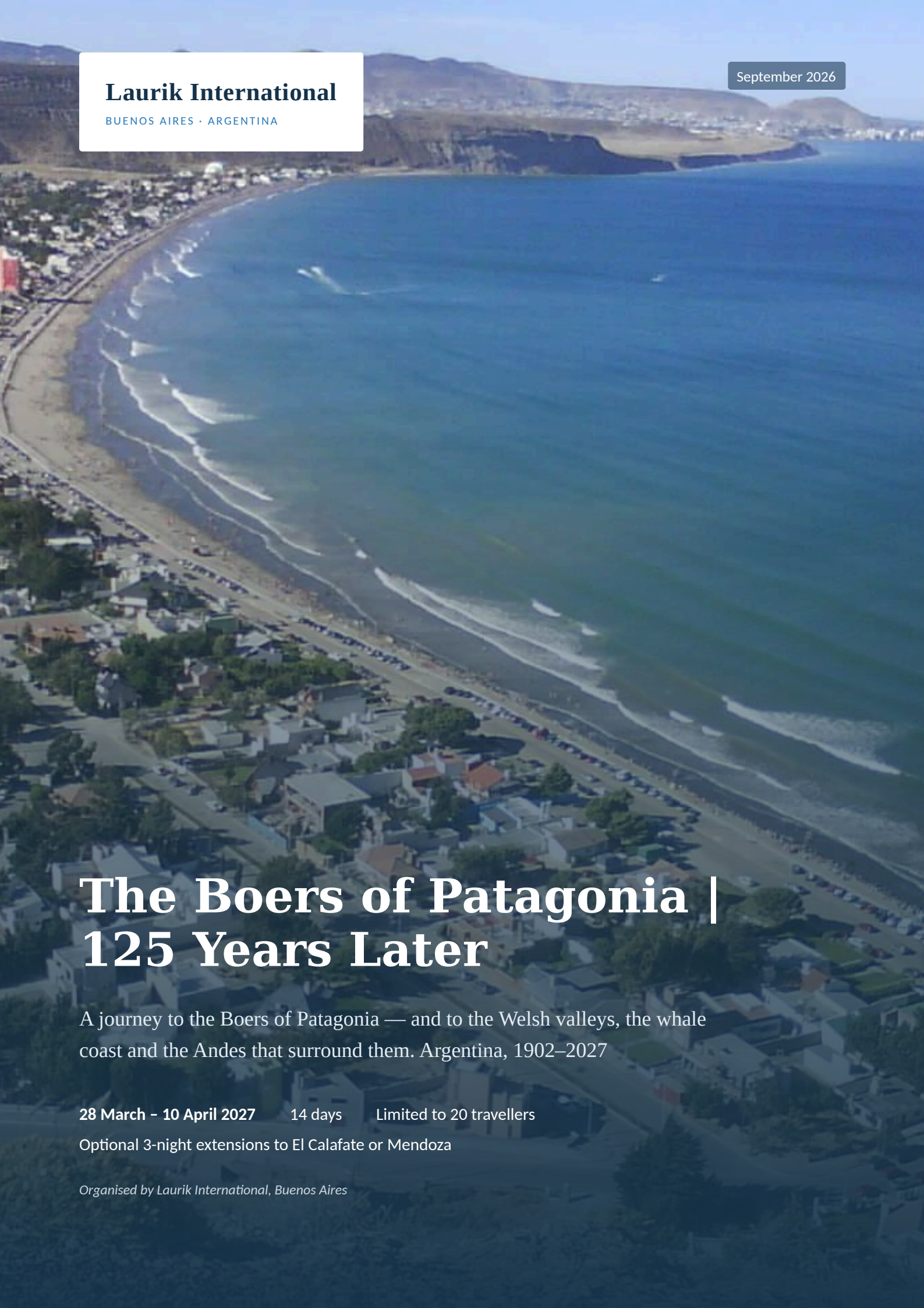




**Laurik International**

BUENOS AIRES • ARGENTINA

September 2026

# The Boers of Patagonia | 125 Years Later

A journey to the Boers of Patagonia — and to the Welsh valleys, the whale coast and the Andes that surround them. Argentina, 1902–2027

**28 March – 10 April 2027**    14 days    Limited to 20 travellers

Optional 3-night extensions to El Calafate or Mendoza

*Organised by Laurik International, Buenos Aires*

# The Boers of Patagonia: why this journey, and why 2027

There is a corner of Argentina where, if you sit down at the right kitchen table, you will be offered melktert and addressed in Afrikaans. Not the Afrikaans of Pretoria: a version that has been spoken on the Patagonian steppe for a hundred and twenty-five years, and has quietly gone its own way.



