

**PATAGONIA**  
*December 29 – January 23*

This trip was one of the most complicated to plan and also one of the most rewarding trips I have ever done. I spent a week with one friend in Buenos Aires and in the Lake District of Argentina and then met two other friends back in Buenos Aires and we headed for Patagonia. A few things to note: first, the focus of this trip was hiking. There are alternatives to hiking (4x4 excursions, horseback riding) but if you're not a fan of the great outdoors and you're not looking for an active vacation, I would recommend spending more time in Buenos Aires and less time in the Lake District and Patagonia. Second, late December and January is high season in Patagonia. You must reserve far in advance (in particular your internal flights). Although it costs more to reserve internal flights from overseas, do not expect to buy tickets once you arrive if you want to fly anytime in the upcoming weeks. Lastly, the itinerary below does not leave much room for delays or mistakes. We found out bus schedules in advance and calculated our time practically down to the minute. If you are also trying to pack as much in as you can, I highly recommend finding out the bus schedules in advance (easiest through a local travel agent).

					<b>Friday Dec 29</b>	<b>Saturday Dec 30</b>
					Fly JFK to BA 10:10P  <i>I booked flights from New York to Buenos Aires, but Air France does have direct flights from Paris to BA (about 13 hours).</i>	<b>BA</b> (arrive 10:40A)  <i>Dinner: 8:00P            Sucre, 646 Sucre, Palermo, 4782 9082—a fantastic restaurant, we went twice!</i>  <i>Night: [stayed with friend]</i>

Sunday Dec 31	Monday Jan 1	Tuesday Jan 2	Wednesday Jan 3	Thursday Jan 4	Friday Jan 5	Saturday Jan 6
<p><b>BA</b></p> <p>San Telmo, Tigre markets <i>Night:</i> [stayed with friend]</p> <p><i>New Year's Eve:</i> Bobo Hotel, Guatemala 4882, Palermo Soho <a href="mailto:contacto@bobohotel.com">contacto@bobohotel.com</a> 5511 4774 0505</p> <p>We stayed with a friend in Buenos Aires on this trip. On a business trip, I stayed at the incredible Alvear Palace in Recoletas, but it's a splurge if you're the one paying. The contact information for our other hotels, B&amp;Bs and other accommodations is listed on the last page. I have not listed the prices but I can say that all but the Panamericano in Bariloche were quite inexpensive.</p>	<p><b>BA/Bariloche</b></p> <p>Fly to Bariloche 1:10P—3:30PM <i>Night:</i> Panamericano Bariloche Av San Martin 536 70 San Carlos De Bar, AR—I found this hotel to be overpriced, noisy and impersonal. Next time I'd splurge for the Llaolao hotel (it's definitely worth dining there one night even if you don't stay there) or finding a smaller guest house in San Martin de los Andes, a small town at the other end of the 7 Lakes drive)</p>	<p><b>Bariloche</b></p> <p><i>Night:</i> Panamericano Bariloche <b>*confirm Amerindia</b></p>	<p><b>Bariloche</b></p> <p>Rent car—7 Lakes <i>Night:</i> Panamericano Bariloche</p> <p>We rented a car one day for the 7 lakes drive and the other days we signed up for "adventure" activities: mountain biking, kayaking, rock climbing and hiking—all well worth it. There are numerous tourist agencies in Bariloche to sign up for tours with or your hotel can probably organize something—no need to book in advance).</p>	<p><b>Bariloche</b></p> <p><i>Night:</i> Panamericano Bariloche</p>	<p><b>Bariloche</b></p> <p><i>Night:</i> Panamericano Bariloche</p>	<p><b>Bariloche/BA</b></p> <p>Fly to BA 1:40P—3:43P <i>Night:</i> [stayed with friend] <b>*confirm Nothofagus</b> <b>Note, you can fly direct from Bariloche to El Calafate but I was meeting friends in BA.</b></p>

