Code TSR **Tierra del Fuego**

Tour Dossier Introduction

Dossier Last Updated: 11-12-2013
Tour Code: TSR
Duration: 41 nights / 42 days
Joining City: Santiago
Departure City: Rio de Janeiro
Nearest Joining International Airport: Santiago A Merino Benitez Intl Airport (SCL)
Nearest Departing International Airport: Rio Galeao Antonio Carlos Jobim Intl Apt (GIG)

Please check this document just before departing in case of last minute changes to your tour.

Tour Documents

PDF Document Web Page

- Packing List for Overlanding Tours
- Joining Letter for Tours Beginning in Santiago
- Optional Excursions in South America
- Pre Departure Booklet - South America Overland Tours
- Argentina Dossier
- Brazil Dossier
- Chile Dossier
- Paraguay Dossier
- Santiago City Map
- Portuguese Language Survival Guide
- Spanish Language Guide

What's Included

- Lunch near Salto de Laja Falls
- Entry to Torres del Paine National Park
- Entry to Seno Otway Penguin Colony
- Beagle Channel cruise
- Guided tour of Trinidad ruins
- Entry to Iguazú Falls in Argentina
- Entry to Iguazú Falls in Brazil
- Entry to Parque Das Aves Parque Das Aves Bird Park

- 11 nights in hotels, hostels & guesthouses, 30 nights camping
- 37 breakfasts, 35 lunches, 30 dinners
- Travel by **Tucan Travel Expedition Vehicle**, boat, taxi,

on foot
- Tucan Travel Tour Leader, Tucan Travel Driver, English-speaking local guide(s) on excursions

What's not Included

- International flights and departure taxes
- Domestic flight taxes if applicable
- Tips on included excursions, visas, travel insurance, personal items and single rooms.
- Airport transfers and pre and post tour accommodation
- Spending money – budget for meals, snacks, drinks, limited souvenirs, laundry, tips and any extras
- Optional excursions - Please see our optional excursions guide on the dossier page for a comprehensive list of optional activities and excursions available on this tour.

Detailed Itinerary

Day 1 to 1 - Arrive Santiago

The first day of your tour is simply an arrival day with no pre-organised activities. In order to allow time to relax and see some of the sights you may wish to add pre tour accommodation. On arrival please ask at the reception for information on when the pre departure meeting will be held.

Pedro de Valdivia established the city of Santiago in 1541 but not much remains of its original glory. At Santa Lucia hill where the original fortress was constructed, there are excellent views of the city below. However, for even better photo opportunities, take a funicular railway to the top of San Cristobal where the Statue of the Virgin overlooks the capital and the distant Andes. At this pleasant viewing area there are wine-tasting facilities and a couple of beautifully situated swimming pools. Santiago is a clean, modern city with fountains, parks and imposing buildings. In the Plaza Constitución at the Palacio de la Moneda you can see the changing of the guard on most days or you can take an optional excursion to the port of Valparaiso and the resort of Viña del Mar.

Day 2 to 4 - Pucón

We continue to the Lake District of Chile and the picturesque town of Pucón, a small resort on Lake Villarrica below the perfect cone-shaped Villarrica Volcano. The whole area is surrounded by lakes, mountains, forests, rivers and waterfalls and offers many exciting optional activities such as trekking to the top of the active volcano, white water rafting, horseback riding, mountain biking and water sports on the lake. We have a free day to allow time to take advantage of some of the great activities on offer or simply relax. Whilst in the area we will visit Salto del Laja, the waterfalls which drop an impressive 47 metres to the rocks below.

Day 5 to 7 - Bariloche

We cross over into Argentina to the resort town of San Carlos de Bariloche on the shores of Lake Nahuel Haupi. Bariloche is a famous winter ski resort that also has a great deal to offer during other seasons. Built by Swiss and German immigrants in the Alpine style, there are Swiss-style chalets, numerous chocolate shops and even St. Bernard dogs with brandy barrels around their necks. There are excellent optional opportunities to take in the breathtaking views from the cable car and also the chance for some hiking or cycling.

Day 8 to 8 - En route

We now enter Patagonia, a dry windswept expanse stretching to the southern tip of the continent. Travelling along the barren windswept roads towards our destination of El Calafate, we will stop en route to camp for the night to break up this long journey.

Day 9 to 10 - El Calafate

El Calafate is a town on the edge of Lake Argentino which will be our base to visit the Ventisquero Moreno Glacier. With a height of around 60 metres and a width of five kilometres at the front, it is an incredible sight. You will have the chance to walk around some paths and terraces where we get some great views of the glacier. We also go on a boat cruise taking us across almost the full width of the glacier for amazingly close-up views. The glacier is constantly 'calving', so it's not possible to get too close.

