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# Tour Notes

Argentina and Chile – Glaciers and Peaks of Patagonia

Tour Duration – 16 Days



## Tour Rating

Fitness ●●●●○ | Off the Beaten Track ●●●●○ | Culture ●●●●○ | History ●●●●○ | Wildlife ●●●●○

## Tour Pace

Moderate/Busy

## Tour Highlights

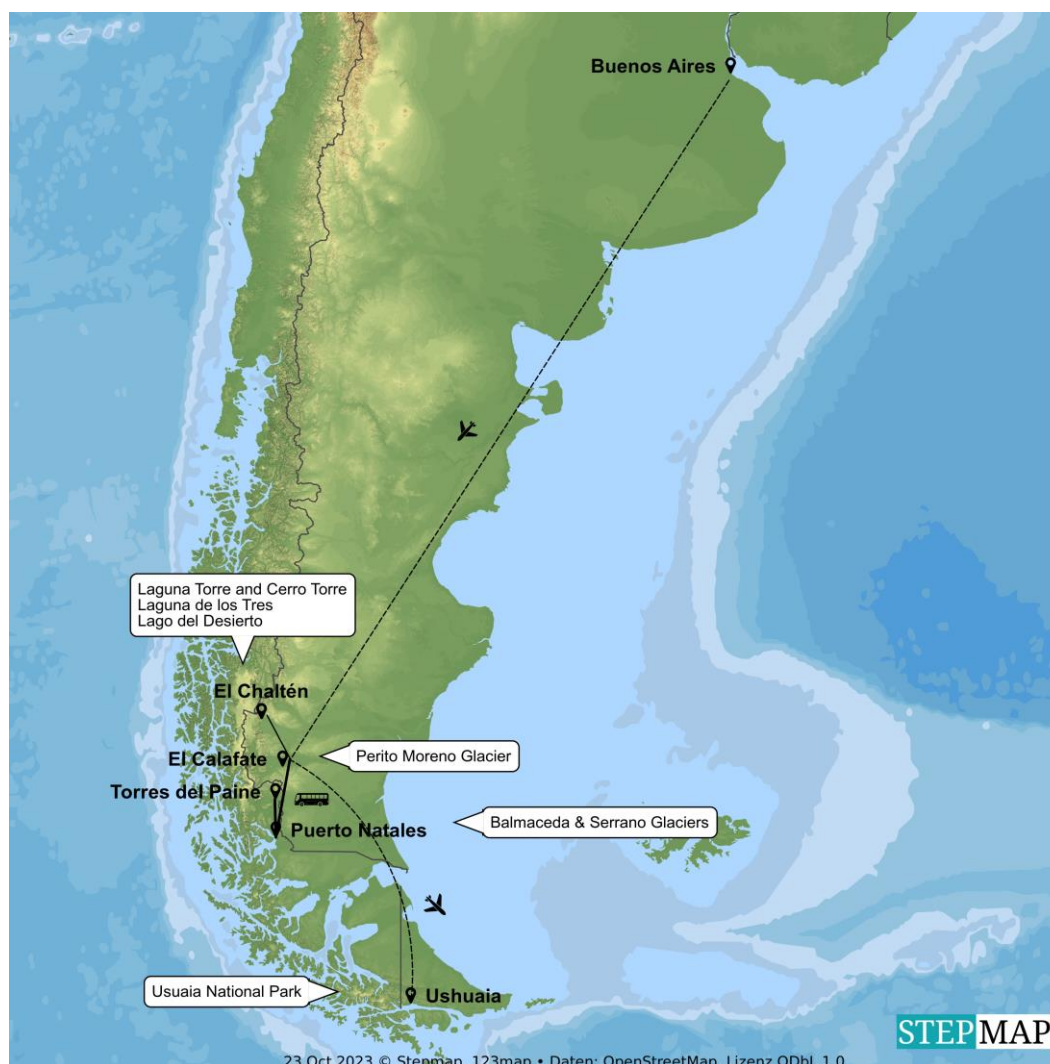
- ✓ An adventure through some of the most spectacular landscapes on the planet
- ✓ Take walks in amongst incredible mountain vistas
- ✓ The awe-inspiring sight of the Perito Moreno Glacier
- ✓ Experience the wilds of Torres del Paine National Park





