



Patagonia

Includes ➔

Puerto Madryn	400
Parque Nacional Perito Moreno	444
El Chaltén	446
Parque Nacional Los Glaciares (North)	452
El Calafate	455
Parque Nacional Los Glaciares (South)	464
Punta Arenas	468
Falkland Islands	486

Best National Parks & Reserves

- ➔ Parque Nacional Los Glaciares (p452, p464)
- ➔ Reserva Faunística Península Valdés (p406)
- ➔ Parque Nacional Torres del Paine (p479)

Best Places to Stay

- ➔ Bahía Bustamante (p421)
- ➔ Del Nomade Hostería Ecológica (p409)
- ➔ La Casa de Paula (p412)
- ➔ Tierra Patagonia (p485)
- ➔ Nothofagus B&B (p449)

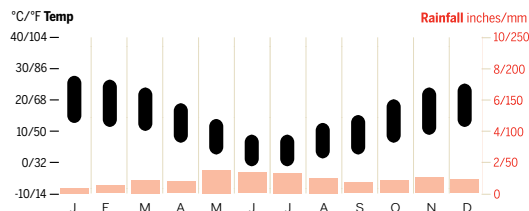
Why Go?

On South America's southern frontier, nature grows wild, barren and beautiful. Spaces are large, as are the silences that fill them. For the newly arrived, such emptiness can be as impressive as the sight of Patagonia's jagged peaks, pristine rivers and dusty backwater oases. In its enormous scale, Patagonia offers an innumerable wealth of potential experiences and landscapes.

Though no longer a dirt road, lonely RN40 remains the iconic highway that stirred affection in personalities as disparate as Butch Cassidy and Bruce Chatwin. On the eastern seaboard, paved RN3 shoots south, connecting oil boomtowns with ancient petrified forests, Welsh settlements and the incredible Península Valdés. Then there is the other, trendy Patagonia where faux-fur hoodies outnumber the guanacos. Don't miss the spectacular sights of El Calafate and El Chaltén, but remember that they're a world apart from the solitude of the steppe.

When to Go

El Calafate



Nov–Mar The warmest months, ideal for *estancia* visits and driving Ruta 40.

Jun–mid-Dec Right whales migrate to Península Valdés.

Mid-Sep–early Mar Coastal fauna, including penguins, marine birds and sea lions, abounds.

Patagonia Highlights

- 1 Gaze upon the blue-hued **Glacier Perito Moreno** (p464) as icebergs fall in thunderous booms
- 2 Get immersed in the millennial forests and clear lakes of lush **Parque Nacional Los Alerces** (p437)
- 3 Hike under the toothy **Cerro Fitz Roy** (p452) near El Chaltén, Argentina's trekking capital
- 4 See southern right whales cavort in the waters of **Reserva Faunística Península Valdés** (p406)
- 5 Ride the wide-open range and feast on slow-roasted lamb at an **estancia** (p445)
- 6 Blaze your own trail on the legendary **Ruta 40** (p430)
- 7 Detour to Chile to imbibe the raw