Day 11 to 14 - Torres del Paine National Park

Back across into Chile now as we visit Torres del Paine National Park, named after the massive granite towers that rise above the earth. The scenery is stunning with snow-capped peaks, glaciers, beautiful lakes and valleys. The park is also home to interesting native flora and fauna. Some of the varied and amazing creatures you might spot include Andean condors, guanacos (a relative of the llama) and rhea (a type of emu) to name but a few. We have plenty of opportunities to trek the many trails in the park. Some of the walks are quite demanding, but there is a good range for all grades of walker.

There are many trekking options available in the Torres del Paine National Park, ranging from single-day trips to longer multiple-day hikes. Please be sure to advise your expedition leader as early as possible if you wish to complete an optional excursion in Torres del Paine National Park so that he/she can assist you with your accommodation and bookings.

Note: No food is allowed to be taken into Chile so please ensure you have eaten or disposed of any snacks you may have with you before we cross the border.

Included Excursions: Entry to Torres del Paine National Park

Day 15 to 15 - Punta Arenas

Punta Arenas is a duty-free port and early frontier town and will be a stopover on our way to the southernmost city in the world, Ushuaia. Enroute we will visit the nearby Magellanic Penguin colony at Seno Otway, where thousands of these strange, docile birds return annually to breed and make their homes by burrowing into the earth.

Day 16 to 18 - Ushuaia

We cross the Straits of Magellan to Tierra del Fuego (Land of Fire) and re-enter Argentina, travelling to the town of Rio Grande which used to be an airbase during the Falklands war. From here it's only a short drive to Ushuaia. People come from far and wide to base themselves here and visit the spectacular surroundings. We will take an excursion on the Beagle Channel and visit the Isla de los Lobos (Sea Lion Island) where you can see colonies of sea lions. You can visit the nearby Lapataia National Park where the exhaustive Pan-American Highway ends. This park covers 63,000 hectares of mountains, lakes, deep valleys and rivers. You can trek along various trails through the beautiful beech forests spotting wildlife along the way. There are also some interesting museums in Ushuaia, such as the Maritime Museum and the Museum at the End of the World. If you want a bit more walking, the Martial Glacier can be climbed, which towers high above the town of Ushuaia. Those interested in steam trains might like to go for a ride on the 'Train at the End of the World' and send a postcard to friends and family with a stamp from the post office at… you guessed it… the end of the world!

Included Excursions: Seno Otway Penguin Colony • Beagle Channel cruise

Day 19 to 20 - En route

Heading northbound we follow the Atlantic coast passing through thousands of kilometres of virtually uninhabited wide open spaces with a couple of overnight stops along the way.

Day 21 to 22 - Puerto Madryn

Along our way we visit the Welsh community of Puerto Madryn, where in 1865 1,500 Welsh immigrants arrived from the Clipper Mimosa and named the natural port 'Port Madryn' then settled and founded the town.

From here we will have the option to visit the nearby Valdés Peninsula. The Valdés Peninsula is renowned for its wildlife and you will hopefully se e penguins, sea lions, elephant seals, armadillos, guanacos, rheas, southern right whales, killer whales, Patagonian hares and a great variety of seabirds.

Day 23 to 23 - En route Azul

We have another night camping en route as we head towards Argentina's capital.

Day 24 to 27 - Buenos Aires

The beautiful city of Buenos Aires is known as the "Paris of South America" due to its lovely green parks, plazas and wide boulevards. From the balcony of the presidential palace, the Casa Rosada (Pink Palae), Eva Peron made many of her speeches. It's also the place where Madonna sang, "Don't cry for me Argentina" in the film Evita. Across the Plaza de Mayo you will also find the Cabildo (the old town hall) the Palacio Municipal (City Hall) and the cathedral. Every Thursday afternoon in this plaza the "Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo" march in remembrance of their family members who disappeared in the 1970s when the country was under military rule. There are many excellent restaurants in the Puerto Madera area and it is well worth a visit to the port of La Boca for its colourful buildings and cultural history. In nearby San Telmo, the bohemian area, there is a fascinating antique market every Sunday. The Recoleta Cemetery, almost like an enclosed city of its own, is where Eva Peron and many other rich and famous Argentines are buried - well worth a visit. The reputation of Buenos Aires' nightlife is not overstated as there are many nightclubs, bars, restaurants and cinemas open until all hours. For a great evening out, you may want to see a tango show in the city where the dance originated, and you shouldn't leave Buenos Aires before trying one of the best steaks you'll find in the world!

