

Patagonia, Argentina



Time Frame: 6 days + 2 travel days

Destinations: Buenos Aires, El Calafate, & El Chaltén, Argentina

Travel Day/Day 1

Arrive in El Calafate, Argentina

Take a red-eye flight to **Buenos Aires, Argentina (EZE)** and arrive early in the morning. Get on another flight to **El Calafate, Argentina**. *We took an Uber to the other airport (AEP) for this flight.*

Land in **El Calafate, Argentina** and get a taxi or take the VES Patagonia Shuttle to your hotel in the city center.

Check in to **Del Glaciador Libertador Hotel**.

Take a walk in the city center and get dinner at Isabel Cocina Al Disco.

DAY 2

El Calafate, Argentina

Have breakfast at your hotel, check out, and store your luggage there.

Walk to the bus terminal and take the 7:30am bus to **Perito Moreno Glacier**:

- Pay park entrance fee ahead of time online with card, in person with ARS cash, or use the **Los Glaciares National Park Flexipass**; download entry pass on your phone.
- Grab an espresso and a sandwich to-go at their snack bar.
- Walk the yellow trail (main overlooks) and to the furthest overlooks on the red and blue trails.
- Take the return bus at 2:30pm.

Get a quick dinner in El Calafate, grab your luggage, and head back to the bus terminal for the 6pm bus to **El Chaltén, Argentina**.

Walk to your airbnb tiny home in El Chaltén and check in for 4 nights.

DAY 3

El Chaltén, Argentina

Grab breakfast at La Esquina Chaltén.

Walk to Pachamama grocery store for food to make breakfast and lunches for the week (bring a grocery bag!).

Hike **Mirador Del Cerro Torre**: 4 miles, 750 ft elevation gain, ~3 hrs round trip, easy

- First part of Laguna Torre hike. Make sure it's not too cloudy or you can't see the glacier!
- Take the Monument to a Careless Trekker route to start the hike, and the Cascada Margarita route back down.

Rent hiking poles at Viente Oeste for the following day hike.

- *First come first serve at all gear shops in town. You must leave an ID as collateral (they will ask for passport but leaving a driver's license is fine).*

Have dinner at B. Fitz Resto.

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DAY 4

El Chaltén, Argentina

Make breakfast at your airbnb.

Get an early start (~6am) on the **Laguna de los Tres (Monte Fitz Roy)** trek:

- 14 miles, 3500 ft elevation gain, ~8-9 hrs round trip, very difficult
- Make sure this is your best weather day!
- Start early at the Avenida San Martin trailhead. Have your LGNP Flexipass ready to show.
- Once at the summit, climb the hill to the left of Fitz Roy (~5 min) for a view of **Laguna Sucia**.
- On the route back, take the detour to **Laguna Capri** (not on the way up as you'll miss the Fitz Roy views!)
- Pack: Layers, puffer, raincoat, trekking poles, gloves, hat, sunglasses, sunscreen, blister tape, packed lunch & snacks, water bottle, electrolytes, energy chews, toilet paper.

Return your hiking poles. Get dinner at El Viejo Negro and gelato at Domo Blanco.

DAY 5

El Chaltén, Argentina

Make breakfast at your airbnb.

Hike **Chorrillo del Salto**: 4 miles, 450 ft elevation gain, ~2 hrs round trip, easy

- Same trailhead as Laguna de los Tres, have LGNP Flexipass ready.

Lunch at La Lomiteria.

Walk to the **Reserva Natural Ribera de las Vueltas**

- Hike the Paredon Viewpoint Trail (5 miles, 1300 ft elevation gain, ~3-4 hrs round trip, moderate) or just relax by the river.

Dinner at Laborum Pizza and drinks at La Cerveceria Chaltén.

Day 6

Buenos Aires, Argentina

Make breakfast at your airbnb, check out, and head to the bus terminal.

Take the 8am bus back to **El Calafate**. Take a taxi or walk to the city center for lunch at Calafate Coffee Roasters.

Get another taxi to the airport for an afternoon flight back to **Buenos Aires**.