*The monument De Sudáfrica a la Patagonia at Rada Tilly: an ox-wagon between two maps, and the names of the 1902 families.*

In 1902, in the aftermath of the Anglo-Boer War, families from the Transvaal and the Orange Free State sailed from South Africa across the South Atlantic to begin again in a territory almost none of them had seen. The first of the Boers of Patagonia came ashore at what is today Comodoro Rivadavia on 4 June 1902; larger groups followed in 1903, 1905 and 1907. They settled the dry country inland — Manantiales Behr, Pampa del Castillo, Río Chico, Sarmiento — and they farmed sheep, because sheep were what that land would carry.

Their descendants are still there, and they still gather. It is one of the least-known migrations of the twentieth century, and almost nothing has been written about it in English.

The year 2027 marks 125 years since that first landing. We travel in early April, when the descendants' association, the Colectividad Sudafricana del Chubut, holds its traditional April celebration — which in 2027 also marks the association's own 35th anniversary.

This is not a coach tour that stops to look at people. Two days of the fourteen are set aside entirely for the descendants of the pioneer families — for meeting them, listening to them, and sitting at their table. You do not need a Boer surname to be moved by it; you need only an interest in what happens to a people, and a language, when they are transplanted to the far side of an ocean.

The rest of the journey places that story in its landscape, and it is a spectacular one: the elephant seal colonies of Península Valdés, the Welsh chapels and working flour mills of the Chubut Valley, the oil fields that changed Comodoro's fortunes, petrified forests sixty-five million years old, and the long climb from steppe to Andes at Bariloche.

We limit the group to 20. Larger groups make this kind of encounter impossible.

# The journey, day by day

Day 1 — Sunday 28 March

## Arrival in Buenos Aires

Your private transfer meets you at Ezeiza International Airport and brings you to our hotel in the heart of the city. The afternoon is free to rest and walk off the flight.

In the evening we gather for a welcome reception. Over a glass of Argentine wine we set out the history we have come to follow, including a short film made together with the community in Chubut.

**Cyan Américas Towers, Libertad 1070** — a comfortable, well-run hotel centrally placed, within walking distance of the Teatro Colón, Avenida 9 de Julio and the edge of Recoleta.

Day 2 — Monday 29 March

## Historic Buenos Aires and tango

A relaxed private tour through the heart of the city: Plaza de Mayo, the cobbled streets of San Telmo, and the painted houses of the old port quarter at La Boca.

Buenos Aires was the Boers' first port of call as well. The pioneer families landed here from the Cape before continuing south aboard the naval transport 1° de Mayo to the shores of Chubut — the same journey, in reverse order, that we make tomorrow morning by air.

In the evening, an Argentine asado with an intimate tango show.

**Cyan Américas Towers**



*San Telmo, the old quarter of Buenos Aires.*

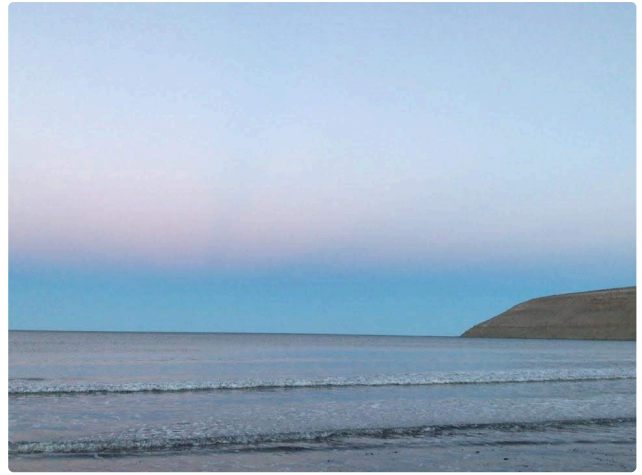
Day 3 — Tuesday 30 March

## South to the Patagonian coast

A morning flight from Aeroparque to Trelew, then a short drive to Puerto Madryn on the shore of Golfo Nuevo. The afternoon is free to walk the seafront and feel the scale of the Patagonian sky.

