



**COMPASS  
EXPEDITIONS**

# Complete Patagonia

**21 Days**

## Information Kit

### **Chile & Argentina**

Legendary untamed Patagonia, about as "end of world" as it can get, a wild and isolated landscape that's a playground for intrepid adventurers.

# COMPASS EXPEDITIONS

Patagonias wind-swept plains, glaciated mountain ranges, snow-capped peaks and turquoise lakes stretch for thousands of kilometres. Travel the mountainous fjord lands of the epic Carretera Austral, witness ice calving from Moreno Glacier, stay at authentic working estancias and revel in some of the finest scenery on earth at Torres Del Paine. Adventure to the end of the world and appreciate planet earth at its most inspiring.

## Itinerary

### Day One: Santiago

Today is the joining day where you will meet your fellow drivers, passengers and crew, have our pre tour meeting and enjoy our joining dinner in the Chilean capital of Santiago de Chile.

Hotel Accommodation

### Day Two: Puerto Montt

We take a short, early morning, flight south to Puerto Montt, the gateway to Patagonia. We shall collect our vehicles and it isn't long before we are into the wilderness and catching our first ferry across the Reloncaví Estuary offering superb views of the wooded coastline of this beautiful fjord. Tonight, we stay in Hornopirén spectacularly located on the edge of the Hornopirén National Park, dominated by a sometimes-smouldering volcano.

Hotel Accommodation

### Day Three: Chaiten

It's a short drive today as we spend some time on ferries that form part of the Carretera Austral Road network, sailing between majestic fjords lined with forest. We exit the ferry at Caleta Gonzalo, beautifully located on the Reñihue fjord and the gateway to the Pumalin National Park, home to some of the most pristine wilderness areas left on earth. The Pumalin Douglas Tomkins National Park forms part of the Parks Route that extends 1,700 km / 1,060 mi south and is the biggest land donation to a state ever. We overnight in Chaiten.

Hotel Accommodation



#### Day Four: Futaleufu

We continue south along the Carretera Austral that follows the Park Route through a landscape of breathtaking beauty, of lush forests, waterfalls, glaciers, and snow-capped mountains. We eventually reach Futaleufu located on the banks of the turquoise waters of the Espolon and Futaleufu Rivers. This village has a captivating beauty of wedged in an incredible steep sided valley, and amongst raging rapids, towering peaks, and lush forest.

Hotel Accommodation

#### Day Five: Puyuhuapi

We continue south along the Carretera Austral through a landscape of endless forests and fjords. Tonight, will be spent at the wonderful Puyuhuapi Lodge & Spa wonderfully located on an island in a fjord and can only be accessed by a boat, it's a real wilderness treat far from any settlement.

Lodge Accommodation

#### Day Six: Coyhaique

Back on the mainland we enter the rainforests of the Queulat National Park before a 3-hour return trek to see the amazing Ventisquero Hanging Glacier, a glacier that towers above the rocky cliff of Alto Nevado and calves into the valley below. The Carretera Austral wends its way through this exquisite national park for 70 km / 44 mi before reaching the town of Coyhaique, a virtual metropolis after all the wilderness of the past week.

Lodge Accommodation

#### Day Seven: Puerto Rio Tranquillo

Continuing along the Carretera Austral on a mix of paved and dirt roads we eventually reach the beautiful village of Puerto Rio Tranquillo beautifully located on the shores of the majestic Lago General Carrera, South Americas second largest lake. We spend the next two nights here allowing us to explore this breathtaking region.

Hotel Accommodation

#### Day Eight: Puerto Rio Tranquillo

We will take a boat trip out onto Lago General Carrera to visit the remarkable rock formations and caves known as Capillas de Mármol or Marble Chapels, these limestone caves have been eroded by wind and water over millennia leaving behind a remarkable limestone cave network on the lake. We can also drive the incredibly scenic Camino a Exploradores and visit one of Patagonia's most accessible glaciers known as Ventisquero Exploradores.

Hotel Accommodation





### Day Nine: Estancia Telken

Our first border crossing today as we cross the Andes into Argentina hugging the shoreline of the immense Lago General Carrera. The drive is yet another scenic overload that will see us endlessly stopping for photos and to take it all in. We are on the eastern, and much drier, side of the Andes. We hit the legendary Ruta 40 as we turn south before reaching the wonderful Telken Estancia, a still working sheep station in Argentinean Patagonia.

