

Flights from London

We normally use the scheduled services of **Iberia** (depending on availability). As flight timings and schedules change regularly, we recommend you call one of our specialist sales staff or your agent to confirm up-to-date timings. Please note timings may change at a later date and cannot be confirmed until approximately two weeks before departure.

Flights within Chile and Argentina are generally with LAN.

UK Regional Flights

Exodus can arrange flights from the majority of the UK's regional airports that are more flexible and convenient than if booked separately. Please contact our sales team for details.

Please note that if booking your regional flights other than with Exodus, you must allow a minimum connecting time (in addition to the international check in time) of 1 hour at Gatwick, and 1.5 hours at Heathrow; this is longer than the official minimum connecting time, but baggage handling at Heathrow is known to be subject to delays.

Airport Transfers

Airport transfers are included for those on the group flights. Please note that transfers are not included for clients arriving on any other flight, even if it has been booked for you by Exodus. Those arriving from London on non-group flights should read the airport transfer section below for information on reaching the start point. Please check with the Exodus office if you are unsure whether or not a transfer is included.

JOINING THE TRIP IN SANTIAGO

14 days, start Santiago Sat, end Buenos Aires Sat.

Itinerary start

Your trip normally starts at our hotel in Santiago on the evening of Day 1 of the itinerary listed below. Details of how to reach the start point are given in the Final Joining Instructions. Hotel check-in times are normally from around 3pm.

Airport Transfers

If you require airport transfers, you may (by prior arrangement only) be able to join the group transfer. Transfers are arranged to coincide with the arrival time of the group flight.

Group flights can be rescheduled, so you must check the group flight details 2 weeks before departure. If you do not take this transfer, or miss it, you must make your own way to the joining point at your own expense. Joining the group transfer is free of charge.

If you would like us to organise a private transfer for you, the cost is £20 per person and is payable before departure. Please ensure that you provide us with all relevant information at least 2 weeks before departure. Please note that the cost of a taxi is likely to be about US\$20, or shared shuttle vans about \$10, should you decide to make your way independently.

Full joining instructions including local emergency numbers will be sent to you as part of our Final Joining Instructions. If you do not receive these at least a week before departure, or require them earlier please contact our office or your travel agent.

DOMESTIC FLIGHTS

Please note that domestic flights on this trip are not included in the land only cost, and must be booked separately.

Please speak to our sales team to find out which flights you need to book for this trip. Exodus can book the Chilean domestic flights on days 2 and 4 through our local partners – please ask us for a quote.

We can book the domestic flights in Argentina on days 9 and 11, but these are generally cheaper if issued in conjunction with your international flights. If you would like a quote for these flights, please ask our sales team.

LAND ONLY ITINERARY

The entries in **bold** at the end of each day indicate the type of accommodation normally used (see accommodation section overleaf for key to codes) and meals included (**B**=Breakfast, **L**=Lunch, **D**=Dinner)

Day 1 (Day 2 ex-London) Start Santiago Those on group flights will be met at the airport and transferred to the hotel. This afternoon we will

have a tour of the city, visiting the highlights of the historical downtown area, including the presidential palace and the main square with its grand cathedral. We also see the modern financial and residential districts west of the city centre, and get panoramic views of Santiago and the snow-capped Andes from the top of Santa Lucia Hill. **CH**

Day 2 (Day 3 ex-London) To Puerto Montt This morning we take a flight to Puerto Montt, a port city which is the gateway to the Chilean Lake District. From the airport, it is a short drive to the pretty lakeside town of Puerto Varas where we spend the next two nights. On the other side of Lake Llanquihue sits the impressive Osorno Volcano, an almost-perfect conical mountain with glaciers and snow on its upper slopes. The afternoon is free for us to stroll along the shore and admire the scenery or discover the town's German buildings, including the interesting church which would not be out of place in the European Alps. **SH (Meals included B)**



Day 3 (Day 4 ex-London) Lake cruise and volcano walk We drive to the small port of Petrohue and board our boat for a cruise on Lago Todos los Santos ("All Saints Lake"). The lake, which is entirely surrounded by the Vicente Perez Rosales National Park, is also known as Lago Esmeralda ("Emerald Lake") due to the deep green colour of its water. From the boat there are amazing views of the surrounding volcanoes, the thick native forests and several small islands which are scattered across the lake.