Dinner at Cantina El Náutico, a Puerto Madryn institution since 1963, known for its seafood and its welcome.

**Dazzler by Wyndham Puerto Madryn, Boulevard Almirante Brown 637** — directly on the seafront boulevard, with the beach and the town's restaurants a few steps from the door. Several rooms look out over the gulf.



*The Atlantic at dusk on the Chubut coast.*

Day 4 — Wednesday 31 March

## Península Valdés

A full day in the UNESCO World Heritage reserve of Península Valdés, out to Punta Delgada and Caleta Valdés, with a licensed local guide.

The southern right whales will not be in these bays in early April — we would rather tell you that plainly than have you hope for them. What you will see are the great colonies of southern elephant seals and sea lions on the gravel beaches below the cliffs, Magellanic penguins, guanaco and rhea on the steppe, and a coastline that explains a great deal about why the country inland was hard to settle.

**Dazzler by Wyndham Puerto Madryn**



*Orcas hunting at Punta Norte. Their season runs into April, but a sighting is never guaranteed.*

Day 5 — Thursday 1 April

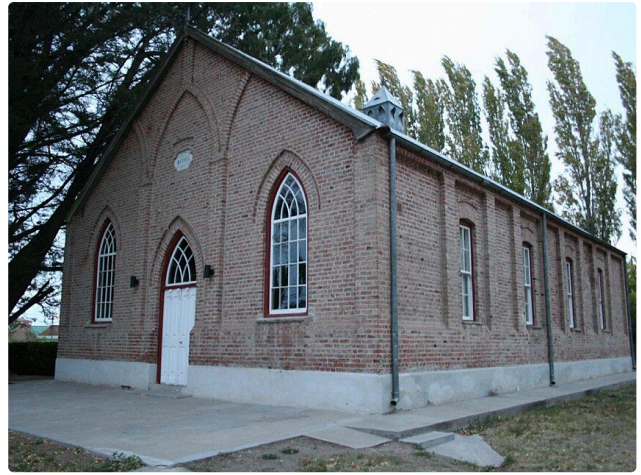
## The Welsh valley

A short drive into the green thread of the lower Chubut valley — Trelew, Dolavon and Gaiman — where Welsh settlers arrived a generation before the Boers and built an irrigated farming society with its own language, chapels and schools.

We visit Gaiman's red-brick chapels and the regional museum in the beautifully kept old railway station, then take a proper Welsh afternoon tea at Ty Cymraeg, in a quiet setting by the river rather than in the busier commercial tea houses. If the season and the family allow, we call in at a small fruit farm on the edge of Gaiman to walk the orchards and taste homemade citrón preserve.

The Welsh story is here for a reason: two migrant peoples, the same decade, the same valley system, very different answers to the same land. It is the comparison that makes both stories legible.

**Aguada Hotel, San Martín 101, Trelew** — a long-established hotel on the town's central corner, plain in style but warmly run, with a generous breakfast and everything within walking distance.



*Capel Bethel, Gaiman, built in 1912.*

Day 6 — Friday 2 April

## Route 3 south, and the first plaque

Today we drive south on National Route 3, roughly five hours through open steppe, with stops as the country asks for them.

As the ocean reappears we stop at Rada Tilly, the quiet seaside town just short of Comodoro, to visit the monument De Sudáfrica a la Patagonia. Its engraved plaques carry the names of the original 1902 and 1903 families. For most travellers on this tour it is the first moment the history stops being a story and becomes a list of surnames — some of which will be their own.

**Austral Hotel, Moreno 725** — a comfortable, well-kept hotel in the centre of Comodoro Rivadavia, a short walk from the seafront, with generous rooms, an in-house restaurant and good beds after a long day on the road.