Estancia Accommodation

### Day Ten: Estancia La Angostura

The scenery now is utterly different from the “other” side of the Andes; we are now in a vast desertscape of yawning valleys dotted with remote estancias. We drive south on the Ruta 40, part of the iconic Pan American Highway that stretches all the way from Prudhoe Bay in Alaska to our destination of Ushuaia in Argentina. Our overnight stop is the wonderful, and authentic, Estancia La Angostura, where we will experience a superb Asado, or BBQ, done the traditional Argentine way.

Estancia Accommodation

### Day Eleven: El Chalten

With the Andes to our right, we ride south through an otherworldly sparse landscape of Patagonia’s eastern side of the Andes. This is the mythical Patagonia of folklore, an empty vast landscape that stretches off to the horizon under a clear blue expansive sky. Turning toward the Andes again we reach the village of El Chalten that has an utterly spectacular location under the towering Mt Fitzroy that forms part of the equally spectacular Los Glaciares National Park.

Hotel Accommodation

### Day Twelve: El Calafate

We spend a magnificent half day out on Lago Viedma as we explore the nearby Viedma Glacier that descends from the southern Patagonian icefields. Departing after lunch we return to Ruta 40 catching views along Lago Viedma and then driving south until we reach Lago Argentino. We reach the provincial town of El Calafate late afternoon where we shall spend two nights allowing us to explore the region.

Hotel Accommodation

### Day Thirteen: El Calafate

Today we will visit one of Patagonia’s must-see highlights, the mighty Moreno Glacier, one of the very few glaciers that is still advancing. Standing on a boardwalk overlooking the face of the glacier and witnessing large chunks of ice calving into Lago Argentino is a jaw dropping experience. Described as the world’s most impressive glacier, we will take a boat out onto Lago Argentino to witness up close, as is possibly safe, this UNESCO listed glacial phenomenon.

Hotel Accommodation

### Day Fourteen: Torres del Paine

We leave Argentina and cross back into Chile before getting our first glimpses of possibly the most iconic image of Patagonia, the Torres del Paine National Park, the cinematic scenery will leave you in awe, it is virtually indescribable. We spend two nights here allowing a full day to explore the park.

Hotel Accommodation

### Day Fifteen: Torres del Paine

Today will be spent amongst soaring mountains, golden pampas, turquoise lakes, and the occasional guanaco as we drive the tracks that form part of this epic landscape. Getting its name from the three, mile high, granite peaks, Torres del Paine is more than just "towers of blue", it's wild rivers, iceberg laden lakes, waterfalls, forests and wildlife. No matter where you are in this park the scenery is simply breathtaking. Weather permitting the sunsets over the Torres del Paine is the stuff of dreams and possibly the most scenic day of the entire journey.

Hotel Accommodation

### Day Sixteen: Cerro Sombrero

Leaving Torres we skirt the shores of Last Hope Sound, and onto beautiful Puerto Natales, and with the Andes in our mirrors we drive east once again. We enter the vast pampas lands before reaching the Magellan Straits, named after Portuguese explorer Ferdinand Magellan, who discovered the straits in 1520. We take a ferry, possibly accompanied by numerous Magellan dolphins, to our overnight stay at Cerro Sombrero, a tiny village in the far south of Chile with a population of 680 people.

Hosteria Accommodation

### Day Seventeen: Ushuaia

We cross back into Argentina and drive on to "el Fin del Mundo", "the End of the World", it's the southernmost city on earth, next landfall being Antarctica. Ushuaia is scenically located between the snow-capped Martial Ranges and the Beagle Channel. We spend two nights here allowing us time to further explore the region.

Hosteria Accommodation

### Day Eighteen: Ushuaia

We spend today exploring the beautiful Tierra Del Fuego National Park and the very end of the Pan America Highway. This is a renowned landscape of jagged mountains, glacially formed valleys and Patagonian Forest. We will also enjoy a Beagle Channel Cruise, named after Darwin's HMS Beagle which sailed these waters in 1831, as we make our way out toward the Drake Passage, generally only seen by those on their way to Antarctica.

Hosteria Accommodation

### Day Nineteen: Porvenir

Departing Ushuaia, the only way is north, we do a bit of backtracking today as we need to take the 4WDs back into Chile. We cross back into Chile at the remote San Sebastian border post and continue to Porvenir and visit the King Penguin colony near to the town where we shall overnight.

Hotel Accommodation



### Day Twenty: Punta Arenas

Our final driving day will see us cross the Magellan Straits again and turn due south to Punta Arenas, a cosmopolitan city in the Chilean far south. After weeks of remote wilderness adventure Punta Arenas will feel positively huge, but located on the Magellan Straits it still retains that “last frontier” feel to it.