We return to the pier at around lunchtime and start a half-day hike on Osorno Volcano. The trail starts out across wide lava fields and the vegetation steadily thickens as we walk through the temperate Valdivian rainforest. We will get some great views of Lago Todos los Santos and Tronador Volcano throughout the hike. After the walk we will return to Puerto Varas. **CH (B,L)**

Day 4 (Day 5 ex-London) Vineyard visit This morning we drive to Puerto Montt airport for the return flight to Santiago, and after leaving our bags at our hotel we leave the city to visit one of the vineyards in the highly productive Central Valley. The trip includes a walk through the vines, an explanation of the production and ageing process, and most importantly the chance to taste the wines themselves.

Day 5 (Day 6 ex-London) Valparaiso Today we have a full day tour to the coast and the city of Valparaiso. Set on steep hillsides overlooking a sweeping bay, Valparaiso is Chile's largest port and has a fascinating historical quarter which is now a World Heritage Site. We will explore this area of colourful cliff-hugging buildings and narrow winding streets on foot, and, if they are operational when we visit, we will take one of several old-fashioned funicular railways which link the downtown area with the hillsides. **CH (B)**

Day 6 (Day 7 ex-London) To Mendoza We leave Chile today as we drive across the Andes into Argentina. Although it is a long drive (around 7



hours) in a public bus, we will be rewarded with magnificent views of some of the highest mountains in South America, including Aconcagua. The border posts are on either side of the 3000 metre long Cristo Redentor Tunnel, and soon after entering Argentina we drive close to the entrance to the Horcones Valley, which leads right up to Aconcagua and offers great views of its snow covered peak. The road descends towards Mendoza, a pleasant provincial capital located at the foot of the Andes with a climate perfect for agriculture and wine production. **CH (B)**

Day 7 (Day 8 ex-London) City and vineyard tour After breakfast this morning we will set off on a full day tour, first exploring the city itself. There are many historic buildings in the city centre, as well as large parks and a beautiful rose garden with over 4,500 rose varieties. We visit Cerro de la Gloria, where a large monument celebrates the crossing of the Andes by José de San Martín, the liberator of Argentina during the wars of independence from Spain.

We head out of town through vine-covered valleys to a local winery where we have lunch before a local wine expert explains the different stages of production. The region is noted for the quality of its Malbec, but is also becoming increasingly well-known for some of its white wines, and we will get a chance to taste several wines at the end of the tour before our return to Mendoza. **CH (B,L)**

Day 8 (Day 9 ex-London) Free day Today has been left at leisure for you to take a variety of optional excursions. It's possible to visit some of the more remote and higher altitude vineyards, or there are lots of other activities on offer. Horse riding in the Andean foothills is a real delight, with amazing mountain views, and full or half-day rides for all levels can be arranged. Whitewater rafting on the Mendoza River is also available for those seeking an adrenalin rush amid spectacular scenery. **CH (B)**

Day 9 (Day 10 ex-London) Iguassu Falls We transfer to Mendoza airport this morning for our flight to Puerto Iguazu, with a change of planes in Buenos Aires. On arrival, we will be met and transferred to our hotel. We will spend the next two nights in a small and peaceful hotel just outside the busy town of Puerto Iguazu which is set in several hectares of lush tropical gardens. The rest of the day is at leisure to relax by the hotel pool or stroll through the grounds. **CH (B)**

Day 10 (Day 11 ex-London) Iguassu National Parks A full day visit to the Iguassu Falls National Parks today. We start early to avoid the crowds and head first across the border to the Brazilian side of falls. Due to the



number of people visiting both sides of the falls, the immigration procedure is relatively straightforward, so without much delay we should then be on our way to the Brazilian Iguassu National Park. There is a walking trail of approximately 2km which winds its way through some of the park's 185,000 hectares

and offers magnificent panoramic views of the falls themselves. At the end of the trail, there is a viewing platform close to the mighty 'Devil's Throat', the largest of the cataracts (the falls are made up of between 160 and 260 individual waterfalls). The roar of the waters as they come crashing over the lip of the canyon is very impressive, and even from a couple of hundred metres away you will almost certainly feel the spray.

