

August 2025

Dear *Travel Friends*,

Join us in early 2026 on an adventure to South America!

Our 11-night tour of Argentina takes us to Buenos Aires, the capital of Argentina and the "Paris of South America" and to Patagonia and some of the continent's most spectacular natural scenery. We'll meet on February 24, 2026 in Buenos Aires, a beautiful city on the River Plate and the home to tango and mouth-watering steaks said to be the best in the world. Then we fly south to Patagonia, a vast, wild region between the Andes Mountains and the Atlantic Seaboard and see two of South America's top natural destinations, Glaciers National Park and the Peninsula Valdés Nature Preserve. We'll finish with a fun day trip to Colonia del Sacramento, Uruguay before departing for home on Saturday, March 7.

Our arrival date in late February coincides with the end of the summer season in the Southern Hemisphere. We'll acclimate to the warm temperatures with a three-night stay in Buenos Aires and time to explore the parks, history and culture that make Buenos Aires a major world metropolis. Then we fly to the far south, to El Calafate, on the shores of Lake Argentino and near the Southern Patagonia Ice Shield that feeds the lake with its spectacular glaciers. We explore the park by boat, on foot trails and, for the intrepid, with a hike on the Perito Moreno, the park's most famous glacier.

Then we fly to Trelew on the Atlantic Coast and spend two full days exploring the Peninsula Valdés Nature Preserve, a U.N. World Heritage Site and one of the best places to watch Patagonian wildlife, including Magellanic penguins, guanacos (small, wild llamas), rheas (South American ostriches), sea lions and elephant seals. We'll fly back to Buenos Aires for two nights and take a leisurely trip across the River Plate to Colonia del Sacramento, Uruguay, a picturesque outpost from the Portuguese colonial era.

The cost of the 11-night program is \$3950 per person in a double-occupancy room, with a \$1500 supplement for a single room. The price includes eleven nights lodging in tourist class hotels, all local air, land and water transportation as described in the itinerary and entrances to parks and museums. A deposit of \$500 per person is due on November 15. The balance is due on December 31, including the supplement for a single occupancy room.

Buenos Aires and nearby Uruguay have been my home for much of the last four decades. The people are warm and welcoming, and the sightseeing ranks among the best in the world. Karl and I will be glad to share our home and our experiences in South America with you.

Mark McMeley Karl Atkinson



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# Argentina from Buenos Aires to Patagonia, 2026

February 24 to March 7, 2026



## **Monday, February 23**

Program participants depart today from the United States. (Those continuing from the Brazil program arrive in Buenos Aires today.)

## **Tuesday, February 24**

Flights arrive at the Buenos Aires (Ezeiza) airport. The program conductor will meet participants as they come out of customs and escort everyone to the hotel in downtown Buenos Aires. Transportation to the hotel is included in the program cost. Argentina is three hours ahead of U.S. Central Time. We'll spend the rest of the day relaxing and taking short walks near the hotel. Dinner this evening will be in Puerto Madero (the historic port) in one of the famous parrillas (steak houses), that offer cuts of Argentine beef as well as full menus of other meats, pasta and salads.

Hotel: Buenos Aires





### **Wednesday, February 25**

Breakfast is provided in the hotel this morning and each morning of our stay in Argentina. We'll strike out to explore the city, stopping first at the nearby Colón Theater for a brief guided tour. The 120-year old Colón, one of the world's great opera houses, is also a gem of Argentine architecture. Afterwards we'll take the subway and head to the main square, the Plaza de Mayo, and see the Casa Rosada (the "Pink House"), the executive office building of the Argentine presidency, where Juan and Eva Perón greeted throngs of their supporters in the 1950s. Across the square we'll see the cathedral and the Cabildo, the colonial-era town hall. We'll circle back to the hotel for a break and then head to the Army Officer's Club at the Palacio Paz for lunch. The Palacio Paz is one of several grand residences built in the early 20th century by the city's elite, then purchased by the national government during the Great Depression and converted into government buildings and embassies. We'll head back to the hotel after a walk through the adjacent park and the monument to the soldiers and sailors who lost their lives in the Malvinas War of 1982.

Hotel: Buenos Aires







### Thursday, February 26

We'll spend another day exploring Buenos Aires. We'll head first to the Recoleta neighborhood for a brief tour of the famous cemetery, with its mausoleums built for the city's elite in the early 1900s. We'll see another one of the old residential "palaces," the Palacio Errázuriz-Alvear and stop nearby at the MALBA modern art museum before heading back to the hotel. We'll probably get a drink this evening and enjoy the skyline as the city's lights come on from the rooftop bar at the top of the Comega Building, downtown.

Hotel: Buenos Aires







### **Friday, February 27**

This morning we'll take taxis to the Aeroparque, Buenos Aires's downtown airport, and catch a flight to El Calafate, in the far southern part of the country, to start our exploration of Patagonia. Calafate is on the shore of Lake Argentino, the country's largest freshwater lake and is formed by the glacial melt from the Southern Patagonia Icefield, which covers the peaks of the southern Andes Mountains. We'll spend the rest of the day relaxing and walking around this small town that will soon close for the season as fall temperatures send the first snows.