Hotel Accommodation

### Day Twenty-one: Santiago

On our final day of this extraordinary driving experience through Patagonia we take a flight back to Santiago where we can celebrate over the last three weeks being immersed in some of the most beautiful scenery on earth.

Hotel Accommodation

### Departure day: Santiago

Spend some time in Santiago or fly home, the choice is yours.

## Tour Highlights

- **Breathtaking Futaleufú** – A stunningly located town wedged between towering canyon walls and dissected by the roaring Futaleufu River.
- **Ventisquero Hanging Glacier** – A magnificent glacier that hangs over the Alto Nevado with a waterfall that cascades to the river far below.
- **Towering mountains of Cerro Castillo** – Incredible mountain scenery on the Carretera Austral.
- **Endless fjord scenery of the Carretera Austral** – Beautiful scenery on the western side of the Andes.
- **Driving the legendary Ruta 40** – Part of the iconic Pan American Highway.
- **The timeless beauty that is Mt Fitzroy and Los Glaciares National Park** – one of the world’s most astounding national parks.
- **Incomparable Moreno Glacier** – The must see highlight of Patagonia and one of the world’s last remaining advancing glaciers.
- **Torres Del Paine National Park** – Cinematic scenery on an epic world beating scale.
- **Ushuaia** – The southernmost city on earth.
- **Tierra De Fuego National Park** – The southernmost national park on earth and one of extraordinary beauty.



## Complete Patagonia Information Kit



### Tour Details

#### Drive Profile

We have created a drive grading system for each tour we do, this gives those wishing to participate in this tour as a self-driver, some more insight into what driving conditions might be expected during the tour. Please note that this is a guide only and conditions are constantly changing, new roads are built, and older roads fall apart, and dirt roads can change by the week.

The Complete Patagonia tour is a **Grade 2** tour – The renowned Carretera Austral is a mix of paved and dirt sections interspersed by ferries. The dirt sections can be muddy if it's been raining, and this tour does cross a number of high altitude passes. The Ruta 40 is legendary for its winds and the surface consists of larger size rocky road base and can be corrugated in sections. The driving is generally remote with little traffic. The paved road sections on this road are generally in very good condition.

**70%** of this tour is on pavement.

**30%** of this tour is on dirt.

The total distance is approximately 4,200 km / 2,625 mi.

#### Driver Requirements

If you have chosen the self-drive option, you should be familiar with driving a manual vehicle and being comfortable with driving off road, however it is important to note that we won't be forwarding raging rivers or climbing cliff faces and your crew are on hand to assist should the need arise. Additionally, if you have chosen the self-drive option, you are only permitted to have family & friends travel in your vehicle, we won't be putting other guests in your rental vehicle.

All drivers must have a valid driver's license and at least two years driving experience.

#### Weather

It is early summer in Patagonia, so we should expect some beautiful sunny days. Average daily temperatures at this time of year around Puerto Montt are between 2° and 20°C (45° and 67°F). As we travel south the temperatures may be slightly cooler and some rain could be expected in the rainforest regions of the Carretera Austral. Once we cross onto the Eastern side of the Andes and onto Ruta 40, strong winds can be expected and the temperature shall rise slightly.

#### Accommodation

Our joining and ending hotel is the 5-star Intercontinental in Santiago. We stay in a mix of 3 & 4 star hotels, lodges and hosterias as well as a small number of estancias (working farm stays).

**Accommodation: 21 nights**



Drive Grade: 2



Drive Distance:  
4,200 km / 2,625 mi



Sealed / Dirt:  
70% / 30%

## Tour Inclusions

- Airport Transfers
- 4WD rental, if self drive option has been requested
- Santiago - Puerto Montt & Punta Arenas - Santiago flights
- Fuel & Tolls
- Services of Compass Expeditions leader and support staff
- Pre-departure material
- Access to Compass Expeditions App, chock full of tour information, route maps and what to expect.
- Access to satellite phone, pay per minute
- Compass Expeditions tour shirt
- Entrances to all attractions and excursions mentioned in the itinerary

### Meals

**Breakfasts** - mostly consist of eggs, yoghurts, breads, jams, teas, and coffees.

**Lunches** - On most occasions we prepare our own picnic lunches that will include salads, processed meats, and fruit (depending on availability). These lunches are prepared on the spot, not prepacked.