Sunday Jan 7	Monday Jan 8	Tuesday Jan 9	Wednesday Jan 10	Thursday Jan 11	Friday Jan 12	Saturday Jan 13
<p><b>BA/El Calafate</b> Fly to El Calafate 3:25P—6:38P <i>Night:</i> Hospedaje Familiar "Las Cabañitas", V. Feilberg 218, (9405) El Calafate - Santa Cruz, Argentina, Tel / Fax: +54 (2902) 49-1118, <a href="mailto:lascabanitas@cotecal.com.ar">lascabanitas@cotecal.com.ar</a> <a href="http://www.sectur.gov.ar/hoteles/cabanita/cabanita.htm">www.sectur.gov.ar/hoteles/cabanita/cabanita.htm</a></p> <p>These cabins are not luxurious but they are adorable! And just a short walk from town.</p>	<p>Daytrip to <b>Perito Moreno Glacier</b> <i>Night:</i> Hospedaje Familiar "Las Cabañitas", El Calafate</p> <p>A trip to the Perito Moreno Glacier, including the 1-hour hike on the actual glacier, is a MUST.</p>	<p>Bus to <b>Mt. Fitz Roy</b> (4hrs) <i>Night:</i> Nothofagus, El Chaltén—this was a fantastic guest house.</p>	<p><b>Mt. Fitz Roy</b> Hiking all day <i>Night:</i> Nothofagus, El Chaltén</p> <p>Hiking near Mt. Fitzroy was some of the best hiking I've ever done. We actually just took the main route to summit the mountain but didn't go the whole way (it's a fair trek just to the base from El Chaltén)</p>	<p>Return bus El Chaltén to El Calafate (4 hrs) Bus to Puerto Natales (4.5 hrs, leaves 5:30P, arr. 10:00P) <i>Night:</i> Hostal Amerindia, Barros Arana 135, Puerto Natales, (56) 61 411945</p> <p>This is a very cute B&amp;B, the people are very friendly, and they let us leave some luggage there while we hiked for 5 days.</p>	<p><b>Torres del Paine</b> Bus Puerto Natales/ Pudeto Catamaran Pudeto/Refugio Lago Pehoé Trek (Day 1) to Refugio Grey (11km) <i>Night:</i> Refugio Grey</p> <p><a href="mailto:albergue@lastorres.com">albergue@lastorres.com</a></p> <p>Torres del Paine was probably the highlight of our trip. The "W" is an amazing 5-day hike with incredibly varied scenery just in those 5 days. It's fairly rigorous but not at all technically challenging and you have plenty of daylight hours in January so you can take it slow. If you stay in the <i>refugios</i> (shelters) you avoid having to carry tents and food (though to do the full 8-10 day circular hike you need a tent).</p>	<p><b>Torres del Paine</b> Trek (Day 2) Refugio Grey/Refugio Lago Pehoé (13km) <i>Night:</i> Refugio Paine Grande, Lago Pehoé</p> <p><a href="mailto:albergue@lastorres.com">albergue@lastorres.com</a></p> <p>Be sure to reserve the <i>refugios</i> well in advance!</p>

