Chile

Our world holds few images more evocative than the mysterious monolithic human figures known as moai which date back over 800 years and which are found on the remote Pacific island of Rapa Nui, more commonly known as Easter Island. This trip not only spends 4 nights on the island allowing ample time for exploration - much of it on foot - of the island’s cultural and natural beauty, but it also visits the vast lands of Patagonia which is home to the breathtaking Torres del Paine National Park. With its granite towers, glacial lakes, roaming herds of guanaco as well as occasional sightings of the elusive puma, this park is often voted with good reason as being the most beautiful in the Western Hemisphere. Over the border in Argentina we’ll also spend 2 nights staying on an authentic estancia and after watching the gauchos herd their cattle, we’ll visit the awe-inspiring sight of the nearby Perito Moreno Glacier, one of the few glaciers in this part of the world not to be receding. In addition to these natural wonders, there will also be time to take in the sights and sounds of Buenos Aires, home to the colourful houses of La Boca, tango, Eva Peron and some of the best meat on the planet. It’s an oft used cliché but this trip truly is a trip of a lifetime and showcases the very best of South America’s southern giants - Argentina and Chile. Don’t miss out!

Duration: 14 Days
Average group size: 5 - 12
Start: Sun 15 Oct 17
Finish: Sat 28 Oct 17

Looking for alternative dates? Check the website or give us a call
TOUR DETAILS

TOUR CODE: PAT/B

HIGHLIGHTS

- Enjoying the sights and sounds of Argentina’s vibrant capital, Buenos Aires
- Staying on an authentic Patagonian estancia
- Gazing in awe at the Perito Moreno Glacier
- Exploring the stunning scenery of Torres del Paine National Park
- Unravelling the mysteries of the moai statues of Easter Island

Accommodation: As an overall ethos, wherever possible we aim to use characterful accommodation that enhances the overall travel experience, not just offers a bed for the night. This can obviously vary dramatically from country to country and from trip to trip. On this particular trip we will be in very comfortable hotels in Buenos Aires and on Easter Island. In Argentinean Patagonia we plan to stay on an authentic estancia and in Torres del Paine we’ll be in one of the quieter and smaller lodges that offers striking views over the main peaks in the park. In Santiago de Chile, we will vary our accommodation, aiming to stay at an airport hotel when connecting between flights and later at a more centrally based hotel at the end of the tour. Please note that the accommodation mentioned in the itinerary is intended as a guide only and is always subject to availability.

Transport: On this tour we will use a combination of minibuses, boats and domestic flights. There will also be several opportunities for easy to moderate day walks.

Climate: Patagonia’s main tourist season is from October to March as this avoids the extremes of the harsh winters that the southern tip of South America necessarily experiences. During the summer period one can expect daytime temperature of approximately 10-15°C and many bright sunny days. However, this being Patagonia, the weather is notoriously unpredictable and rain and wind must always be prepared for. Easter Island, on the other hand, is a year-round destination with average daytime temperatures typically in the mid-20s. Some rain is always possible, although October to March is usually the driest time to visit.

Is this trip for me? It may sound obvious but Wild Frontiers tours are not always for everyone and it is important to us that the tour you choose is the most suitable. Please therefore take time to read the dossier carefully. All our tours are graded to give an overall picture of the trip but these are only guidelines and you should check the daily itinerary. Should you have any concerns about your ability to partake in any aspect of the tour then please contact the office.

Adventure Rating ★★★★★★★★★
Comfort Grade ★★★★★★★★★
Fitness Level ★★★★★★★★★
Cultural Interest ★★★★★★★★★

Additional Comments:
This trip is very much designed for those who love the great outdoors and enjoy taking some easy to moderate day treks (most involving 3-4 hours of walking but 1 involving approximately 7hrs) in some of the finest and wildest scenery on earth. Although the facilities offered by both Argentina and Chile are largely excellent, it should be noted that Patagonia especially is a wild place and you should come well-prepared for all weather conditions. Due to the unique nature of this trip, it should be noted that an Argentinean Tour Leader will accompany the group from DAY 1 in Buenos Aires until arrival at Punta Arenas airport on DAY 8. After that, local guides will look after the group in Santiago de Chile and on Easter Island. In addition, given the variety of cuisine available, more meals than is usual on a Wild Frontiers trip have been excluded so as to allow for the maximum flexibility. Given the need for some long domestic flights, some meals will also be taken on board planes.
Day 1: Tour starts in Buenos Aires (Argentina): The tour starts at lunchtime and after a welcome chat we’ll head off for a brief orientation of this vibrant city. This afternoon we’ll focus in on two of the city’s most iconic districts - La Boca and San Telmo - both of which have strong associations with Tango and the latter which in addition also hosts a Sunday antiques market. 

