

# Multi-Activity Adventures in Argentinean Patagonia

## ITINERARY

### **DAY 1 Depart from London**

We depart from London Gatwick in the early evening for the overnight flight to Argentina.

### **DAY 2 Arrive in Bariloche**

We arrive in the morning into Buenos Aires, the capital of Argentina. We have to complete immigration and customs formalities and then make the one hour transfer across the city to the domestic airport where we board our onward flight to the city of Bariloche in northern Patagonia. Upon arrival we transfer directly to our three-star hotel in the centre of town. Bariloche is lively and cosmopolitan city which sits on the edge of the beautiful Lake Nahuel Huapi. It was founded over 100 years ago by mainly German immigrants and even today it has very much a European feel to it, with many alpine style chalets and turrets. In the evening we can enjoy a traditional Argentinean meal in one of the cities many fine restaurants.

### **DAY 3 Full Day of Mountain Biking**

After breakfast we make a short road transfer to the start of our mountain biking route. Here we will be allocated our bikes and start the ride, following quiet, gravel secondary roads heading west. All along the trail we will have beautiful views towards to the Bella Vista mountain range and Cathedral Peaks, where our trek will venture over the next few days. The biking is interesting, following winding roads and across bridges that span crystal clear mountain streams. There are also the occasional streams to ford. Eventually we get our first views of Lake Moreno, which will be our constant companion as we cycle towards Colonia Suiza. This little village is named after the first settlers in this area who came from Switzerland. We cycle through the settlement continuing our journey to our conclusion at the panoramic viewpoint over Bahia Lopez, Villa Tacul and Llao Llao.

### **DAY 4 Commence the trek to Aguja Frey**

We drive out of the city to the base station of the Cerro Cathedral skiing resort, which will be closed at this time of year. We start by follow a trail which goes around the side of the mountain, gradually gaining height as it crosses the occasional stream. Lake Gutierrez and Cerro Ventana soon come into view. The trail then goes through the mainly forested Van Titter valley. We pass a small bivouac hut located under a large rock. From there onwards the vegetation becomes more sparse and scrubby as we get higher. After 4 hours hiking we reach the mountain hut 'Emilio Frey', situated by Lake Toncek at an altitude of 1700m. Towering above us are the spectacular granite peaks of Aguja Frey - a rock climbers paradise.

### **DAY 5      Trek to Refuge San Martin**

From Emilio Frey we trek along the shoreline of Lake Toncek. At the far end the path begins to climb steadily, crossing fairly rocky terrain until we reach the 'Cathedral' mountain ridge. We pass Schmoll Lake and the so-called '*cancha de fútbol*' (the football pitch). From the ridge we have a magnificent view across the Rucaco valley and the Cathedral Peaks of Cerro Tres Reyes and the majestic Mount Tronador. We descent into the Rucaco valley and then climb back out again to the Brecha Negra pass from which we descend to the Refuge San Martín situated in a pleasant location by Lake Jacob.

### **DAY 6      Finish trek - Return to Bariloche**

In the morning we go for a short hike to Lake Tempanos and the Schweitzer Pass. Then after lunch we start our way back, descending through the Casa de Piedra valley to the end of the hiking trail where our vehicle will be waiting for us to take us back to Bariloche and our hotel. We should reach this in the late afternoon and will be able to shower and relax before a welcome evening meal out in town.

### **DAY 7      Horse Riding at Estancia El Bastion**

From Bariloche we drive west, heading for the border region with Chile. Our destination today is the Gaucho Estancia of El Bastion, where we will camp. Our horses will be waiting for us and, after basic riding instruction, we will embark on a half day horse trek through the beautiful Manso region. In the evening we can enjoy a traditional Gaucho 'Asado' or barbeque, sitting around the camp fire.

### **DAY 8      White Water Rafting on the Rio Manso**

Our transfer vehicle will pick us up after breakfast and we will drive to Lake Steffen where our rafting trip begins. The guides will give instructions on the basics of paddling and equipment will be distributed. All necessary equipment including wetsuits and buoyancy aids is provided. Once we are all ready, we set off on the first leg of the trip, which goes down fast water for about 1 hour. The river then slows down and we will have the opportunity to enjoy the beautiful surroundings. We stop by the side of the river for lunch, which will be a traditional Argentinean feast! Back on the river, we have a further hour rafting through class II/III rapids, the first one of which will help you with your digestion! We soon come to the confluence of the Rio Manso and the Rio Villegas and between the rapids can enjoy calm water and beautiful sandy beaches where we can swim. Finally we reach the end of our raft trip and our transfer staff will be waiting for us with drinks and snacks. There are changing facilities where we can shower and get ready for the drive back to Bariloche.

### **DAY 9      Fly Bariloche to Buenos Aires**

The morning will be free. After lunch we transfer to the airport for our flight to Buenos Aires - the capital of Argentina. On arrival we transfer to our central hotel. After checking in, there will be free time to stroll around the nearby pedestrian shopping and nightlife district of Florida and Lavalle. In the evening, we will be able to eat in one of Buenos Aires's fantastic restaurants.

### **DAY 10      Buenos Aires Sight Seeing - Evening Departure**

After breakfast there will be a morning guided sight seeing tour of Buenos Aires. This will conclude in the fashionable Recoleta district of the city where Eva Peron is buried. We have lunch here before returning to our hotel. There will be time for final souvenir shopping before we depart for the airport and our evening flight home.

### **DAY 11      Arrive London**

We arrive into London Gatwick Airport in the early evening.