Sunday Jan 14	Monday Jan 15	Tuesday Jan 16	Wednesday Jan 17	Thursday Jan 18	Friday Jan 19	Saturday Jan 20
<p><b>Torres del Paine</b> Trek (Day 3) Refugio Lago Pehoé/Albergue Los Cuernos (25km) <i>Night:</i> Albergue Los Cuernos pathgone@123.cl</p>	<p><b>Torres del Paine</b> Trek (Day 4) Albergue Los Cuernos/Albergue El Chileno (23km) <i>Night:</i> Albergue El Chileno pathgone@123.cl</p>	<p><b>Torres del Paine</b> Trek (Day 5) Albergue El Chileno/Hostería Las Torres (5km) + lookout (+9km) Shuttle to Guardería Laguna Amarga Bus to Puerto Natales <i>Night:</i> Hostal Amerindia, Puerto Natales</p>	<p>Return to El Calafate: Turismo Zaahj—7:00A from hotel, arr. 12:00P  Fly to Ushuaia 2:50P—4:03P <i>Night:</i> Hosteria America, Ushuaia</p>	<p><b>Ushuaia/Tierra del Fuego</b> <i>Night:</i> Hosteria America, Ushuaia  4x4 excursion  <b>You can easily book day excursions from Ushuaia once you get there (through your hotel or in one of the many agencies downtown). The jeep tour was a welcome break from physical activity for one day and gave us a sense of the region.</b></p>	<p><b>Ushuaia/Tierra del Fuego</b> <i>Night:</i> Hosteria America, Ushuaia  Kayak Beagle Channel  <b>The kayaking was outstanding, highly recommended. We also did a hike that included a trip to la Isla Pinguinera (Penguin Island), which is well worth the trip—yes, you will definitely see penguins! (On a side note, “pinguinera” has ever since been my favorite word in the Spanish language.)</b></p>	<p><b>Ushuaia/Tierra del Fuego</b>  Pick up Car at 9:00A  Day at Estancia <i>Night:</i> Estancia Harberton, Ushuaia  <b>If you are looking for some peace and tranquility and an experience you will not soon forget, a night at this historic estancia (farm) is a must. Book well in advance. The Haberton family still owns the property and someone from the family will be happy to give you a tour of the grounds.</b></p>

Sunday Jan 21	Monday Jan 22	Tuesday Jan 23				
Day in <b>Ushuaia</b> Day driving in Tierra del Fuego Return car at airport Fly to BA 8:49—12:09P <i>Night:</i> [stayed with friend]	Day in <b>BA</b> Fly to JFK 9:40P	Arrive JFK 6:05A				

**Notes:**

**BA restaurants:** These were other Buenos Aires restaurants recommended to us:

- Lomo, 4659 Costa Rica, 4833 3200
- La Parolaccia, 3765 Guittierrez
- Cabaña Las Lilas (lunch), Puerto Madero, [restaurant@restlaslilas.com.ar](mailto:restaurant@restlaslilas.com.ar)
- Volta or Persiccio for ice cream

***Hotel contact information:***

**Panamericano Bariloche**

San Martin 536  
R8400ALS San Carlos de Bariloche, Río Negro, Argentine  
(0) 2944 409 200  
www.panamericanobariloche.com  
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**Las Cabañitas**

V. Feilberg 218, (9405) El Calafate - Santa Cruz, Argentina,  
Tel / Fax: +54 (2902) 49-1118, [lascabanitas@cotecal.com.ar](mailto:lascabanitas@cotecal.com.ar)  
[www.sectur.gov.ar/hoteles/cabanita/cabanita.htm](http://www.sectur.gov.ar/hoteles/cabanita/cabanita.htm)  
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**Nothofagus**

Bed & Breakfast  
Hensen esq. Riquelme (Z9301XAF)  
El Chaltén - Provincia de Santa Cruz  
Patagonia Argentina  
Tel.: ++54 2962 493087  
E-mail:  
[nothofagusbb@hotmail.com](mailto:nothofagusbb@hotmail.com)  
[nothofagus@infovia.com.ar](mailto:nothofagus@infovia.com.ar)  
[www.elchalten.com/nothofagus](http://www.elchalten.com/nothofagus)  
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**Hostal Amerindia**

Barros Arana 135, Puerto Natales  
(56) 61 411945  
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**Torres del Paine contact information for *refugios* (shelters):**

<http://www.torresdelpaine.com/secciones/03/a/directorio.asp>  
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**Hosteria America**

Gobernador Paz 1665 CP: 9410  
Tel.: +54 (2901)423-358/433-512  
Tel/Fax 431-362  
Ushuaia - Tierra del Fuego – Argentina  
[hosteriaamerica@arnet.com.ar](mailto:hosteriaamerica@arnet.com.ar)  
[hosteriaamerica@speedy.com.ar](mailto:hosteriaamerica@speedy.com.ar)