Journey through Argentina and Chile, from Ushuaia to Santiago on this 23 day overland adventure visiting the spectacular Perito Moreno Glacier, the Chilean Lake District and the remote Tierra del Fuego archipelago, alongside trekking the famous W-Walk through Torres Del Paine National Park.

**HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS**

**Trip Highlights**
- Ushuaia - reach the 'end of the world' at this remote port town
- Tierra del Fuego - cross the Magellan Strait and wild camp on this incredible archipelago
- Torres del Paine National Park - trek the famous W-Walk for four days
- Los Glaciares National Park - visit the stunning Perito Moreno Glacier and explore this magnificent national park from both El Chalten and El Calafate
- Futaleufu - visit South America's mecca for white water rafting
- Queulat National Park - see the magnificent hanging glacier

**What's Included**
- 14 breakfast, 14 lunches & 12 dinners
- 10 nights multi-share hostels, 12 nights camping (including 2 nights in wild camps)
- All camping fees and appropriate equipment
- Services of 2 crew (Drivers/Tour Leaders), with local guides along the way
- Transportation in an overland expedition vehicle, plus local bus, boat and ferry
- Wine tasting at a vineyard in San Javier
- Queulat National Park trek through the 'Enchanted Forest' to view the Hanging Glacier

**What's Not Included**
- International flights and visas
- Tipping – an entirely personal gesture
- Sleeping bag and roll mat - please bring your own for camping
- Items of a personal nature, additional meals and drinks

**Local Payment**
$1050pp, paid in USD

**DETAILED ITINERARY**

**Day 1: Ushuaia**

Welcome to the incredible port town of Ushuaia, the southernmost town in the world! There will be a group meeting at 6:00pm at the joining hotel - please look out at the hotel reception for a note from your leader with more details about this important meeting.
Patagonia Adventurer Northbound

If you have extra time in Ushuaia before your tour begins, there are optional excursions available such as a visit to the hauntingly beautiful Tierra del Fuego National Park, boat trips to see the scenery and wildlife of the Beagle Channel or horse riding along the coast. Our comfortable hotel is located just out of Ushuaia, with regular shuttles into town.

Optional Activities:
- Beagle channel boat trips - ARS 1200
- Explore Tierra del Fuego National Park on a day tour from Ushuaia - ARS 1450
- Head out to the impressive Martial Glacier near Ushuaia, taking in the beautiful scenery of the Darwin Mountains and the Beagle Channel - USD 110
- Delve into Ushuaia’s past and learn about its maritime tradition and former prison colony at the Maritime Museum - ARS 400
- Take a journey along the Rio Pipo on the ‘Train to the End of the World’, once built by prisoners at Ushuaia’s old penal colony - ARS 850
- Learn all about Tierra del Fuego’s history and nature at the ‘Museum of the End of the World’ in Ushuaia - ARS 90

Accommodation: Comfortable hotel
Overnight - Ushuaia

Day 2 : Tierra del Fuego

Ushuaia - Tierra del Fuego (Chile). We start our journey with a full day drive across to the Chilean side of the island of Tierra del Fuego, and a ferry crossing onto the mainland. Tierra del Fuego (meaning “Land of Fire”) is a large island separated from mainland South America by the Magellan Strait. Tierra del Fuego is Patagonia at its most remote and desolate, with a landscape of windswept plains, forests and swamplands, home to rheas, condors, buzzard eagles, seals and sea lions, all of which thrive in these conditions. Tonight we wild camp close to the Magellan Strait.

Estimated Drive Time: 8-9 hours.

Optional Activities:
- Head out to the remote corner of Chilean Tierra del Fuego to view the King Penguin colony at Bahia Inutil, the only colony of these type of penguins outside of Antarctica - CLP 12000
(Costs provided are an approximation and subject to change)

Accommodation: Wild camp
Overnight - Tierra del Fuego (B, L, D)

Day 3 : Torres del Paine

Magellanic Strait - Torres del Paine National Park. Today we drive to the world-famous Torres del Paine National Park. This is one of the most outstanding areas of natural beauty in the world and a highlight for many travellers visiting Chile. Here we have 4 days to explore and trek the rugged Torres del Paine National Park. Tonight we camp at Camping Pehoe, a stunning campsite inside the national park with incredible views of Los Cuernos mountains, which we refer to as our ‘base campsite’.

Estimated Drive Time: 6-7 hours.

