TREKKING PATAGONIA: CHILE AND ARGENTINA

February 15-29, 2020 (Trip #2031)

Join leaders Cliff Chambers and Joan Chambers on a 15-day adventure to remote southern Patagonia, land of superlatives – majestic pinnacle peaks, immense glaciers, fierce winds and exotic animals. Explore some of South America’s finest national parks including Los Glaciares National Park, home to some of the world’s most stunning ice formations, and Torres del Paine National Park famous for its granite pillars, lakes and mountains.

Patagonia is the geographical region that lies at the southernmost tip of South America, lying in both Chile and Argentina. Patagonia has a well-deserved reputation for outstanding natural and scenic beauty. Spectacular treks will lead us to iconic massifs: Fitz Roy, Cerro Torre, Torres del Paine, and other dramatic sights. Join us on this exciting adventure to see jagged peaks, massive glaciers, icebergs, blue-green lakes and much more. A combination of day hikes to see sights, overnight backpack hikes with full-service backcountry refugios, and guided tours will provide us a unique opportunity to experience this rugged and beautiful area.
Trip Difficulty

This trip is rated Hiking Level #4 (Vigorous, between Moderate and Strenuous). We will hike from 6 to 10 hours per day including breaks. The typical daily elevation gain is 500 to 2,500 feet. We will hike at a modest pace, which will permit time for photos and rest breaks. Participants should be in excellent shape and be able to hike for 6 to 10 hours per day for 4 consecutive days. Day hikes will be up to 13 miles and 2,500 ft elevation gain. Every evening the leader will describe the walk/hike for the following day so participants can plan accordingly.

TRIP ITINERARY SUMMARY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DAY</th>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>DESTINATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Sat, Feb 15</td>
<td>Leave USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Sun, Feb 16</td>
<td>Arrive Punta Arenas, Chile; transfer to local accommodation. (D)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Mon, Feb 17</td>
<td>Morning boat ride to Magdalena Island to watch penguins, weather permitting. Afternoon bus ride to Puerto Natales. (B/D)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Tues, Feb 18</td>
<td>Take the bus to Torres del Paine National Park where we will start the world-famous “W” trek. Hike to Refugio Chileno, Mirador de Las Torres, and back to Refugio Chileno. (B/D)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Wed, Feb 19</td>
<td>Hike to Refugio Cuernos along beautiful Lago Nordenskjöld (B/L/D)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Thurs, Feb 20</td>
<td>Hike to Paine Grande Lodge; side trip up the French Valley, weather permitting. (B/L/D)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Fri, Feb 21</td>
<td>Hike to Refugio Grey ending the W. Take a boat cruise to view Grey Glacier. Private charter van to Puerto Natales. (B/L)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Sat, Feb 22</td>
<td>Private charter van excursion from Puerto Natales to El Chaltén (B/D)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>Sun, Feb 23</td>
<td>Day hike to Laguna Torre for views of Cerro Torre and massive glaciers (B/D)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>Mon, Feb 24</td>
<td>Rest day. Optional excursion to explore two glaciers. (B)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td>Tues, Feb 25</td>
<td>Day hike to Laguna de los Tres for excellent views of Mt. Fitz Roy (B)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.</td>
<td>Wed, Feb 26</td>
<td>Private charter van excursion from El Chaltén to El Calafate (B)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.</td>
<td>Thurs, Feb 27</td>
<td>Sightseeing cruise for close-up view of Perito Moreno Glacier (B/L/D)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.</td>
<td>Fri, Feb 28</td>
<td>Transfer to airport for flights home (B)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15.</td>
<td>Sat, Feb 29</td>
<td>Arrive USA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
DETAILED ITINERARY (Meals included are indicated as B, L, D)

Day 1. Sat Feb 15 – Leave USA. You may also choose to leave Friday evening and spend an extra night in Punta Arenas, which might help with snow-related delays departing from the USA.

