Patagonia Nature Tour

A Journey Through Time – From Dinosaurs to Whales

16–30 October 2027

This extraordinary journey through Patagonia is designed especially for **families, nature-loving parents and older schoolchildren or teenagers** who want to discover wildlife, landscapes and natural history together.
But this is much more than a wildlife tour. It is a **journey through time**.
We begin with the animals that live along Patagonia's Atlantic coast today: Southern Right Whales, sea lions, Commerson's Dolphins, Magellanic Penguins and Southern Rockhopper Penguins. We watch whales from the beach, enter the water with sea lions and travel by boat into remote estuaries and offshore islands.
Then our journey takes us millions of years into the past.
In Trelew we discover the world of Patagonia's giant dinosaurs and learn how some of the largest creatures ever to walk the Earth once lived here. In Sarmiento we walk through a landscape where ancient forests have literally turned to stone, revealing another chapter in the geological history of this remarkable continent.
Finally, in the remote **Ría Deseado**, past and present meet.
Here we follow the landscapes explored by **Charles Darwin during the voyage of HMS Beagle**, observing wildlife while discovering how geology, isolation, adaptation and evolution have shaped Patagonia over millions of years.
For families, this creates a very special way of travelling. Children and adults do not simply see animals – they begin to understand **how landscapes develop, why species live where they do and how life changes over time**.

The result is an adventure that combines:

* spectacular wildlife encounters
* marine adventures and snorkelling
* dinosaurs and fossils
* geology and natural history
* exploration in the footsteps of Darwin
* outdoor activities
* and plenty of shared family experiences

All this takes place in a relaxed, personal atmosphere with Judith and Frank, combining knowledge with adventure rather than turning the journey into a classroom.

A Journey Through Time
Whales, Sea Lions, Penguins, Dinosaurs & the Wild Coast of Argentina

16 October – Buenos Aires Welcome to Argentina

We meet in Buenos Aires, Argentina's vibrant capital and the city of tango. We meet at 13:00 in our designated Hotel. Our first afternoon introduces us to some of the city's most colourful neighbourhoods, including **La Boca and historic San Telmo**. We also visit one of the city's remarkable old rubber trees before enjoying our first evening together.
Dinner is at the legendary **Desnivel restaurant in San Telmo**, a great introduction to Argentine food and atmosphere.
Accommodation: Mid-range hotel **Meals:** Breakfast

Highlight
Buenos Aires & San Telmo – a colourful beginning to our journey with history, street life and our first taste of Argentina.

17 October – Buenos Aires → Puerto Madryn
In the morning we have time to explore more of Buenos Aires. This is on everybodies own plan. We leave the luggage packed in the Hotel so we pick it on the way to the airport.
From the Big City to Patagonia
In the afternoon we fly south from Buenos Aires to **Puerto Madryn**, our gateway to the wildlife of northern Patagonia. After arrival and transfer to our hotel, there is time to settle in and take an easy evening walk along the waterfront.
From here onwards, the Atlantic Ocean becomes the central theme of our journey.

Accommodation: Bahia Nueva Hotel **Meals:** Breakfast

18 October – El Doradillo - Whales from the Beach

Today we visit one of the most extraordinary whale-watching locations in the world: **El Doradillo**.
Southern Right Whales come remarkably close to shore here, particularly mothers with young calves. Depending on tides and conditions, the whales can sometimes be watched only a short distance from the beach.
Frank introduces us to their behaviour, biology and conservation and explains why the protected waters around Península Valdés are so important to this species.

Accommodation: Bahia Nueva Hotel **Meals:** Breakfast

Highlight
Southern Right Whales from land – one of the rare places in the world where huge whales can be observed from the beach without even boarding a boat.

19 October – Snorkelling with Sea Lions Into the Water with Patagonia's Most Curious Residents

Today comes one of the most exciting experiences of the journey: **snorkelling with South American sea lions**.
Rather than simply watching them from shore, we enter their world. Young sea lions are often extremely curious and may swim around us, approach our masks and play in the water.
The animals decide how close the encounter becomes, making every excursion different.

Later in the day, we return to **El Doradillo** for another opportunity to watch the whales from shore in the beautiful evening light.

Accommodation: Bahia Nueva Hotel **Meals:** Breakfast

Highlight

Snorkelling with wild sea lions – a playful and unforgettable wildlife experience particularly exciting for families and teenagers.

20 October – Península Valdés - Into Patagonia's Great Wildlife Sanctuary

Today we leave Puerto Madryn and travel onto **Península Valdés**, one of South America's most famous wildlife regions and a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
The peninsula is surrounded by rich Atlantic waters and is home to whales, elephant seals, sea lions, guanacos, rheas and countless seabirds.
Our base for the next few nights is in the small settlement of Puerto Pirámides.
In the evening we enjoy dinner at the well-known **La Estación restaurant**.