*Rada Tilly, beneath the cliffs south of Comodoro Rivadavia.*

Day 7 — Saturday 3 April

## ● Comodoro, and a day with the community

The whole day is given to the descendants of the pioneer families.

We spend it with them, at their gathering places, and in the historic neighbourhoods and the old Astra oil camp. There are family photographs, documents and objects kept carefully across five generations, and there are the stories that go with them. There is a shared table — melktert, koeksusters, and food that has survived an ocean and a century.

What happens on this day depends on the families we meet, not on us. That is deliberate, and it is the reason the day works.

Austral Hotel

Day 8 — Sunday 4 April

## ● The anniversary celebration

The central day of the 125th anniversary year.

The morning begins with a bilingual commemorative service at the Iglesia Reformada of Comodoro Rivadavia — the congregation the Boer settlers founded themselves in 1912, and which has held that thread ever since.

In the afternoon we hope to attend the descendants' traditional anniversary gathering, which this year also marks 35 years of their association — presentations, music, and a commemorative tea.

For most people who make this journey, this is the day they came for.

Austral Hotel



*The Iglesia Reformada, Comodoro Rivadavia — founded by the settlers in 1912.*

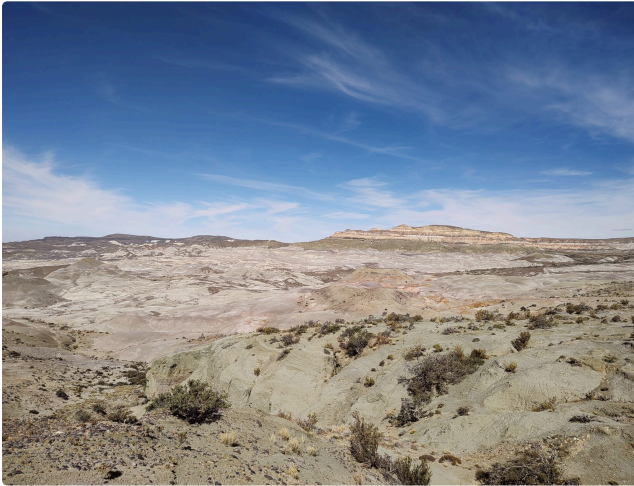
## Oil, deep time, and Afrikaans in the afternoon

After breakfast we visit the Museo Nacional del Petróleo, built around the historic Pozo N° 2. The story it tells belongs to this tour more than it might appear: it was the settlers' search for water that first pushed drilling into this ground, and in 1907 the drills found oil instead. The region has never been the same.

A short scenic drive of about 150 kilometres brings us inland to Sarmiento, the heart of the Boer farming settlement. In the afternoon we walk among the fossilised trunks of the Bosque Petrificado José Ormachea, some thirty kilometres south of town — an easy circuit through badlands of extraordinary colour — and take in the deep blue of Lago Musters, which waters the region's towns, against the dry bed of neighbouring Colhué Huapi.

Late in the afternoon, in Sarmiento itself, we hope to gather at Die Kleep, the Afrikaans koffiehuis founded by third-generation descendant Graciela Águila Hammond, for soetkos and the rare pleasure of a conversation in Patagonian Afrikaans.

**Hotel Los Lagos, General Roca 393, Sarmiento** — a simple, friendly small-town hotel, and the practical choice in a settlement of this size. We have chosen to sleep here rather than drive back to the city, because the point of this day is to wake up in the country the pioneer families farmed.



*The badlands of the Bosque Petrificado José Ormachea, south of Sarmiento.*



*Petrified trunks on the slopes — the remains of a forest tens of millions of years old.*

Day 10 — Tuesday 6 April

## A working farm, and the road to the Andes

The morning is spent on a working chacra belonging to a Boer-descendant family near Sarmiento.

Sheep farming was the foundation of this settlement — the reason the families crossed an ocean in the first place — and this is where the tour's central thread is at its plainest: hosts whose great-grandparents opened these fields, still working them.

Then the long crossing: roughly 430 kilometres and six hours west and north, with scenic and comfort stops, as arid steppe gives way by degrees to Andean foothills. It is the one substantial road day of the itinerary, and the landscape earns it.