Accommodation: Campsite
Overnight - Torres del Paine (3) (B, L, D)

Days 4-6 : The W-Walk

On day 4 we embark on the full W-Walk with a local guide. Places at the campsites are limited by the national park, so we book them in advance of your trip. We trek the W-Walk from west to east, to enjoy the spectacular views. This morning we wake early and transfer by truck for the morning Catamaran, to cross Lago Pehoe. We then set up camp at Paine Grande, before continuing on our hike towards Glacier Grey. You can choose to hike to the first lookout to enjoy views of the Glacier (approx 4hrs round trip) or to continue to the second lookout (approx 8hrs round trip). Both walks return by the same route.

On day 5 we depart from our camp at Paine Grande and hike into the stunning French Valley. In the afternoon, we make our way to Camp Cuernos. The hike is approximately 8 hours.

Day 6 is a slightly easier day, we hike from Camp Cuernos along the edge of Lago Nodenskjold, around Almirante Nieto and stay just outside Valley Scencio. We arrive an Camp Central after approximately 5 hours hiking.

Accommodation: Campsites
Overnight - Torres del Paine (3) (B, L, D)

Day 7 : Final day of the W-Walk

On day 7 we hike back to Pehoe campsite to complete the W-Walk. We then drive to Punta Arenas from where we take a flight to Santiago to end the trip.

Patagonia Adventurer Northbound - 23 Days
www.onthegotours.com
uk: 020 7371 9113 info@onthegotours.com
AUS 1300 855 684 aus-info@onthegotours.com
NZ 0800 44 77 69 CAN 1 866 890 7038
USA 1 866 606 2960  SA 0800 990 311

This information has been compiled with care and good faith. They give an accurate illustration of the proposed arrangements for this holiday. Circumstances beyond our control such as changes in local conditions, inclement weather or other reasons could force us to make changes to this itinerary. Any costs shown are subject to change, though are an accurate reflection of costs at time of writing. Please also note that visa requirements are subject to change and are the responsibility of the traveller and not that of On The Go Tours.

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This is our final day of the W-Walk and the most spectacular. The day begins with a steady climb from our campsite up Rio Asencio. Be prepared for the final hour which is a relatively steep scramble up to the Tarn and Mirador Las Torres, affording great views of the iconic towers. We transfer back to Camping Pehoe, our base camp, at the end of the day. Our hike is approximately 8 hours for the return trip (20 kilometres).

Accommodation: Campsite
Overnight - Torres del Paine (B, L, D)

Days 8-9 : El Calafate & Perito Moreno Glacier

Torres del Paine National Park - El Calafate (Argentina). Today we leave Torres del Paine behind us and head across the border into Argentina at Cerro Castillo, travelling on to the small town of El Calafate, on the southern shore of Lago Argentino. Originally a sheep station and trading outpost, today the town has developed a bustling atmosphere and an ever-growing tourist trade as the gateway to the Perito Moreno Glacier. Here we stay in dorm beds in a lovely hostel.

Estimated Drive Time: 8-9 hours.

On day 9 we head out on an included full-day guided visit to view the stunning Perito Moreno Glacier, one of the most famous and spectacular glaciers to be seen anywhere in the world. The Perito Moreno Glacier is approximately 30kms long from where it spills out of the Southern Patagonia Ice Field, and 5kms wide at its terminus, where it has an ice face that is on average 170m high (with about 70m of which is above the surface of the lake). Visitors can view the glacier from an incredible viewpoint only a few hundred metres away from its face, where if you’re lucky you’ll see some of the ice face carve off into the lake under the pressure of all the ice behind it!

Optional Activities:
- Boat trip beneath the Perito Moreno Glacier - ARS 800
- Learn all about glaciers at the fantastic modern Glaciarium Museum in El Calafate and visit its cool ice bar in the basement - ARS 300
(Costs provided are an approximation and subject to change)

Accommodation: Multi-share hostel
Overnight - El Calafate (2) (B, L, D)

Days 10-11 : El Chalten & Los Glaciares NP

El Calafate - El Chalten. Today we have a short drive across the Patagonian steppe to the tiny town of El Chalten, situated in Los Glaciares National Park and famous for its incredible mountains, glaciers and world-class trekking opportunities. In El Chalten we stay in dorm beds in a hostel.

Estimated Drive Time: 3-4 hours.

On day 11 we enjoy the stunning Los Glaciares National Park and remarkable scenery of the nearby Mt. Fitz Roy. There are lots of trekking and walking opportunities here, as well as boat trips, ice climbing on the Viedma Glacier, horse riding, and many other fantastic options.