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## Tour Map



## Tour Essentials

- Accommodation:** mid-range hotels  
**Included Meals:** Daily breakfast (B), plus lunches (L – all lunch boxes) and dinners (D) as shown in the itinerary  
**Group Size:** Maximum 12  
**Start Point:** Buenos Aires - you can arrive any time on day 1  
**End Point:** Buenos Aires – you can depart any time on day 16  
**Transport:** Minibus or similar  
**Countries Visited:** Argentina & Chile



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## Argentina and Chile – Glaciers and Peaks of Patagonia

*This is an epic adventure from El Calafate to the tip of the South American continent at Ushuaia – the world's southernmost city. Marvel at the towering peaks of Fitz Roy and Cerro Torre, maybe the two most emblematic mountains of Patagonia. Admire the truly spectacular Perito Moreno Glacier and cross the Magellan Strait into Tierra del Fuego to the end of the world. Enjoy walks in some of the most awe-inspiring scenery on the planet.*

### Tour Itinerary Notes

While our intention is to adhere to the day-by-day itinerary as printed below, a degree of flexibility is built in. Overnight stops may vary from those suggested and on occasions alternative accommodation, of a similar standard to that named below, will be used.

### Tour Guide

Our guides are a key strength, chosen for their knowledge of and passion for the areas in which they work. All of our guides are carefully hand-picked, and are not just passing through these countries, but are usually locally born. Unlike some companies it should be noted we do not send a guide or tour leader from Undiscovered Destinations in the UK as we have every confidence in our locally appointed representative who is responsible for operating the tour on our behalf. On this tour local guides will be used. No same tour guide throughout the trip.

## Itinerary

### Day 1 – Arrive Buenos Aires

Arrive in Buenos Aires and transfer to your hotel. Overnight Argenta Tower Hotel or similar. No meals or activities included today.

### Day 2 – Buenos Aires

Today explore Buenos Aires on a half day tour. The city is known as the “Paris of South America” and we will easily identify why by looking at its architecture. We will start at May Square, where the Government House, the Cathedral and the old Town Hall are located. Then we will continue to San Telmo -one of the most ancient neighbourhoods- until we reach La Boca, famous for its colourful and picturesque houses on Caminito Street. Finally we will head north to visit Recoleta, the most elegant district with wide avenues, lovely parks and magnificent residences. There we will visit the monumental cemetery where Evita Perón and other historical personalities are buried. The rest of the day is at leisure. Overnight Argenta Tower Hotel or similar (B)

### Day 3 – Buenos Aires – El Calafate – El Chalten

Transfer to the airport for a flight to El Calafate. On arrival in El Calafate you will be transferred to your hotel in El Chalten (approx. 3hr30m transfer). Overnight Poincenot Hotel or similar (B)

### Day 4 – El Chalten – Laguna Torre & Cerro Torre

Today we take one of the classic, not to be missed walks of El Chaltén, to Laguna Torre where we find an impressive view of the Torre massif, the Adela range, Mount Solo and their respective glaciers. The footpath will take us through a wide range of landscapes, ranging from wide glacially formed valleys to dense forests. We stop at great panoramic spots and visit famous base camps that are used by famous climbers. Overnight Poincenot Hotel or similar (B, box lunch)

Length: 7/8 hours



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Grade of difficulty: Easy

Experience required: Fit. No trekking experience required

#### **Day 5 – El Chalten – Laguna de los Tres**

The classic, spectacular and unforgettable trek of the region. Today takes you past some impressive scenery and through forests until you arrive at the mystical Mount Fitz Roy; admiring lagoons of different shades of blue, imposing glaciers and campgrounds visited by famous international climbers. The end point of this tour is within walking distance of the hotel, so no drop off is included. Overnight Poincenot Hotel or similar (B, box lunch)