Accommodation: Hostería Paradise **Meals:** Breakfast

Highlight
Península Valdés – one of Patagonia's great wildlife landscapes where desert, cliffs and the Atlantic Ocean come together.

21 October – Golfo San José - Walking with Whales on the Horizon

Today we explore the quieter landscapes of **Golfo San José** on foot.
Our hike takes us through classic Patagonian scenery while we keep watch for wildlife both on land and at sea.
At this time of year Southern Right Whales may still be present in the sheltered waters, giving us the unusual experience of **hiking through Patagonia while watching whales from the coastline**.

Accommodation: Hostería Paradise **Meals:** Breakfast

Highlight
A combination of **walking, wilderness and whale observation**, far away from the busier tourist areas.

22 October – La Lobería - Our Second Sea Lion Adventure

Today we return to the water for our **second sea lion snorkelling experience**, this time at La Lobería.
By now we understand these charismatic animals much better and have another opportunity to watch their underwater behaviour.
Every encounter is different – sometimes calm and curious, sometimes fast and extremely playful.

Accommodation: Hostería Paradise **Meals:** Breakfast

Highlight

A second opportunity to experience the underwater world of **wild South American sea lions**.

23 October – Whales & Adventure on Península Valdés

We begin the morning with an **early whale-watching boat excursion with Punta Ballenas**.

Seeing Southern Right Whales from the water gives us a completely different perspective from our encounters at El Doradillo. Their enormous size becomes especially impressive when they surface close to the boat.
In the afternoon we change pace and explore part of **Península Valdés by mountain bike**, travelling through the open Patagonian landscape.

Accommodation: Hostería Paradise - Meals:** Breakfast

Highlight

Whales from two perspectives: after observing them from the beaches earlier in the journey, we now experience these giants from the sea.

24 October – Península Valdés → Trelew → Sarmiento - Dinosaurs & the Road into Wild Patagonia

Today our journey changes character.
We leave Península Valdés and drive south to **Trelew**, where we visit its renowned palaeontological museum.
Patagonia is one of the world's great dinosaur regions. Here we discover fossils and reconstructions of enormous prehistoric animals, including giant Patagonian dinosaurs such as **Patagotitan**, one of the largest land animals ever known.
For children and adults alike, it is an extraordinary opportunity to understand just how different Patagonia looked millions of years ago.
After our museum visit we continue south towards **Comodoro Rivadavia**, where we may change vehicles, before turning inland towards the small town of **Sarmiento**.

Accommodation: Apartamentos del Sol **Meals:** Self-catering

Highlight
From living whales to giant dinosaurs – today we travel **millions of years back through Patagonia's natural history**.

25 October – Petrified Forest of Sarmiento → Puerto Deseado -
walking Through a Forest Turned to Stone

This morning we visit the fascinating **Petrified Forest of Sarmiento**.
The arid landscape we see today was once covered by forests. Geological processes transformed ancient trees into stone, leaving fossilised trunks scattered across a dramatic Patagonian landscape.
Walking here feels almost like travelling through another planet – and another time.
Afterwards we continue east towards the Atlantic coast and our next destination: **Puerto Deseado**.
Far fewer travellers reach this part of Patagonia, making it one of the most exciting sections of our journey.

Accommodation: Hotel Acantilados - **Meals:** Breakfast

Highlight
Walk among **millions-of-years-old fossil trees** before travelling into one of Argentina's least-known wildlife regions.

26 October – Wildlife of the Ría Deseado - Penguins, Sea Lions, Cormorants & Commerson's Dolphins

Today we begin exploring the spectacular **Ría Deseado**, a long tidal estuary extending deep into the Patagonian landscape.
The combination of sheltered water, rocky islands and cliffs creates an extraordinary wildlife habitat.
During our boat excursion we look for:

* Grey Cormorants
* Magellanic Penguins
* South American Sea Lions
* other nesting seabirds
* and the beautiful **Commerson's Dolphin**

We visit one of the river islands where, following our guide's instructions and respecting the animals, we can quietly sit and observe the **Magellanic Penguins at close range**.

Accommodation: Hotel Acantilados **Meals:** Breakfast

Highlight
The Ría Deseado is one of Patagonia's hidden wildlife treasures – intimate, remote and with **far fewer visitors than Península Valdés**.
Special Wildlife Highlight

Commerson's Dolphins are among the smallest and most striking dolphins in the world, instantly recognisable by their black-and-white markings.

27 October – Isla Pingüino - Expedition to the Rockhopper Penguins

Today we set out by boat for a full-day excursion to **Isla Pingüino**.

Our main goal is one of the most charismatic birds of the entire journey: the **Southern Rockhopper Penguin**.
With their bright yellow crests, red eyes and energetic way of jumping between rocks, they look completely different from the Magellanic Penguins we have already encountered.
Landing on this remote island gives us time to experience the colony and observe the penguins in their natural environment.
Sea lions and a wide variety of seabirds can also be encountered around the island.