Day 2. Sun Feb 16 – Arrive in Punta Arenas (PUQ) on the Straits of Magellan and transfer to our local accommodation by taxi (at your own cost). The name and address of your hotel in Punta Arenas will be provided. We will have our first evening meal together with all participants on either the first or second night depending on when trip members arrive. (D)

Day 3. Mon Feb 17 – Morning excursion, weather permitting, to Magdalena Island to walk among the penguins to see them nesting and waddling around. It has been decreed as the Los Pingüinos Natural Monument as there are an estimated 120,000 Magellanic penguins residing on the island. A guide will deliver tour information in English and Spanish. Included buffet breakfast in our hotel opens at 6 AM. In the afternoon we will take the bus to Puerto Natales, our jumping off point for our trek on the famous “W”. Our luggage not used in the 5-day “W” backpack will be stored at our hostel in Puerto Natales. (B/D)

Day 4. Tue Feb 18 – After an early breakfast, we will take a bus to Torres del Paine National Park where we will start the “W” trek. We begin with a short hike up to Refugio Chileno. We will stop for lunch, lighten our backpacks and then head up to the much-photographed Torres del Paine lookout (mirador). This is about a 4-hour round trip, approximately 5 miles with about 1500’ of elevation gain from the hut. When we return, we will enjoy a local dinner and get a good night’s rest. (B/D)

Day 5. Wed Feb 19 – Today we continue our trek by hiking down to Hotel las Torres taking about 2 hrs to go 3.4 miles downhill for 1182’ elevation loss. We continue trekking along the tranquil shores of Lago Nordenskjöld (4.5 hrs/6.7 miles/528’) hiking to Albergue Los Cuernos. (B/L/D)

Day 6. Thur Feb 20 – If the weather is good today, we will hike up to the first Mirador going up the French Valley. There we can enjoy the rumbling of glaciers calving up on the mountain across the narrow valley. Otherwise we will hike directly to Paine Grande Lodge. The optional side trip to the mirador is 2.5 hours, 2.45 miles with a 935’ elevation gain. The straight hike to Paine Grande Lodge is 7.15 miles with a 328’ elevation gain and will take about 4 hours. (B/L/D)

Day 7. Fri Feb 21 – We will finish the W trek with a hike to Refugio Grey. The hike is 6.8 miles with 672’ of elevation gain taking us about 4 hours. We have then scheduled the Navigation Grey III to take us to the edge of Grey Glacier possibly passing some large icebergs along the way. And then take us to Guarderia Grey where our private chartered van will pick us up and drive us to Puerto Natales. (B/L)
Day 8. Sat Feb 22 – Private charter van excursion and many magnificent viewpoints along the way from Puerto Natales, Chile to El Chaltén in Argentina. (B/D)

Day 9. Sun Feb 23 – We will do a day hike in Los Glaciares to Laguna Torre, with magnificent views of the extraordinary rock spire of Cerro Torre and a sprawling mass of intersecting glaciers. We may take a side trip to Mirador Maestri for more views of Cerro Torre and Cordón Adela, a serrated ridge of snow-capped peaks between Cerro Grande and Cerro Torre. Distance is about 13 miles without the side trip. Book time is 6 hours with about 1200’ elevation gain. (B)

Day 10. Mon Feb 24 – Today is a rest day. There are several short but scenic hikes/walks in the area. (B)

Day 11. Tue Feb 25 – Another day hike from El Chaltén, this time to Campamento Poincenot and Laguna de los Tres, the lake at the foot of iconic Monte Fitz Roy. At Campamento Poincenot we will look directly up at the spires of the Fitz Roy massif. Further views of Fitz Roy from Laguna de los Tres and its surroundings will reward your climb of about 2500’. Distance is about 13 miles and the book time is 8 hours. (B)

Day 12. Wed Feb 26 – Private chartered van from El Chaltén to El Calafate. There is an interesting National Park in El Calafate and a wonderful bird sanctuary, Laguna Nimez, which we will visit. The bird sanctuary is an easy walk from our hostel and in the evening we can enjoy the views of Laguna Nimez from the upstairs deck. (B)

