

Patagonia & Antarctica Travel Notes 2005

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by Tom Dempsey, photographer

www.photoseek.com

February 1, 2005. **Caveat: South America travel information has changed quickly since 2005.**

Index: When to Go ~ **Sample Patagonia Itinerary** ~ Maps ~ Travel Agents ~ **Antarctica**

Argentina: Buenos Aires , Argentine Spanish , Parque Nacional Los Glaciares (El Calafate, Moreno Glacier, El Chalten, Mount Fitz Roy) , The Cave of Hands , **Tierra del Fuego** (Ushuaia)

Chile: Torres del Paine National Park

Right: As shown on this map, we flew from Seattle 7000 miles (through Dallas/Fort Worth, Texas) to Buenos Aires, taking 15 hours in the air. Argentina is +5 hours jet lag from Pacific Standard Time (on the West Coast, USA). [Flights are light-green, and ground transport is purple.]



When to go:

- **Late February through March has less wind & rain** than earlier in the summer, in Torres del Paine NP, Chile. **Katabatic winds**, or williwaws, rush off the Patagonia icecap at usually **60 mph** (up to 100 mph), the **worst winds in September to January**. The ozone hole is also worst **September to January**, especially September to mid-October.
- At the **beginning of March**, children go back to school and **crowds disappear!** Nice beech tree fall colors in mid March to April in Patagonia.
- Avoid overcrowded January to mid-February in Los Glaciares NP.
- **“High tourist season runs from December to the end of February**, and it's important to **book accommodation and other services in advance** during this period. November is a pleasant month to visit, although the winds that scour Patagonia are at their most unremitting. The period from **March to Easter can be one of the most rewarding** in which to travel: most tourist services are still open, but you'll avoid the crowds, while the Patagonian forests along the Andean spine assume their **autumnal colours** and the **winds are less incessant**. “ (Rough Guide web 2002)

Before you go:

- Don't bring fruit, vegetables, dairy, meat products into Chile.
- **Clean and waterproof your boots and all camping gear** at home before entering Chile or Argentina (for hoof & mouth disease prevention.) Also, clean your gear before returning to the USA, or you might lose your boots!
- **Bring: sleeping bag** for Refugios in Torres del Paine National Park. Gaiters for wet brush. Most commonly hike with full-length zipped wind/rain pants over shorts, frequently taking on and off clothing as weather changes.

What to expect (2005):

- **Meals:** **Breakfast:** *pancitos* (bread rolls), jam, coffee, tea. **Main meal:** between midday-4:00pm. Argentines traditionally eat a big steak (*asado*=barbequed beef, & lamb in Chile). **Evening meal** is very late, so if you try eating in restaurants at 6 or 7pm, you will have the place to yourself. **Estimated 2005 meal costs (outside of our prepaid packages):** Allow about US\$4 breakfast, \$6 lunch, \$9 dinner, taken from ATM in local currency, or bring more US\$ cash.
- **Lodging:** Many families open their houses to guests during the summer and offer quasi-guest house lodgings at very affordable rates (US\$10-40). Just walk around town for 10 minutes and look for the signs *hospedaje* or *residencial*. A *Hostal* or a *Hostaria* is usually more expensive (>US\$80). *Hotels* come in all rates.
- **Gear storage & Transport:** You can send inessential gear ahead by bus cheaply as *encomienda*, except across international borders. Claim at bus office or terminus a week or more later. (p.95LonelyPlanet-TPA).

Maps:

February 3 to March 11, 2005: from Seattle to
1. Buenos Aires. 2. Ushuaia. 3. Vernadsky Base (run by Ukraine), Antarctica. 4. Torres del Paine NP, CHILE. 5. Mount Fitz Roy, ARGENTINA.
Flights are light-green, ground transport is purple.



Patagonia Tour/Travel Agents, 2004

1. **Buena Vista Travel** (booked American Airlines from Seattle to BA; Aerolineas Argentinas from BA to Ushuaia & Calafate to BA) 1-888-304-1304 (206-768-1931), Jorge (George) Correa, owner. fax: 206-768-1962. 8514 14th Ave. S, Seattle, WA 98108. M-F 9-7, Sat 9-5. www.buenrav.com e-mail: buenrav@aol.com
2. **Path@gone S.A. (or Pathagone)** (booked LAN Chile flight from Ushuaia to Punta Arenas; & land package and refuges in Chile) (umbrella organization for **Andescape, Fantastico Sur, & Onas Patagonia**) Contact: **Leocadio Díaz Pacheco**, Agente de Viajes. Handles all Refuge bookings for Torres del Paine. Accepts VISA credit card. Eberhard 595, **Puerto Natales, Chile**
TEL: (56) 61 413291 Fax: (56) 61 413290
E-mail: pathgone@chileaustral.com
Web: chileaustral.com/pathgone www.pathagone.com
3. **Operatur Patagónica S.A.**, Southamerican Operations Office, Opsa SRL, located in "Tres de Feb" province/barrio of Buenos Aires, Argentina.
(booked: prepaid land package of transport & lodging in Argentina, from El Calafate to El Chalten) Contact: **Alvaro Vera Gallardo**, cell phone: 1550 424417, Tel: 54 11 4844 7856, Web: www.Operatur.com
E-mail: operatur@hotmail.com (also coordinates with Cristian Oyarzo of Fortaleza, Chile)
4. **GAdventures.com** (formerly GAP; booked "South of 66" Antarctic Peninsula trip code XSP, Feb 9-20) 355 Eglinton Ave East, Toronto, ON CANADA M4P 1M5. 1-800-465-5600.
Ushuaia tel: (02901) 424-755.

Tip of Patagonia: We flew 1500 miles from Buenos Aires to Ushuaia, Argentina, on Tierra del Fuego Island, where we cruised 12 days round trip through the Beagle Channel and across the rough 400-mile Drake Strait to explore the frozen Antarctic Peninsula. We flew a short hop from Ushuaia to working-class Punta Arenas, Chile, and took vans and buses in Patagonia to visit the nice tourist town of Puerto Natales and the astounding scenery of Torres del Paine National Park in Chile. We bused into Argentina to see bustling tourist town of El Calafate, spectacular Moreno Glacier, fun frontier village of El Chalten, and awesome Mount Fitz Roy. To return, we flew from El Calafate to Buenos Aires, to Seattle.



Flights are light-green, and ground transport is purple.

Argentina tips: Buenos Aires & Patagonia

- 1 Argentine Peso = 0.3280 US\$ Dollar 1/31/05
\$1 US Dollar (USD) = **2.803 Argentine Peso (ARS)** Money exchange: take crisp clean US dollars
- **International Politics:** Argentina was the first South American country to be named an 'ally' of the USA. Argentina competes with Brazil to represent Latin America as a permanent member of the UN Security Council.
- The Department of State says "avoid large gatherings" -- June 27, 2002 http://travel.state.gov/argentina_announce.html
 - Don't walk alone at night in Buenos Aires – it is safest to catch a radio taxi phoned from a hotel.
- No visa required if visit < 90 days
- Patagonia Airports: Ushuaia=USH, Rio Gallegos=RGL
- **0800-5550016 = toll-free nationwide tourist office**

Buenos Aires, Argentina

- Buenos Aires is a more interesting city than Santiago on the way to Patagonia. However, if you want to fly to Easter Island (Rapa Nui), go through Santiago.
 - **Internal Flight notes:** **El Calafate to: Buenos Aires (1–2 daily; 3hrs); to Río Gallegos (daily; 50min); to Ushuaia (1 daily; 2hr 30min).** Flying can rival bus in price & saves long ride.
 - Buenos Aires Telephone Area Code = 54-11
- Buenos Aires has two airports, served by cheap local buses & taxis:
1. **Ezeiza (EZE) = Aeropuerto Internacional Ministro Pistarni**, = most **international flights** as well as Uruguay's international traffic. **35km (22mi) and 1.5 hours south of downtown (in heavy traffic).**
 2. **Aeroparque = Aeroparque Jorge (AEP) = domestic & regional, only 8km (5mi) north of downtown**
- **Radio taxi = remise. Best for us to taxi to & from the Airport.** For reliability, only take taxis well-marked on all four sides as a "Radio Taxi". ["3 of us shared a taxi for 52pesos." Taxis are more expensive for single riders but cheap for 2+ riders; are reasonably priced for shorter cross-city journeys for singles. From EZE airport, a taxi takes 35/40 minutes to downtown, and shuttle service 50/60 minutes.]
 - **Deluxe buses** go to both airports considerably more costly than local buses, but often include hotel drop-offs. "Shuttle bus service to town = 19 pesos... so **for 2 or more riders, take a taxi.**"
 - Most tourist magnets around Buenos Aires are either within walking distance from one another or within short distance of public transport.
 - **Tourist Police:** Policia Federal Argentina, Moreno 1417, Piso 9, Capital Federal, Buenos Aires, Telephone 4346-5770. (Nat. Tourism=**0800-5550016**)

Barrios of Buenos Aires

Although Gran Buenos Aires has swollen to **13 million people**, most tourists stick to the **Capital Federal, which is home to 3 million porteños** (as city locals call themselves) and is divided into **48 barrios (neighborhoods)**. Once you get your head around the barrios and sub-neighborhoods that complicate the city's layout, Buenos Aires becomes easier to navigate:

The **Microcentro, or downtown precinct, provides access to the most interesting barrios** and entertainment areas along the **Avenidas of Corrientes, Córdoba and Santa Fe**, and the **pedestrian-only streets of Florida and Lavalle**. The **Avenida 9 de Julio** is an unmistakable point of reference; its 16 lanes of traffic run **from San Telmo in the south to Retiro up north**, with a sky-piercing **white obelisk at its center**. The dockside barrio of **Puerto Madero** runs north-south along the Río de la Plata and is very **pedestrian friendly**. At the eastern end of **Avenida de Mayo**, one of Microcentro's main east-west boulevards, the Plaza de Mayo attracts a bountiful blend of tourists, students and political activists and is surrounded by many important buildings, including the famous **Presidential Palace (Casa Rosada)**. South of Microcentro are the **faded architecture and cobbled streets of colonial San Telmo**, home and birthplace of the sultry **tango**, and **La Boca, the tough port barrio and colorful working class heart of Buenos Aires** (be careful at night). "**Once**" is a bargain outlet barrio where street children hustle for cash. Uptown is the ritzy barrio of **Recoleta**, while the trendy tree-lined **Palermo** has parks aplenty and Buenos Aires' hottest bars and **ethnic eats**. **Palermo Viejo** is fashionable & upscale.

