



Patagonia Trip Prep

Overview

Patagonia is an ecologically diverse region in South America, split between Chile and Argentina. Two rivers flow through Patagonia, the Colorado and the Barrancas Rivers. Due to its unique geological formation, Patagonia has some of the most breathtaking and picturesque mountains, glaciers and coastlines. It is truly an outdoor paradise.

Capital city: Argentina: Buenos Aires // Chile: Santiago

Region area: 1,043,076 km² // 402,734 sq mi

Population: 1,999,540 people (1.9/km² //5.0/sq mi)

Currency: Argentine Peso (ARG\$) and Chilean Peso (\$) or CLP)

Land Division: 90% of Patagonia is located in Argentina, while the other 10% lies in Chile

Time Zone: Argentina Time- ART (UTC/GMT -3) AND Chile Summer Time- CLST (UTC/GMT -4)

Emergency Number: 911





Packing List

- **Conditioner & hand lotion** - Not all hotels provide conditioner or lotion, so remember to pack your favorite products.
- **Hand sanitizer** - Protect yourself from unwanted germs so you can enjoy your trip sick-free.
- **Carry-on bags** - Avoid unnecessary baggage fees when traveling to other destinations post-trip. Plus, it's easier to lug around between cities.
- **Packing cubes** - You'll be moving in and out of hotels frequently and these will keep you organized.
- **Reusable water bottle** - Hydrate, hydrate, hydrate! You might not have access to fresh water when you're exploring, so it's a good idea to refill at your hotel before heading out for the day.
- **Portable chargers** - Stay prepared for any emergency or to capture the perfect shot.
- **Bug spray** - Mosquito bites are less common in these parts, but it doesn't hurt to have bug spray with DEET or Picaridin on hand to avoid bug bites and stay healthy during your trip.
- **Ear plugs** - Sensitive sleeper? Nice to have in case of a snoring roommate.
- **Laundry soap** - Single packets are perfect for sink washes when you're in a pinch!
- **Local currency** - Make sure to get some local currency from your bank. On average, you'll lose around 15% at the airport if you use the currency exchange. While many places do accept card, small local restaurants tend to be cash only.
- **Call your bank** - Your bank may suspend your card if they suspect unusual activity. Give them a call to let them know when and where you'll be traveling.
- **Layers, layers, layers!** - Layers are the way to go in Patagonia since temperatures tend to change at the drop of a hat. Pack shorts and t-shirts, long pants, beanies, gloves, warm upper layers and a windproof/waterproof jacket. In the winter, make sure to bring extra warm layers, a puffy coat, snow pants and a waterproof shell.
- **Hiking boots or shoes** - You will be doing some serious hiking, so comfortable and supportive hiking boots will be useful! The best pairs will be ones you've adequately broken in so you don't get any blisters on this trip. Remember to pack sandals to allow your feet some much-needed relief post-hike.
- **Hiking poles** - Hikes are long with elevation gain. Spare your knees and pack hiking poles. Don't want to check your bag? No problem. You can purchase poles in the country or rent.
- **Sunblock with SPF** - The sun can shine bright, and nothing ruins a vacation like a lobster sunburn. Protect your skin from unwanted damage by loading up on SPF.
- **Pepto Bismol** - Nothing ruins a trip like an upset stomach.
- **Daypacks** - Daypacks with refillable bladders to keep you hydrated are the best! You'll want plenty of room to pack lunch boxes, sunscreen, layers, and first-aid kits.
- **Entertainment** - Download your media prior to traveling so it's available in offline mode. Books, movies, shows and games are great for passing the time during long travel days.
- **Always pack extra underwear!**