Get an uber to your hotel for the night in the **La Recoleta** area.

Have dinner at Chiquilin and walk around the El Ateneo Grand Splendid bookstore.

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Travel Day

Buenos Aires, Argentina and Travel Back Home

Have breakfast at your hotel, check out, and store your luggage there.

Do a self-guided walking tour of the **Recoleta** area:

- Uber to **Plaza Francia**: Basílica Nuestra Señora del Pilar, Cementerio de la Recoleta
- Cross **Avenida 9 de Julio** to **Plaza San Martín**: Torre Monumental
- Walk down **Calle Florida** to **Plaza de Mayo**: Casa Rosada, El Cabildo, Catedral Metropolitana, Buenos Aires Museo
- **San Telmo**: San Telmo Market, Plaza Dorrego
- **Teatro Colón** opera house & the **Obelisco**

Grab your luggage, take an uber to the airport (EZE), and head on your red-eye flight home!

Tips

Converter	Type I or C plugs (AUS or EU)
Apps	Download Alltrails, Google Maps, Google Translate, & copies of LGNP entry pass & reservations, Windguru website for most accurate weather
Customs	No Visa required for under 90 days, have proof of accommodation & return flight
Entry Fees	<u>Los Glaciares National Park fees</u> : <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Buy online with card or at ranger station in ARS cash or card- <u>LG NP flexi pass</u>: Includes Perito Moreno Glacier & El Chalten hikes<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Day pass = 45k ARS/person → 3 Day pass = 90k ARS → 7 Day pass = 157.5k ARS
Currency	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- <u>If exchanging there</u>: Blue dollar rate (crisp \$100 bills) typically 10-15% better rate at Western Union<ul style="list-style-type: none">→ We exchanged \$50 USD at a local shop to have for tips & bus terminal fees + brought small USD bills for restaurant tips & taxis- Most places will accept credit card but conversion rate may be higher, have some USD or ARS cash to spare (+ hotels & restaurants may give discount for paying cash)- ATMs are often out of cash & have high fees- <u>Tipping</u>: 5-10% at restaurants, can be in USD cash
Transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- <u>Flights</u>: Check AEP for domestic flights (more flight times, cheaper, in the city so account for transfer time)- <u>Buses</u>: Book on BusBud or Chalten Travel, can also book in person at station<ul style="list-style-type: none">- There is a \$2k ARS/person terminal use tax at bus terminals (paid inside) + guys loading luggage ask for \$2k ARS/bag tip- Sit on the driver side for the best views going to El Chalten- <u>Buenos Aires</u>: Uber or Cabify, public transit can be difficult- <u>El Calafate</u>: Just taxis, large enough city to need a car, book hotel near bus terminal;<ul style="list-style-type: none">- 20 min from city to airport- Taxi (20-30k) or VES Patagonia shuttle (12k/person cash)- <u>El Chaltén</u>: Some taxis, no need for a car, everything is walking distance

Other Things To Do

El Calafate	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Reserva Laguna Nimez, visit an estancia- <u>Perito Moreno Glacier</u>: Ice trek, kayak, or cruise around the glacier; Entrance fee 45k/person<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Options to get there: GetyourGuide tour (8 hrs, 10a-6pm); taxi (they'll stay to bring you back, 140k), public bus (42k pp), or rent a car for the day (60k)
El Chaltén	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Kayaking, horseback riding, via ferrata, paddle boarding- Mirador Los Cóndores & Mirador Águilas (combo hike 3.3 miles, 400 ft elev gain, 1-2 hrs RT, easy)- Laguna Torre (11 miles, 1600 ft elev gain, 5-8 hrs RT, easier alt to Fitz Roy) to Mirador Maestri- Lago del Desierto (10 miles, 6 hrs RT, need transfer to/from lake)- Loma del Pliegue Tumbado (11 miles, 3700 ft elevation gain, as hard as Fitz Roy)- Lomo del Diablo (2 miles, 2 hrs RT, short hike from Los Huemules Reserva, entry fee required)