Day 13. Thur Feb 27 – Today is an all-day cruise to the amazing Perito Moreno Glacier. The glacier front stands almost 200 feet above the water and if we are lucky we will witness huge pieces of ice calve off from the glacier front. Our cruise starts at 8:30 AM and continues until 6:00 PM. Hotel pick-up and drop-off is included as part of the package. This beautiful spectacle of nature will provide the crowning memory of an incredible adventure. We will settle down to our farewell dinner in El Calafate for one last evening together. (B/L/D)

Day 14. Fri Feb 28 – Transfer to the airport in El Calafate (FTE) for flights home or elsewhere. (B)

Day 15. Sat Feb 29 – Arrive back in the USA
POSSIBLE ITINERARY CHANGES
While the itinerary in this prospectus is what the leaders have planned at the time of writing, various factors may require changes for reasons of safety, transportation or lodging availability, and unforeseeable circumstances (such as weather considerations, natural disasters in areas to be visited, or recommendations of governmental agencies). The leaders reserve the right to make such changes as necessary, both before and during the trip.

ACCOMMODATIONS
The accommodations provided on this trip are a mix of small hotels, hostels and backcountry full-service huts (called refugios). Room accommodations will be mixed gender in some of the hostels and refugios.

AIRLINES AND TRAVEL
Please arrive at Punta Arena, Chile (PUQ), on Sunday, February 16 in time for the welcome dinner at 6 pm. The trip ends at El Calafate, Argentina, on the morning of Saturday, February 28. Your transportation to Punta Arenas, Chile (PUQ) and back from El Calafate, Argentina (FTE) is your responsibility. Ground transportation from PUQ airport to the local accommodation in Punta Arenas and from the local accommodation in El Calafate to FTE airport are your responsibilities as well. You may want to use frequent flyer miles, an airline, or a travel agent. The leaders will research flights and will be happy to make flight suggestions and suggestions for your transfers to and from local accommodations. Do not make any non-refundable travel plans until advised to do so by the leaders.

EXPERIENCE AND RISKS
Although the hiking will be at a moderate pace, this is not a trip for beginners or people who have not backpacked for several years. Several of the days are long (up to 13 miles) and strenuous. Be prepared for very high winds and the possibility of rain. It is important for you to be in excellent physical condition at the time we depart. Since it will be winter in the USA and late summer in Patagonia, please commit yourself to keeping in shape between the time you sign up for the trip and the time you depart. At twelve weeks prior to the trip consult your physician to see what, if any, vaccinations are recommended for travel to South America and to ensure that you are in excellent physical condition for the rigor of this trip.
As participant safety is a high priority for all AMC-sponsored events, procedures and policies have been developed to attempt to limit participant risk. Participants are expected to work with volunteer leaders to reduce risks and make the experience successful for all in the group. Participants should be aware that there are risks associated with outdoor adventure activities, including but not limited to adverse weather and environmental conditions, remote locations of our trips and camps, and transportation in vehicles, on foot, by boat, or on a bike. When you apply for acceptance onto a trip, please carefully read and sign the Adventure Travel Acknowledgement and Assumption of Risks and Release and Indemnity Agreement and call if you have any questions.

PARTICIPANT PROFILE AND EXPECTATIONS
AMC Adventure Travel trips are run in a manner supportive of and consistent with the conservation, recreational and educational principles and mission of the Appalachian Mountain Club. Trip leaders encourage participant conduct consistent with Leave No Trace environmental and conservation principles and local regulations.

This trip is designed for experienced hikers. You must be able to hike for up to 8 hours a day, not counting breaks, at a moderate pace, with moderate elevation gains (up to 3,000 feet), while carrying enough equipment to keep you safe in the event of bad weather or injury. Please see the gear list below. You should enjoy traveling and be able to deal positively with the discomforts of traveling in areas that are unfamiliar to you. You will likely find yourself in closer quarters and less comfortable than you are used to at home. Everyone on the trip is expected to help others in the group if needed and to be collaborative and cooperative. Participants are encouraged to learn some basic Spanish before departure, though this is not a requirement.