Length: 8/9 hours

Grade of difficulty: Moderate

Experience required: Fit. No trekking experience required

#### **Day 6 – El Chalten – Lago del Desierto**

Spend today enjoying Lago del Desierto, a glacial lake surrounded by lush forest and snow-capped mountains. When we arrive at the lake, we spend a couple of hours to explore the lake and surroundings by boat. After the boat ride there is time to walk along the shores of the lake before returning to El Chaltén. Overnight Poincenot Hotel or similar (B)

#### **Day 7 – El Chalten – El Calafate**

Today travel to El Calafate (approx. 3hr30m) where you will be taken to your hotel. The rest of the day is at leisure. Overnight Hotel Sierra Nevada or similar (B)

#### **Day 8 – El Calafate – Perito Moreno Glacier**

The spectacular Perito Moreno is definitely one of the highlights in South Patagonia. It is located 80 km away from El Calafate. During the drive to the park, the guide will explain all about this famous glacier. You will see the dramatic change in landscape from the steppe in the first 50 km to the colorful Patagonian Andes forest as you get closer to the park. Once inside the park, a 5-km circuit of walkways with strategic viewpoints grant amazing panoramic sights of this natural wonder. There will be enough time to walk around and enjoy the breathtaking views. Overnight Rincon del Calafate or similar (B)

#### **Day 9 – El Calafate – Puerto Natales**

Transfer to the bus terminal for the bus to Puerto Natales. The journey itself is about 3hr30m with additional time for the border crossing from Argentina into Chile, and immigration formalities. Overall transfer time approx. 5-6 hours. On arrival into Puerto Natales you will be taken from the bus terminal to your hotel. Overnight Simple Patagonia Hotel or similar (B)

#### **Day 10 – Puerto Natales – Torres del Paine National Park**

Departure from our hotel to the Milodón cave located 24 kilometers north of Puerto Natales. Before reaching the cave, the access road passes through the "Silla del Diablo", a name that comes from the popular imagination given to a rocky structure with the appearance of an armchair which is said to have been the "seat" of the Mylodon and that the legend became "devil". At the end of the visit, we will continue along the new access road to the Torres del Paine National Park, being able to observe lagoons and mountain ranges along the way. Next, it is possible to admire the beautiful landscape that surrounds us from the Mirador del Lago Grey (view towards the Gray Glacier, the Macizo del Paine, and the Lago del Toro). A couple of kilometres further on it is possible to see the Cuernos del Paine, reaching the bifurcation that takes us to the Grey Lake area. In this sector, we can take a pleasant walk along the shore of Lake Grey and depending on the weather conditions, it is possible to access the viewpoint of the Grey Peninsula. After enjoying our box-lunch, we begin the second stage of our visit to Torres del Paine National Park, heading to the Salto Grande sector. We will visit the Mirador del Lago Nordenskjöld and we will continue to enjoy various views on our undulating route that gradually brings us closer to the Laguna Amarga sector. After admiring this pleasant



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show, we will return to the city of Puerto Natales passing through the Mirador del Lago Sarmiento, arriving in the late afternoon, and bringing with us an unforgettable experience. Overnight Simple Patagonia Hotel or similar (B, box lunch)

#### **Day 11 – Puerto Natales – Balmaceda & Serrano Glaciers**

Today experience the incredible Patagonian world of fjords, native flora and fauna. You will enjoy the Balmaceda and Serrano Glaciers while drinking a delicious whisky with ancient ice. Start from Puerto Bories through the Ultima Esperanza Fjord towards Balmaceda and Serrano Glaciers. There are beautiful views of mountains, cascades, cattle ranches and Patagonian birds. Take a hike to the Serrano Glacier lookout point in the Bernardo O'Higgins National Park before returning from Serrano Glacier to Estancia Perales (whisky appetizer with ancient ice on board). Have lunch on board before arriving back at Puerto Natales. Overnight Simple Patagonia Hotel or similar (BL)

*This excursion is subject to weather conditions.*

#### **Day 12 – Puerto Natales – El Calafate**

Take the bus journey back to El Calafate. On arrival you will be transferred to your hotel. Overnight Rincon del Calafate or similar (B)

#### **Day 13 – El Calafate – Ushuaia**

Transfer to the airport for the flight to Ushuaia. On arrival you will be transferred to your hotel. Overnight Alto Andino Hotel or similar (B)