After taking the glass elevator to a higher viewing platform, we drive over the lower Iguassu River to the Argentine border and then drive to the Argentinean Iguazu National Park. A small train takes us to the start of a 1km walkway over the upper Iguassu River - the contrast between these calm waters and the thundering falls a short distance downstream is dramatic. At the end of the walkway, there is a viewpoint almost directly on top of the 'Devil's Throat', and this is a perfect place to watch the falls and the flocks of swifts which dart amongst the mist.

We continue our visit with a walk along either the 'lower' or 'upper' circuits - a series of boardwalks which get very close to some of the smaller falls and allow for better exploration of the rich flora and fauna. Lizards, butterflies and a multitude of tropical birds are amongst the wildlife you can expect to see as you walk. In the late afternoon we return to our hotel. **CH (B)**

Day 11 (Day 12 ex-London) To Buenos Aires This morning we drive to Puerto Iguazu airport for our flight to Buenos Aires. On arrival we will be met and transferred to our hotel in the city centre, close to the main historical and commercial districts. The rest of the day is at leisure. **CH (B)**

Day 12 (Day 13 ex-London) City tour After breakfast we have a tour of the city's main sights. We will take in the main square, the Plaza de Mayo, which is overshadowed by the imposing presidential palace, known locally as the Casa Rosada ("Pink House"), and the grand cathedral. We also visit the upmarket residential district of Recoleta, which has tree-lined streets lined with grand private houses and is home to the famous cemetery where Eva Peron's tomb can be found. The Italian district of La Boca is a maze of colourful corrugated iron buildings and is known as the birthplace of tango - we can usually see couples dancing in the street here. The rest of the day is at leisure to further explore the city and its green spaces. There are lots of large parks to relax in as well as many pavement cafes, and the city has a distinctly Parisian air. In the evening there is an optional dinner and

tango show where we can see some of the city's best dancers performing several styles of this sensuous dance while enjoying fine Argentinean wine and succulent steaks. **CH (B)**

Day 13 (Day 14 ex-London)

Free day We have a day at leisure today for a variety of optional excursions or to simply relax and do some last minute shopping. It is easy to take a day trip out to the Pampas to experience life on a traditional *estancia* (ranch)



where we can find out more about the Gaucho way of life and enjoy an open-air barbecue - there will also be the opportunity for an extended horse ride. Also within easy reach of the city is the relaxed town of Tigre where we can take a relaxing boat trip around the islands of the Parana River delta - there is a wide variety of flora here, and the islands are home to many species of birds. **CH (B)**

Day 14 (Day 15 ex-London) End Buenos Aires The trip ends after breakfast today. Those on group flights will be transferred to the airport this afternoon for the return flight to London. **(B)**

For those on group flights, these depart in the evening and will arrive in the UK the following day

ACCOMMODATION

Single Accommodation Single rooms can be arranged throughout, subject to availability. The single supplement is £475.

Extra Accommodation Pre- and post-tour accommodation can be organised in both Santiago and Buenos Aires. Singles / doubles cost £65 per room per night in Santiago and £60 in Buenos Aires.

KEY TO ACCOMMODATION

SH Standard Hotel, Lodge or Gite - no-frills hotel, usually with twin rooms and en suite facilities. Service and amenities are generally adequate.

CH Comfortable Hotel, Lodge or Gite - twin rooms with en suite facilities, reliable electricity and water supply, good service and some added amenities.

FOOD & TRANSPORT

Food

In the itinerary we state which meals are included on each day.

Most breakfasts are buffet style, and generally include a range of cold and hot dishes, bread, fruit, coffee and juices.