Dinner in Esquel at Don Chiquino, a much-loved local table known for homemade pasta and its Patagonian lamb lasagna.

**Hostería El Coirón, Avenida Ameghino 1883, Esquel** — a genuinely charming, spotlessly kept mountain hostería with warm, attentive staff. A welcome comfort after the crossing.

Day 11 — Wednesday 7 April

## Trevelin and the Welsh mills

A short and beautiful drive into the Welsh-settled valley of Trevelin.

We visit the Molino Harinero Nant Fach, a fully working water-driven flour mill that recreates the early agricultural life of the Welsh settlers — a direct counterpoint to the Boer farm we stood on yesterday. There is time to explore the rural surroundings, with an optional visit to a local chacra or vineyard.

We close the afternoon with a traditional Welsh tea at Nain Maggie: chocolate sponge with coffee icing, and spiced Bara Brith.

**Hostería El Coirón**



*The water wheel at Nant Fach, Trevelin.*

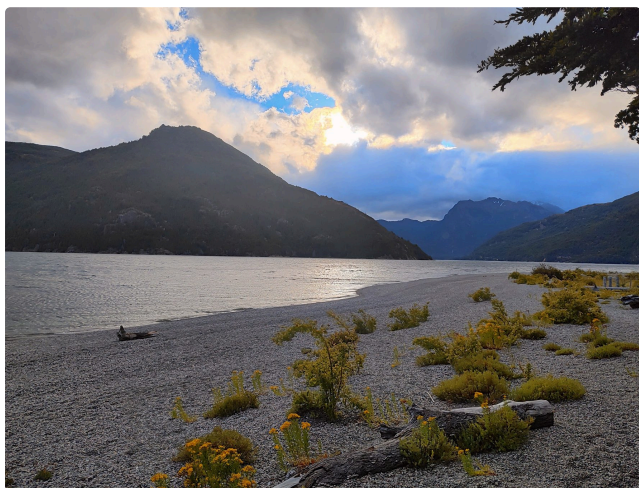
Day 12 — Thursday 8 April

## Through Los Alerces to Bariloche

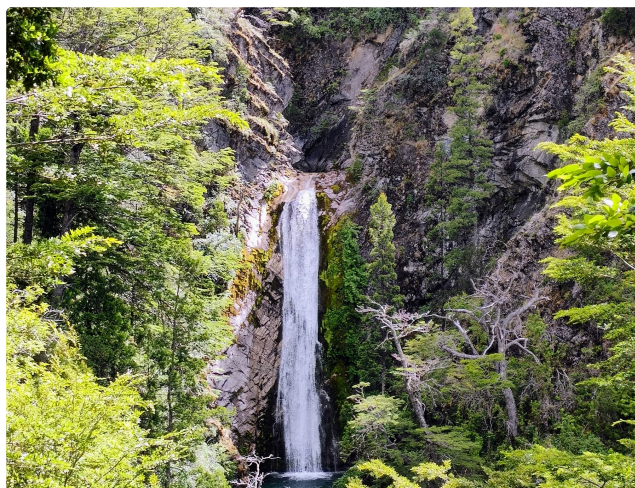
North on National Route 40, about five hours, but taken the slow way — through the heart of Los Alerces National Park rather than along the quick road.

Here the dry country finally releases its hold. Valdivian forest closes in, the lakes turn glacial turquoise, and we stop to walk gently along riverbanks in some of the cleanest air anywhere.

**NH Bariloche Edelweiss, San Martín 202** — right in the centre of Bariloche, two blocks from the shore of Lake Nahuel Huapi and a short walk from the chocolate shops of the main street. The hotel has an indoor pool, and a number of rooms look out over the lake.



*Evening light on a lake shore in Los Alerces National Park.*



*A waterfall in the Valdivian forest, Los Alerces.*

Day 13 — Friday 9 April

## Bariloche

The classic Circuito Chico around the Llao Llao peninsula, with the chairlift up Cerro Campanario for one of the most photographed lake views in South America.

The afternoon is free for Bariloche's alpine streets and its chocolate makers. In the evening we gather for a farewell dinner at the lakeside Cervecería Patagonia — regional beers, lake trout, slow-cooked venison — and take some time together to look back at what the fortnight has held.