Day 28 to 28 - En route

We pass through the town of Roque Saenz Peña as we make our way into the thorny scrublands of the Gran Chaco. This is also where the quebracho

tree grows, the bark supplying much of the world with a red-brown tannin used for dying leather. Our journey takes us to Posadas through the Department of Mesopotamia, hopefully seeing the local cowboys (gauchos) and spotting rheas (South American emus) along the way. We will camp en route depending on travel times to continue our journey.

We cross the Rio Paraná into the poor country of Paraguay, destined for Trinidad. It is here that we visit the Jesuit Ruins, which were built in the early 1700s and give us a good idea of how the Jesuit missionaries lived. The Jesuits came to this area to convert the indigenous Guarani population to Catholicism, but were eventually expelled from South America by the Spanish in 1767. Subsequently we camp at Mantanial Park with its surrounding farmland and pristine swimming pool. The park is a great place to relax with optional horse riding available.

We make our way to the capital, Asunción, a pleasant city with a hot and humid climate. Built on the banks of the Paraguay River, the streets are laid out in the Spanish grid pattern and lined with beautiful trees. Asunción is a good place to stock up on cameras and electronic equipment as it's another duty free port. Along the riverfront are the Government and Municipal Palaces, the cathedral and a shantytown. There are a few markets where you can buy local handicrafts.

Day 29 to 29 - Trinidad

We enter Paraguay and visit the Jesuit ruins of Trinidad. The Jesuits came to Paraguay in the 16th century and built these magnificent missions to convert the indigenous Guarani population to Catholicism. The buildings fell into ruin with the expulsion of the Jesuits from South America in 1767. We camp at Mantanial Park with its surrounding farmland and pristine swimming pool. This is a great place to relax, with optional horse riding available.

Day 30 to 31 - Asunción

We make our way to the capital Asunción, a pleasant city with a hot and humid climate. Built on the banks of the Paraguay River, the streets are laid out in the Spanish grid pattern and lined with beautiful trees. Asunción is a good place to stock up on copies of designer watches and clothing, as it's another duty free port. Along the riverfront are the Government and Municipal Palaces, the cathedral and a shantytown. There are a few markets where you can buy local handicrafts.

Day 32 to 35 - Foz do Iguaçu

We come to Foz do Iguaçu, home of over 275 separate waterfalls that cascade over a two-and-a-half-kilometre-wide cliff face. There is also an excellent bird park which we will visit near the entrance to the falls. The falls straddle the border between Argentina and Brazil and we visit both sides of the falls. From the Brazilian side there are panoramic views of the numerous falls and if you feel like a cooling-down, take a zodiac boat ride up the river and under the falls - a fun way to get a different perspective of these impressive falls. From the Argentine side, you can walk through rainforest along catwalks directly above the falls and the "Devil's Throat" (optional). For a bird's eye view take the optional helicopter ride.

You may like to take the option to visit the world's largest hydroelectric dam at Itaipu where videos show the environmental planning behind the dam project.

Included Excursions: Iguazú Falls in Argentina & Brazil • Parque Das Aves Parque Das Aves Bird Park

Day 36 to 37 - En route

Making our way east we spend one night near the city of Sao Paolo and another near Curitiba, one of the most prosperous cities of Southern Brazil.

Day 38 to 40 - Parati

Following the stunning coastline along the Costa Verde where we arrive at Parati, which is a preserved Portuguese colonial town (1500-1822), with streets made of stone slabs designed to let the tide wash over and clean them. The town is renowned for its historical centre, the coast and mountains in the region. Parati was also a major port for the exportation of gold and coffee during the 17th and 19th centuries respectively. You have an option to go on a full-day boat cruise around the bay with plenty of time for swimming in the turquoise waters and eating the fresh seafood. We have plenty of time to relax and soak up the coastal atmosphere.

Day 41 to 41 - Rio de Janeiro

Rio de Janeiro, or more commonly known as Rio, is the second largest city in Brazil and arguably one of the most beautiful cities of the world. In the late 17th century the Portuguese found gold and diamonds in the nearby state of Minas Gerais and thus Rio became the main port for exporting the new found wealth. During the colonial Portuguese period of 1763-1815, Rio was the capital of Brazil.

Visit Rio's stunning beaches, such as Copacabana, Ipanema or Leblon. There are excursions up Pão de Açúcar (Sugarloaf Mountain) and Corcovado with its famous 'Cristo Redentor' (Christ the Redeemer) statue and great city views. Another interesting excursion is on the old tram system across the viaduct into the cobble-stoned neighbourhood of Santa Teresa. A walking tour of Rio's historic buildings is also a lovely way to pass an afternoon, or you may like

to visit the Botanical Gardens.