Hotel: El Calafate  
Santa Cruz Province







### **Saturday, February 28**

A shuttle will pick us up this morning to take us into Glaciers National Park, a UN World Heritage site and one of the best places on earth to see glaciers and to watch the calving that sends large walls of ice tumbling into the water below. On the drive in, watch for flamingos on Lake Argentino and look for guanacos, wild relatives of llamas, on the grasslands. Our trip today will include a four-hour boat ride with a hot lunch on the lake's Upper Branch, seeing Spegazzini and Upsala glaciers. We'll disembark in mid-afternoon and continue by bus to the viewing area of the Perito Moreno Glacier. We'll take in the view of this 20-mile long river of ice that slowly flows from the border with Chile and becomes a 240-foot high, three-mile long wall of ice that empties into Lake Argentino. The walkways built by the Argentine Park Service are easy to manage and provide stupendous views of the glacier. The shuttle will drop us off at the hotel late in the afternoon.

Hotel: El Calafate, Santa Cruz Province





**Sunday, March 1**

After breakfast, we have a choice today of two very enjoyable activities: a trip to a sheep and cattle ranch with barbecue lunch and demonstrations of shearing and animal herding, or a one-hour hike with crampons across a section of the Perito Moreno Glacier. Both are day-long outings. A ticket to one activity per person is included in the program. The glacier hike has a maximum age limit of 65 years. Lunch is extra on the glacier hike.

Hotel: El Calafate, Santa Cruz Province





## **Monday, March 2**

After breakfast we'll head back to the Calafate airport and take a flight to Trelew, in northern Patagonia, on the Atlantic Coast. We'll have private transportation that will drive us into Puerto Madryn for our lodging for the next three nights. We'll take the rest of the day to relax and explore the town and port.

Hotel: Puerto Madryn or nearby, Chubut Province



## **Tuesday, March 3**

We'll head out after breakfast to the Peninsula Valdés, a large nature preserve and another of Argentina's World Heritage Sites. The park and preserve offer roads and trails to various points of interest across this vast, windswept region, and some of the best places anywhere for watching Patagonian wildlife, including rheas (South American ostriches), guanacos, Magellanic penguins, sea lions and elephant seals. The penguins have nested here since late spring (October and November) and the chicks are now growing and getting ready for the migration north in the coming weeks. We'll return to the hotel in the mid to late afternoon.

Hotel: Puerto Madryn or nearby, Chubut Province







### **Wednesday, March 4**

We have another day to explore this vast nature preserve. We'll spend some time in Puerto Pirámides, the only town located on the peninsula, and take time to walk some of the trails along the coast. With some luck, we'll spot an orca or a migrating right whale. We'll return to the hotel in the mid to late afternoon.

Hotel: Puerto Madryn or vicinity, Chubut Province



### **Thursday, March 5**

We'll pack our bags and head back to Trelew this morning. If we have time, we'll stop at Trelew's excellent Egidio Feruglio Paleontology Museum. Patagonia is known around the world for its many dinosaur excavation sites, and this new museum presents the region's pre-history in excellent exhibits. We'll head back to the Trelew airport for a flight to Buenos Aires, then take taxis back to the hotel in Buenos Aires.

Hotel: Buenos Aires



### **Friday, March 6**

This morning we'll enjoy a one-hour ferry trip across the wide River Plate to Uruguay, the small republic that long played a role between the Portuguese and Spanish colonial powers in South America--and then between the independent countries of Brazil and Argentina. (Remember to take your passport.) We'll visit Colonia del Sacramento, a small outpost of the Portuguese Empire that fell alternatively to Spanish and Portuguese armies throughout the 1700s. This picturesque little town, a World Heritage Site, is a fun way to conclude our adventure in South America, and we'll enjoy a leisurely lunch near the shore before heading back to the port for the return to Buenos Aires.

Hotel: Buenos Aires

### **Saturday, March 7**

The program conductor will be available to take you back to the Ezeiza Airport for departure today. You're welcome to have lunch and spend the afternoon in Mark's and Karl's home, on Lavalle Street. Most flights to North America depart in the evening and arrive at the major U.S. hubs the next morning.





### **Fees and payments**

Fee for the eleven-night Argentina from Buenos Aires to Patagonia 2026 program is \$3950.00 per person in a double-occupancy room. The fee includes:

- Eleven nights tourist-class, double-occupancy lodging in Buenos Aires, El Calafate and in or near Puerto Madryn, Argentina.
- Economy class air transportation from Buenos Aires to El Calafate, El Calafate to Trelew and return to Buenos Aires.
- All local land and water transportation, including incoming and outgoing transportation between airports and hotels, land and water excursions into Glaciers National Park, round-trip Buenos Aires to Colonia (Uruguay) ferry, local taxis, metro and public transportation, except where specified as not included.
- Entrances for parks and museums as described in the itinerary.
- Gratuities to drivers and hotel staff.

Fee does not include international airfare, lunches or dinners, entrances not specified in the program, or travel insurance. Major U.S. airlines offer non-stop flights from their U.S. hubs to Buenos Aires's Ezeiza Airport (EZE).

Supplement for a single room is \$1500.00.

This fee is based on a minimum of six paying passengers.

Payments are due on the following schedule:

November 15, 2025: \$ 500.00 due

December 31, 2025: \$3450.00 due (plus \$1500 single-room supplement if applicable)

Payments should be made to River Plate Seminars by check at this address: Mark McMeley, 1001 Brynlor Lane, Orlando, Florida 32818, or through Venmo at Mark-McMeley-1, or through Zelle at phone number 321-977-1389, or by wire transfer to the following account:

Chase Bank  
7674 Dr. Phillips Blvd., Orlando, Florida 32819  
account: 105 987 770  
routing number: 021000021  
attn: Mark McMeley



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