**NH Bariloche Edelweiss**

Day 14 — Saturday 10 April

## Homeward, or onward

A private transfer to Bariloche airport.

Those returning home fly to Buenos Aires Aeroparque and transfer to Ezeiza for the evening international departure. Those extending their journey fly north to El Calafate or Mendoza.

# Optional extensions

Both extensions begin from Bariloche on 10 April, are quoted separately, and can be booked by individual travellers rather than the whole group.

## El Calafate and the Perito Moreno Glacier — 3 nights

South to El Calafate on the shore of Lago Argentino, with a full day at the Perito Moreno Glacier: the walkway system that brings you to within a few hundred metres of a wall of ice some sixty metres high, with the option of a boat approach or ice trekking for those who want them. Return to Buenos Aires on the fourth day. For most travellers coming this far, this is the one addition that needs no explaining.

## Mendoza — wine, olive oil and the Andes — 3 nights

North to Mendoza, a desert oasis built on Andean snowmelt and its own network of open irrigation canals. A private city tour; a full day in the vineyards of Luján de Cuyo, contrasting a century-old estate with a small family micro-vinification cellar; and a day on the olive oil route, including one of the most awarded extra-virgin producers in the world, with a garden lunch among the trees. Return to Buenos Aires on the fourth day.

# Price

## USD 4 375 per person

sharing a double or twin room. Single supplement USD 2 000 per person. Based on a minimum of 20 travelling participants. Prices quoted in United States Dollars.

### The tour price includes

- All accommodation as listed — 13 nights, bed and breakfast
- All internal Argentine flights: Buenos Aires–Trelew and Bariloche–Buenos Aires
- All airport and hotel transfers
- A dedicated private coach with driver for the full Patagonian route
- The guided Buenos Aires city tour
- The full-day Península Valdés excursion, including park entrance and licensed local guide
- All entrance fees listed in the daily programme
- Two Laurik International tour coordinators throughout, providing interpretation in Afrikaans, English and Spanish

### International flights

International flights are not included. Participants travel from South Africa to Buenos Aires via São Paulo, and both LATAM Airlines and South African Airways operate this routing — each flies non-stop from Johannesburg to São Paulo, with an onward connection to Buenos Aires. South African Airways also offers Cape Town–São Paulo services.

As a guide only, return international airfare has recently been in the region of ZAR 19 000 per person from Johannesburg; Cape Town departures are generally somewhat higher. We are glad to assist with flight bookings on request, or you are welcome to book independently.

Because our arrival date falls over the Easter weekend, we strongly recommend securing international flights early.

## Extensions

- El Calafate and the Perito Moreno Glacier, 3 nights — quoted separately
- Mendoza wine and olive oil route, 3 nights — quoted separately

## Reservations

A deposit of USD 1 000 per person confirms your place. The balance is payable by 14 February 2027.

Places are strictly limited to 20 participants and are allocated in order of confirmed deposit.

### A note on meals

Breakfast is included every day. Other meals are not included in the tour price, and we would rather be direct about that than surprise you later.

The restaurants, tea houses and community gatherings named in this programme are part of the experience we have built, and our coordinators book them and sit down with you. What you pay for at the table is the meal itself and your own drinks. The community meals in Comodoro and Sarmiento are offered by the community, as their hospitality, and are not a commercial part of this tour.

## Terms and Conditions

### 1. Nature of the programme

This is a guided group tour organised by Laurik International, Buenos Aires. Laurik International acts as organiser and coordinator, and contracts hotels, transport operators, restaurants and other suppliers on behalf of participants.

### 2. Group size

The tour is designed for a maximum of 20 participants and requires a minimum of 20 to operate at the quoted price. Should the group not reach the minimum, Laurik International will either offer a revised price or refund all deposits in full, at the participant's election.

### 3. Prices

Prices are quoted per person in United States Dollars and are based on costs, exchange rates, taxes and supplier tariffs current at the date of quotation. Prices remain subject to adjustment until the tour is confirmed and full payment received. Any increase in third-party costs — including but not limited to airfares, fuel surcharges, government taxes, national park and museum tariffs, or material currency movements — may be passed on. Participants will be notified promptly of any such change.