San Telmo barrio, in Buenos Aires

- a bohemian artist's quarter in the **Microcentro** that is Buenos Aires's prime store of cultural riches.
- **Plaza Dorrego: Sunday 10am-5pm** amazing antiques market, **Feria** (fair) **de San Telmo**, buzzes with excitable vendors, street performers & tango dancers.
- **Museo Histórico Nacional** (nearby) details the whole Argentine experience in paint and portrays the country's key independence and republican figures.
- **Museo Penitenciario Nacional**, originally a Jesuit convent and later a women's prison
- **Museo de Arte Moderno**, housed in a recycled tobacco warehouse.
- **La Boca:** (refers to "the mouth" of the Platte River)
 - **Birthplace of the tango**, by immigrants frequenting 1880's brothels
 - Now a working class Italian & bohemian artist district
 - Home of **Diego Maradona** (famous for 1986 World Cup Soccer "Hand of God" goal vs England).
 - **"Important tips about visiting La Boca:**
 1. *Leave La Boca no later than 6 PM (only go during day time)*
 2. *Don't venture away from the main street very far.*
 3. *Watch for pickpockets.*
 4. *Take a radio taxi there and back.*
 5. *Avoid days when there is a big soccer match, as the soccer stadium is in La Boca and sometimes fans get out of hand."*

Buenos Aires Lodging

- **El Bataclan - Design B&B**, in San Telmo, Address: **Defensa 1595, "5"** Tel: (54-11) 4307-2288 Mobile: (54-11) 4449-7007 www.stayinbuenosaires.com.ar/bataclan/web
E-mail: elbataclan@stayinbuenosaires.com.ar
Standard room = **US\$40 dbl, Ensuite bath**. (Superior **\$50**, Suite \$60 dbl, jacuzzi, AC) taxes included.
Breakfast at Bar Britanico, **Free Internet Access**, can arrange taxi, 24 Hour Reception, Terrace, **Gym**, **Kitchen facilities**, Living room with hearth, speak Spanish, English, French, Dutch, Portuguese. *Exclusive BB located at the oldest street of Buenos Aires, a few steps away from the Milonga Torcuato Tasso, and has a view on the majestic Parque Lezama where the City was founded. It's quiet and luminous bedrooms at the core of the bohemia "porteña" will make your stay a dream come true. Rates include breakfast in one of the most traditional Bars of San Telmo.* **Location:** In front of Parque Lezama & National Historic Museum, 500 meters away from Plaza Dorrego, 50 meters away from Bar Británico, 20 meters away from the Milonga Torcuato Tasso, 5 minutes away from the Milonga Susheta, 10 minutes away from the Milongas Niño Bien, Lo de Celia Tango, La Ideal, Club Español, 15 minutes away from the Milongas El Beso, Porteño y Bailarín, El Arranque. Airport 20 min domestic & 40 minutes Ezeiza International
- **EL GAUCHO House Hotel** (Argentina , Buenos Aires, San Telmo) Double Ensuite room USD\$40. One of the First Bed and Breakfasts in Buenos Aires, now completely renovated, warm, exclusive, ideal for longer stays; natural delight of a 100 year old house, charm. full breakfast in your room, at any of the living rooms, or with other guests in breakfast room. Privacy and comfort close to an interesting business, cultural and nightlife district. built towards end of 19th century. original walls intact, offers best contemporary hotel services. details & refinement of traditional private house, exquisite interior design. Single Ensuite 12, Double Ensuite 12 etc Contact us: gaucho@accommodationbsas.com.ar www.accommodationbsas.com.ar/bed_Gaucho.htm
- **El Sol de San Telmo** - double private bath US\$35 Complimentary Breakfast. Non-Smoking Rooms Available. www.stayinbuenosaires.com.ar French-Italian house features a rooftop garden for dining under the stars Telephone: 11-4361-6817 Reservations: 800-695-8284 Rooms: 14 Suites: 5 Floors: 2 In Rooms: Cable TV. Kitchen. Balconies. Interior Room Entrance. Exterior Room Entrance. English, Spanish.
- The **Hotel Avenida** on Avenida de Mayo (very close to Plaza de Mayo) is really nice, cheap and comfortable. --LP thorn tree
- **Hotel Marbella** 60 pesos for a double, on Avenida de Mayo, friendly staff, very clean. --LP thorn tree
- www.Hotels.com prices are \$45-80 dbl

Restaurants - from Gourmet Magazine 1/05

- **Café Tortoni** = huge dark wood-panelled salon, stained glass ceilings, great atmosphere for coffee break
- **Roma** = chain of no-frills pizza places; porcelain plates

In Palermo "Hollywood": various upscale restaurants.

In Palermo Soho, Plaza Viejo:

- **Bar 6** (Armenia 1676) sophisticated fare
- **Lomo** (Costa Rica 4661) wild boar roasted 6 hours

- **La Cupertina** (Cabrero 5300) ethereal empanada with Swiss chard; stews
- **Bris** = homemade ice cream with seasonal flavors

Regional Cuisines:

- **La Peña del Colorado** (Güemes 3675; 4822-1038) in Palermo; good *empanadas*, *humitas*
- **Sucre** (Sucre 676; 4782-9082) in spiffy residential Bajo Belgrano (farther off tourist map)
- **Sifones & Dragones** (Cuidad de la Paz 174) Asian gem (farther off tourist map)

Parrillas (Steak Houses), cheap family run:

- **El Obrevo Restaurant** = local beef shrine of Boca Juniors, Argentina's mightiest soccer/football club. Monster grill on back wall, \$8pp complete meal: meat, seafood, salad, drinks, dessert.
- **Desnivel** (Defensa 855; 4300-9081) on San Telmo main block
- **El Obrero** (Agustín R. Caffarena 64; 4362-9912), in La Boca
- **Parrilla La Brigada** (Peña 2475; 4800-1110) midscale\$ restaurant; try the kid sweetbread

Parrillas (Steak Houses), slick upscale:

- **Cabaña Las Lilas** (Alicia Moreau de Justo; 4313-1336) in Puerto Madero docklands
- **La Cabaña** (Rodríguez Peña 1967; 4814-001)

Buenos Aires things to do

Mainstream Tourist Sites:

- **Recoleta Cemetery** = contains Eva Perón's grave
- **Teatro Colón** = famous opera house, fading exterior
- **Obelisco** = small white needle landmark on Avenida 9 de Julio

"Jewels" to see, from *Gourmet Mag* 1/05:

- **early morning street markets**
- **mid-afternoon cafes**
- **milongas** = "nobody goes to talk, but instead to find the perfect dance partner" (see further below)
- **El Ateneo** = "most exquisite bookstore in the Southern Hemisphere"; in restored Belle Epoque theatre.
- **Feria de Mataderos** (Lisandro de la Torre & Avenida de los Corrales; Saturday 6pm-1am) celebrates **Argentina's gaucho traditions in this heritage fair**. The **chamamé** = lopsided tango from the Corrientes province. Arturo Minetti, master of homemade preserves, has stall in front of Museo de los Corrales.

Buenos Aires Tango Shows

- *Gourmet Magazine* says: "Unless you like your tango paraded about with razzle-dazzle pomp, **avoid the shows**, except *Club del Vino in Palermo Viejo*":
- **Club de Vino (Cabrera 4737) in Palermo Viejo** = "intimate theatre feels like jazz club"
 - *www.expatsvillage.com* says this about **Tango Shows**: "Watch the best tango dancers in Buenos Aires perform tango in its essence, or listen to great tango orchestras playing classics or modern tango songs. Prices vary depending on how touristic, but never expect to pay more than **<\$50 per person**. You can book a show without dinner, enjoy the spectacle & pay cheaper price."
- **Plaza Dorrego**, in **San Telmo** every **Sunday 10am-5pm**, **tango shows on the street**, restaurants, fair of local arts/crafts/antique objects (priced higher for tourist crowds).
- **Caminito** in **La Boca**, midweek until 17:00, another nice place for tourists but smaller & "not so authentic as Plaza Dorrego".)
- **Señor Tango**, downtown, popular, razzle dazzle
 - Address: **Vieytes 1655. 4303-0231/34**, in barrio of Barracas Shows every day at 10:15PM. Show and 2 drinks - US\$40. Dinner and show - US\$55 (or \$100 in VIP row.) "I would not miss this! Dinner, show, all drinks, transport to & from your hotel included, a great deal." "Located in an expensively converted warehouse, slightly further afield than San Telmo in unjustly neglected **barrio of Barracas**. Dancing & music are of very high quality, but **high-tech glamor & expensive production** may not suit all tastes."

→ **El Viejo Almacen.** (Address: Independencia and Balcarce. 4307-7388/6689) completely different, popular show, in one of the oldest buildings in Buenos Aires, "said to be best tango show in the world" (disputed). One of the oldest and most traditional tango bars in town. Although the crowd is predominantly touristy, the colonial building and charming, old-style atmosphere help to **create the feeling of a small, authentic tango club**. The **show is definitely superior to the simple food**. Visit their English/Spanish website at www.viejo-almacen.com.ar for info and on-line reservations. (web 7/2004):

Show every day. Dinner 8 PM Show 10-11:30 PM

- US\$37/105 pesos(per person) Show two drinks included. US\$50/150 pesos(per person) Shown and Dinner, assorted menu. Free parking and free transportation.
- El Viejo Almacén - Veiba Producciones
- Comercial Address, Av. Independencia y Balcarce (1064)
- Bs. As. - Argentina
phones (5411)4307-6689/6919/7388-4300/3388

→ **Bar Sur.** (Address: Estados Unidos 299. 4362-6086)

- Shows every day from 9PM - 4AM. The shows are continuous, and you can reserve for any time.
- Cost: Show and free pizza - \$15.