Optional Activities
- Horse riding and trekking around El Chalten - ARS 1600
- Enjoy a spectacular kayaking trip down the Rio de las Vueltas, taking in some incredible views of the surrounding mountains - USD 125
- Head on a rock-climbing course in the magnificent landscapes surrounding El Chalten - USD 90
(Costs provided are an approximation and subject to change)

Accommodation: Multi-share hostel
Overnight - El Chalten (2)

Day 12 : Argentinian Patagonia

El Chalten - Argentinian Patagonia. Today we have a full day drive north along the famous Ruta 40 (Route 40). Please note that the road from here all the way to Futaleufu is rough and mostly unpaved meaning that the going is slow. Tonight we wild camp somewhere near the town of Perito Moreno.

Estimated Drive Time: 10-11 hours.
Accommodation: Wild camp
Overnight - Perito Moreno (L, D)

Days 13-14 : Cerro Castillo National Reserve

Argentinian Patagonia - Cerro Castillo National Reserve (Chile). Today we drive across the border into the magnificent scenery of the Chilean Carretera Austral, probably one of the most stunning areas in South America. We arrive in the beautiful mountains of the Cerro Castillo National Reserve. In Cerro Castillo we camp in a lovely family-run campsite with basic facilities, where we enjoy a traditional Chilean BBQ.

Estimated Drive Time: 6-8 hours.

On day 14 we have a free day to hike to the stunning turquoise waters of Laguna Cerro Castillo or to go horse riding.

Optional Activities:
- Explore the beautiful mountain scenery of Cerro Castillo on a horse riding trip - CLP 16000

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(Costs provided are an approximation and subject to change)

**Accommodation:** Campsite

**Overnight - Cerro Castillo National Reserve** (B, L, D)

**Day 15 : Queulat National Park**

Cerro Castillo National Reserve - Queulat National Park. Today we drive through the Chilean fjords to Queulat National Park, where we can take a short walk in the enchanted forest to see the spectacular Hanging Glacier, which spills out over the edge of a cliff and has a waterfall of melt-water pouring from its base. We camp at a basic campsite in Queulat National Park tonight.

**Estimated Drive Time:** 5-6 hours.

**Accommodation:** Multi-share hostel

**Overnight - Queulat National Park** (B, L, D)

**Day 16 : Futaleufu**

Queulat National Park - Futaleufu. Today we continue to Futaleufu, a serene frontier town in the northern part of Chilean Patagonia which is popular for its wonderful scenery and outdoor activities. Here we stay in a local campsite.

**Estimated Drive Time:** 5-6 hours.

**Accommodation:** Multi-share hostel

**Overnight - Futaleufu** (B, L, D)

**Days 17-18 : Bariloche**

Futaleufu - Bariloche. This morning we continue our journey to the picturesque town of Bariloche in Argentina’s Lake District. The Argentinian resort town of Bariloche has a picture-perfect setting on the shores of Nahuel Huapi Lake, flanked by the peaks of the surrounding Andean mountains. The scenery here is truly stunning, so it’s a magical place to explore and take in all the amazing views. Here we stay in dorm beds in a friendly family-run hostel outside of town.

**Estimated Drive Time:** 7-8 hours.

Day 18 offers free time to enjoy the beautiful mountain town of Bariloche and the stunning surrounding lakes, mountains and forests. We have optional excursions to explore the area by foot, mountain bike, kayak or boat.

**Optional Activities:**
- Horse riding and mountain biking around Bariloche - ARS 1750
- Discover the incredible scenery of the Nahuel Huapi Lake and the Victoria Islands on a boat trip from Bariloche - ARS 2100
- Hire mountain bikes to explore the forests and hills surrounding Lake Nahuel Huapi and Bariloche - ARS 420
- Visit the interesting Fenoglio Chocolate Museum in Bariloche, and learn all about the town’s tradition of chocolate making - ARS 50
- Explore the nearby Lago Gutierrez and take in its amazing views from the water on a half-day tandem kayaking trip - ARS 550

(Costs provided are an approximation and subject to change)

**Accommodation:** Multi-share hostel

**Overnight - Bariloche** (B, L, D)

**Days 19-20 : Pucon**

Bariloche - Pucon (Chile). Today we cross back into Chile at Mamuil Malal and drive through the scenic Ruta de los Siete Lagos (Seven Lakes Route) to the beautiful Lake District of Chile and the lakeside town of Pucon, where beautiful deep blue lakes are flanked by majestic forest-clad mountains with snowy peaks to provide picture-postcard views. Here we stay in dorm beds in a friendly local hostel.