Group safety is our number 1 priority. When you participate in this activity, you should be in proper condition for the challenges outlined in this prospectus and equipped with the appropriate gear as stated. You should always be aware of the risks involved and conduct yourself accordingly. You are ultimately responsible for your own safety. Prior to your acceptance as a participant in this trip, you will be asked to discuss your capabilities and experience with us. We may also request references to confirm your fitness level and suitability for participating in trip activities.

This trip is designed so that everyone may experience our adventure in Patagonia through shared participation in activities and tasks in an organized group environment. AMC travelers are known for their cooperative efforts, and expectations are that all participants will be considerate of others sharing this AMC Adventure Travel experience.

It may happen on any trip that a trip member is or becomes unable to participate in one or more of the planned activities. Leaders in their sole judgment have the right and obligation to refuse participation in any activity to any group member for reasons of safety, whether it be of the group or of the individual. Illness, injury or lack of proper gear or fitness for a particular activity are examples of some conditions that might result in a participant’s being unable to perform one or more activity. Leaders will assist with finding a substitute activity or
travel arrangements for the trip member, but this may not always be possible.

GROUP SIZE

We expect a group size of **14 people** including the two leaders. This trip is likely to fill quickly. If you are interested, let us know by email or give us a call. Please see “WHAT’S NEXT” on last page (page 12) for all necessary application materials. When the group is finalized, we will send all participants the names and email addresses of all those going on the trip.

COST*

The cost of the trip is $4225, which includes the following:

- All accommodations from Feb 16 through Feb 28
- All meals included are indicated as B (Breakfast), L (Lunch), D (Dinner) in the Trip Itinerary Summary above on page 2.
- Local group ground transportation from Feb 17 through Feb 27
- Hut and backcountry permits
- Park admission fees
- Scenic Magdalena Island Navigation to see colonies of Magellan Penguins, up to 150,000 birds, on Day 3 (4 hours). Depending on luck we may see Austral Dolphins as well.
- Scenic Navigation Grey III cruise to see Grey Glacier in Chile on Day 7 (2 hours)
- Maria Turquesa Glaciers Sightseeing Cruise to see Perito Moreno Glacier in Argentina on Day 13 (8 hours)
- Guides in Chaltén and Torres del Paine
- AMC Adventure Travel fee and emergency evacuation insurance**

Not included in price of trip:

- Airfares
- Transportation from the airport to the hotel in Punta Arenas, Chile
- Transportation from the hotel in El Calafate, Argentina to airport
- 4 dinners and 7 lunches are not included.
- Personal expenses
- Trip cancellation insurance

*The cost for the trip is based on estimates from 2019. The final cost of the trip will be adjusted in accordance with the best arrangements we can make for the group.

**The trip fee also includes emergency medical and evacuation insurance (see below).
Please be aware that, in accordance with AMC policy, you are subsidizing the leaders' costs. Beyond this, the leaders are not allowed to realize any profit from this excursion. The trip price also includes an AMC overhead fee to cover the administrative expenses of offering Adventure Travel excursions. The trip fee includes emergency medical and evacuation insurance coverage, which is required by the AMC. It does not include insurance for travel delay, interruption, or cancellation, or for baggage loss. If these possibilities concern you, individual travel insurance is recommended. More information about included emergency medical and evacuation insurance, as well as about optional and recommended travel insurance, will be provided to participants in their formal acceptance letters, which will be sent out when the trip has the required number of accepted applicants.

The price for this excursion is based on quotes or estimates obtained at the time the trip was submitted to the Adventure Travel Committee for approval. The final price of the trip will be adjusted in accordance with the best final arrangements we can make. If the trip's financial position is strong enough at the start, the leaders may make partial refunds during the trip, in the form of payments toward some meals and/or free time activities which would otherwise not be included. Any savings we achieve, as well as any cost increases we incur, will be shared by trip participants. Our cost estimates are conservative, and so a refund is considerably more likely than a price increase. All Adventure Travel trips are run on a non-profit basis and refunds, if any, are issued after the trip's financial accounting is complete.