→ **Bar Mitos Argentinos.** (Address: Umberto 1 489. 4362-7810/4441-6136) Shows every Sunday at 1PM.

- Cost: Show is free, but you'll be expected to order lunch.

→ **Casablanca.** (Address: Balcarce 668. 4331-4621/4343-5002/4334-5010) Shows (tango and other traditional Argentine music and dance) on weekdays at 10PM, Saturdays at 8:30 and 10:30PM. Show and free drinks - \$40.

Buenos Aires Milongas & Tango Dance Halls, salones bailables from www.expatvillage.com

"If you've already got some experience with tango, or you'd like a bit **more local color than the tourist shows**, check out the **salones bailables** (dance halls), dance if you want to, or just sit back and enjoy the spectacle - everything from teenage couples keeping the tango flame alive while their friends watch Ricky Martin on MTV, to old die-hards for whom the flame has never even flickered (even if their ideas of how to dress up for a night out stopped evolving in 1975). You don't need to feel intimidated by any of this, since it's perfectly OK to stay on the sidelines and watch what's going on. You'll be more than welcome to try a few steps, and there's no shame in making mistakes as you learn. Lots of expats have started by going to places like these, and ended up totally addicted to the tango. Others never dance a step in their lives, yet still have a great time taking in the atmosphere and the music.

"Often three parts to a tango evening, choose any or all: **a class, a practica** (work on specific steps), and a **milonga, which is the social dancing phase**. If you're sitting at a table, you may be invited to dance, but no-one is obliged to join in before they feel ready and/or willing.

"Tip: You can find an exhaustive list of dance halls in the free magazine 'Buenos Aires Tango' (in Spanish, published bi-weekly), which is available at most of the places listed above, or at www.abctango.com.ar "

Recommended milongas (some with shows)

"Less-intimidating" milongas:

→ **Confiteria Ideal.** (Address: Suipacha 384; Piso 1. 5265-8069) **Matinees**; & Saturdays from 10PM. A **beautiful old cafe** with a faded elegance and the genuine flavor of old Buenos Aires. "Known for laid-back **matinee milongas**" - *Gourmet Mag.* **Shows also offered** - call to check.

→ **La Catedral.** (Address: Sarmiento 4006. 4302-8682)

- Tuesday & Friday nights. A slightly more avant-garde approach to the tango, with a younger crowd and gothic furnishings. All in all, a very 'underground' experience. "Least intimidating, down & dirty; young, trendy crowd - *Gourmet Mag.*"

→ **La Estrella/La Viruta.** (Address: Armenia 1366. 4307-5537/4823-3730/4823-4105) Fridays and Saturdays. A great introduction to the world of tango. An incredible mix of ages and types, and some rock & roll and samba dancing thrown in for variety.

→ **Lo de Roberto** (Calle Bulnes, off of Plaza Almagro) Thurs & Sat, "For a more sedentary, beatnik take on the dance, squeeze into this smoky place; unplugged music courtesy of two old men and acoustic guitar" - *Gourmet Mag.*

→ **Porteño y Bailarin.** A popular Tuesday night milonga in San Nicolás. - *Gourmet Mag 1/05*

→ **at a park Gazebo in Belgrano:** "**Sundays 5pm-10pm:** Another good local spot to see locals doing their tango thing; lessons for \$5 pesos. Getting there: easiest to take a metre train from Ritiro station & get off at

Belgrano station. Cross the tracks outside the station (Av. Juramento) & veer left into the park, which is only 3 small city blocks. Go to the middle, where you'll find the gazebo." -- *Naida Hindert, USA (Jun 02)*" LP Postcards

Milongas for serious tangueros: - from *Gourmet Mag* 1/05

- **Salon Canning** (Scalabrini Ortiz 1331; 4832-6753; every day except Monday)
- **La Viruta Tango** (Armenia 1366; 4774-6357, Wednesday to Sunday)
- **Sunderland Club** (Lugones 3161; 4541-9776; Saturday)

Argentine Spanish

Argentine = an Italian who speaks Spanish, acts French, wishes he were English, and refers to other South Americans as "*Latinos*." (joke)

Porteños = native Buenos Aires residents

tanguera = female tango dance partner

remise = Radio Taxi

Parillas = steak houses

parrillero = barbeque cook

churrasco = thick beef steak

choripán = grilled **chorizo** (don't call them hot dogs) rolls

asado de tira = rib strips

asado = an "Argie barbie"; barbecue

centolla = **southern king crab**, must try it, in south tip

chupe de mariscos = **delicious thick shellfish soup** (Chile)

locro = thick soup of maize, white beans, meat, pumpkin, herbs

congrío = conger eel (Chile)

cazuela de ave = **stew** of chicken, potatoes, rice (Chile)

picante = hot spicy (luckily low spice in Argentine cooking)

empanadas = turnover: raisins, olives, meat, onions, peppers/cheese

chirimoya = custard-apple fruit (Chile)

alcayota = fruit looks like melon, tastes like squash (Chile)

nalca = rhubarb-like plant found wild in Lake District (Chile)

chochuyoyu = seaweed (Chiloé Island, Chile)

facturas = pastries

medialunas = an Argentine croissant ("half moon")

leche cultivada = yoghurt-like

dulce de leche (**manjar** in Chile) = sweet caramelized milk, like liquid toffee/fudge

dulce de batata = sweet potato preserve

dulce de zapallo = pumpkin in syrup

dulce demembrillo = quince jelly, eaten with cheese

Parque Nacional Los Glaciares (PNLG), Argentina

- This is a spectacular world-class park with beautiful wilderness and easy access.
 - Rent car or book tour to see Perito Moreno Glacier
 - Do several day hikes beneath Cerro Fitz Roy & Cerro Torre
- **Parque Nacional Los Glaciares** is Argentina's largest park.
- The **Southern Ice Caps (Campo de Hielo Patagónico Sur)** are the **second biggest ice mass after Antarctica!**
- **PN Los Glaciares** and Torres del Paine “are sister parks, characterized by majestic spires of **granite-like diorite**, formed when the softer layers of rock that had covered these **igneous intrusions** eroded over the subsequent **eighteen million years** (twelve million in the case of Torres del Paine) to reveal their polished bones.”
- **Austral parakeet (*cachaña*)**, the “most southerly of the world's parrots”. Majestic black and red **Magellanic woodpecker (*carpintero patagónico*)**. **Notro bush, has flaming red blooms** in November and **March**.

El Calafate: www.losglacieres.com

- **Perito Moreno Glacier:** “one of South America’s most astonishing sights,” 5k across, rising 55m above lake. 2004 was last ice dam break & flood. Take \$25 tour + \$5 park entry, **85K from El Calafate**. Or \$10 ride with InterLagos. Best experience is to camp there. **Best views are to the left, above the lowest viewing gallery. “The best way to photograph the glacier is to drive in yourself and use morning or evening light from the boardwalks.”** “Most people sensibly take a tour 8:30-5 (about US\$25) which many accommodations offer at half a day's notice. 2 hrs to glacier”
- Wildlife Reserve of Nimes Lagoon, possible to trek and see flamencos, silver macaes, & black neck swans
- hikes by lesser-known glaciers such as Upsala & Spegazzini
- **Fly from El Calafate “Lago Argentino Airport” FTE (20K east of Calafate) to Buenos Aires** at end of trip. Aerolineas Argentinas, Southern Winds. US\$18 airport tax + \$6 transfer on Aerobus [Bradt 2001]
- **Bus to Calafate:** From **Puerto Natales** can take commercial minibus or cheaper public bus (few on weekends) to **Rio Turbio**, Argentina, then 0800 bus to **Calafate**.

El Calafate Lodging:

- **Hostal del Glaciar:** good reviews. Their 'alternative glacier tours' got rave reviews; Tour Alternativo al Gl. Moreno=76pesos. Private rooms available. Hostelling International. www.glaciar.com (Spanish only)
- **Hospedaje Buenos Aires** (Ciudad De Buenos Aires, 296), which was excellent value (2001: US\$25 for a double room without breakfast).
- **Rick's restaurant** (2001) which is situated on the main street in El Calafate. For US\$11 you can eat as much meat, including incredible steaks the likes of which I have never seen, tender barbequed Patagonian mutton, chicken, sausages, salad, fries and bread until your explode - and then, and only then, do they bring out the deserts. Wine was extremely reasonably priced as well. One of the best places to eat in Patagonia.
- Opposite **Rick's** is a small anonymous looking empanada shop (**empanadas** are small parcels of pastry stuffed with everything from eggs to meat to fish and form the staple diet of most Patagonian backpackers) that produces the world's best empanadas

El Chalten / Mount Fitz Roy, in Parque Nacional Los Glaciares

- **Mount Fitz Roy is one of the most amazing and scenic areas in the world (easily rivaling Torres del Paine NP, Chile), with fantastic day hikes and great multi-night treks.** El Chalten means "God of Smoke".
- High season January to February - highly recommended to make lodging reservations in advance. - www.elchalten.com/i.html
- **El Chalten** (which has no internet or ATM) is 4 hours from **El Calafate** (larger town, supermarket has cheaper food).
- The **bus El Calafate to El Chalten takes up to 5 hours** each way due to bad road conditions. (8am depart FTE; 2pm depart Chalten Cal-Tur & ChalténTravel)
- If car rental from El Calafate: road is not paved, drive carefully & slowly with lights on.
- **Complejo Kalenshen**, Lionel Terray s/n, El Chaltén (9301), Provincia de Santa Cruz, Patagonia Argentina, Teléfono: (02962) 493108, Desde el exterior: 0054 2962 493108, E-mail: kalenshen@yahoo.com.ar, Sitio Web: www.elchalten.com/kalenshen
- The northernmost section of **Parque Nacional Los Glaciares**, the Fitz Roy sector, contains **some of the most breathtakingly beautiful mountain peaks on the planet:**
 - **Monte Fitz Roy** = 3445-metres.
 - **Cerro Torre** = forbidding needle, 3128m.