**Estimated Drive Time:** 10-11 hours.

Day 20 is free to enjoy a range of optional activities in Pucon, including a sunrise expedition to climb the Villarica volcano which looms over the town, heading out horse riding through the surrounding forests, or an evening visit to the nearby natural hot springs.

**Optional Activities:**
- Horseriding, white-water rafting or hikes around Pucon - CLP 35000
- Relax in the soothing waters of the Pozones natural hot springs - CLP 10000
- Explore the stunning views and hiking trails of the nearby Huerquehue National Park - CLP 7000
- Explore the spectacular Lake District near Pucon by mountain bike - CLP 10000
- Head on an exciting white-water rafting trip on the rapids of the Trancura River near Pucon - CLP 25000
- Take part in a fantastic canyoning expedition through the gorges of the Chilean Lake District near Pucon - CLP 25000

(Costs provided are an approximation and subject to change)

**Accommodation:** Multi-share hostel

**Overnight - Pucon**

**Day 21 : Buchupureo**

Pucon - Buchupureo. Today we leave the Chilean Lake District behind and head for the coast to the laid back, farming village of Buchupureo, where we can relax by the beach. We stay in a campsite with facilities, close to the beach.

**Estimated drive time:** 6-7 hours.

**Accommodation:** Multi-share hostel

**Overnight - Buchupureo** (L, D)

**Day 22 : San Javier Wine Tour & Santiago**

Buchupureo - San Javier - Santiago. Today we have a leisurely breakfast, before heading into the wine region where we will make a stop at a vineyard for a wine tour and tasting. In the afternoon we continue our journey to the cosmopolitan Chilean capital of Santiago. Here we stay in a centrally located hostel.

**Estimated Drive Time:** 6 hours.

**Accommodation:** Multi-share hostel

**Overnight - Santiago** (B, L)
Day 23: Santiago

Today marks the end of our Patagonian adventure! Take some time to explore the city of Santiago before your flight or, if you would like to extend your stay, we can arrange post-tour accommodation by request. (B)

Is This Trip Right For Me?
Overlanding is not a style of travel that will suit everyone so please carefully read these Trip Notes before selecting this tour and be realistic about your ability and desire to join such a trip. Overland travelling can be demanding and challenging. On your trip you'll travel in a purpose-built expedition vehicle on an off-the-beaten-track adventure along rugged roads, sometimes across vast distances. If you’re the adventurous type who’d rather spend a night roughing it in a rainforest than luxuriating in a boutique hotel, then overlanding is for you. You just need the right attitude, an open mind, and a desire to participate fully in the trip.

How Challenging Is This Trip?
Patagonia Adventurer is strenuous in parts, with a multi day trek, walking for 5-8 hours per day. It is also fairly challenging, travelling through rough terrain to the southernmost point of South America, where you should expect extreme weather conditions. It is ideal for lovers of the outdoors, who are prepared to sacrifice a few home comforts for the challenge and beauty of pristine landscapes. Great wild camping, mixed with hostels and hotels; wonderful opportunities for walking, horse riding, rafting, ice climbing and exploring.

Joining Hotel
On day 1 please make your own way to our joining hotel in Ushuaia - Hotel Tolkeyen. There will be an important group meeting at 6:00pm at the joining hotel - please look out at the hotel reception for a note from your tour leader with more details about this meeting.

Hotel Tolkeyen
2145, Del Tolkeyen Street (9410) Ushuaia
Tierra del Fuego
Phone +54 2901 445315/6/7

Patagonia Notes
This trip will be travelling to the southernmost point of South America, and you should expect extreme weather conditions. It can be bitterly cold and very windy with heavy rain at any time of the year. Furthermore, the weather changes extremely fast so you should expect four seasons’ weather in one day. Therefore please remember to prepare accordingly - this is a tough trip and should not be taken lightly. We suggest you take plenty of good quality warm, waterproof and windproof clothing and a good quality four season sleeping bag as well as a sleeping bag liner.

Patagonia’s peak season is the Summer (Mid November to February) the days are long, typically temperatures are around 20°C during the day, dropping to 8°C at night, though whilst generally warm in the summer, it can often be very windy, with rain. If you are travelling during the peak season be aware that activities and camp sites sell out fast and you will be sharing the trails with a greater number of fellow trekkers. Be sure to pack your waterproofs and even though it’s summertime we recommend a good 3 season sleeping bag and warm clothes.