### 4. Accommodation

Hotels are named as our intended properties. Where a named hotel becomes unavailable, we reserve the right to substitute

accommodation of a comparable standard in the same locality.

Prices are based on two people sharing; single accommodation is available at the supplement stated.

### 5. Meals

Breakfast is included daily at all hotels. No other meals are included in the tour price. The restaurants, tea houses and community gatherings described in the daily programme are part of the experience we have designed, and our coordinators will arrange reservations and accompany the group, but the cost of these meals, together with all beverages, is payable by participants directly. Community meals hosted by the Colectividad Sudafricana del Chubut are offered by the community itself and are not a commercial service of this tour.

### 6. Itinerary changes

The published itinerary reflects our intentions and is not a contractual guarantee. Laurik International reserves the right to alter the order of visits, substitute activities of equivalent interest, or amend the routing where this is necessary or advisable for reasons of safety, weather, road conditions, supplier availability, flight rescheduling, or the wellbeing of the group. Patagonia is a region of long distances, gravel roads and changeable weather, and some flexibility is inherent in travel of this kind.

# Terms and Conditions (continued)

## 7. Community events

The commemorative service and anniversary celebrations in Comodoro Rivadavia are organised by the Colectividad Sudafricana del Chubut and its associated congregation, not by Laurik International. Their programme, timing and content remain entirely at the community's discretion and may change. Participants attend as invited guests and are asked to respect the community's wishes regarding photography, recording and privacy.

## 8. Force majeure

Laurik International shall not be liable for any failure or delay in performance, nor for any resulting loss or expense, arising from circumstances beyond its reasonable control. These include, without limitation: acts of God; extreme or adverse weather; fire, flood, earthquake, volcanic activity or other natural disaster; epidemic, pandemic or public-health measures; war, civil unrest, terrorism or threat thereof; strikes, industrial action or transport disruption; road or park closures; airline schedule changes, cancellations or insolvency; border closures, entry restrictions or changes in visa requirements; and any act or restriction of government or public authority. Where such circumstances arise, we will make every reasonable effort to provide suitable alternative arrangements, but any unrecoverable third-party costs remain the responsibility of the participant.

## 9. Travel insurance

Comprehensive travel insurance is a condition of participation. Cover must include medical treatment and hospitalisation, emergency evacuation and repatriation, trip cancellation and curtailment, and baggage. Proof of cover must be provided before departure. Given the remoteness of parts of the route, we regard adequate medical and evacuation cover as essential rather than optional.

## 10. Health and fitness

The tour involves walking on uneven ground, gravel paths and boardwalks, some long road days, and altitude changes in the Andes. Participants should be in reasonable general health and mobile without assistance. Please advise us in advance of any condition, mobility limitation or dietary requirement so that we may plan accordingly.

## 11. Passports and visas

Participants are responsible for holding a valid passport with sufficient remaining validity and blank pages, and for obtaining any visa or transit visa required for Argentina and for any country of transit. We are glad to advise, but cannot accept responsibility for entry being refused.

## 12. Cancellation by the participant

Cancellations must be received in writing. The deposit is non-refundable once suppliers have been confirmed. Cancellation charges thereafter are 50% of the tour price. Participants are strongly encouraged to rely on their travel insurance for recoverable cancellation costs.

## 13. Not included

International airfares and associated taxes; travel insurance; visa fees; meals other than breakfast; all beverages; optional excursions and extensions; laundry; telephone, internet and other personal expenses; gratuities; and anything not expressly listed as included.

## 14. Wildlife and natural attractions

Wildlife sightings cannot be guaranteed. In particular, southern right whales are not present in the waters of Península Valdés at this time of year; elephant seals, sea lions and Magellanic penguins are ordinarily to be seen, subject to natural variation.

## 15. Governing law

These terms are governed by the laws of the Republic of Argentina.

# Enquiries and bookings

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Laurik International has been building bridges between South America and Southern Africa since 2005 — agri-tours, heritage journeys, and the long relationships that follow them. We are not a travel agency. We are the people who know both sides of this story, in both languages, and who will be standing beside you when you meet the families in Chubut.



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