Hiking Recommendations for the Fitz Roy Range (from Tom Dempsey, tom@photoseek.com):

- **Laguna de los Tres** (15 miles, 3200 feet round trip) = one of our favorite hikes of the trip, and one of the most spectacular glacial cirques in the world. Be sure and ascend the 300-foot hill above Laguna de los Tres (Lake of the Three) for the best view, which then includes glacial-turquoise Lago Sucia (Dirty Lake) far below. Options: backpack or horsepack to the campground in this area for 2 or 3 nights so you get more time to explore and absorb the awesome beauty.
- **Loma del Pliegue Tumbada** (12 miles 3000 feet round trip, plus 3 miles further & 1000 feet higher if you go to the top of the third hill with the best view) = The views are so impressive that we hiked most of this trail twice to experience better weather. At several places along this trail, you can see both Cerro Torre and Fitz Roy in the same panorama. Start this spectacular hike at the Los Glaciares National Park Visitor Center, located as you enter the main road south end of town before crossing the river bridge. As we started the hike, I photographed the above striking sunrise views of the Fitz Roy Range on the main road just a few hundred yards east of the Visitor Center.
- **Torre Lake** (6 hours round trip) = I hiked halfway to this lake, which has an excellent close view of Cerro Torre. I had good views of lenticular wave clouds over Fitz Roy, but Cerro Torre was obscured by clouds and the 50mph winds at the pass helped turn me back.
- **Rio Electrico to Cerro Electrico** = Spectacular views from the northern side of the Fitz Roy Range looking south. You can hire pack animals to support a tenting trip here, or possibly overnight at private Refugio Los Troncos. The day hike is very steep to Cerro Electrico, but you don't have to go all the way. We didn't have a chance to hike this trail, and I would love to go there on a return trip.
- **Recommended Map:** "Patagonian South Icefield Trekking-Mountaineering: Monte Fitz Roy + Cerro Torre 1:50,000"

El Chalten Hikes (from Bradt 2001):

- 65 minutes Chalten to Laguna Capri Camp, superb views
- 40 minutes Poincenot Camp
- Sidetrip 60 minutes to **Laguna de los Tres** (1200m elev), **view is "perhaps even better than at Torres del Paine."** Scramble Cerro Madson to right.
- 3-4 hours? to Refugio Los Troncos, \$5/day camping, hot showers, \$12 dinner, \$6 breakfast.
- Sidetrip to foot of Aguja Guillaumet (2579m), onto foot of Glaciar del Cuadrado, to Paso del Cuadrado (1700m elev.) **"for the most fantastic views of Fitz Roy & Pollone."**
- Camping at sheltered beach at far end of Lago Electrico. **Stunning views** on the way. Carry sandals & trekking poles for river crossing.
- On rainy day, visit "estancia" local farm

El Chalten Day Hike descriptions:

*** Torre Lake, Padre de Agostini camp

Difficulty: Easy

Time: 9 miles / 6 hours RT from El Chaltén

This hike goes along Fitz Roy river valley up to where it begins, Torre Lake, always within the boundaries of the National Park. There are two trails from the village, one at the bottom of the valley and the other to the north of the village, that become one after half an hour walk. During this hike, there are many panoramic points that give good views of Mt. Solo, the Adela chain and the most impressive Mt. Torre.

As you walk, the glaciers Torre and Grande get into view. Just before arriving at the lake, in the middle of the woods, you arrive at the Padre De Agostini camp site (free camping, no services).

From there, after 500 mts. walking along the river, you reach Torre Lake and its great view: Torre glacier and the front side of Grande glacier, Adela chain, Mt. Torre and Mocho, Mt. Egger, and Standhardt, Bífida and 4 dedos Peaks.

Camp De Agostini is one of the most crowded, and it is as well base camp for the mountains in this area climbing expeditions. If you're going to stay for the night, remember it is not allowed to light fires. You must carry a gas heater for cooking.

Related hike:

- Madre & Hija Lagoons - Camp Poincenot

Go back towards the village, after an hour distance you will find a detour to the left. Always going North, after going up a little, you will find little Hija Lagoon. The path goes along the shores of this lagoon and after visiting the Madre lagoon, you can continue along the trail that comes from El Chalten towards Camp Poincenot, making a 90° turn to the left. This tour takes a little less than 3 hours.

- Great dawn view from top of **Loma del Peque Umbado**

*** Laguna de los Tres

Laguna Sucia

Difficulty: Medium

Time: 15 miles / 11 hours RT

2 hours one way from camp Poincenot

Go from El Chaltén to camp Poincenot (4 hours), then cross Blanco river. Go 400 meters up to laguna de los Tres. The path ends on the older edge of the glacier moraine, with a wonderful view of the lagoon and glacier. This is the **closest view of the granite wall of Mt. Fitz Roy** and the **peaks nearby**. You can continue walking along the lake's shore and look at the emerald green waters of **laguna Sucia** and its hanging glaciers.

The alternative for those who want extreme experiences, is to spend the night at **Poincenot** camping site and **start climbing very early, a couple of hours before dawn**. If there are no clouds, **the first minutes of the sunrise** will leave an unforgettable memory; the mountains shine with a **magical red color**: one of the most beautiful natural spectacles you can watch.

** Capri Lagoon

Difficulty: Easy

Time: 2 hours (one way) from El Chaltén to the lagoon.

The same trail that goes to Poincenot Camp, a few minutes after the rocky panoramic point, there is a detour towards the camping and the lagoon. From this lagoon, you will have a unique view of Mt. Fitz Roy and the surrounding peaks. Just before you reach the lake, you will find the camping site: if you're planning to stay, read carefully the recommendations.

Related hikes:

- **Poincenot Camp**

Go back to the main trail and take it to the West to Poincenot Camp, about 2 hours far.

- **Madre – Hija Lagoons - Torre Lake**

Go back to the main trail and take it to the West until you find a new detour sign to the right, just before crossing the creek to Poincenot Camp. The trail goes to the south, by the Madre and Hija lagoons, on a path that crosses a valley covered with "mallines". After going down for a while, you will find the path that goes from El Chaltén to Torre Lake, along the Fitz Roy river, making a 90° turn to the right. This tour takes 3 hours.

** Lago del Desierto (Lake of the Desert)

Distance: 37 Km from El Chaltén

Gravelly road: drive safely

Can go here by bus daily from El Chaltén, or even by **taxi**. Highly recommended to drive this gravelly road in a truck, because it's not always in good condition; ask condition in **Vialidad Provincial**.

Go north on highway 23, following the winding **Rio de las Vueltas** on the right, most of the time seeing the **north-east face of Mt. Fitz Roy** to the left (****worth sunrise photo trip 30 minutes drive from Chalten, reflections in Lake of the Desert**), to **Lago del Desierto**, a beautiful lake surrounded by woods and mountains. Enjoyable all the way, through woods and brooks, by big lagoons & small waterfalls. Private camping site few meters before you reach the lake. The north-south lake lies between the **Vespignani** chain to the West and the **Del Bosque** chain to the East. Many **hikes**, or relax surrounded by a **landscape of unique beauty**. Sport fishing with permit in the river and lake.

**** HIKE: 2.5 miles RT from south end of lake**, hike west up the left/north side of a stream to moraine ridge with **fantastic views of northeast face of FitzRoy**. *Bradt '01*

• **Horse transport to Peidra del Fraile:**

\$75 for person or load from **Hostería EL Pilar (15k from El Chalten) to Piedra del Fraile**, contact **Cabalgatas Gauchito**, Av. San Martín s/n, El Chaltén - Provincia de Santa Cruz, Argentina

Tel : 02962 493046 Desde el exterior: ++54 2962 493046

E-mail: gauchito_cabalgatas@hotmail.com

<http://elchalten.com/gauchito>

A 2002 book reported \$15 per person for a local horse.

Cave of Hands (Cueva de las Manos), Eaves of Charcamata, and Cueva Grande (Big Cave) or Altamirano, Argentina

- 2500-9000 years old polychrome **rock art**, covering hundreds of yards of rocky recesses. This is an interesting UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- **From El Chalten, the Cave of Hands can be a side trip of two days (but to make the distance travelled worthwhile, you would probably want to combine it with interesting nearby national parks).**
- **Getting there from the south:** 44k NE from city of Bajo Caracoles.
- **Getting there from the north:** fly from Buenos Aires to Comodoro Rivadavia, then by bus or plane to the *city* of **Perito Moreno**, then bus (10 \$) to the Cave. Go south on Route 40 for 57 km, left at sign for Estancia Los Toldos. 7 kilometers after Estancia (Farm), go up a hill and skirt a salt lake. 12 km after the lake is a valley carved by Ríver Pinturas, on other side is cave entrance.

The Island of Tierra del Fuego **(is split between Argentina & Chile)**

- Name origin: In **1520 Ferdinand Magellan** saw smoke from fires lit by Native Americans to warn each other of his presence; **his patron Charles V of Spain** renamed island to "**Land of Fire**" (***Tierra del Fuego***).
- Main industries: tourism & sheep farming
- www.tierradelfuego.org.ar
- **Trekking: Sierra Valdivieso Circuit:** 4 days, 51K (31 miles), hard, pass-hopping through rugged, open, trackless wilderness. No huts, must have good tent. Much waterlogged ground, minor bushwhacking, wade of Río Carbajal is easy only if no rain. Best December-March.