**INSURANCE**

The basic medical and evacuation policy that is included with your trip fee covers up to $5,000 for primary medical expenses, up to $200,000 for emergency medical evacuation, and up to $5000 for death and dismemberment. Coverage includes only the dates of travel of the official AMC trip (last day is in Argentina) so additional days before and/or after are not included. The included policy does not include insurance for travel delay, interruption, cancellation, or for baggage loss. Participants should have their own medical insurance and travel cancellation insurance. The leaders will provide information about purchasing optional travel insurance that could cover cancellation, lost baggage, etc.
PAYMENT SCHEDULE

A registration deposit of $1,000 is due with the application.
The second Payment of $1,000 is due May 1, 2019.
The final payment of $2,225 is due October 1, 2019.

AMC Adventure Travel trips are run on a non-profit basis. Leaders are volunteers who are not compensated except for their travel costs associated with the trip. The advertised trip cost includes a surcharge that goes toward the administrative expenses of the AMC Adventure Travel program.

To apply for this trip, please see “WHAT’S NEXT” on last page (page 12).

You will be officially accepted after the leaders have determined by email or a telephone conversation with you that there seems to be a good match between you and the trip.

Your check will be deposited after the trip leaders confirm the trip has sufficient number of participants and is going as planned.

A waitlist will be developed if the trip fills. Deposit checks from wait-listed applicants will not be cashed until a spot is available, the applicant is accepted onto the trip, and they confirm their continued interest.

CANCELLATION POLICY

- All cancellation requests must be made in writing to wu.chambers@gmail.com.
- The AMC Adventure Travel cancellation policy is based on the fact that your cancellation may not raise the cost to the other participants or to the leaders.
- The published minimum penalty fee is zero before April 30, 2019.
- A $200 fee if cancellation occurs between May 1, 2019 and October 1, 2019.
- If actual costs (expenses already incurred on your behalf and any unavoidable future expenses that will be incurred as a result of your registration and cancellation) are higher, they will be assessed instead, unless they can be applied toward another acceptable participant.
- Should the leaders be able to replace you, you may be charged at a reduced fee. This will generally not be determined until after the trip.
- Flight tickets are your property and are generally non-refundable.
- We strongly recommend that you purchase travel cancellation insurance.
- If AMC cancels the trip you will receive a full refund for all payments made to AMC.
EQUIPMENT LIST

Required and Essential Gear

- Passport, at least six months before expiration at the time of travel (it is best to have 7+ months before expiration; if it needs to be renewed, do it now)
- Backpack, big enough to carry all of your required gear below including daily water and food and the recommended (optional) gear you wish to bring.
- Waterproof pack liner or both a liner AND a pack cover (a pack cover will not keep water out in very high wind, but can keep the outside of the pack drier)
- Sturdy, comfortable, waterproof hiking boots with extra shoelaces
- Sleeping bag liner for “W” trek  
  Note: Sleeping bag is not required as it will be provided in the lodge and refugios on the “W” trek.
- Camp towel or light weight bath towel for “W” trek backpack trip (yes, there are showers in the huts!)
- Synthetic hiking clothing (tops and bottoms); no cotton on hikes
- Waterproof rain gear (tops and bottoms)
- Sweater/jacket, wool or fleece
- Long pants, wool or fleece
- Nalgene bottles or water reservoirs/bladders (at least 2 liters total capacity)
- Sun hat or bandanna
- Warm hat, neckband or balaclava
- Gloves/mittens
- Minimum 3 pairs of hiking socks (wool or synthetic), liners if needed
- Crocs, Tevas, or other similar footwear (to wear in lodging)
- Headlamp or flashlight with fresh batteries
- Sunglasses
- Sunscreen and insect repellent
- Personal blister kit, first aid kit and personal medications
- Whistle
- High-energy trail snacks (You may bring roasted nuts and energy bars in, un-opened, original packages.