In the shoulder season the days are much colder, but often clearer and brighter, with fewer people on the trails, though be aware that some activities may not have opened fully. Springtime (October to November) brings the colourful spring blooms and is a great time to see the Whales at Puerto Madryn. March to May is the best time to see the Autumn foliage and makes for stunning photographs. If you choose to travel at this time, be sure to pack a good down jacket and a 4 season sleeping bag and liner, as the nights can be very cold. During the shoulder season there is an option to upgrade into basic cabins or hostels at some of the Camp sites that we stay in along the way, you should budget an extra 10-15USD per night for such upgrades. Please note that due to the popularity of the region, we find that prices can increase significantly during high season.

Patagonia Packing List
In Patagonia because the weather is so unpredictable, its best to plan for colder temperatures, and use the layering system. As you will spend a number of nights camping, we recommend ensuring that you have a good camping mat, sleeping bag and pillow to keep comfortable.

- 3/4 or 4/5 Season Sleeping bag with liner for added warmth
- Sleeping mat / thermo-rest
- Pillow
- Light towel
- Dry bag (keep your kit dry)
- Day bag
- Water bottle / hydration system (1.5l)
- Insulated / Down Jacket
- Windproof Jacket
- Waterproofs
- Hat, Gloves, Scarf
- Warm socks
- sturdy walking boots
- Sandles / flip flops
- Walking trousers / shorts x 2
- Thermal base layer
- Warm jumper
- T-Shirts x 2
- Long sleeve T-Shirt x 1
- Underwear x 3
- Swimwear
- Head Torch
- Power bank / electricals / adapter
- Camera / lens / dry bag / spare battery and extra SD cards
- Toiletries - wet wipes, sanitary products, dry shampoo
- A good book

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO
Patagonia Adventurer Northbound

Our partners
This tour is operated in conjunction with our trusted partner and you will join travellers from different operators, not solely On The Go.

Itinerary Disclaimer
The routes, activities and places visited described in these notes are intentions and are meant as a rough guide only. By their very nature, overland itineraries need to be flexible and the regions that we are travelling through are often unpredictable. We intend to follow the planned route but exact night stops and inclusions cannot be guaranteed and it sometimes happens that we decide to make a change to our planned itinerary. This may be for a variety of reasons; climatic, road or bureaucratic conditions may demand it. Changes to the itinerary may occur with little notice so please be prepared for modifications to your trip.

Emergency Contact Information
In the event of a real emergency once you have left your home country, please contact the out of office hours number below. If you cannot get through on the phone, please leave a message with your name, reference number, contact details and a message with the help that you need and we will get back to you. Please bear in mind that real progress or action may not be possible until normal office hours, depending on the issue.

If your flight is delayed, please inform us as soon as you can and then make your way to the joining hotel as instructed in the Joining Point section of these notes.

Overlanding Lifestyle
Overlanding is all about taking the road less travelled, seeing the real country as well as the highlights, and getting away from the tourist trail. It’s all about the journey, not just the destination!

Overlanding is all about sharing a great travelling experience with like-minded people. On your trip you’ll travel in one of our purpose-built iconic expedition vehicles on an off-the-beaten-track adventure along rugged roads, experiencing the sights, sounds and smells of the world up-close. Your journey will be overland, sometimes across vast distances, so some long days spent driving are inevitable – but these will be interspersed with breaks of a day or two at a destination or activity.

On an overland journey, you are more than just a passenger and everyone gets involved setting up camp – we supply the tent but it’s up to you to pitch it! As part of your trip, you will be assigned a truck job which could be collecting firewood or water, luggage loading, organising food, stores, etc. Like all great adventures, the more you put in the more you’ll get out!

Meals & Group Participation
On an overland journey in South America you are more than just an individual passenger - you’re part of the team. You are expected to pitch in to set up camp, shop for food, cook and generally help out. As part of your trip you will be assigned a truck job which could be collecting water and firewood, sweeping out the truck, loading the back locker, etc. While camping on overland journeys, the meals are included in the kitty. This means that you will have to work together to cook for everyone in your group. You will be divided into smaller units of 3-4 people and take it in turns to cook for the whole group according to a rota system. When it is your group’s turn to cook you will have to plan the meal, shop for the ingredients in local markets or supermarkets and then prepare the meal for the whole group. The secret to cooking for 20+ people using a basic camping kitchen is to keep it simple!

An example of a typical camp breakfast might be toast with spreads, fruit and cereal as well as tea and coffee. When time allows it will also be possible to serve something hot such as eggs or pancakes. Lunch is almost always a sandwich heaped high with healthy salad and assorted fillings, with fruit to follow. Dinner might be a BBQ, risotto or pasta dish and there is always the chance to try some local cooking. Generally our passengers find the more they put into a trip, the more they benefit from it.