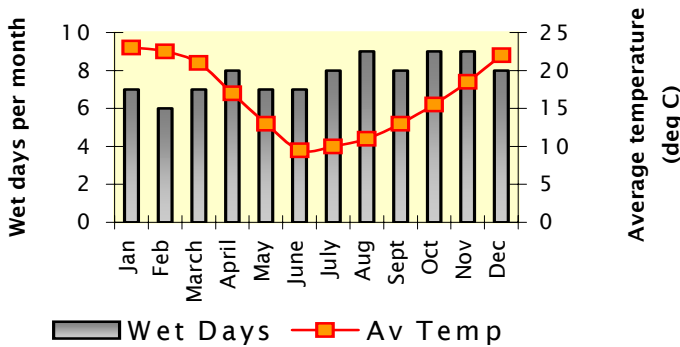
Vegetarians and those with special dietary requirements can be catered for in most places, but please make sure that you advise of this in advance so that we can make arrangements with hotels and restaurants.

Transport

On this trip we use a private minibus, one public bus between Santiago and Mendoza, and several internal flights.

WEATHER

Weather chart for Buenos Aires



The temperature on his trip is generally pleasant with Santiago, Mendoza and Buenos Aires having warm summers and cool winters. With averages in the mid to high 20s, it has been known to reach the mid to high 30s between November and March. May to October will see average temperatures in the mid to high teens but dropping to an average of 3 to 5C overnight although temperatures below freezing are possible at this time of year. Iguassu is often in the 30s during the day, usually with a high degree of humidity, but April to August can see temperatures dipping to single figures overnight. The trip runs in the southern hemisphere summer months, when the Chilean Lake District enjoys a pleasant climate, with daytime temperatures in the high teens or low twenties and night time lows of around 5C. Weather here can be unpredictable, and it can rain at any time of the year.

RESPONSIBLE TOURISM

Tourism can be a real help to local communities, providing income, positive cultural exchanges and a financial incentive to protect their natural environment.

Ours is a 'total approach' to responsible tourism, covering everything from the way we plan and operate our trips to the practices of Exodus as a company. Exodus trips are designed to allow a high degree of economic benefit to the local communities; we buy local produce, eat local food and use local services, thus ensuring that as much money as possible is retained within the local economies and the host communities. With our responsible tourism policy we are continually reassessing our holidays, trying at all times to ensure that they are socially, economically and environmentally sound.

Awards for our work on Responsible Tourism

2009 British Travel Awards: commendation in small tour operator category

2006. British Travel Awards: Environmentally Responsible Tourism Company.

2004. Responsible Travel Awards: Best Tour Operator.

For full details of our Responsible Tourism Policy please visit:

www.exodus.co.uk/responsible-travel



PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Passports and Visas

All nationalities require a full passport that must be valid for 6 months beyond the intended length of stay. It is your responsibility to have the correct personal documents and to obtain your own visa, if one is necessary, in accordance with the regulations of the country you are to visit. The information offered below is to help you with that process. We are not responsible for the actions of local immigration and customs officials, whether at points of entry or otherwise, and any subsequent effects.

British, New Zealand and most EU citizens do not require visas for any countries visited on this trip. US, Canadian and Australian citizens do

not require visas for Chile and Argentina but must apply in advance for a Brazilian visa – you should enquire at your nearest embassy for details and prices.

Visa regulations can and do change without notice and if you are not a British passport holder please check the current regulations in good time to obtain a visa if one is required.

For information on how to obtain visas please call Travcour on 020 7223 5295 or visit their website: <http://www.travcour.com/>

Vaccinations and Health

Travel health can often be something people forget about before going away, but a little preparation and knowledge can go a long way to help you stay fit and healthy while abroad.

A Yellow Fever vaccination is not essential but there have been recent outbreaks in the Iguassu Falls area and we strongly recommend that you are vaccinated against the disease in advance. Polio, Tetanus, Diphtheria, Typhoid and Hepatitis A vaccinations are also advised.

The above information can change at short notice, and as we are not qualified to answer all your questions in regards to travel health we strongly recommend you contact your GP or a Travel Health Clinic at least 8 weeks prior to departure for up-to-date information.



Nomad Travel Clinics are experts in preparing people for travel, providing expert advice on vaccinations, anti-malarial and staying healthy whilst overseas. We have arranged a special 10% discount for Exodus passengers on any vaccinations that you may require. For information visit the community section of our website or click on this link www.nomadtravel.co.uk/pages/exodus.

For additional information please visit: www.fitfortravel.scot.nhs.uk

Insurance – are you adequately covered?