*Esplendor Buenos Aires or similar (L)*

Day 2: Buenos Aires: This morning we’ll head out to explore a completely different part of the city, focusing on the grand boulevards, French-inspired architecture and green spaces of Palermo and Recoleta. Included in our visit will be the famous cemetery where Eva Peron is buried as well as the Teatro Colon dating from 1908 and considered to be one of the world’s finest today. After some time for personal exploration this afternoon we will reconvene for an evening dinner and tango show in one of the nearby theatres.

*Esplendor Buenos Aires or similar (B,D)*

Day 3: Buenos Aires - Calafate: We plan to take a morning flight southwards across the vast lands of Patagonia to the small town of Calafate. From here we’ll head west towards the Andes as we make for our base in the region - an authentic and characterful estancia. This working ranch benefits from not only stunning views over the surrounding peaks but it also offers an insight into the gaucho legend for which Argentina is so well known. Depending on our arrival time, there may be time this afternoon to see the estancia’s owners - fourth generation descendants of the original founders - bringing their cattle herds back into the farm as protection against attack from pumas.

*Estancia Nibepo Aike or similar (B,D)*

Day 4: Calafate: This morning we’ll drive for approximately 90mins to reach the world famous Perito Moreno glacier. This strikingly picturesque glacier is one of the world’s most photographed and is also one of the few Patagonian glaciers that is actually growing rather than receding. From a natural vantage point it is possible to gain incredible views over this moving hulk of ice which is fed by the Southern Patagonian Ice Field (the second largest body of ice outside of the Polar Regions) and measures some 30kms by 5kms. It is not uncommon to both see and hear it calving as massive chunks of ice crash into the waters of Lago Argentina over 70m below. After taking our fill here, we’ll return to our estancia for a further afternoon to observe and perhaps even participate in some of the daily ranch activities.

*Estancia Nibepo Aike or similar (B,L,D)*

Day 5: Calafate - Torres del Paine National Park (Chile): Leaving Argentina this morning we’ll cross the border to Chile and make for the nearby Torres del Paine park. Although today will be a long day’s drive, prepare yourselves for a visual treat as the magnificent glacial scenery of Torres del Paine is considered to be amongst the finest in the world; this national park is regularly voted as people’s favourite in the Western Hemisphere and it will be our base for the next 3 nights.

*Cabanas del Paine or similar (B,L,D)*

Day 6: Torres del Paine National Park: We plan this morning to make for the Salto Grande cascade, which is not only an impressive set of waterfalls in itself, but it also offers us the opportunity for a short hike and a chance to view the famous Los Cuernos and an unforgettable view of Torres del Paine’s sculpted peaks. In the
afternoon, we’ll head to the west of the park to board a boat on Lago Grey so as to be able to view the massive Grey Glacier from the waters below. This glacier has a height of about 40m and the combination of its blue tones makes for a truly stunning spectacle. The lake itself is often full of floating icebergs and if ice impedes the boat’s progress we will navigate a route through to the glacier face in Zodiac boats instead. However it is viewed, Glacier Grey always offers an unforgettable experience.

**Cabanas del Paine or similar (B,L,D)**

### Day 7: Torres del Paine National Park:

Today we plan to do a full day's trek (approx. 18kms, 7hrs) to a classic viewpoint of the imposing granite towers of Torres del Paine whose soaring peaks stretch into the sky to altitudes in excess of 2600m. The trek is considered to be of moderate difficulty and most visitors to the park find it challenging but absolutely worthwhile. It is also a “there and back” trek so those preferring a less active day can opt for shorter walks.

**Cabanas del Paine or similar (B,L,D)**

### Day 8: Torres del Paine National Park - Punta Arenas - Santiago de Chile:

Reluctantly leaving the park today we’ll head south via Puerto Natales to Punta Arenas from where we’ll catch a flight to the Chilean capital of Santiago de Chile. As we plan to arrive late in the day (and leave early tomorrow) we’ll overnight for convenience in an airport hotel.