The Local Payment/Kitty
In addition to the trip price on our South America overlanding trips, you will also be required to pay a Local Payment specified for your trip. This Local Payment is referred to locally as the kitty. The kitty is payable in instalments at the start of each section of the trip for combination trips, and in full at the start of the trip for individual trips. Each customer joining a trip pays their kitty into a central fund. The fund is managed by the crew and the kitty accounts can be viewed by all throughout the trip.

The kitty covers all things that the whole group does, such as:
- Hotel accommodation and campsite fees
- Meals whilst camping (not whilst staying in hotels)
- Activities listed as included (e.g. National Park or historical site entrances, excursions, etc.)

The kitty system is unique to overlanding and allows us to have flexibility and transparency on our trips. You can see exactly how your money is being spent and ensure that you are getting the best value by buying locally. It also helps to keep the costs competitive and save on administration costs so that we can pass the saving on to you. We make NO PROFIT on kitties, as they are the group’s fund. If there is money left in the kitty at the end of your trip, then this is divided between the group and you receive a refund.

Prices can change with no notice and exchange rate fluctuations will affect costs. Therefore the Local Payment/kitty amount can change and the price on our website includes a buffer to cover this. The actual amount you will be asked to pay locally may potentially be less than the amount quoted on your tour voucher/trip notes.

The kitty is payable in cash on Day 1 of your trip so remember to arrange to bring sufficient cash USD with you. Alternatively you can pay in advance via a bank transfer 3-4 weeks before the start of your trip. If you wish to pay in advance please contact us and we can provide the bank details and instructions. Please note that we cannot accept traveller’s cheques on our trips. Should you wish to do...
Patagonia Adventurer Northbound - 23 Days

this and the kitty quoted on day 1 of the trip is less than what you have paid prior to arrival, you will receive a refund on day 1 of the trip.

Please ensure your USD notes are clean and undamaged and no more than 8 years old. If needed, your tour leader will be able to accept some of the kitty in local currency, and they will let you know the exchange rate locally. In most destinations you can withdraw local currencies from ATM machines, using either a cash passport or a credit/debit card. However, please bear in mind that most cards have a maximum withdrawal amount per day, local ATMs may run out of cash, and your bank could block the card despite you warning them of your travel plans, so it could be impractical to try to get the entire kitty out from an ATM.

Tipping

Tipping may not be customary to you and is entirely voluntary - however it can be of great significance to the people who take care of you during your trip. The crew may be travelling with you for many weeks and usually they become good friends with most members of the group. It is sometimes easy to forget that they do work hard to ensure that you do have a great trip. If you are happy with the service and feel you would like to tip them, they certainly would appreciate it.

It is also customary to tip the local guides. We recommend USD1 to USD4 per person per day, but check with your crew for an appropriate amount.

For general tipping in restaurants and on excursions, it can be useful to hold on to your smaller notes and coins to make tipping easier.

The Crew

Our crew are passionate about travel and are always up for adventure. The crew undergo the most intensive training program of all the overland companies, spending 8 weeks learning the ropes at our partner’s base in the UK, and then up to 6 months on the road as a trainee. The crew are trained to manage and operate the trip safely and efficiently and their duties include: planning the trip according to the itinerary, driving and maintaining the truck, securing services of local guides, general logistics, health and safety, liaising with bureaucracy, dealing with issues where needed and offering advice and support to our customers.

In addition they have a basic knowledge of the places visited and will be able to offer suggestions of things to do and see. We endeavour to provide the services of experienced crew, however, due to the seasonality of travel, situations may arise where your tour leader is new to a particular region or training other crew who are new to the area.

On all of our South America overlanding trips, we have two western crew but please be aware that there may be times when one crew member has to leave the trip due to unforeseen circumstances.

In addition to our crew we will employ local guides in specific locations of interest (for just a few hours up to a few days). Your crew have a duty of care to all members of the group and therefore they have the authority to ask you to leave the trip if you require serious medical assistance, you are behaving in an anti-social manner or refuse to comply with local laws and customs. In all matters relating to the trip, the leader’s decision will be final and we appreciate your respect of this.

Our Overland Trucks

We use rugged and sturdy Mercedes-Benz trucks (known for their durability) that will take you off road and off the beaten track. These have been specially modified to create custom designed overland vehicles which have unique integrated cabs. The trucks are fully equipped for self-sufficient wild camping, and have comfortable coach-style seating. All of the trucks are owned and maintained by our partners, and our crew follow a strict maintenance schedule - this means we can manage the quality and safety of our fleet.