Ushuaia, Argentina: (means "inner harbor to the west")

- This is a surprisingly enjoyable tourist and ski town on the edge of total wilderness. Don't miss the king crab (centolla) pizza.
- **Airlines = L3 Kaiken Lineas Aereas, DAP** almost daily to **Punta Arenas, Chile**=US\$80 one way; **LADE** once a week =\$55. To **Calafate (FTE)**=US\$95 one way. [2001] Flying here is easiest & sometimes cheapest (bus+ferry is too complicated). US\$94pp BA (AEP) to Ushuaia (USH). US\$13 departure tax.
- **Food: Supermarket Kelly, or La Anonima**
- Antarctica cruises leave from downtown pier, directly across from the Hotel Albatross. Catch discount trip on the dock. **Marine Expeditions** (Toronto company) charters most of the ships.
- **See: Museo del Fin del Mundo (Museum of the End of the World).** Hours: 10-13:00, 15-19:30.
- Pleasant day trips to **Tierra Del Fuego National Park** (6 miles to west) [but if you have limited time, your time would be better spend at El Chalten, Argentina, or Torres Del Paine NP, Chile]

Ushuaia Lodging:

*From December to February, you are strongly advised to **book accommodation in advance**, even for hostels. Many hotels charge a **ten percent surcharge on credit cards** and travellers' cheques.*

- Stay in reasonably priced private rooms booked through **Direccion de Turismo**, M-F 8-22:00, Sat-Sun 9-20:00. Free info line: 0800-333-1476. San Martin 660 tierradelfuego.org.ar/ushuaia
- **La Casa de Familia Silvia Casalaga**, Gob. Paz 1380 (tel 02901/423202). A highly recommended, spotlessly clean B&B with fantastic views, and worth reserving in advance. Rooms have shared bathrooms. Closed May-Aug. \$30-45 (Rough Guides)
- **Hostal Malvinas**, Gob. Deloqui 615 (tel & fax 02901/422626). A reliable option and well located. Beds have well-sprung mattresses; triple rooms are quite cramped. \$60-80. (Rough Guides)
- **Hostal Kaisken**, Gob. Paz 7 (tel 02901/436756). A cheery, quiet hostel with rooms with shared bathroom for two to four people. Its owners are welcoming and helpful; and you can use the Internet (\$6 per hr) and kitchen. Serves good breakfasts (\$3). \$20 or less. (RG)
- **La Posada Hotel**, San Martín 1299 (tel & fax 02901/433330 or 433222). One of the best-value midrange hotels, with bright rooms for two to four people, and panoramic views from the second floor. There's a ten percent surcharge on credit cards. \$60-80. (RG)
- **Residencial Linares**, Gob. Deloqui 1522 (tel 02901/423594). An excellent B&B, in a cosy, split-level house with sterling views of the Beagle Channel. You can use the living-room after 4pm. \$30-45. (RG)
- **Violeta de la Montaña Guest House**, Belgrano 236 (tel 02901/421884). Peaceful, clean and very welcoming hostel accommodation in a family home. One quadruple has a private bathroom. You can use the excellent, roomy kitchen, luggage store, and laundry facilities. \$10 per person. (RG)

Antarctica

Bring on Antarctica cruise:

- **GLOVES** Zodiac rides & onshore are often wet (rain, snow, sea-spray). Good quality ski gloves got soaked after a few hours. Thick ski gloves are a pain using camera and zips. **Tie pull strings to zips.** Bring second pair, plus inners, in a zip-lock bag in daypack. I eventually stuck with **thin rubber washing-up gloves over thick woolen inner gloves to keep hands dry and sensitivity to operate camera.** Hands still slightly cold after a couple of hours in windy, wet weather, but not painfully so. Sweaty hands not a problem. Keep rubber gloves loose over inners to preserve that layer of insulating air.
- "**Ski goggles** very handy on wet windy days ashore, except with camera. The goggles not only protect your eyes, but also give good protection to the face as well."
- "**calf-high waterproof boots**, take them if you can"; check what operator provides

6,000-15,000 visitors have traveled to the Antarctic each season through the 1990s.

1961 Antarctic Treaty: *Covers all land 60 degrees south, & invokes many environmental protections. Members represent 80% of world's population; open to any UN member state, who can become a voting member if they do research there. Protocol on Environmental Protection signed 1991, effective 1998, prohibits mining for 50 years.*

Environmental impact of scientific bases & tourists: *Some people may criticize tourism as being harmful to the Antarctic environment, but the **impact by tourists is very minimal compared to scientific activities in Antarctica.** Tourists outnumber scientists, but accounted for about 0.5% of all person-days (defined as a person spending 24 hours on the continent or a sub-Antarctic island) logged in Antarctica during the 1995-96 season. Ship-based tourists leave behind almost no trace of their stay. The biggest environmental impacts occur by people living at scientific bases (eating, sleeping, working, driving, flying, creating waste), and from fuel spills from ships of all kinds (navy, science, & tourist)). Compared to cruise ships, scientific bases require much larger and more frequent supply runs by ship and air. But of course, the Antarctic scientific research is very important to help the world gain the knowledge of what we're trying to appreciate and preserve. (Tourists also need to know that their groups can easily overwhelm and interrupt the work of small scientific research stations.) Both science and tourism can work to help preserve Antarctica from adverse development.*

Cruise companies:

1. **GAdventures.com** (formerly GAP) is the best value cruise to Antarctica (better value than OAT). Tel:1-800-465-5600. Purchased & refitted Lindblad's ship Explorer in 2004, 108 passengers. U.S. Office: 567 W Channel Islands Blvd. #346, Port Hueneme, CA, USA 93041.
2. **Overseas Adventure Travel:** good value
3. **REI Adventures:** more expensive than OAT
4. **ExpeditionTrips.com, Seattle,** compares cruises worldwide from multiple companies.
5. **Quark Expeditions:** "best in terms of crew, boat and quality of trip." – said GAP's Jeff Russill in 2002

LP Thorn Tree:

- "Antarctica from Ushuaia. See www.antarcticaadventure.com, www.adventureassociates.com, www.quarkepeditions.com. In some years "last minute" prices 40% lower, some in season's start & end, other years most ships, and **2 years ago, almost none with this discount.** "
- "last minute specials are much-less! Go through a local travel agency in Ushuaia"; did ship Akademik Ioffe with Peregrine Adventures out of Australia/Canada -- <http://photos.yahoo.com/drpault>
- Rough Guide says: last-minute bargains can be snapped up in Ushuaia, with fares as low as \$2500 for a nineteen-day trip to the Falklands, South Georgia and the Peninsula.

Chile: Patagonia

- If you want to fly to Easter Island (Rapa Nui), you will need to pass through Santiago. If you are on your way through Santiago, I highly recommend visiting the Lake District in the Andes to the south.
 - Note: Buenos Aires (“the Paris of the South”) is a more interesting city than Santiago if you want a few days to rest (recommended) before flying onwards to Patagonia.
- Exchange rate 1/31/05:
 - 1 US Dollar = 563.28 Chilean Peso
 - 1 Chilean Peso (CLP) = 0.00164 US Dollar
- Passport required. Visa not required for stay of up to 90 days. \$20 airport tax for us landing at Punta Arenas. “Entry fee of US\$100 charged at airport.” www.chile-usa.org

Punta Arenas, Chile:

- You can fly to **Punta Arenas Airport (PUQ/SCCI)** from Santiago or Buenos Aires. LanChile, Ladeco and Avant Airlines
- 100,000 population; Patagonia's largest and most commercially important city.
- **Cordillera Darwin**, Tierra del Fuego:
 - **3 days cruise/kayak/zodiac in Cordillera Darwin fjords**, Bahia Parry, active tidewater glaciers, on Tierra del Fuego (see Wilderness Travel 2002), from Punta Arenas. Example:
Southern Cross Adventure, Santiago: Soledad Avila, Operations Manager; responsive.
Main Office: Jose Miguel de la Barra 521, 4°E, Santiago, Chile
Branch office: Caracoles 119, San Pedro de Atacama, Chile Phone: 56 2 6396591 Fax: 56 2 6396591
Web: www.scadventure.com
E-Mail: adventure@scadventure.com
[Overall package: \$100 per day based on 10 people (\$2,000 for ~20 days, all breakfasts & dinners, private bus, tents provided, see attractive emailed itinerary): Seno Otway Magellanic Penguin colony; 6-days Torres DP trek/boat includes Serrano Glacier, boat to Puerto Natales; 5 days Fitz Roy/Moreno Glacier/Glaciars NP.]
- **Seno Otway (Otway Inlet) penguin colony** is 65 kilometers north of Punta, along the northwest of the Brunswick Peninsula. The Magellanic Penguins return annually October-March to lay eggs and raise young. Walk two kilometers to middle of natural reserve filled with penguin burrows, see comic antics of these delightful and defenseless creatures at close range.
- **Monumento Natural Los Pingüinos (The Penguins Natural Monument)**, 25 nautical miles north of Punta Arenas, is comprised of MAGDALENA ISLAND and Marta Islet, home to tens of thousands of Magellanic Penguins, cormorants, other birds and sea lions.