**Holiday Inn Airport or similar (B,L)**

### Day 9: Santiago de Chile - Easter Island:

A flight of approximately 5hrs (yes, Easter Island is a long way from anywhere!) takes us west across the Pacific to one of the remotest inhabited islands anywhere in the world. After checking into our hotel, where we’ll be based for 4 nights, we’ll take an orientation walking tour around the main town of Hanga Roa.

**Altiplanico Rapa Nui Hotel or similar (B,D)**

### Day 10: Easter Island:

Over the next 3 days we’ll explore the whole island, predominantly on foot, focusing in on a different region each day. For although Easter Island may be best known for its huge Polynesian enigmatic moai statues (of which there are still almost 400 in existence), it is also blessed with some wonderful natural beauty and by exploring on foot we hope to gain a full appreciation of both aspects of this famed island. Today we’ll make for the east of the island to visit the Ahu Vaihu and Akahanga, temples formed by platforms or stone altars where moai and pukao (the hats or topknots formerly placed on top of some moai statues) are assembled together. We’ll continue to Rano Raraku, a volcanic crater formed of consolidated ash, which contains a lagoon. The volcano has historical significance also for it was on its slopes that the moai were carved. We’ll finish our day at Anakena, a beach not only known for its natural beauty but also for its resident row of moai with their backs mysteriously turned away from the sea.

**Approx 7hrs in total (including walking and visits)**

**Altiplanico Rapa Nui Hotel or similar (B,L)**

### Day 11: Easter Island:

This morning we’ll first visit the Ana Kai Tangata cave, which has drawings of stylized birds on its walls representing sea swallows. We will also visit the Rano Kau Volcano, home to a lake with small islands of reeds, lush vegetation and micro fauna. Finally, we will arrive at the Orongo ceremonial village, once the venue of the Birdman ceremony performance, at which the next king (selected for a period of one year only) was chosen. Here we can find the figure of a shrunk human with a large beak engraved into many stones.

**Approx 7hrs in total (including walking and visits)**

**Altiplanico Rapa Nui Hotel or similar (B,L)**

### Day 12: Easter Island:

On our last full day on the island we’ll make for the highest summit of Rapa Nui, whose peak belongs to the dormant volcano known as Ma’unga Terevaka, and which has a height of 511 meters above sea level. From the top we’ll get spectacular panoramic views over the island. We plan to be back at the hotel by early afternoon, leaving some time free before we head to the nearby archaeological complex of Tahai - containing the three temples of Vai Uri, Tahai and Ko Te Riku - for sunset.

**Altiplanico Rapa Nui Hotel or similar (B,L,D)**

### Day 13: Easter Island - Santiago de Chile:

For those that wish, we plan a sunrise visit to the moai at the Rano Kau Volcano, whose peak belongs to the dormant volcano known as Ma’unga Terevaka, and which has a height of 511 meters above sea level. From the top we’ll get spectacular panoramic views over the island. We plan to be back at the hotel by early afternoon, leaving some time free before we head to the nearby archaeological complex of Tahai - containing the three temples of Vai Uri, Tahai and Ko Te Riku - for sunset.

**Altiplanico Rapa Nui Hotel or similar (B,L,D)**

WILD FRONTIERS Adventure Travel Ltd Tel: +44 (0) 208 741 7390 Fax: +44 (0) 20 8741 3610
Email: info@wildfrontierstravel.com Website: www.wildfrontierstravel.com
to Ahu Tongariki - the largest moai site of Easter Island. It has 15 moai lined up and includes the largest moai ever erected on the island weighing in at over 86 tonnes. The rest of the morning is free before we take an afternoon flight back to Santiago de Chile for our final night in the country. *Hotel Galerias or similar (B)*

**Day 14: Tour ends in Santiago de Chile:**
The tour ends with breakfast at the hotel but for those who wish there will be time to explore some of the city’s sights this morning before those on the suggested group flights are transferred back to the airport. *(B)*

**Extensions:** If you have more time available, why not arrive early to adjust to a new time zone or just to get a feel for the country before your tour starts? Or alternatively you might choose to allow a few extra days after the tour to relax or to undertake some further exploration.

The choice is completely yours and we can usually arrange anything from simply additional accommodation and transfers to full tailor-made itineraries.