Accommodation: Hotel Acantilados - **Meals:** Breakfast

Highlight
Southern Rockhopper Penguins – one of the rarest and most distinctive wildlife encounters of the entire tour.

28 October – In the Wake of Darwin - Exploring the Ría Deseado

Today we explore the Ría Deseado from another perspective.

Charles Darwin visited this remote part of Patagonia during the famous voyage of the **HMS Beagle**. We travel through landscapes that fascinated early naturalists and explorers almost two centuries ago.
Along the river we combine wildlife observation with stories of exploration, geology and natural history.
For younger travellers in particular, it is an opportunity to connect what they know from school with a landscape that helped shape our understanding of the natural world.

Accommodation: Hotel Acantilados - **Meals:** Breakfast

Highlight
Following Darwin through Patagonia – history, biology, geology and adventure come together in one extraordinary landscape.

29 October – Puerto Deseado → Comodoro Rivadavia → Buenos Aires

Back to the City
Today we say goodbye to wild Patagonia.
We drive north to **Comodoro Rivadavia Airport** and fly back to Buenos Aires.
In the evening we gather for one final celebration: a **traditional Argentine Asado dinner in San Telmo**.
After nearly two weeks of whales, penguins, dolphins, sea lions, dinosaurs and wild landscapes, it is the perfect opportunity to share photographs and favourite memories from the journey.
Accommodation: Mid-range hotel
Meals: Breakfast and farewell Asado dinner

Highlight

A traditional **Argentine Asado in San Telmo** to celebrate our final evening together.

30 October – Buenos Aires - Farewell Argentina

Our final morning is free.
Depending on individual departure times, there may be an opportunity for a relaxed breakfast, some last shopping, a walk through Buenos Aires or simply a final coffee together.
During the day we say goodbye and everyone travels to the airport according to their individual flight arrangements.

We leave Argentina with memories of **Southern Right Whales, playful sea lions, Commerson's Dolphins, two species of penguin, ancient forests, dinosaurs and the extraordinary wilderness of Patagonia.**

-Main Wildlife & Nature Highlights

Southern Right Whales
Several opportunities to observe whales from shore at El Doradillo as well as during a dedicated whale-watching boat excursion.

Two Sea Lion Snorkelling Experiences
Enter the water with curious South American sea lions and experience their world from below the surface.

Magellanic Penguins
Observe these characteristic Patagonian penguins in the wild and spend time quietly watching them on an island in the Ría Deseado.

Southern Rockhopper Penguins
Travel by boat to remote Isla Pingüino to experience one of Argentina's special Rockhopper Penguin colonies.

Commerson's Dolphins
Search for these spectacular black-and-white dolphins in the sheltered waters of the Ría Deseado.

Península Valdés
Explore one of South America's most famous wildlife regions by car, on foot, by boat and by mountain bike.

Dinosaurs of Patagonia
Visit Trelew's renowned palaeontological museum and discover the gigantic animals that inhabited Patagonia millions of years ago.

Petrified Forest of Sarmiento
Walk among ancient trees transformed into stone in a dramatic and remote landscape.

In the Wake of Darwin
Explore one of the landscapes visited during the voyage of HMS Beagle and combine history with wildlife and natural science.

Included Services

* Accommodation as mentioned in the itinerary
* Breakfast at all hotels, except the self-contained accommodation in Sarmiento
* All transfers and overland transportation mentioned in the programme
* All excursions and activities described in the itinerary
* Guided wildlife and nature experiences
* **2 sea lion snorkelling excursions**
* **1 whale-watching boat excursion**
* Whale observations at El Doradillo
* Mountain bike excursion on Península Valdés
* Visit to the Petrified Forest of Sarmiento
* Wildlife boat excursion in the Ría Deseado
* Full-day excursion to Isla Pingüino
* Darwin-themed excursion in the Ría Deseado
* Farewell Asado dinner in Buenos Aires
* Organisation and assistance throughout the programme

Not Included

* **International flights to and from Argentina**
* **Domestic flights within Argentina**
* Travel, cancellation, medical and other personal **insurance**
* Entrance fees to **Península Valdés**
* Entrance fees to the **palaeontological museum in Trelew**
* Any other park, reserve or museum entrance fees unless specifically stated as included
* Meals not specifically mentioned in the itinerary
* Drinks and alcoholic beverages
* Personal expenses
* Tips and gratuities
* Optional excursions and activities
* Services before the official start of the programme
* Services after the official end of the programme
* Any individual **pre-tour or post-tour arrangements**

Price **4990.- euro** **single Supplement** **1.290.- Euro**

Minimum passengers 12 - max 24 passengers