Fun Facts About Patagonia

- Patagonia's coastal lines are surrounded by three different oceans: the Pacific Ocean to the west, the Atlantic Ocean to the east, and the Southern Ocean to the south.
- The name Patagonia comes from the word patagones- meaning big feet. Early explorers swore they saw giants on the beaches of Patagonia and the name has stuck around ever since.
- The largest dinosaur fossil ever found was in Patagonia. The Argentinosaurus Huinculensis is estimated to have been 40m (130 feet) long, 20m (65 feet) tall and weighed approximately 77 tons.
- Patagonia boasts the title of having the southernmost city in the world - Ushuaia, Argentina.
- The coasts of Patagonia are home to an impressive 1.7 million Magellanic penguins, as opposed to barely 2 million people.
- The Patagonian Desert is the largest desert in the Americas and the 8th largest in the world.
- The Perito Moreno glacier in Los Glaciares National Park contains the third largest reserve of freshwater in the world.
- Patagonia comprises about half of Chile and half of Argentina, although it's home to less than 5% of either country's population.
- Torres del Paine in Chilean Patagonia was voted the Eighth Wonder of the World.
- The first known inhabitants of this region are the Tehuelche, or Aónikenk people. They are famous for their exceptional cave art, which were drawn 9,500-13,000 years ago.



Speak the Language

Language: Spanish

- **Hello** - ¡Hola! (O-la)
- **Goodbye** - ¡Adios! (AH-dee-ohs)
- **Thank you** - Gracias (GRA-see-as)
- **Do you speak English?** - ¿Habla inglés? (Ab-la in-GLAYS)
- **I (don't) understand** - Yo (no) entiendo (yo no en-tee-EN-doh)
- **How are you?** - ¿Cómo está? (KOH-moh eh-STAH)
- **I'm fine, thank you** - Bien, gracias (bee-EN, GRA-see-as)
- **What's your name?** - ¿Cómo te llamas? ((KOH-moh te ya-mas?))
- **My name is...** - Me llamo... (May ya-moh...)
- **Where is...** - ¿Dónde está... (DON-day es-tah...)
 - **The bathroom** - el baño (el BAH-nyo)
 - **An ATM** - un cajero (un kah-HEH-roh)

Google Translate: Download the Google Translate app or use the following link to translate more words: <https://translate.google.com>

Tipping

Tipping Suggestions: Tips for guides, drivers and restaurants are not included. Tips provide supplemental income, and, while not mandatory, are greatly appreciated. If the local teams have added to the experience, please reward them.

Guides	→	USD \$4 per person/per day
Drivers	→	USD \$1 per person/per day
Restaurants (full service)	→	\$1 to 10% of total bill
Hotels (assistance with luggage)	→	\$0.50 per bag
Hotels (housekeeping)	→	\$1 per person/per day



FAQ

Where can I find information on travel safety? Check out the US Department of State's website for the most up-to-date information on safety while traveling.

- Argentina: <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/traveladvisories/argentina-travel-advisory.html>
- Chile: <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/traveladvisories/chile-travel-advisory.html>

How do you recommend preparing for the weather? Patagonia is known for its unpredictable weather and it's infamous for being very wind. So, packing layers is the best way to be prepared. In the summer, temperatures usually range from about 50°F to mid-70s in the day and can drop into the 40s at night. Because of the strong winds that can reach up to 100mph, temperatures may seem colder. Shorts and t-shirts are great for warm days of hiking, but the nights and mountains can be quite cool! Long pants, warm upper layers and a windproof and waterproof jacket will be your best friend at the top of a mountain or on chilly nights. Plus, they protect your skin from the sun's harsh rays on this side of the planet.

Is the water safe to drink? Tap water in Patagonia is drinkable in most urban areas. However, it is recommended to consume bottled water in the more remote regions of the area. For hikes, we advise not to drink the glacier water unless it's filtered or you have a self-cleaning straw.

Do I need a Visa? For Visa information, visit the following websites.

- Argentina: <http://www.migraciones.gov.ar/accesible/indexA.php?visas>
- Chile: <https://www.visatraveler.com/visa-guides/chile-visa-requirements/>

Make sure to also check that your passport isn't expired or about to expire!

What about vaccines? For Vaccination information, visit the following websites.

- Argentina: <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/traveler/none/argentina>
- Chile: <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/traveler/none/chile>

Do you recommend travel insurance? While not required, we highly recommend all travelers get travel insurance for their trip to protect themselves from the unknown. Check out travel insurance options from our partner, worldnomads.com or from a provider of your choice.

What does public transportation look like? There are taxis in the major towns in Patagonia (both in Chile and Argentina). The easiest way to get one is to ask your hotel or a restaurant to call one for you or go to the designated taxi stations. To travel across towns in Patagonia or across the border, buses are affordable and reliable. There is no Lyft or Uber available.