Here is just a small sample of what you could do:-

**Argentina:** With more time you could extend your stay in Buenos Aires to explore more of this fascinating city or head further afield to visit the impressive Igassu Falls on the border with Brazil, the wine-growing region around Mendoza, the lake district of Bariloche of the beautiful north-west around Salta and Jujuy. *Allow approx. 2 - 14 days.*

**Chile:** For a complete change of scenery, you could head north from Santiago de Chile into the stark high altitude desert scenery around San Pedro de Atacama. *Allow approx. 3 - 10 days.*

**Neighbouring Countries:** Brazil, Bolivia and Peru have an incredibly varied landscape of sights to offer and are easily accessible from either Argentina or Chile. *Allow approx. 1 - 6 weeks.*

Please contact the office for more details and to discuss your individual requirements.

---

**Recce Tours:** As we all know, the world is a constantly changing place - destinations & routes that were once cutting-edge now regularly find themselves appearing in mainstream brochures. Coming up with truly original tour ideas is a constant challenge but at Wild Frontiers we are committed to offering you a real alternative to the mainstream and each year we run a handful of new and original adventures. These are our so-called Recce Tours and since the very beginning have proven incredibly popular with those of you who like to act as our “guinea pigs” and join us on these tours. Fantastic fun and highly rewarding, Recce Tours will assuredly not go 100% to plan and it is not uncommon for clients to take an active role in tweaking the itineraries along the way. More challenging than our normal tours, these will often require a greater degree of flexibility...they will not be for everyone.

---

**PRICING**

**Tour price:** All our tours are priced on a land-only basis, giving you maximum flexibility when deciding how to get to and from your tour. For the latest prices, please refer to our website or contact the office.

**Travelling Solo & Single Supplements:** As a company approximately 70% of our clients are solo travellers, so it’s very unlikely you’ll be alone!

Our prices are typically based on twin-share accommodation but single supplements are not compulsory for any Wild Frontiers tour. If you prefer not to pay a single supplement we’ll pair you with someone else of the same sex for you to share with throughout the trip.

On this trip, if you do opt to pay for a single supplement then please note that it will cover you for all nights of the tour.

**Flights:** If you would like us to send you a quote for the suggested tour flight (see GETTING THERE) or on any alternative flight that may suit you better, please let us know although it should be noted that in most cases we are only able to quote on flights originating in the UK.
Please remember that all Wild Frontiers tour prices mean NO hidden extras, NO local payments and NO compulsory single supplements.

WHAT IS INCLUDED?

- Full services of a Wild Frontiers Tour Leader with local guides and drivers
- Meal plan as detailed in the itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner) with drinking water as required with the majority of meals being taken in local restaurants where viable
- All transport as outlined in the itinerary.
- All accommodation
- All entrance fees, as per itinerary
- A carbon-offsetting contribution to Carbon Clear (if booking international flights through WF office)

WHAT IS NOT INCLUDED

- Visas (if applicable)
- Local airport taxes
- Tips (always optional, but some guidance will be given in the pre-departure information pack you’ll receive after booking)
- Beverages other than drinking water & any costs of a personal nature
- International flights to/from the start/finish of the trip
- Airport transfers (unless booking suggested flights through WF office)

GETTING THERE

For this trip our suggested flights from the UK (subject to change) are:

14OCT LA8531 LHR-GRU 20:05/06:05+1
15OCT LA6460 GRU-EZE 08:00/11:00
28OCT LA5951 SCL-GRU 15:15/20:20
28OCT LA8530 GRU-LHR 23:50/15:05+1

Key:
LHR - London Heathrow
GRU - Sao Paulo
EZE - Buenos Aires Ezeiza
SCL - Santiago de Chile
LA - Lan Airlines

NB If you wish to arrange your own flights you are completely free to do so and in this case we can arrange any transfers or supplementary accommodation that you may require.

Please note that if you are planning on making your own flight arrangements, we recommend that you first check with us to see if the trip is guaranteed. We then suggest that you purchase flights that are flexible and ideally refundable as due to the nature of adventure travel, itineraries and destination accessibility can change at any time. For more information, please refer to our booking conditions.

Insurance: Insurance that provides cover for emergency repatriation in case of a medical emergency is compulsory for all tours. You should be aware that due to some of the geographical areas visited and some of the activities included on certain of our trips some standard insurance policies may not always provide adequate cover.

As such we strongly recommend that you purchase a policy that adequately covers your trip.

Travel & General offer a tailor-made policy that provides cover for all Wild Frontiers trips. Under this policy there are two different levels of cover available - Standard and Elite.

Cover explained:

Standard policy: a comprehensive travel insurance policy that provides cover for all Wild Frontiers activities, including trekking up to 6,000m. This policy does not provide cover for travel to areas where the FCO is advising against all or all but essential travel except where it has been previously agreed.