#### **Day 14 – Ushuaia – National Park**

This park, located at 12 km from the city centre to the southwest of the island, was created in 1960 to preserve and protect the natural fauna and flora of the region. Only nearly 5000 acres of its total area are open to visitors who can enjoy a combination of Sub Antarctic forest, mountains of the Andes Range and the marine environment of the Beagle Channel. During the excursion you will learn about archeological sites, historical events and wildlife of the island. You will take short walks along some of the trails in the park and stops at some viewpoints such as Roca Lake will allow great pictures to be taken. At Lapataia Bay a wooden sign announces the very end of the national route N° 3 (or Panamericana Highway as it is called down here). Return to Ushuaia from this point.

This afternoon sail across Ushuaia Bay and on to the Beagle Channel. The first stop will be at the Birds Island with its numerous specimens of birds: cormorants, skuas, seagulls, to mention just a few and next, the boat will get closer to the Sea Lions Island where colonies of southern sea lions and southern fur seals constitute the "star attraction". Further on you will reach one of the best known pictures of Ushuaia: "Les Eclaireurs" Lighthouse, often wrongly called "End of the World" Lighthouse. From here you will return to the city. Overnight Alto Andino Hotel or similar (B)

#### **Day 15 – Ushuaia – Buenos Aires**

Transfer to the airport for your flight to Buenos Aires. On arrival you will be taken to your hotel for your last night in Argentina. Overnight Argenta Tower Hotel or similar (B)

#### **Day 16 – Buenos Aires Departure**

At a suitable time, you will be transferred to the airport for your departure flight (B)

**End of Services.**



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# Tour Inclusions/Exclusions

## **Inclusions:**

Arrival and departure transfers

All accommodation

Private services with English speaking local guide or shared services with English speaking local guide or Spanish speaking driver only as per program above

Transport throughout the tour in minibus or similar – a combination in between private and shared transportation may be necessary for specific sections of the itinerary

Meals as listed (B – Breakfast, L – Lunch Box, D – Dinner)

Entrance fees and excursions as per the itinerary

City taxes where applicable

## **Excluded:**

International Flights

Any airport taxes

Travel Insurance

Visas if applicable

Drinks

Items of a personal nature & tips (discretionary)

# Important Information

## **Foreign Travel Advice Warnings**

Before booking your tour please familiarise yourself with the country specific information provided by the UK's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) - <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice>. This includes important information such as latest immigration requirements, and details of any travel advisories.

We constantly monitor the advice posted by the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO). In particular we will always advise clients of any travel warnings. At present there are no warnings against travel to Argentina or Chile. Please feel free to contact us should you have any specific concerns or would like to know in detail what measures are being taken to ensure visits remain trouble free and without incident.

It should be noted that this information applies to British citizens. Other nationals are asked to check the current position of their respective government.

## **Accommodation and Meals**

### **Hotel Check-in Times**

As a general rule most hotels will allow guests to check-in from 2pm. Please note that the price of your tour does not include guaranteed early check-in. Therefore please advise us if you would like to ensure that your room is available for an earlier arrival. This is particularly relevant on the first day of the tour and for early morning arrivals. One option is to pre-book and pay for an extra night at the beginning of your tour which will guarantee your accommodation is available irrespective of what time you arrive. Please contact us for information and costs.





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It should also be noted that on many of our tours we have set-aside Day 1 of the itinerary as an 'arrival day'. For this reason and because tour participants are likely to be arriving at different times, and often from different countries, guided sightseeing or other activities are not included. If you are arriving early or before the start date of the tour and would like to organise some extra arrangements on a private basis please contact us.

### **Accommodation Rating**

This tour involves simple but comfortable hotel/lodge accommodation. Only the hotel accommodation has private bathrooms.

We welcome solo travellers and single rooms will be allocated subject to the applicable tour supplement. Please note that on occasions you may not always be allocated a double or twin room, as some hotels have designated single rooms. These may be smaller in size. However, the supplement payable takes this into consideration.

### **Food & Drink**

The daily meal basis is shown in the tour itinerary; breakfast (B), lunch (L) and dinner (D). Please note that lunch may be a picnic. All drinks apart from water including alcoholic beverages will be payable locally in cash.