Please note that the overland trucks are not air conditioned. This helps to avoid illness from the sudden changes in temperature and humidity that you can experience with air conditioned vehicles on long overland journeys and it also helps to speed up the process of acclimatisation to the climate.

Each of our vehicles is unique and features will differ between each truck, but most of our trucks feature the following:

- An integrated cab - so you are always with your crew rather than being separated
- Coach style seating - forward-facing apart from four seats facing backwards around two tables
- A side awning for sun/rain cover
- Luggage locker
- A drinking water tank of approximately 350 litre capacity, plus 60-80 litre jerry cans
- Long range fuel tanks
- Audio equipment with MP3 player connection
- 12v charging points (some models only)
- A hidden safe to keep money and passports secure
- An integrated fridge
- Large equipment storage areas for food, cooking utensils, expedition equipment, etc.
- Bookshelf/library
- Map board

Standard equipment on each truck:

- Dome-shaped or A-frame tents with integrated mosquito nets
- Emergency medical kit
- Camping stools and tables
- Cooking equipment, gas, and eating utensils
- Camping lights
- Full range of mechanical tools and spares
- Sand mats in case of bogging

Drive Times

Please note; all drive times given are approximate number of hours that the truck will be in motion only, and does not include any time taken for coffee or lunch stops, border crossings, photo stops, activities en route, comfort breaks, shopping stops, toilet stops, etc. The times given are approximate estimates only and whilst given with the best of intentions, the drive times are heavily dependent on traffic, road conditions, weather, police roadblocks, and many other factors - flexibility is essential on any overland trip!
Optional Activities
Please note that all optional activity costs provided in the Trip Notes are an approximation and subject to change. Prices listed are for entrance only and do not include transport costs to and from the sites or local guides unless indicated.

You will have the opportunity to take part in many exciting activities and excursions, some of which are included whilst others are optional. The included activities are listed under Inclusions. All other activities are optional and at your own expense. If you choose not to participate in the included activities, the cost will not necessarily be refunded; this is something you will need to check with your leader.

Some of the activities require a certain level of fitness, so it’s important that you read through the itinerary thoroughly and make your own conclusions as to whether you feel that you are fit and healthy enough to enjoy the trip and its activities to their fullest. Some activities may have higher risks than you are used to and you must judge whether or not you wish, and have the physical ability, to take part. Also always make sure that your personal travel insurance covers you for any activity you are planning to take part in.

Please note: The optional activity prices are displayed according to our latest information and in the best faith, but prices do fluctuate due to exchange rates, season, numbers of participants, and simple increases from the operator, and therefore any prices listed are a guide only and cannot be guaranteed.

Accommodation
Our South America overland trips are designed for shared accommodation, whether camping or staying in hotels or hostels, and therefore do not involve a single supplement. Whilst our crew will do their best to accommodate couples travelling together in twin rooms, all our travellers should expect to stay in multi-share accommodation when staying in hostels.

The type, variety and standard of accommodation will vary greatly depending on what options are available at the time; hotels can vary from very basic rooms without electricity or running water to high standard hotels with good facilities! Generally in hotels most rooms will be single sex, twin-share, but in South America many rooms are triple/quad-share. Hostels are nearly always multi-share and may be mixed sex.

The campsites will range from rather basic to those with excellent facilities, including swimming pools, restaurants and bars. In some cases it may also be possible to upgrade locally to bungalows, lodges or even tree-houses. One of the highlights of overlanding is that in more remote areas we wild camp away from the tourist crowds. Occasionally on some of our trips we are able to stay in villages or local homestays allowing us to get close to the indigenous population and ensuring that our money stays within the local community.

Our Ourland Groups
Our overland groups in South America are made up of people from around the world, and are always an interesting mix of nationalities and ages. On average there is a pretty even split between males to females, and between solo travellers, couples and small groups of friends. We believe that overlanding should be open to as many people as possible, and so although we have a minimum age limit of 18 (or 7 on our Family Trips), as long as you are fit, healthy and passionate about travel, we are happy to take you, whatever your age is. One of the wonderful aspects of group travel is the camaraderie and friendships that are formed along the way, and the variety of people that you will meet.

Group Size
The maximum group size we take on our South America overland journeys ranges from 19 to 22 depending on the geographical location; however the average number of passengers is more likely to be around 16. On some departures there may be more than one truck doing the same route. This means that you will be in the same hotel or campsite as another group on some days. To ensure that you are not always at the same place at the same time as another group, your itinerary will most likely be slightly altered from the itinerary advertised on the website and in the Trip Itinerary. Even on the majority of our trips where there is only the one truck, you may from time to time meet up with other groups at points on the road, and may partake in activities jointly with other groups on these occasions.

