



Natural Selections

BIRDING, WILDLIFE, AND PHOTO TOURS



Patagonia

Photographing Patagonia with Lee Hoy; Torres del Paine, Pumas and More!

15 Nights/15 Days

Patagonia is one of the world's premier destinations for landscape and wildlife photography, offering an extraordinary diversity of subjects across southern Argentina and Chile. Beginning in El Calafate, we will photograph some spectacular bird species at a large freshwater marsh right at the edge of town. We can also capture the immense face of Perito Moreno Glacier, where towering blue ice cliffs, drifting icebergs, and dramatic weather create ever-changing compositions. Nearby El Chaltén is renowned for the iconic granite peaks of Mount Fitz Roy and Cerro Torre. Sunrise and sunset often transform these jagged mountains with warm alpenglow, while alpine lakes, lenga forests, wildflowers, and powerful rivers provide outstanding foreground elements.

Across the border in Chile, Torres del Paine National Park offers spectacular opportunities to photograph its famous granite towers, turquoise lakes, guanacos, foxes, rheas, condors, and elusive pumas against some of the most dramatic mountain scenery on Earth. We have four days for finding and photographing pumas in the park and private land. Just outside the park, Puerto Natales serves as an excellent location for some unique waterfowl along the city's coastline.

Departing Puerto Natales, we will head for Punta Arenas photographing along the way. The next morning, we cross by ferry to Porvenir and will be photographing cetaceans and birds during the crossing. From Porvenir, we begin a drive through wide open country looking for birds, foxes, and other mammals. That afternoon, we photograph a new King Penguin colony at a close range! Farther south, we arrive at Ushuaia, the southernmost city in the world, and it opens the door to a completely different photographic experience where snow-capped mountains meet the Beagle Channel. Here, we have two scheduled boat trips where we can capture gentoo penguins, sea lions, cormorants, whales, and numerous seabirds, while boat excursions provide opportunities to photograph glaciers, rugged coastlines, and distant islands under constantly shifting skies. Patagonia's famously unpredictable weather can cycle through sunshine, rain, sleet, and powerful winds within a single day, making flexibility and preparedness essential. Finally, we will explore Tierra del Fuego on our last morning before our flights home. Patagonia offers endless opportunities to combine technical excellence with artistic vision in one of the planet's most breathtaking natural landscapes.

Tour Overview

Day 0 (April 7): Arrive Ministro Pistarini International Airport (EZE) in Buenos Aires

Day 1: Arrival

Day 2: El Calafate

Day 3: Los Glaciares National Park

Day 4: Cerro Castillo and Torres del Paine

Days 5, 6, 7, 8: Puma tracking and photography

Day 9: Landscapes and birds

Day 10: Puerto Natales

Day 11: Punta Arenas

Day 12: The Strait of Magellan

Day 13: Ushuaia and the Beagle Channel

Day 14: The Beagle Channel

Day 15 (April 22): Departure from USH

Day 1, Arrival:

Today we'll transfer from our hotel to the Aeroparque Jorge Newbery (AEP) (we provide the transfer, cost of which is included) and fly to El Calafate (FTE). We'll arrive in El Calafate before 2:00 pm today to prepare for an evening photography shoot at a local bay where we can find Chilean Flamingoes, several species of geese, ducks, and swans, raptors, and shorebirds. This is a very active bay with lots of great photography opportunities.

Lodging in El Calafate

Meals: Breakfast and Lunch

15 Night/15 Day Itinerary:

Day 0, Arrival Buenos Aires:

Arrive Ministro Pistarini International Airport (EZE) in Buenos Aires. Night in Buenos Aires.

Lodging in Buenos Aires

Meals: on your own today

Day 2, El Calafate:

Morning will find us at the same bay photographing the birds and a local park has some great species of land birds such as Long-tailed Meadowlark, Chilean Flicker, Austral Blackbird, and more! The evening will find us exploring a nearby area where Andean Gray Fox, Guanaco, and more birds await!

King Penguins



Lodging in El Calafate
Meals: Breakfast and Lunch

Day 3, Los Glaciares National Park:

This morning we begin the drive to El Chalten and Los Glaciares National Park where along the way we will scour the roadsides for Andean Condors foraging on road kill, Guanacos grazing, and other local birds as we traverse around some of the largest lakes in Argentina! We will explore in and around El Chalten for Austral Parakeets, finches, Andean Condors, and we will photograph the stunning landscapes of this national park along with a beautiful waterfall.

Lodging in Pudu Lodge or similar
Meals: Breakfast and Lunch

Day 4, Cerro Castillo and Torres del Paine:

We will arise early to photograph sunrise at the national park before departing for Cerro Castillo just outside Torres del Paine National

Park. The evening will be spent looking for wildlife and beautiful scenes in the park.

Lodging at El Ovejero or similar
Meals: Breakfast and Lunch

Day 5 and 6, Puma tracking:

Two full, excitement packed days of photography dedicated to photographing the Pumas of Torres del Paine with a tracker. Torre del Paine is home to many pumas and, if we are lucky, we may even get a glimpse of one on or making a kill. Professional trackers work each day to note where pumas bed down, where they are hunting, and where they are sleeping. We use these trackers to improve our chances of finding and photographing them in the national park. With two days for Pumas in the park and two days for pumas on private property, we are giving ourselves the best chances to diverse and visually compelling images.