Please ask for details of the Exodus insurance policy that has been tailored to provide specific cover for our trips. It is a condition of joining any of our holidays that you must be insured against medical and personal accident risks (to include repatriation costs and air ambulance or helicopter rescue services where appropriate). If taking an alternative policy you must be sure that you are covered for any activities that are part of this trip or optional activities that you intend to take part in. For further information please see the insurance section of the Exodus Travel Advice guide or visit www.exodus.co.uk/about-exodus/travel-insurance.

Local Time is GMT -3hrs in Argentina, and GMT -4hrs in Chile.

Group, Staff and Support

The group will generally be between 8 and 18 people. There will be a local leader as well as local guides and drivers where needed.

The minimum age of clients on this trip is 18 years.

MONEY MATTERS

Exodus and Local Payments

There is no local payment on this holiday. As of 1 January 2008, Exodus no longer uses local payments to cover part of the cost of the holiday. While some of the headline prices seem higher, we have not added any extra costs into the total price, apart from the local payment and any standard annual fluctuation in price.

If you are comparing prices with other operators, please check the total price paid, as we believe that Exodus offers the best balance between value for money and operational quality.

Currency Information

We recommend that you take most of your spending money in US Dollars cash, since sterling and euros are hard to change and the rates of exchange are likely to be poor. US Dollar Travellers' Cheques are also accepted, but again exchange rates are generally lower than for cash with high commission levels – they do, however, offer security and can be replaced if lost or stolen.

We also recommend keeping the money in US Dollars, changing as and when necessary. It is always wise to have some local currency for buying meals, snacks, incidentals etc. There are exchange facilities at Santiago airport, and we recommend changing some money on arrival. Your tour leader will give you more information on exchanging currency as you go along.

Please note that torn, damaged or marked US Dollar bills can be refused, so it is best to travel with relatively new and clean notes.



The national currency of Chile is the Peso, with an exchange rate of approximately 495 to the US\$ and 785 to the UK£.

The national currency of Argentina is the Peso, with an exchange rate of approximately 3.8 to the US\$ and 6.3 to the UK£.

The national currency of Brazil is the Real, with an exchange rate of approximately 1.7 to the US\$ and 2.85 to the UK£.

Exchange rates are correct at the time of publication.

ATM availability

There are ATMs in Santiago, Puerto Montt, Puerto Varas, Mendoza, Puerto Iguazu and Buenos Aires.

Extra Expenses and Spending Money

Food is relatively inexpensive in Argentina where we will eat most of our meals. Allow about US\$12-\$15 per meal to eat at good restaurants (**NB this does not include alcoholic beverages** that whilst inexpensive compared to Europe can considerably increase the price of a meal).

The cost of living is higher in Chile, and you should budget around US\$15-20 for meals for this portion of the trip.

Bottled water and soft drinks are readily available for around US\$1 each, and a bottle of beer will cost in the region of US\$1.50 to US\$2. Most wine is inexpensive, but be prepared to pay more for quality labels.

For most flights there is an airport tax that can only be paid as you depart. This is currently approx. US\$6-8 for each domestic departure in Argentina (rates vary according to airport). An international departure tax of US\$18 is also payable at Buenos Aires airport for your return flight. These taxes are payable in local currency or US dollars.

Credit Card Acceptance

Most major credit cards are readily accepted in larger restaurants and most large shops throughout Chile and Argentina, but in smaller restaurants and shops you should always have cash handy. You should check with your bank in advance to ensure your card will work in these countries.

Optional excursions (approximate, depending on group sizes)

Mendoza: Horse riding (half day) US\$35, Horse riding (full day including lunch) US\$50, Whitewater rafting US\$35-50 depending on number of hours.

Iguassu Falls: Helicopter trip US\$65, Itaipu Dam US\$10

Buenos Aires: Tango show & dinner US\$80, Estancia visit US\$85, Tigre & Parana Delta with lunch US\$65, Tango classes from US\$40 per hour.



Tippling (leader and local staff)

Our local staff are paid well and fairly for their work with Exodus. Although tips are not compulsory, they are very much a part of life in Latin America, and you should budget around US\$3 per person per day to cover tips for your tour leader and other local guides. You may want to form and manage a "tip kitty" with other group members to facilitate tips. By definition, gratuities are not something we can include in the trip cost.