**Dinners** - A large variety of western foods are available in the capital Santiago and larger towns enroute. On the Carretera Austral seafood is abundant. As we travel further remotely, and at the estancias, we shall experience the famous Asado (BBQ) where meat dishes are prominent.

All dietary requirements can be catered for on this tour.

**Breakfasts: 21**

**Lunches: 15**

**Dinners: 15**

### Airport transfers

We include a private airport transfer to and from your joining hotel in Santiago.

### Your Tour Leader

Our tour leaders are the face of Compass Expedition and are often what turns a good experience into a great experience. On all Compass tours we use Compass employees, not handballed off to local operators. We do however utilise a local operator / fixer to assist in the day to day running of the tour.





## The Travel App

Once a booking has been made you will receive access to our Compass Expeditions Travel App. This App is loaded with details regarding your tour, from daily drive descriptions, maps, accommodation info, tips of what there is to see, handy hints and more. The details of this App are sent to you 30 days before departure ensuring the most up to date information is included.

## Price Guarantee

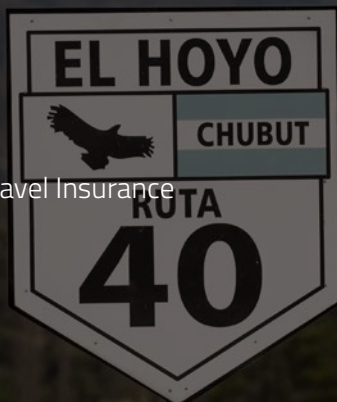
Once your booking has been confirmed we guarantee the price will not increase, whatever the circumstances. The price you see at booking is set in stone.

## Is this tour right for me?

- » This tour travels through some remote areas where modern day facilities and conveniences are scarce.
- » Two nights on tour are spent in an estancia, a working sheep station, where there is shared toilet and shower facilities.
- » We briefly spend time at altitudes of over 2,500 m / 8,200 ft as we cross the Andes.
- » Some days a considerable time is spent travelling in the 4WDs over rough terrain at slow speeds.
- » This tour is family friendly; the locals love the kids!

## Tour Exclusions

- International Flights
- Visas (if required)
- Personal Health / Travel Insurance
- Tips & gratuities



## Travel insurance

It is compulsory to have travel insurance to tour with us. It just makes sense! Accidents happen, luggage is lost and tour or flight cancellations can occur, so all participants on Compass Expeditions tours must have an appropriate level of travel insurance to cover the unforeseen. You must satisfy yourself that your policy covers medical emergencies resulting from any and all of the activities you propose to undertake during the course of the tour.

## Passport

Your passport will need to be valid for at least six months AFTER completion of your tour. Your passport should have at least one full page available, for each country you will be visiting on this trip.

## Visas

Many nationalities do not need a visa to enter Chile for up to 90 days, including, but not limited to, UK, NZ, Canada, and US nationalities, however Australians DO need a visa to enter Chile.

If a visa is required for your nationality, then it is your responsibility to ensure that you have all necessary visas for your travels. Compass Expeditions will assist by providing documents required for your visa application.

## Vaccinations

We highly recommend that you speak with your doctor or travel specialist clinic to obtain the latest information on any vaccinations you may require, prior to departure.

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### What's to love about this trip?

Some of the most astounding scenery on earth, Patagonia really turns it on when it comes to "I wouldn't believe it unless I saw it scenery".

- » You will love the opportunity to drive through the only recently opened to the outside world Carretera Austral or Pinochet's Highway as some still call it.
- » You will love the overnight stops at the still working estancias or sheep stations.
- » You will love the almost inconceivable scenery of the Andes with its glaciers, icefields, turquoise lakes, and ancient forests.
- » You will love the near mythical remoteness and expansiveness of Patagonia.
- » You will love standing on the shores of the Beagle Channel at the southernmost city on earth, Ushuaia, next landfall, Antarctica.





## Complete Patagonia Information Kit

### You've made a booking, what next?

Once a booking has been made, you will receive an automated booking confirmation. Soon after, you will receive a "welcome" email, with a link to our comprehensive pre departure booklet. This booklet will prepare you for your adventure and has more details on what to bring and what to expect. We email login details for our travel app 30 days before departure; the app is full of information, including historical and country information. The more you read, the more you will get out of your trip.

Of course we are also available anytime prior to your tour if you require further information or assistance.

Thanks for spending your time reading this information kit. We hope it has inspired you to challenge yourself, if not traveling with us, then just enjoying this remarkable world that we live in.

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**the**  
**adventuretraveller**  
take the road best travelled

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