Elite policy: provides the same comprehensive level of cover as the standard policy. In addition the Elite policy also provides cover for travel to areas where the FCO is advising against all or all but essential travel. Except in the case of terrorism, the policy will not provide cover for any claims arising from or relating to the reasons why the FCO is advising against travel.
For this trip the minimum requirement would be the Standard policy. These policies are only available to those travelling on a Wild Frontiers holiday and can be purchased on a trip-specific basis or annual cover. For more information please refer to the details on our website www.wildfrontierstravel.com/insurance or by calling Travel & General direct on +44 (0) 20 3794 2954. This insurance is available to EEA residents (i.e. EU countries as well as Iceland, Lichtenstein and Norway) up to the age of 78. It covers horse riding, mountain walking, trekking, white-water rafting and all other activities we offer as part of our tours.

If you are over 78 then you may still be able to get your insurance arranged by Travel & General Insurance Services Limited. Please contact us for assistance with this.

If you do decide to purchase alternative insurance, then you must ensure that it covers you for every aspect of this trip. Wild Frontiers Limited is an Introducer Appointed Representative of Travel & General Insurance Service Ltd, details of which can be found at the website of the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) www.fca.org.uk

Please note that no insurance policy will cover every eventuality and terms and conditions will apply in the event of any claim.

Visas: Visas are necessary for many of the destinations we travel to and while we aim to provide you with the most up-to-date information, requirements frequently change and as such for the latest advice we advise that you check with the relevant embassies or contact our recommended visa agency for this trip, details of which are below:

For this tour, UK passport holders currently require/ do not require a visa for Argentina or Chile.

Non-UK passport holders or non-UK residents should contact the relevant embassies for individual requirements.

NB. Please note that as of January 2016 US policy (subject to change) has stated that anyone wishing to travel to or via the USA who has travelled to Iran, Iraq, Syria, Sudan, Libya, Yemen or Somalia since March 2011, is required to apply for a US visa (rather than an ESTA). If you are affected by this, the process is fairly straightforward and you can read more about it here:- www.wildfrontierstravel.com/us-visa.

Further details will be sent out to you on booking, however ensuring that correct and valid visas are obtained remains the sole responsibility of the client.

Responsible Travel: Responsible travel and sustainable tourism are fundamental ideas that Wild Frontiers has been committed to since our birth. It is our strong belief that these words should not be simply ‘tagged on’ to dossiers and websites but should be at the very core of each trip, and our adventures are therefore designed with the local people, culture and eco-system in mind. We believe that a successful trip not only delivers a unique and unsurpassable journey for our clients, but that it also benefits the peoples whose lands we are privileged to visit.

In 2012 we were delighted to be awarded the Guardian Observer Best Ethical Travel Award.

For more information, please refer to www.wildfrontierstravel.com/rt

The Wild Frontiers Foundation: Supporting communities has always played a huge part of the Wild Frontiers’ ethos and from the outset we have contributed to projects in many of the places we visit. However in 2009 we decided to take things a step further by setting up our own charitable foundation. Through the Wild Frontiers Foundation, we have not only developed our own community projects but also - by working closely with certain carefully selected charity partners -
helped fund the invaluable work they do throughout the developing world. With our mandate firmly based on education and sustainability we established our first project in 2010 in the remote Northern Pakistan village of Baleygon, where around 100 children are now being educated in a school built and maintained by the Foundation.

Working with charity partners we have also established a number of e-learning centres in schools across Ethiopia, sponsored an English class in rural Northern Laos and funded hospitality traineeships for a number of young people from the Kolkata slums in India. Where practicable, Wild Frontiers clients will have the opportunity to visit our projects whilst on tour.

Visit www.wildfrontiersfoundation.org to see details of all our projects, along with ways you can get involved by taking on the challenge of a charity trek, attending our fundraising events or simply giving what you can. Other ongoing fundraising schemes include:

Go Paperless: For UK-based clients who are happy for all their final travel documents to be sent by email rather than through the post, Wild Frontiers will donate £5 from each booking to the Foundation.