Lodging at El Ovejero or similar

Puma with kill



Meals: Breakfast and Lunch

Day 7 and 8, more Pumas:

Here we have two more full days of photography dedicated to photographing the Pumas of Torres del Paine at the private Laguna Amarga ranch. Photographing Pumas in the wild is always a treat and we have dedicated two full days to this activity. With local and professional guides who track these cats daily, our odds are excellent!

Lodging at El Ovejero or similar
Meals: Breakfast and Lunch

Day 9, Landscapes and birds:

We will focus on another side of the park where birds and scenery will compete for our attention. The mountains loom large over a beautiful lake and our hotel, situated in the middle of the lake and accessible by foot bridge provides a great base from which to photograph this unbelievable world-class scenery.

Lodging in Rio Serrano
Meals: Breakfast and Lunch

Day 10, Puerto Natales and waterfowl:

We spend the morning photographing sunrise at Torres del Paine and then depart for Puerto Natales. This destination has a wonderful waterfront stretch for photographing waterfowl on the water and in flight, gulls, cormorants, and caracaras as they forage, preen, and rest along the shoreline.

Lodging at Costa Australis or similar
Meals: Breakfast and Lunch

Day 11, Punta Arenas, landscapes and birds:

We will spend the morning once again on the waterfront, undoubtedly entertained by the cinclodes species that forage in the rocks at our feet. We will work on bird in flight and earlier in the morning, some nice landscape shots. The afternoon will find us departing for Punta Arenas where we will photograph along the way. We will spend the night in Punta Arenas where we will catch our ferry across the Strait of Magellan the next morning!

Lodging at Alma Sur or similar
Meals: Breakfast and Lunch

Day 12, The Strait of Magellan and Porvenir:

This morning we board our ferry for the crossing from Punta Arenas to Porvenir and along the ride, we will stand on the deck and photograph albatross, swans, cetaceans if we are lucky and many other birds. The ferry is about 1 ½ hours and we land in Porvenir. Our drive takes us along the water's edge where we will watch for steamer ducks, cetaceans, and other photographic subjects. In the afternoon, we will arrive at a King Penguin colony for a photo shoot! Once finished, we head for the town of Rio Grande for the night.

Lodging at Status Hotel or Similar
Meals: Breakfast and Lunch



Andean Condor

Day 13, Ushuaia and the Beagle Channel:

We arise early to depart for Ushuaia, the southernmost city in South America. This city is beautiful as it is surrounded by mountains and ocean! In the afternoon, a private boat charter will take us out into the Beagle Channel (named after the boat on which Darwin took his famous voyage) where we will photograph many birds special to this region! The captain knows these waters like the back of his hand and will make sure to get us in great position for that special photo!!

Lodging in Ushuaia
Meals: Breakfast and Lunch

Day 14, The Beagle Channel:

We awaken to another half day boat trip in the Beagle Channel affording us different light and different subjects! You never know what might show up on this trip and doing it twice increases our chances of something special such

as whales, penguins, albatrosses, giant petrels, snowy sheathbill, or if we are lucky, the very rare striated caracara. The afternoon is free time to rest, explore the heart of Ushuaia, shop, and organize.

Lodging in Ushuaia
Meals: Breakfast and Lunch

Day 15, Departure for USH airport and flights home:

We will arise early to photograph the birds and landscapes of Tierra del Fuego National Park and some beautiful locations around town. After a morning of photography, we will head to the Ushuaia International Airport (USH) in the afternoon for flights home!

Austral Parakeet





Kelp Gull

Included for the duration of this itinerary:

All ground transportation from afternoon of day 0 to the end of day 15, local guides/trackers where required, local and international tour leader (Esteban and Lee), entrance to National Parks and Natural Reserves (two hours at Pinguino Rey), two boat trips at Ushuaia, breakfasts, and boxed lunches from breakfast on Day 1 to lunch on Day 15 all accommodation on a double occupancy basis.

Not Included:

Domestic flights, dinners, tips to drivers and local guides, alcoholic beverages, souvenirs, laundry, other services not mentioned, travel insurance and other items of a personal nature.

Travel insurance:

We highly recommend you obtain travel insurance. In the event that you need to cancel your trip due to medical or other reasons, this insurance will protect you. For details, please see <https://www.naturalselectionstours.com/travel-insurance/>

IMPORTANT NOTE ON LOCAL FLIGHTS:

Participants will need to purchase the following local flights:

- 1) **April 8, 2028:** Aeroparque Jorge Newbery (AEP) to El Calafate (FTE) arriving Calafate before 2:00 PM.
- 2) **April 22, 2028:** Ushuaia International Airport (USH) to Buenos Aires (EZE) departing no earlier than 2:30 PM.

IMPORTANT NOTE ON BORDER CROSSINGS BETWEEN ARGENTINA AND CHILE:

Border Crossings: We will drive from Argentina into Chile and then back into Argentina. These are remote crossings and very small customs. They may inspect our baggage and ask what we are using our cameras for, but it won't be a big deal. Being courteous is key and answering all questions thoroughly and accurately is important. We will need to make sure we have passports with us at all times!



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