### **Water on the treks**

We suggest travellers to take a reusable water bottle for the treks. Then, you can refill with water taken from lakes and rivers. Water in the parks is safe, but still you may wish to take purification tablets.

### **Dietary Requirements**

If you have any special dietary requirements you must notify us at the time of booking. While we will make every effort to cater for you, we cannot guarantee that this will be possible.

### **Budgeting for your Tour**

You will need some extra money to cover meals and drinks not included in the tour price, any optional sightseeing, souvenirs and items of a personal nature such as laundry.

### **Food**

The costs for meals may vary depending upon location, type of restaurant and number of courses eaten and so the prices given are an average guide. Local restaurants located off the beaten track may be less expensive, whereas an upmarket restaurant located in the centre of a major city may charge more.

Argentine cuisine may be described as a cultural blending of Indigenous, Mediterranean influences (such as those created by Italian and Spanish populations) within the wide scope of livestock and agricultural products that are abundant in the country. Meat is very important in both Argentinean and Chilean cuisine and for many it is an essential ingredient in every dinner or lunch.

### **Argentina**

Lunch £15 / Dinner £20

### **Chile**

Lunch £20 / Dinner £30

### **Drink**

The prices for drinks can vary greatly depending upon location and the prices detailed below are an average guide payable in the lodges and hotels on the tour which is where you will purchase most of your drinks. In general you would expect that drinks purchased in a supermarket or local bar to be less expensive, whilst



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drinks in an upmarket bar or restaurant may be more expensive. Wine has traditionally been the most popular alcoholic beverage in Argentina, with beer (cerveza and the Italian birra is frequently used) in recent decades competing with wine in popularity.

### Argentina

Bottle of Water (1 Litre) - £3 / Bottle of Beer – £5 - £7

### Chile

Bottle of Water - £3 / Bottle of Beer - £5 - £7

### Tippling – Guide and Drivers

If you're happy with the services provided a tip - though not compulsory - is appropriate. While it may not be customary to you, it's of great significance to the people who will take care of you during your travels, inspires excellent service, and is an entrenched feature of the tourism industry across many destinations.

### Foreign Exchange

**ATM Availability:** ATMs accepting Visa and/or Mastercard can be found in most town and cities

**Credit and Debit Card Acceptance:** Credit and debit cards are widely accepted in larger towns throughout Argentina and Chile. Some hotels and lodges will accept credit card but we recommend that you travel with cash.

**Local Currency:** The official currency in Argentina is the Argentine Peso (ARS) and in Chile it is the Chilean Peso (CLP)

**Recommended Currency for Exchange:** US Dollars

**Where to Exchange:** There are banks and bureaux de change in the larger towns throughout the region, and it is relatively easy to change money.

### Joining your Tour

#### Flight Information

You are able to book this tour on a 'land only' basis or as a 'flight inclusive' package. Your flight inclusive package will be fully protected by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) ATOL protection scheme.

### Joining Tour Abroad

Customers booked on the 'Land Only' arrangements will receive an airport transfer, both on arrival and departure include in the tour price. In order that the transfer can be arranged please ensure that you advise us of your flight information once available.

Please advise the date, time and flight number for your arrival/departure. If we have not been advised of this information at least 2 weeks before travel, then you will be required to make your own way to the hotel on Day 1 of your tour.

### Travel Insurance

It is a condition of booking with Undiscovered Destinations that you have adequate valid travel insurance. It is your responsibility to arrange appropriate travel insurance and ensure you have read and understood the full terms and conditions of your travel insurance policy to ensure that you are covered for all activities you intend to undertake whilst on the tour, including all optional activities. Your Insurance Policy must fully cover you for medical expenses and emergency repatriation to your home country and be valid for the entire duration of your holiday.

### Visa Information

At the time of writing British, US and Australian nationals do not require a visa for a short-term tourist visit to Argentina and Chile.