Kit Out for Kids: Nomad Travel Stores generously donates 5% of purchases by Wild Frontiers’ clients to the Foundation. Quote WF1000 either online or in store when purchasing clothing and kit and Nomad will give you 20% off full priced clothing and kit, plus the charitable donation. Visit www.nomadtravel.co.uk

The Environment: Trying to do our bit for the environment, in 2005 we were among the first UK-based travel companies to automatically offset every client’s international flight (if booked with us) with a payment to Carbon Clear to help promote sustainable energy. To read more about the work of Carbon Clear, please follow this link: www.carbon-clear.com

AITO Membership: Wild Frontiers is a member of AITO, the Association of Independent Tour Operators. AITO’s charter states that its exclusive members strive to create overseas holidays with high levels of professionalism and a shared concern for quality and personal service. The Association encourages the highest standards in all aspects of tour operating. AITO sets criteria regarding ownership, finance and quality which must be satisfied before new companies are admitted to membership. All members are required to adhere to a Code of Business Practice which encourages high operational standards and conduct.

British Foreign & Commonwealth Office: The travel advice of the British Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO) highlights potential hazards people might experience when travelling abroad and as an advocate of their “Know Before You Go” campaign we strongly suggest that you refer to it before booking and contact us if you have any queries or concerns. Details can be found on the website below.
Non-UK citizens should consult the travel advice of their respective governments.

---

**Wild Frontiers Community**

If you’re still not sure if this trip is right or just want to see get some different perspectives, then why not have a look at the wide variety of resources we have on our website?

**Clients’ Views:** See what other travellers have said about our trips - [www.wildfrontierstravel.com/views](http://www.wildfrontierstravel.com/views)

**Blogs:** See what our tour-leaders, staff and clients have posted from the road - [www.wildfrontierstravel.com/blog](http://www.wildfrontierstravel.com/blog)

**Videos:** They may not find their way on the list for Oscars nominations but we have an extensive (and growing) collection of short videos giving you an insight in many of our destinations - [www.wildfrontierstravel.com/video](http://www.wildfrontierstravel.com/video)

**Photos:** Our popular “Photo of the month” competition has added to the vast gallery of photos we already have from around the world. See them here - [www.wildfrontierstravel.com/photos](http://www.wildfrontierstravel.com/photos)

**Events:** From time to time we hold informal presentations, photo exhibitions and dinner evenings mainly in the London area. To find out more see here - [www.wildfrontierstravel.com/events](http://www.wildfrontierstravel.com/events)

**Wild Miles Club:** Everyone that has booked a trip directly with us will become an automatic member of the Wild Miles Club gaining instant access to a range of exclusive discounts from a variety of travel partners from bookshops to outdoor clothing shops. In addition, regular direct bookers will earn “Wild Miles” which can earn you up to 10% in discounts off of all tours. For more information visit this page - [www.wildfrontierstravel.com/wild-miles](http://www.wildfrontierstravel.com/wild-miles)

**Facebook:** Keep up to date with the latest news and special offers by liking our Facebook page - [www.facebook.com/wildfrontiers](http://www.facebook.com/wildfrontiers)

---

**ARGENTINA & CHILE - THE FACTS**

**Buenos Aires:** Home to Eva Peron, Tango and the River Plate, Buenos Aires is one of the most exciting, sensual cities you are ever likely to visit. As the capital and largest city of Argentina, Buenos Aires is located on the southern shore of the Rio de la Plata, on the south-eastern coast of the South American continent. Greater Buenos Aires, which includes the adjacent partidos or municipalities, constitutes the third largest conurbation in Latin America, with 13 million inhabitants. Strongly influenced by European culture, Buenos Aires is sometimes referred to as the “Paris of South America”.

Buenos Aires is the site of the Teatro Colón, one of the world’s greatest opera houses. There are several symphony orchestras and choral societies. The city has numerous museums related to history,
fine arts, modern arts, decorative arts, popular arts, sacred art, arts and crafts, theatre and popular music, as well as the preserved homes of noted art collectors, writers, composers and artists. It harbours many public libraries and cultural associations as well as the largest concentration of active theatres in Latin America. It has a world-famous zoo and Botanical Garden, a large number of landscaped parks and squares, as well as churches and places of worship of many denominations, many of which are architecturally noteworthy.

There are also a number of fabulous open-air, weekend markets such as in Recoleta and particularly the antiques market of San Telmo, which work very well for people flying onto or leaving BA on weekends. Buenos Aires architecture is characterized by its individuality and uniqueness, it resembles Barcelona, Paris and Rome altogether, and its distinctiveness contributes to the cultural identity of its people.