Recommended and Optional Gear

- Small daypack/lumbar pack for sightseeing (or adaptation of full pack)
- Gaiters (for rain and debris)
- Hiking poles (not in carry-on luggage), highly recommended for stream crossings, in rain and high winds
- Casual clothing
- Phone, Camera and spare batteries/charger and voltage converter or adaptors as required (Type C Adaptor in Chile and Type I & Type C Adaptors in Argentina.)
- Hiking knife (do not put knife in carry-on luggage)
- Ear plugs
TRIP LEADERS

Leader, Cliff Chambers

Cliff leads three season hikes for the Hiking / Backpacking Committee of the AMC Boston Chapter. Cliff has co-led several hiking/trekking-oriented Adventure Travel trips to such destinations as the Grand Tetons, Glacier National Park, New Zealand, and Patagonia and has traveled to Norway, Poland, and Tasmania in Australia. Cliff has led a similar Patagonia trip with Joan in 2014 and is anxious to return! Cliff has Advanced Wilderness First Aid and CPR certification.

Leader, Joan Chambers

Joan leads four season hikes for the Hiking / Backpacking Committee of the AMC Boston Chapter. She received the Winter Leader of 2009 award from the Committee and was profiled in the July-August 2011 issue of AMC Outdoors magazine as one of the AMC volunteer leaders making a difference. This will be her third time to hike in Patagonia! She has led the Wild Alaska hiking trip twice in addition to trips to many national parks in the US, and abroad in the Alps in France, Switzerland and Italy, Machu Picchu in Peru, and many Great Walks in New Zealand and Australia for AMC Adventure Travel. Joan is very excited to hike in Patagonia the third time! She is Advanced Wilderness First Aid and CPR Certified.
WHAT’S NEXT

After reading this prospectus carefully if you are still interested to apply for this trip, please fill out this Online Registration Form (https://forms.gle/wSuoxSeGEV8jSQfb9) and submit it online.

Please send this Reference link, https://forms.gle/HyopEkkMRcHRSjLZA, to three references who can vouch for your hiking activity, abilities, and experience with group travel. If you are an active outdoors person with limited hiking references, please feel free to contact Cliff Chambers at (617) 680-3735 to discuss trip details.

In addition to completing the Online Registration Form, please also download, print, fill out, sign and date the following documents from the links below. We will need both the online copy of your application as well as a hard copy with your official signature. Thank you for your cooperation.

1. AMC AT Trip #2031 Patagonia Application Form: https://drive.google.com/open?id=1VDsKzMJidRE_adJpbmW-V4h1D5yYikEu
2. AMC AT Assumption of Risk Participant Release Form: https://drive.google.com/open?id=1tz3DbvOpG6KCC1Su1Thg2lYRZrBgZEH_
3. AMC AT Medical Form: https://drive.google.com/open?id=14xLxlzLIaVEff7sAags-hhw1qXVljGyp
4. AMC AT Supplemental Medical Form (Optional): https://drive.google.com/open?id=1qRytMtTdl5GPZvHfKV48N3Jao8Q0za-2

Mail the above four (4) ink-signed forms along with a deposit check for $1,000 payable to the Appalachian Mountain Club and mail to: Joan Chambers, PO Box 2532, Woburn, MA 01888

Your check will not be deposited unless we offer you a place. If you are accepted from a waiting list, we will not deposit your check unless you confirm that you are still interested.

We expect this trip to fill quickly so the sooner you can get everything in the better and the sooner we can start the screening process. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact L. Joan Chambers, wu.chambers@gmail.com and L. Cliff Chambers, wu.chambers@gmail.com, 617-680-3735.

Please remember that all AMC Adventure Travel events are led by volunteers. As such, they may be unable to respond to your inquiry immediately. However, they are very dedicated and will contact you as soon as possible. Please read and understand the cancellation policy in the trip prospectus before sending any money.

QUESTIONS

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact either of the leaders to discuss.
Cliff and Joan Chambers: wu.chambers@gmail.com
Cliff Chambers 617-680-3735
Joan Chambers 617-680-6717