For your commission free holiday currency, pre loaded cash cards and travellers cheques delivered directly to your door at very competitive

rates, visit us on www.currency-express.com/exodus and receive free delivery on orders over £300.

WHAT TO TAKE

Essential Equipment and Clothing

This should be read in conjunction with our 'What to Pack' section in the Travel Advice booklet.

You will need the following:

Long trousers, long-sleeved t-shirts or shirts (to prevent mosquito bites), shorts, sunhat, lightweight waterproof clothing, warm jacket and hat, sandals, comfortable walking shoes, high factor sun cream (SPF30 or higher) and lip salve, insect repellent, camera, torch, long trousers (especially for optional horse riding).

Optional items:

Binoculars, waterproof bag to hold camera at Iguassu Falls, spare memory cards or film, swimming gear.

Much of the equipment mentioned above is available at very competitive prices at the Exodus online shop, 'Exodus Travel Essentials' in partnership with Amazon. Please visit www.exodus.co.uk/community for more information.

Baggage and Baggage Allowance

Exodus kitbags are available for purchase at £25, which includes postage, packing and VAT. Please note that they are available within the UK only.

At time of publication - the standard weight limit for hold baggage on the recommended international carrier for this trip is 23kg. Internal flights in destination are however subject to a lower weight limit of 20kg.

As advice about luggage allowances for both hand and hold luggage is subject to change, we suggest you check www.baa.com and/or the airline's website for the latest information prior to your departure.

If you would prefer to buy your own equipment we have a wide variety available in our very own Exodus shop, 'Exodus Travel Essentials' in partnership with Amazon. Please visit www.exodus.co.uk/community for more information.

READING LIST

Exodus suggests below a series of books, guides or maps that may be useful or interesting for your trip.

Birds of Southern South America and Antarctica Martin de la Pena (Collins Illustrated Checklists)

Chile Handbook (Footprint Handbooks)

Argentina Handbook (Footprint Handbooks)

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR ALL CLIENTS

Exodus operate a 24 hour duty office for emergencies, which can be contacted on 0044 (0) 1582 644 100.

Anytime that you travel abroad you should take the time to read the warnings in the essential information in the brochure or at www.exodus.co.uk/about-exodus/essential-information?

Full joining instructions including local emergency numbers, and details of how to reach the start point, will be sent to you approximately 2 to 3 weeks prior to departure. If you do not receive these at least a week before departure, or require them earlier please contact our office or your travel agent.

Occasionally, as stated in our brochure, it may not be possible to follow the itinerary as planned. This may be for a variety of reasons - climatic, political, physical or other. In these circumstances we will make the best alternative arrangements possible that maintain the integrity of the original itinerary.

The information in these Trip Notes is given in good faith, and covers the average range of conditions likely to be found on this trip. Where differences exist in the information between these Trip Notes and our current brochure, the Trip Notes are the correct version and supersede the brochure. Abnormal conditions or other events beyond our control can prevail at any time, particularly in remote or off the beaten track destinations, therefore all holidays can be subject to unexpected

changes; in order to enjoy them you should be prepared to be flexible where necessary.

©Exodus Travels Ltd. ATOL 2582/FTO

HOW TO BOOK YOUR TRIP

- 1. Check availability** Go online to check availability, or contact us by phone or email.
- 2. Secure your place** You can provisionally hold a place on this trip, usually for between three and seven days.
- 3. Complete your booking and payment** When you're ready to book, go to www.exodus.co.uk for online booking, book over the phone or you can complete a booking form (available online or on request by calling us). We accept all major credit and debit cards, or you can pay by cheque.

Book with confidence Exodus is fully licensed and bonded as a tour operator. We hold Air Traffic Organisers Licence (ATOL) number 2582 issued and bonded with the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA). We are also bonded to the International Air Transport Association (IATA) and we are members of the Federation of Tour Operators (FTO) and ABTA - The Travel Association. This means you can book your Exodus holiday with confidence, as all monies paid to us for your trip are fully protected.