And finally of course Buenos Aires is home of Tango. Tango music was born in the suburbs, notably in the brothels of the Junin y Lavalle district and in the arrabales (poorer suburbs). Its sensual dance moves were not seen as respectable until adopted by the Parisian high society in the 1920s, and then all over the world. In Buenos Aires, tango-dancing schools (known as academias) were usually men-only establishments but are now very much unisex and very popular with travellers.

**Perito Moreno Glacier:** Just far enough from the bounds of civilization and urban dwelling, veiled by towering mountains and an expansive lake, the Perito Moreno Glacier epitomizes the natural beauty and splendour of Argentina. Unique in a variety of facets, including its size, scientific significance, and accessibility, the glacier is an essential stop for any traveller to the region. Visitors spend hours exploring its wonders and taking in its breathtaking vistas, barely believing their eyes as they gaze upon the picturesque sight which lies before them. At first sight, you will be taken aback by the sheer magnitude of Perito Moreno, one of the largest glaciers in both Glaciers National Park and South America. Its walls tower over two-hundred vertical feet (forty meters) from the ground, where the ice meets the Lago Argentino, or Lake Argentina. At this height, equivalent to that of a fifteen-story building, the glacier maintains a commanding presence for approximately 5ks of horizontal distance. At times the glacier will form an imposing panoramic wall, stretching as far as the eye can see in either direction. This undeniable physical beauty is only amplified when one learns of the scientific significance that the formation brings to Patagonia.

The most notable feature about the Perito Moreno Glacier is its dynamic and ever-changing facade. Unlike nearly every other glacier on the planet, which recede and dwindle in size over time, the Perito Moreno formation actually swells with each passing day. Deemed an "advancing glacier," the ice is continually growing and expanding outward, gradually occupying more and more territory. While the glacier is said to move outward at a pace of up to seven feet each day, large chunks of ice falling from the walls make this growth a bit subtler. This phenomenon also makes viewing the glacier all the more unpredictable and exciting.

**Torres del Paine National Park:** Deemed a Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO in 1978, the park embraces an area of extreme beauty that renders most visitors speechless. Thick magellanic forests, barren pampa, turquoise lakes with huge glaciers and beautifully sculpted icebergs
surround you; and soaring out of the earth, stand the majestic, granite Torres del Paine. Unforgettable hikes can be made around the park, each offering fabulous views of this remote land, which is home to guanacos, foxes, woodpeckers, austral parakeets and condors, amongst many other species of wildlife.

**Easter Island:** This small remnant of volcanic rock just 15 miles across, adrift in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, 2,500 miles from the coast of Chile was once one of the most isolated places on Earth. Originally named "Te Pito O Te Henua" (Navel of The World), it is now also called Rapa Nui. Today Easter Island has been declared World Heritage Site by UNESCO, it has a unique Polynesian ethnic culture manifested in its art, archaeology and traditions and a wonderful raw, unspoilt beauty of windswept coastlines, gentle, treeless hills and a verdant interior.

**Santiago de Chile:** The conquistador Pedro de Valdivia founded Santiago de Chile in 1541. Leaving Cuzco he travelled down the continent and once he gazed upon the valley at the point where the Mapocho and Maipo Rivers descend from the Andes on their journey to the Pacific Ocean. Valdivia marked the centre of colonial Santiago with the Plaza de Armas and his house was located where the central Post Office now stands. Today, this clean, tree-lined square is a haven for old men, young and old playing chess together, shoe shiners, artists and lovers. The districts of Lastarria and Providencia are the modern cultural centres where the best restaurants, cafes and bars can be found.
How to book:

In order to confirm your booking we need to have a completed signed booking form for each client together with a £400 deposit per person. You can either return your booking form to us by post or by booking online at www.wildfrontierstravel.com

You can contact the office by email to info@wildfrontierstravel.com or we are very happy to take your call on + 44 (0) 208 741 7390.

Protection for you money:

The Association of Bonded Travel Organisers Trust Limited (ABTOT) provides financial protection under the Package Travel, Package Holidays and Package Tours Regulations 1992 for Wild Frontiers, and in the event of their insolvency, protection is provided for the following:

1. non-flight packages commencing in and returning to the UK;
2. non-flight packages commencing and returning to a country other than the UK; and
3. flight inclusive packages that commence outside of the UK, which are sold to customers outside of the UK.

1, 2 and 3 provides for a refund in the event you have not yet travelled. 1 and 3 provides for repatriation. Please note that bookings made outside the UK are only protected by ABTOT when purchased directly with Wild Frontiers.