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As it is the travellers' responsibility to ensure that they meet all entry requirements it is essential that you check the rules and any other conditions at the time of booking and again when making your balance payment. In addition, we would strongly advise that you make a final check around two weeks before your arrival. This is important as requirements can change at short notice. Undiscovered Destinations, when possible, will provide guidance about entry rules, but in the first instance please contact the relevant authorities, including the applicable embassy or consulate for assistance. Contact details can be found by visiting the following websites

British Nationals - [www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice](http://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice)

US Nationals - <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel.html>

Australian Nationals - [www.smartraveller.gov.au/](http://www.smartraveller.gov.au/)

Other nationals should check the latest requirements with the authorities in their home country, or with the destination's nearest embassy or consulate.

### Passports

It is your responsibility to ensure that you are in possession of a full passport, valid for at least six months after the date of return to your country.

We strongly advise that your passport contains a minimum of two blank pages, as this may be a requirement of the local immigration authorities. In addition certain countries will stipulate that the two blank pages are opposite each other. If you are unable to meet these requirements you may be refused boarding by your airline or denied entry by the immigration authorities.

For specific information about the requirements for your destination please check with the country's embassy or consulate. Alternatively UK citizens can visit [www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice](http://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice)

### Vaccinations & Protection

As with travel to most parts of Latin America, we strongly recommend that you contact your doctor's surgery or a specialist travel clinic for up-to-date information, advice and the necessary vaccinations. For a visit of less than one month, almost certainly you will be advised to have immunisations against the following: Diphtheria and Tetanus, Hepatitis A, Typhoid, Meningitis. A yellow fever vaccination may also be advised. The use of a DEET-containing insect repellent is highly recommended, and we recommend that you take professional advice about malaria prophylactics.

The legal status and regulation of some medicines prescribed or purchased in your home country can be different in other countries. If you're travelling with prescription or over-the-counter medicine, read this guidance from NaTHNaC on [best practice when travelling with medicines](#). For further information on the legal status of a specific medicine, you'll need to contact the embassy, high commission or consulate of the country or territory you're travelling to.

## Preparing for your tour

### Climate

The best time to visit Patagonia is most certainly from October – March in the Southern Hemisphere late spring and summer which is when we will be operating the tour. Weather is very unpredictable at these southern latitudes and it is possible to experience 4 seasons in one day. Days can be warm or cold and rain can be experienced at any time. Nights even in summer can still be very cold in Patagonia.



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## Clothing

A layered approach is most certainly best in Patagonia. Below is a recommended clothing/kit list:

- A soft bag/backpack for your main luggage
- Thermal underwear
- Trekking shoes or boots with ankle support and good grips
- Trekking pants
- Fleece
- Softshell jacket
- Parka and waterproof trousers
- Gaiters
- Gloves
- Thermal socks
- Warm hat
- Sun hat
- Sun glasses
- Sun screen (UV is very strong in the Southern latitudes of Patagonia).

## Equipment

The first thing on your list should be a first aid kit. Whilst there is no undue cause for alarm, travellers are best advised to travel well-prepared and adequately immunized, with sufficient supplies of prescription drugs, along with a medical kit. Suncream/sunblock is a must as UV levels are very strong at these southern latitudes in Patagonia. Insect repellent, including a bite spray will also be useful to have. A torch/flash light is advisable for any unexpected electricity outages or for dimly lit areas. If you are used to walking with poles then we suggest you take them for this tour.

## Footwear

Comfortable walking or trekking shoes are essential. Lighter shoes are suitable when travelling on the road.

## Luggage on tour

Your luggage should not exceed 20kgs (44lbs). One large suitcase/rucksack, and one small hand luggage rucksack is acceptable.

On the flights, baggage allowance is 15kg.

## Electric Supply & Plugs

### Argentina

3 Pin Flat

### Chile

2 Pin round

## Wireless Internet Connection

Please note that this is expensive in Patagonia and can cost up to USD 5 per hour and often the coverage is not of a high standard.

## Tour Itinerary Versions

Please ensure that you have an up-to-date copy of these tour notes immediately before you travel, as from time to time our itineraries may be amended, either for operational reasons or in response to feedback from



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customers. You will be informed of any major changes to your tour but small changes may just be added to these tour notes. These notes were prepared 16 April 2024.

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