Punta Arenas Lodging: (From CHIP Travel, Santiago, e-mail: vchip@rdc.cl <http://www.chiptravel.cl/>)

- **Hotel Montecarlo**: US\$21 single, US\$35 double with shared bath. Decent value. Av. Colón 605. Phone (56-61) 243-438
- **Casa Dinka**: US\$10 pp. Popular, good breakfast. Caupolicán 169. Phone (56-61) 226-056. Fax (56-61) 244-292
- **Residencial París**: US\$15 per person. Some rooms better than others. Jorge Nogueira 116 4th floor. Phone (56-61) 223-112
- **Hostería Yaganes**: US\$50 single, US\$70 double, US\$90 triple. Hostería Yaganes is surrounded by nature, gardens and a panoramic view of the island of Tierra del Fuego, it offers the visitor a unique place, with all the commodities to make their stay unforgettable. Camino Antiguo Norte Km 7.5. Phone (56-61) 211-600. Fax (56-61) 211-948
- **Hostal de la Patagonia**: US\$40 single, US\$50 double, US\$60 triple, US\$70 quadruple. Excellent food, service. Only 3 blocks from the Plaza de Armas. Travel agency and tours offered. Croacia 970. Phone (56-61) 249-970

Puerto Natales, Chile:

- For visiting Torres del Paine NP, Puerto Natales is a much better & closer base than utilitarian Punta Arenas.
- Look for **rheas** on drive from Punta Arenas to **Puerto Natales** (4 hours by bus).
- Puerto Natales is best place to get supplies, arrange transportation or tours of TD Paine Park, which is 2 hours by bus.
- Puerto Natales is southern terminus for ferry from Puerto Montt via Chilean fjords. Another ferry goes to Punta Arenas.
- **Puerto Montt to Puerto Natales on Puerto Eden cargo ship**: an enjoyable way of making our south through the fjords and canals of Patagonia. The ship is large and comfortable. deck space, large lounge. food adequate. videos of old movies, a party on the last night. The scenery pretty but no penguins or icebergs or snow in the summer.

Hospedajes in Puerto Natales:

- **Indigo Hostel**, www.conceptoindigo.co.cl/hostel.htm indigo@entelchile.net, \$35 private double [Bradt]

- **HOSPEDAJE CASA CECILIA** “best backpacker hostel in town“ (reader at LP). **Dir:** Tomás Roger 60 (Thomas Rogers 54), **Fono/Fax:** 061-411797, **e-mail:** redcecilia@entelchile.net, **Hablar con:** Cecilia Rufchaura
From CHIP Travel, Santiago:
- **Indigo Concept**
Above pizzeria (best in town), overlooking majestic fjords. Great location, mindblowing view.
All types of rooms for 1 to 5 people. US\$15 per person (share bathroom), **US\$30 double** room private bathroom.
Ladrilleros 105. Phone: (56-61) 413-609. Fax: (56-61) 410-169.
- **Hostal Lady Florence Dixie**
The appealing new Hostal Lady Florence Dixie is reasonably priced. US\$60 single, US\$75 double, triple US\$90, quadruple US\$104.
Manuel Bulnes 659. Phone (56-61) 411-158. Fax (56-61) 411-943
- **Hosteria Rio Verde**
Two hours north of Puerto Natales, towards Torres del Paine. A beautiful farm, in the style of a bed & breakfast. Located on an inland waterway. A great way to get a feel for the pampa (grasslands) of Patagonia. Fantastic food, huge fireplace and good company.
Any type of room: US\$30 per person. Meals: US\$20.
Camino Isla Riesco. Phone (56-61) 311-122
- **Andescape, tour agency:**
Highly regarded. Tours to Torres del Paine.
Pedro Montt 308. Phone/Fax (56-61) 412-592

Torres del Paine National Park, Chile: Trekking Guide

- 4-hour bus (or 2 hours by car, 117k) from **Puerto Natales** (near Plaza de Armas). Five+ bus companies (BusSur is maybe best value; reputable: Servitur, JB, Gomez, Pacheco), most leaving **06:00-07:00**, also **14:00**. 3 hours to entrance, 4 hours to Administration Building. Can catch 14:00 bus if coming from **Punta Arenas**. *Ask what bus deals your hospedaje offers.*
- **Return buses:** 15:00, 18:00, haggle to arrange drop off at **Cerro Castillo** to pick up **minibus to Calafate**.
- **Views are best at dawn.**
- **Best map for hikers: JLM, 1:100,000**
- “If I had to do it over, I would rent a car to drive the park for a day or two to hit the viewpoints from the road for better photography of peaks & guanacos.”
- **Guanacos number 3000 today** (100 in 1975); in fall they move west to the Pehoe area.
- NP established 1959. “Paine” probably comes from **payne, a Tehuelche word for blue**. (Or, a climber.)

Fantástico Sur

Magallanes 960 Piso 2 Interior, Punta Arenas - Chile Phone: 56-61-226054 - Fax: 56-61-222641 e-mail: info@lastorres.com

Fantastico Sur Mountain Lodges, \$37 bed & breakfast per person + a camping area close to each lodge, located up *Ascensio Valley*. All offer bathrooms with **hot showers**, equipment rental, meals, kitchen facilities, marvelous view. www.lastorres.com

1. **Hostaria Las Torres & Refugio Las Torres**
2. **Refugio Chileno** with 36 beds, meals, halfway up the trail that leads to Torres Viewpoint
3. **Refugio Los Cuernos** (New, 28 beds) On Lago Nordenskjold on the W Route, right beneath the astounding granite & sedimentary rock formation Los Cuernos (Horns) del Paine

Itinerary for Torres del Paine National Park:

- **DAY 0: Hosteria Pehoe *****
“Easily the **most incredible location in the park**,” older hotel accessible only by a foot bridge across Lake Pehoe and has **outrageous views** of Los Cuernos (The Horns) and glacier topped Paine Grande, the largest mountain in the park at 3015 meters (9950 ft)
J. Menéndez 918. Phone (56-61) 244-506
- **DAY 0, 1 or END: Bus to Park Administration Building, see nature displays very useful, daily 08:30-20:00.** NOTE: Backpackers start the “W Route” at Admin Building, facing best views ahead & carrying heaviest load on easiest terrain (5 hours to Refugio Pehoe). But if you think good weather won’t last more than 1-2 days, go first to Towers viewpoint near Hosteria Las Torres.
- **DAY 0 or END: Laguna Verde** (4 hours one way):
 - **Wildlife Day trip:** Hike from Administration Building to Laguna Verde. Best chance to **mingle with wildlife: guanacos, rheas, foxes, maras (hares), aquatic birds.**
 - **Laguna Verde** Refugio (extremely rustic, services) & windswept camping.
- **DAY 0, 1, or END: Salto Grande** waterfall, plus *mirador* (view of towers), both spectacular; near Refugio Pudeto, don’t miss it.

• **Trek “W Route” ~ 54 miles**

- In off season you can bring food & rent kitchen space in Refuges, rather than buy meals, but in high season, buying meals is better. Need to reserve Refuge lodging in advance (no reservations needed for meals).

• **DAY 1:**

- Hike **4 hours (6.3 miles) to Refugio Grey** from Refugio Lago Pehoé, which is reached by ferry across Lago Pehoé.
 - Go to **Refugio Pehoé** by boat/catamaran “Hielos Patagonicos” from **Refugio Pudeto** (on road) (**departures to Refugio Pehoé: 9:30, 12:00, 18:00; leaving from Refugio Pehoé 10, 12:30, 18:30**).
 - Or hike 5 hours from Admin Center to **Refugio Pehoé**.
- **Refugio Grey** (Andescape) East shore of Lago Grey, beside breathtaking Glacier Grey. Share room and bathroom. Meals & Kitchen rental. “Similar to Refugio Lago Pehoé.” “No electricity & poor water supply”.
- From **Refugio Grey**: **Short day hike** to viewpoint or long hike to **Paso John Garner** (1180m elevation).
- NOTE on 2-hour launch on Lago Grey: AS OF 2004-2005: YOU ARE NOT ALLOWED TO GET OFF AT **Refugio Grey** (contact Hostaria Lago Grey, phone 24 8220/ext 29)

• **DAY 2:**

- Hike **4 hours** from **Refugio Grey** to **Refugio Lago Pehoé** (run by Andescape), **one of most scenically situated huts in park**.
- **Refugio Lago Pehoé**: NE arm of Lago Pehoé. Beautiful rustic setting, great atmosphere. meals. shared room & share bathroom.
 - **Refugio Pehoé** is accessible by boat/catamaran from **Refugio Pudeto** (on road; see schedule in Day 1 above) or 5 hour hike from Admin Cent.

• **DAY 3:**

- Hike from **Refugio Pehoé** via **Valle Francés 6-8.5 hours** (or 3.5 hrs if skipping valley in bad weather) to **Refugio Los Cuernos**
 - Via **Campamento Italiano** = 3.5 hour day to Refugio Los Cuernos (2 hrs one way to Italiano from Refugio Pehoé)
 - Via **Valle Francés mirador** (viewpoint) = **6 hrs** to Refugio Los Cuernos
 - Via **Campamento Británico** = 7.5 hour (13-14 miles) day to Refugio Los Cuernos (Británico = 4 hrs one way from Refugio Pehoé)
 - Via higher view in **Valle Francés**: 10.5+ hour day to Refugio Los Cuernos, see great views of **mountain bowl** (5.5+ hrs one way from Refugio Pehoé)
- ...to **Refugio Los Cuernos, night 1/2**, on Lago Nordenskjold (~1.5 hrs from Italiano, ~3.5 hrs from R. Pehoé, ~5.5 hrs from road at Refugio Las Torres, 7 hrs to Laguna Amarga Entrance) new, run by Fantastico Sur, **hot showers**, equipment rental, meals, kitchen rental, marvelous view

- **DAY 4: REST DAY. Refugio Los Cuernos, night 2/2, hot showers.** (Or hike **Valle Francés** today if bad weather yesterday.)

• **DAY 5: Valle Ascensio**

- Hike **6.5 hours** to **Refugio Chileno, night 1/2** (Fantastico Sur), bunks, **hot showers**, flush toilets, meals, great view window, located in Valle Ascensio

• **DAY 6: Valle Ascensio**

- From **Refugio Chileno**, hike **3.5 hrs RT** to **Torres del Paine Lookout, the most spectacular hike in the park** (located about 40 minutes beyond **Campamento Torres**) (or do tomorrow) (Lookout is 11.3 miles RT from Hosteria Las Torres)
- Stay in **Refugio Chileno night 2/2**

• **DAY 7: Valle Ascensio**

- Option: From **Refugio Chileno**, hike to **Campamento Japonés** (“lovely area”) **6.5-8 hours** to go **RT & finish at road** (breakdown: 2 hrs RT from Refugio Chileno to Campamento Torres, which is 3 hours/8k RT to Japanese Camp; plus 3 hours Chileno to Laguna Amarga Entrance) Can proceed past **Campamento Japonés** to **Valle del Silencio** for remote beauty, bare crags.
- Catch 4:00pm transfer (45 minutes duration) to **Hosteria El Pionero** near Cerro Castillo.