Day 42 to 42 - Depart Rio de Janeiro

Rio de Janeiro, or more commonly known as Rio, is the second largest city in Brazil and arguably one of the most beautiful cities of the world. In the late 17th century the Portuguese found gold and diamonds in the nearby state of Minas Gerais and thus Rio became the main port for exporting the new found wealth. During the colonial Portuguese period of 1763-1815, Rio was the capital of Brazil.

Visit Rio's stunning beaches, such as Copacabana, Ipanema or Leblon. There are excursions up Pão de Açúcar (Sugarloaf Mountain) and Corcovado with its famous 'Cristo Redentor' (Christ the Redeemer) statue and great city views. Another interesting excursion is on the old tram system across the viaduct into the cobble-stoned neighbourhood of Santa Teresa. A walking tour of Rio's historic buildings is also a lovely way to pass an afternoon, or you may like to visit the Botanical Gardens.

Your adventure of a lifetime comes to an end today. If you have a late flight or have lengthened your stay by adding post tour accommodation you will have more time to explore the sights.

This itinerary is a guide. Changes may be made before or during your tour to improve the running or due to unforseen circumstances.

Travel Style

This is an **Overland Tour**, travelling by custom built vehicle and camping along the route. There is a maximum of 34 travellers with an average group size of 15-24.

Add-ons & Extras

On many of our Group Tours, we spend one night in our arrival and departure cities. If you want to explore these cities more we can book pre and post tour accommodation, city tours and airport transfers for you. Price information can be found on the price page of each tour. We also have **Add-ons** - short packages that can be booked alongside a tour or on their own and have been carefully designed to ensure you don't miss out on popular highlights.

Rooming

All our **Adventure Tours** are priced per person on a shared room basis meaning there is no compulsory extra payment for those travelling on their own.

I'd like my own room

If you are a solo traveller, a single room is available on most occasions at an extra cost. Price information can be found on the price page of each tour.

Rio Carnival

Each year this tour meets Rio Carnival. The dates of these tours are listed in our brochure and can be found on our website. Accommodation in Rio de Janeiro during the Carnival period must be booked for a four night stay only, including the nights of Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday. This is an additional cost. **Click here for further details about the Rio Carnival**.

Rio Carnival Supplement

All Group Tours that start, end or travel through Rio de Janeiro for Carnival have an additional supplement added to cover the higher cost of accommodation for the arrival (Thursday) and departure (Tuesday) days.

Day by Day Itinerary

Day	Activity	Country	Meals
Day 1	Santiago	Chile	
Day 2	Pucón		BLD
Day 3	Pucón		BLD
Day 4	Pucón		BLD
Day 5	Bariloche	Argentina	BLD
Day 6	Bariloche		BLD

Day 7	Bariloche		BLD
Day 8	Perito Moreno		BLD
Day 9	El Calafate	Patagonia	BL
Day 10	El Calafate		
Day 11	Torres del Paine National Park	Chile	LD
Day 12	Torres del Paine National Park		BLD
Day 13	Torres del Paine National Park		BLD
Day 14	Torres del Paine National Park		BLD
Day 15	Punta Arenas		BL
Day 16	Ushuaia	Argentina	BLD
Day 17	Ushuaia		BLD
Day 18	Ushuaia		BLD
Day 19	En route Rio Gallegos		BLD
Day 20	En route Comodoro Riadavia		BLD
Day 21	Puerto Madryn		BLD
Day 22	Puerto Madryn		BLD
Day 23	En route Azul		BLD
Day 24	Buenos Aires		BL
Day 25	Buenos Aires		B
Day 26	Buenos Aires		B
Day 27	Buenos Aires		B
Day 28	En route		BLD
Day 29	Trinidad	Paraguay	BLD
Day 30	Asunción		BL
Day 31	Asunción		
Day 32	Foz do Iguaçu	Brazil	LD
Day 33	Foz do Iguaçu		BLD
Day 34	Foz do Iguaçu		BLD
Day 35	Foz do Iguaçu		BLD
Day 36	En route (Sao Paulo)		BLD
Day 37	Parati		BLD

Day 38	Parati		BLD
Day 39	Parati		BLD
Day 40	Parati		BLD
Day 41	Rio de Janeiro		BL
Day 42	Rio de Janeiro		B

(B - Breakfast, L - Lunch, D - Dinner included)

Please note the day to day itinerary above is given as a GUIDELINE ONLY.

For tours that include the option of a single supplement, a ? will indicate in which destinations single rooms are available.