If you choose to book your international flights with us then you will also be ATOL protected as we hold an Air Travel Organiser’s Licence granted by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA). Our ATOL number is 5975. In the unlikely event of our insolvency, the CAA will arrange to refund any monies to you that you have paid for an advance booking and ensure that you are not stranded abroad. For further information visit www.atol.org.uk

We recommend that you take out adequate travel insurance at the time of booking in the event that you are no longer able to travel as all deposits are non-refundable - full booking conditions can be found on the booking form and online at our website.

As I’m sure you can appreciate, Wild Frontiers trips can be quite complex affairs to arrange and certain elements (such as permits, visa authorisations, trains and flights) may need to be requested several months in advance. As such, wherever possible, we would encourage you to plan ahead and book early to avoid disappointment. Moreover, by booking early you are always guaranteed to get the best price with us as we will automatically offer you a retrospective discount if we happen to reduce the price of the tour later on. For further details, please refer to www.wildfrontierstravel.com/price-guarantee

Further information:

When you make a confirmed booking with Wild Frontiers we will send you a pre-departure information pack giving you details on visas, health and vaccinations, packing lists, suggested reading on the region, photography and other useful tips to make your trip more enjoyable.
Why Wild Frontiers?

Wild Frontiers is proud to have been regularly voted one of the top ten tour operators by readers of Wanderlust Travel Magazine over the last ten years. A number of our innovative itineraries have been included in National Geographic Traveller Magazine’s “Trips of a Lifetime”, and our acclaimed Tour Leaders regularly feature in the Wanderlust World Guide Awards, with Mark Steadman winning gold in 2015. Responsible travel has always been incredibly important to us, so we were delighted to be awarded Best Ethical Tour Operator by The Guardian/Observer in 2012.

We are frequently asked what makes Wild Frontiers different from other tour operators. Below are a few of the factors that we believe set us apart from our competitors and form the reasons as to why our clients travel with us again and again...

Personal Service & Expertise: Our London office is manned by experienced expedition leaders and most trips we run stem from our first-hand knowledge - in short, we run the kind of holidays that as passionate travellers, we like to do ourselves. When you ring our office, you can be guaranteed to chat to someone who knows the region and the terrain and is able to offer sound and practical advice.

Authentic, Cutting-Edge Experiences: Our unique, original itineraries allow you to take journeys that venture beneath the surface of the region. We rarely run any group tour more than a couple of times a year and they are typically on routes we have discovered for ourselves, meaning we are able to give a truly authentic, off-the-beaten-track experience.

Be the First: Our style of travel is all about exploration, and nothing excites us more than opening up new routes to genuine travellers, even if that makes our job harder at times! We keep abreast of new destinations and are often the first to return to places that have vanished from the tourist map. We were the first back into Pakistan after 9/11, the first to return to Kashmir after a decade of tourist isolation, and amongst the first to run a commercial travel trip to Afghanistan for almost 30 years. Since then we have helped bring Colombia, Iran, Georgia and Bangladesh back into the tourist fold, specialising in ground-breaking reconnaissance trips and imaginative expeditions.

Small Group Size: On our escorted tours, we believe it is imperative to keep the group sizes small. Most trips are limited to an average maximum of 12 travellers, thus giving you more access to fragile cultures, better opportunities to interact with local people, and the knowledge you are making less of an impact while there. “Having been a bit apprehensive about joining a group as a single traveller, I found myself surrounded by interesting, friendly, helpful people who I hope to catch up with again on future trips.” Angela Chick, Kashmir Group Tour

Cost of Group Tours: We believe in an honest, upfront pricing structure so you know exactly what the tour will cost before you book. On our group tours we avoid local payments, ‘optional extras’ or forcing our clients to go through the annoying procedure of splitting every meal bill. Our tours are provided on a predominantly full board basis, with drinking water, government permits, entrance fees and transport all included.

Our clients: Your companions can make or break a trip, and it’s lucky therefore that our clients are often our greatest asset. Travelling to remote regions is not for everyone, and as such we tend to attract open-minded travellers looking for genuine experiences, and a desire to reach those hard to get to places.

Responsible Travel: Awarded 5 star status by AITO (Association of Independent Tour operators), responsible tourism (RT) has always been an integral part of our company ethos and our adventures are designed with the local people, culture and eco-system in mind. In 2012 we were awarded the Guardian Observer Best Ethical Travel Award. For further details please refer to the RT section of our website - www.wildfrontierstravel.com/rt