More Torres Del Paine Lodging:

- ***** Hosteria Las Torres:** Absolutely beautiful; rustic setting. Phone (56-61) 226-054. Run by Fantastico Sur, www.lastorres.cl E-mail: info@lastorres.com For deposits in Chilean Pesos: Banco Desarrollo 000-64-00099-3 For deposits in American Dollars: Banco Chile 5-008-00167-01
- **Refugio Las Torres:** much cheaper (Fantastico Sur) on road (~5.5 hrs from Refugio Los Cuernos). Located at trail head for Torres, 1 km from expensive Hostería Las Torres; 8 kms from the Laguna Amarga park entrance. US\$20 per person, share bathroom & room, unheated, 36 beds, no electricity, magnificent view of Torres. "This is the only place in Ascensio Valley if you lack camping equipment and are on a budget." Great camping sites nearby with hot showers and firewood for US\$5 per person. (run by Fantastico Sur). Dawn light great on Towers; reflections best in evening
- From Hosteria Las Torres or Refugio Las Torres, you can hike 7-9 hours RT to Torres del Paine Lookout if missed due to bad weather days

From CHIP Travel; lodging prices in the Park, Rates valid until Mar 31, 2002:

- **Refugio Lago del Toro:** Near Information Center at Park Administration. Cheap (destroyed by truck? -- LP Thorn Tree)
- **Hosteria Mirador del Payne (former Estancia Lazo):** 20 comfortable rooms with private bath, central heating. Rooms rates, breakfast included single US\$112, double US\$138, triple US\$157 585 Fagnano St. Phone (56-61) 228-712
- **Hotel Explora (very pricey, super luxury):** 4 days/3 nights, starting at US\$1,347 single, US\$2,080 double, 8 days/7 nights starting at US\$2,540 single, US\$3,888 double. **For a pure panorama across Lago Pehoé to the Torres, no other place can match the lobby of the Hotel Explora.** This luxurious hotel specializes in multi-day packages, with personal guides to show you all the park has to offer. Rate includes transfers, accommodations, four meals per day, with wine, drinks or soft drinks, daily explorations in Parque Nacional Torres del Paine, (*groups of up to 10 persons*) with bilingual guides, and picnic, access to all hotel facilities. Salto Chico. Phone (56-61) 206-6060.
- **Hostería CABAÑAS DEL PAINE:** (October 15th, 2001 - March 31st, 2002) 10 rooms with private bathroom & 30-person grill-room. Close to bank of Río Serrano, at edge of Torres del Paine NP, panoramic view of Cordillera Paine

Huts on the W Route:

- **Torres del Paine January 1999 report** by: Fern Thomas, Miami Beach, FL www.saexplorers.org "refugios at all of the sites that charge P7,500 per person/night for **dormitory bed in rooms of 4 to 6 per room**. Meals are expensive at (P4,000-P5,000 per) but refugions permit use of the kitchen, though you may have to wait until after they have served their guests. Bring food from Puerto Natales if you are going to cook. **During the peak season reserve places in the refugios before getting to the park... Refugio El Torre, Chileno and Serrano** have same owner and are **very nice with clean large bright rooms and hot water**. **Refugio Grey**, owned by Andescape is in excellent location, but more basic...
- Report from Tom Dempsey 2005: the huts are very comfortable and meet high standards for mountain huts. As of 2006, the Lago Grey hut should now be upgraded with more rooms and improved restrooms and hot showers.

Patagonia & Antarctica: Sample Itinerary

Feb 3-March 11, 2005

Fly to Buenos Aires, Argentina:

Feb 3:

- **Wes** departs **Sacramento 12:16pm** afternoon American Airlines Flight #1268, arrives in Dallas/Ft Worth **5:30pm**.
- **Tom & Carol** depart **Seattle 12:04pm** afternoon American Airlines #1046, arrive Dallas/Fort Worth **5:52pm**.
- **Maurine (Mo-Fay)** departs **Seattle 2:05pm** United flight #938, arrives Chicago/Ohare 7:54pm. #855 departs 9:25pm, arrives **11:45am Feb 04 in Buenos Aires/EZE**.
- **T, C, & W** Depart Dallas/Ft Worth **7:35pm** American Airlines Flight #997, arrive Buenos Aires (EZE airport) at **9:16am Feb 04** Friday.

Feb 4, 5, 6, 7:

- T,C,Wes,M-F: **El Bataclan Bed&Breakfast**, address = Defensa 1595 "5", San Telmo, Buenos Aires, Tel: ++ (54-11) 4307-2288, Cell phone: 154 449-7007. E-mail = elbataclan@stayinbuenosaires.com.ar web site= www.stayinbuenosaires.com.ar/bataclan/web US \$50dbl Superior, \$40 Standard. Reserved with \$72 deposit, owed upon arrival to Alvaro Vera Gallardo at Operatur. Pay 80% after arrival.
- **Feb 6, Sunday:** visit **Plaza Dorrego**, tango & art shows on the street, local bohemian culture
- Tango shows, dance halls, milongas (social dances)

Feb 8:

- Fly **Buenos Aires** (AEP) to **Ushuaia**, Aerolineas Argentinas (Argentina tel: 0810-222-86527) 13peso airport tax.
- flight #2896, depart 3:20pm, arrive 8:10pm (4'49" flight length, with snack, includes one stopover). Packing limit: 33 pounds (15 kilograms) checked bag, plus 11 pounds (5 kg) carry-on; check in 1 hour in advance.

Antarctica Cruise, booked with GAdventures.com (formerly GAP)

Fly to Ushuaia, Argentina:

Nights of Feb 8 & 20:

- **Hostal del Bosque, Apartment Hotel, *****, Magallanes 709, Ushuaia CP: 9410 - **Tierra del Fuego - Argentina**. Phone 02901/430777. www.hostaldelbosque.com.ar, reservas@hostaldelbosque.com.ar Centrally located in Ushuaia, 24 hr reception. All 38 rooms are traditionally decorated. 3k to airport. Cozy restaurant has international & local food, wines. Cable/Satellite TV, Hairdryer, Kitchenette, Mini bar, Private bathroom / Ensuite, Refrigerator, Telephone. Laundry facilities. *Frommers May 2003: "huge amount of space, includes a separate living/dining area & a kitchenette, mostly for heating water, not cooking -- include breakfast, which is not common with apart-hotels. 40 rooms spread out much like condo complex, each with separate entrance & maid service. Exteriors & decor bland, very clean. Restaurant serves fixed-price meals. In a residential area 3-minute walk from downtown. \$35 double Apr-Sept; \$60 double Oct-Mar. Rates w/ continental breakfast "*
- Alternative: **Hotel Las Lengas - . 5 Km. from downtown on hill with great view. Buffet Breakfast - Address: Goleta Florencia 1722 CP(9410), Tel: (54) (02901) 424-599/434-634 Fax: 423-366, e-mail: lengas@iname.com**

Feb 9: Breakfast at Hostal del Bosque; put our bags in lobby by 11am to send to our ship "Explorer". Lunch on our own. Be in hotel lobby by 3:45pm for bus or at port by 4:00pm for bus into sealed port (or at port by 3:30pm to drop bags yourself). Antarctic Peninsula Cruise "Polar Circle Tour, South of 66" .

Nights of Feb 9-19: Cruise on ship "Explorer", Antarctic Peninsula, "South of 66"

Feb 20: ~8am disembark cruise in Ushuaia: **Hostal del Bosque**

Feb 20-21 Gary flies to join us: Feb 20-21 Gary Ezzell flies: HP # 24 Depart: PHX 08:17 AM Sunday, 02/20/2005 Arrive: LAX 08:40 AM; LAN-Chile #601 Depart: LAX 12:35 PM Sunday, 02/20/2005 Arrive: Santiago/SCL 06:35 AM Monday, 02/21/2005; LAN-Chile # 997 Depart: Santiago/SCL 08:30 AM Monday, 02/21/2005 Arrive: Punta Arenas/PUQ 12:50 PM Monday, 02/21/2005.

Patagonia: Chile portion booked with "Path@Gone":

Feb 21 Monday:

- T,C,M,W fly on **LAN Chile flight #LA996** (reservation code **zvr9gj**) departure from **Ushuaia 15:30**, arrival in **Punta Arenas 16:30** LAN Chile in USA: **1-866-435 9526**, www7.lan.com In Arg: Tel: (54-11) 4378-2222, address: Cerrito 866, Buenos Aires. In Chile: 600-526-2000, Santiago
- **Pick up tickets at "LAN Chile" airline at our hotel**, sent by **Leocadio Díaz Pacheco** from **Pathagone**. (prepaid US\$112 pp) + bring **US\$20 per person** to pay airport tax in Ushuaia + maybe **US\$100 Chile entry?**
- **Punta Arenas, Chile, VISA ATMs:** REDBANC, S.A., Magallanes 990 & 997; also 21 De Mayo 1178

- “**Hostal Calafate**”, Address: Magallanes 922 - 926 Street, **Punta Arenas** - Chile. E-mail: hostal@calafate.cl *Confirmed 1/18/05 by Hernán Soto - Reservas: Con 01 Single, 01 doble dos camas, y 01 matrimonial. Todas con Baño privado.* Fono-fax: (56-61) 241281. Internet: <http://www.calafate.cl/hostal%20y%20turismo.htm> [Another building on the next block= Lautaro Navarro N° 850, fono-fax (56-61) 248415.] Located in front of the Regional Museum (Museo Regional Salesiano Mayorino Borgatello), 100 meters away from the main square of Punta Arenas. Telephone, cable TV and continental breakfast (juice, coffee, milk, jam, butter, toasted bread and homemade cake). Internet, e-mail, fax service 24 hours, 14 computers.
→ **Gary Ezzell** joins us here, making five happy campers. 2 double rooms w/private bathroom US\$54 per room. Gary has single room w/private bathroom US\$42/night.
- At “Hostal Calafate”, **pick up all Torres del Paine vouchers** sent here by Leocadio Díaz Pacheco from Pathagone.

