

MARBLE CAVES AND PAINE WILDLIFE

15 days/14 nights

Departure airport: Balmaceda, Chile

End of tour: Punta Arenas, Chile

Description

I personally think this is a very nice trip to see Chilean Patagonia in its both main areas: Aisen and Paine. Days in Mallin Colorado Ecolodge, is really a full Patagonia adventure stay in a very comfortable and cosy secluded place. You will certainly have possibilities to do a lot of outdoor activities during the whole trip, observing a variety of birds, flora and different animals that live in Patagonia. The trip to Caleta Tortel will be unforgettable, because you will have not been so isolated ever before. And the program includes the famous National Park Torres del Paine, with its amazing views to high peaks, immense glaciers and wonderful accommodations. And you will finish your vacations searching the huge whales in the Magellan Strait on board M/N Forrest, a small expedition cruise specially designed for the channels.

ITINERARY:

Day 1: Arrival in Balmaceda airport – Mallin Colorado Ecolodge

Our program starts in Balmaceda airport. You will be picked up by a guide to drive the Southern Carretera Austral, one of the most pristine places in the world, where the scenery is dominated by the Northern Ice Fields and lake General Carrera. After 5 hours driving, you arrive at the lodge, where a welcome dinner awaits you in the Club house of the lodge. LD

Day 2: Horsebackriding and boat excursion

After breakfast, we will do a horseback riding through a forest of native trees such as coigue, ñirre and lenga, with stops to view glaciers and lakes General Carrera, Bertrand and Plomo, appreciating spectacular views of the Andean foothills of the Northern Ice Fields. We arrive up to a wide plain where you can see Mallín Colorado lagoon, with a marshy surface. After four hours, lunch in the lodge and boat excursion on lake Bertrand during the afternoon. Dinner in the lodge. BLD

Day 3: Marble caves and Explorer's Glacier

After breakfast we leave the cabins and start to drive along the Austral for about 50 minutes to take a boat and visit the famous "Marble Caves" on the shore of lake General Carrera. After that, we continue through a recently opened way to visit the Explorer's Glacier on the Northern Ice Fields. This glacier follows down over earth, so the scenery where it located is simply spectacular. You can see it very near. We return back to the lodge to have a wonderful dinner. BLD

Day 4: Tamango National Reserve

After breakfast we leave the cabins and start to drive south along the Austral Highway to the town of Cochrane. From here we continue to the Tamango National Reserve. This reserve is the only area where you can observe the huemul; Chile's native deer and highly protected specie. We hike through the park, observing the abundant vegetation and fauna. During the hike we will enjoy a satisfying lunch in spectacular surroundings.. Dinner and overnight at the cabins. BLD

Day 5: Day at leisure in the lodge

After breakfast you have a day at leisure to walk, make pictures, do a trekking in the hills around the cabins or just simply read a book under the trees, viewing the lake. BLD

Day 6: A full-day trip to Caleta Tortel.

(You can leave your bigger luggage in the lodge and just bring a little backpack for two days) After breakfast, we start a journey to Caleta Tortel, 200 km along the southern Carretera Austral. We leave Lake General Carrera and start driving along river Baker from its beginning at Puerto Bertrand until its ending in Caleta Tortel. Box - Lunch will be served in a beautiful spot along the road, surrounded by native forests. After four hours aprox. you will arrive to the typical village, constructed in an ingenious network of footbridges, stairs and bridges that go over rocks, vegetation and marshes, connecting the piers with the houses distributed in different sectors of a large rock, in Caleta Tortel. Dinner at the lodge. BLD

Day 7: A free day in Caleta Tortel.

Free day just to get to know the village, walk along its footbridges, typical houses and simple restaurants. You may take a boat and visit the Island of Dead's, 1,8 miles from Caleta Tortel. Or we also suggest to visit Glacier Steffens or Glacier Montt in a full day boat excursion. Dinner in the lodge. BLD

Day 8: Visit Patagonia park and back to Mallin Colorado

After breakfast we drive back north to Cochrane where there is lunch served and can make a short walk in the town. On the way back to Mallín Colorado we visit the Chacabuco Valley where we encounter a landscape which is very similar to the Patagonian pampas of Argentina; we can observe guanacos, condors, sheep, cattle and diverse bird species BLD

Day 9: Flight Balmaceda- Punta Arenas

After breakfast and check-out, you leave Mallin Colorado in direction to the airport. In Balmaceda you will take a flight to Punta Arenas. Reception in Punta Arenas airport and immediate transfer to Puerto Natales, about 3,5 hours on paved road. Lodging in Puerto Natales. Dinner on your own. BL

Day 10: Full day Torres del Paine.

Full day excursion to the different corners of the National Park, including box - lunch. Lodging in Puerto Natales. Dinner on your own. BL

Day 11: Glacier Grey and Punta Arenas

Half day navigation to Glacier Grey. In the afternoon, transfer to Punta Arenas. Lodging in Punta Arenas. Provide Lunch pic nic by yourself. B

Day 12: Expedition Cruise M/N FORREST

Pick up from Hotel to M/N FORREST. Boarding in Caleta Hatelly. Dinner and overnight on board. BD

Day 13: Expedition Cruise M/N FORREST

On board visiting Glacier Santa Inés. Whale watching on Island Santa Inés, Seno Ballena and Carlos III Island. Lunch and dinner on board. BLD

Day 14: Disembark and Punta Arenas

Excursion on board to Caleta Delfines. Disembark and return to Punta Arenas after lunch on board. Arrival to Hotel in Punta Arenas. Dinner on your own in Punta Arenas. BL

Day 15: Punta Arenas – Santiago de Chile

After breakfast, transfer to the airport of Punta Arenas to take flight to Santiago. B

Includes:

All meals as indicated in the program //14 breakfast – 12 lunches – 10 dinners

All transfers by air and land as indicated.

6 nights in Mallin Colorado Ecolodge

2 nights in Tortel

1 night in Puerto Natales

1 night in Torres del Paine

2 nights in Punta Arenas

2 nights on board Expedition Cruise M/N FORREST

Air tickets domestic flight from Balmaceda to Punta Arenas.

Navigation ticket to Glacier Grey

Visit to the marble caves

Visit to Patagonia park

Whale watching excursion 3 days/2 nights

Does not include

Meals not indicated

Wines and beverages

Lodging in Santiago de Chile

National flights from Santiago to Balmaceda and from Punta Arenas to Santiago

Price: US\$ 5.900.- per person

Highlights

Marble caves

Austral Road Aysen

River Baker confluence

Huemules at Tamango park

Caleta Tortel village

Patagonia park

Glacier Grey

Torres del Paine

Whale watching in Magellan Strait