Torres del Paine National Park, Chile:

Feb 22:

- **9:00am** transport for five people from **Punta Arenas to Hostería Pehoé**, \$450 total (or \$90pp). **Stop at Hostería El Pionero and leave extra luggage. Bring \$10,000 Chilean pesos cash per person (< US\$20 worth) for Entrance Fee** at Laguna Amarga, **Torres del Paine National Park.**
- At **Hostería Pehoé**, T&C in standard double room US\$175; and Wes, M-F, Gary in standard triple room US\$215/room.

Feb 23:

- HIKING OPTIONS before ferry: short hikes to **Salto Grande** waterfall, plus *mirador* (view of the towers), both spectacular; near Refugio Pudeto & ferry; book says “don’t miss it.”
- Take 30-minute **ferry/launch/catamaran** “Hielos Patagonicos” from Refugio Pudeto (on road) to cross Lago Pehoé at **9:30 or 12:00** or 18:00 (prepaid \$10,000 pesos Chilenos, <US\$20 per person) to Refugio Lago Pehoé.
 - (departs back from Refugio Pehoé 10, 12:30, 18:30)
 - (Backup HIKING OPTION instead of ferry, hike 8-9 hours: can hike 4-5 hours from Admin Center to Refugio Pehoé + 4 hrs to Refugio Grey.)
 - (NOTE re: 2-hour launch on Lago Grey: as of 2004, you are not allowed to get off at Refugio Grey says Pathagone; contact Hostaria Lago Grey, phone 24 8220/ext 29. Instead we ferry via Lago Pehoé.)
- Trek 4 hours from Refugio Lago Pehoé to **Refugio Grey**.
- Stay at **Refugio Grey**, prepaid US\$42 full board/person-night, beside “breathtaking” Glacier Grey. Share room & bathroom.
- Have extra energy? See HIKING OPTIONS for tomorrow:

Feb 24:

- HIKING OPTIONS for **this morning** or yesterday afternoon: short day hike from Refugio Grey to *mirador/viewpoint*, or long hike to Paso John Garner (1180m elevation).
- **Hike 4 hours** from **Refugio Grey** to **Refugio Lago Pehoé** (run by Andescape), one of park’s most scenic hut spots.
- **Refugio Pehoé**. Prepaid US\$52 full board/person-night.

Feb 25:

- Hike from **Refugio Pehoé** via **Valle Francés 6-8.5 hours** (or 3.5 hrs if skipping valley in bad weather) to **Refugio Los Cuernos**. **HIKING OPTIONS for Valle Francés:**
 - Via **Campamento Italiano** = 3.5 hour day to Refugio Los Cuernos (2 hrs one way to Italiano from Refugio Pehoé), or
 - Via **Valle Francés mirador** (viewpoint) = **6 hrs** to Refugio Los Cuernos, or
 - Via **Campamento Británico** = 7.5 hour day to Refugio Los Cuernos (Británico = 4 hrs one way from Refugio Pehoé), or
 - Via end of **Valle Francés**: 8.5+ hour day to Refugio Los Cuernos, see great views of **mountain bowl** (4.5+ hrs one way from Refugio Pehoé).
- **Refugio Los Cuernos, night 1/2**, on Lago Nordenskjöld (~1.5 hrs from Italiano, ~3.5 hrs from R. Pehoé, ~5.5 hrs from road at Refugio Las Torres). New, run by Fantastico Sur, **hot showers**, equipment rental, meals, kitchen rental, marvelous view, prepaid US\$52 full board/person-night.

Feb 26: REST DAY (or hike **Valle Francés** today if bad weather yesterday). **Refugio Los Cuernos, night 2/2, hot showers.**

Feb 27: **Hike 6.5 hours** to **Refugio Chileno, night 1/2** (Fantastico Sur), bunks, **hot showers**, flush toilets, meals, great view window, located in Valle Ascencio, prepaid US\$52 full board/person-night

Feb 28:

- **Valle Ascencio** hike 1/2: From **Refugio Chileno**, hike **3.5 hrs RT** to “**Torres del Paine Lookout**”, the most **spectacular hike in the park** (located about 40 minutes beyond **Campamento Torres**) (or do it tomorrow).
- Stay in **Refugio El Chileno night 2/2, hot showers**.

Mar 01:

- OPTIONAL Valle Ascencio hike 2/2: From Refugio Chileno, hike to **Campamento Japonés** (“lovely area”) **6.5-7 hours** to go **RT & finish at road** plus maybe 1.5 hrs more walking road from Hostaria Las Torres to **Laguna Amarga**. (Details: 2 hours RT from Refugio Chileno to Campamento Torres, which is 3 hours/8k RT to Japanese Camp; plus 1.5 hours Chileno

to road, plus 1.5 hrs to Laguna Amarga if walking). Can also go further, past **Campamento Japonés** to "**Valle del Silencio**" for remote beauty, bare crags.

- Shortest route: Hike from Refugio Chileno 1.5 hours (if ride) or **3 hours** (without ride) to **Laguna Amarga** entrance station.
- **4:00pm transfer** (prepaid \$20pp) from **Laguna Amarga** park entrance station to **Hostería El Pionero** (near Cerro Castillo, a 45-minute drive southeast of Torres Del Paine) where T&C + M&W stay in two double rooms prepaid US\$95/night, & Gary in single room US\$80/night. Restaurant.. Address: VILLA CERRO CASTILLO, 60 KM. RUTA 9 N. Tel: (0056) 061691932 Fax: 061412911

Mar 02: 9:00am Private transport for Gary Ezzell (prepaid \$250) from **Hostería El Pionero to Punta Arenas**, staying in "**Hostal Calafate**", single room with private bathroom prepaid US\$42 per night.

Mar 02: four people (T,C,Wes,M-F) from **Hostería El Pionero, 07:45am bus "Turismo Zaahj"** from **Cerro Castillo to El Calafate**, prepaid US\$27 per person.

Patagonia: ARGENTINA portion booked with "Operatur":

March 02-03:

- prepaid two double rooms for four people for 2 days in "**Calafate Hostel**", **El Calafate, Argentina** (present vouchers to Mr Fabián), address: Calle Gobernador Moyano 1226 (corner of 25 de Mayo 201), 300 meters from the terminal of Omnibus & Commercial Center. Fax/Teléfono: (02902) 492450/2. **www.hostelspatagonia.com (web quote 1/19/05: Private double cabin \$20.)**, e-mail: **calafatehostel@cotecal.com.ar** Good value restaurant, US\$2.50 lunch, \$4.50 dinner. **Kitchen for use of guests (refrigerator, microwaves, 8 stoves, place settings, plates, pots, glasses). Internet Service 24 hours. Parking, laundry. Free ride to/from airport or Omnibus. On our own=all meals.**

March 03:

- **Visit Moreno Glacier with a rental car (much better than bus tour; & cheapest most flexible method for 2 or more people).**
- **One day prepaid car rental, Opsa FTE - Servicar, att: Roberto, Av Libertador 695, El Calafate (200k free + 0.70 Chilean pesos/kilom)**

March 04, Gary flies to join us: LAN-Chile #292 Depart: Punta Arenas/PUQ 05:25 PM Friday, 03/04/2005 Arrive: Santiago/SCL 09:40 PM; LAN-Chile #5630 Depart: SCL 11:50 PM Arrive: Dallas/FW 06:42 AM Saturday, 03/05/2005; HP # 27 Depart: DFW 08:40 AM Arrive: PHX 10:17 AM Saturday, 03/05/2005

March 04: Mr Fabián will help us transfer/bus four people from **El Calafate to El Chalten**.

Mount Fitz Roy / El Chalten, Argentina:

March 04-08:

- prepaid two double rooms for four people for five nights in a cabin at "Complejo Kalenshen" in El Chalten, Address: Lionel Terray s/n, Tel: (54)(02962) 493108, e-mail: kalenshen@yahoo.com.ar, **www.elchalten.com/kalenshen** Restaurant meals.
- 3 or more long day hikes; possibly overnighter at Ref. Los Troncos:
 1. **Laguna de los Tres** 15 miles / 11 hours RT (13 miles / 10 hours with taxi start). One of the best hikes in the world!
 2. **Torre Lake** 9 miles / 6 hrs RT
 3. **Loma del Pliegue Tumbada trail**
 4. **Rio & Cerro Electrico** / Refugio Los Troncos

March 09:

- prepaid transfer/bus from **Chalten to Calafate** prepaid;. Two double rooms for four people for 1 day "Calafate Hostel" (Mr Fabián), 25 de Mayo 201, El Calafate

Fly home:

March 10:

- Packing limit: 33 pounds (15 kilograms) checked plus 11 pounds (5 kg) carry-on. Pay 18pesos (\$6) airport tax.
T, C, M-F & W fly 11:11am Aerolineas Argentinas flight#2803 from **Calafate (FTE) to Buenos Aires (AEP domestic airport)** arrive **2:07pm** nonstop
- **T, C, M-F & W** go from **AEP to EZE** internat'l airport (20 min)
- **M-F flies 8:45pm** United#854 **EZE to Chicago/OHare** arrive **5:10am** March 11. Departs #755 **8:10am -10:26am** SEA.
- **T, C, & W Fly 10:30pm** American #996 from **Buenos Aires/EZE to Dallas** arrive **6:20am** March 11.

March 11:

- **Tom & Carol** fly American #1157 depart Dallas **7:53am** - arrive Seattle 10:05am.
- **Wes** flies American #1163 depart Dallas **9:48am** to Sacramento arrive 11:24am.