Please note that there is an overlap of 2 trips in Cuzco and during the Inca Treks. This means a group starting a trip in Cuzco will embark on the Inca Trail at the same time as a group finishing in or travelling through Cuzco.

In practical terms this means there could be more than 22 group members in Cuzco and on the Inca Trail at the same time.

Dietary Requirements
If you have any dietary requirements please tell us at the time of booking and tell your crew at your welcome meeting. Our crew will try to cater for any particular dietary requirement or food intolerance whenever possible. However, it must be remembered that it may not always be possible and the variety of dishes may be severely limited in comparison to those available to others. If there is anything in particular you require in your diet, that you would miss from home, or because of an allergy would miss out on, it would be best to bring this with you.

Depending on your particular requirements, you may need to allow yourself some extra spending money to allow you to purchase extra food items.

Itineraries
Our Itineraries are developed and published with the best of intentions, however travel in more remote areas of the world is unpredictable – borders can close, there can be extreme adverse weather, strikes or maybe mechanical issues that affect the running of your trip, but equally due to the nature of our trips we can often spontaneously include a local festival or event into the itinerary. This being said, the safety of our passengers, leaders and operators is a priority for us. With this in mind we monitor world events very closely. By the very nature of the adventure travel that we take, there are risks and hazards that are inherent in our itineraries. We make operational decisions.
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based on informed advice from a number of sources, including the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office travel advice, reports from other travel companies and local suppliers, leaders’ reports from off the road and local contacts we have built up over many years of experience.

Passport
Your passport details are required to complete your booking. If you change your passport, please remember to inform us as soon as possible - however, please be aware that changing your passport can cause big problems if you need to apply for visas or permits (such as the Inca Trail) in advance.

As a general rule most countries expect that your passport is valid for 6 months after the end of your trip and will refuse entry to anyone with shorter validity. A temporary or ‘visitor’s’ passport is not valid on our trips. Please ensure the name on your passport matched the name on your booking and flight tickets. Bring a copy of the main passport page with you on your trip and leave another copy at home with family or friends.

General Visa Information
Many countries require visas to enter; some must be obtained before you leave home and others can be obtained en route. Whilst the ultimate responsibility for obtaining visas is yours, we will endeavour to assist you wherever possible. If you require any supporting documentation for your visa applications, we can obtain this on your behalf.

For visas that are needed in advance, you may wish to submit the applications directly to the relevant embassy or consulate. However, for trips that involve multiple visas, you may find it beneficial to use a specialist visa agency to assist you with your applications. While this does sometimes increase the cost, it usually makes the process much easier for you.

Visas can take several weeks to process so make sure you familiarise yourself with any requirements as soon as you have booked your trip to allow for processing time. As you will often need to submit your passport together with your applications, we recommend that you avoid making any travel plans in the weeks leading up to your departure.

For trips that are not yet guaranteed, you may find yourself in the position whereby you will need to start the visa application process prior to your trip being guaranteed - in this situation we still advise you not to purchase flights until your trip is guaranteed. However, you can start your visa application process, ensuring that when applying for your visas or letters of invitation that you allow several days before and after your entry into the country to allow for delays, availability of flights, etc.

The information provided here is given in good faith and was correct at time of writing; however please visit the relevant consular website of the country or countries you are visiting for detailed and up-to-date visa information specific to your nationality. Please be aware that rules surrounding visas do change, often suddenly, and without prior warning.

If your flight goes via the USA, then you must obtain an Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA) before travel (except for citizens of Canada, who will not require this). Citizens of the UK, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan and most EU countries are part of the USA’s Visa Waiver Scheme and are eligible to obtain an ESTA.

Flights Via the USA or Canada
An ESTA must be obtained online and in advance via the following link and paying the appropriate fee - https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov/esta/- please note that you will be denied boarding your flight if you do not have this arranged. If you are not eligible for an ESTA, then you will have to obtain a B-1/B-2 visa for temporary visitors, and you will need to obtain it in advance. In this case it would be advisable to book flights that do not go via the USA.

Please note that if you have travelled to Iran, Sudan, Iraq or Syria since March 2011, or hold dual-nationality with one of these countries, then you will not be eligible for an ESTA and must instead apply for a visa. There are some exceptions to this, please see the following link for more details - http://www.state.gov/r/ps/psa/2016/01/251577.htm.

Similarly, if your flight goes via Canada, then you must obtain a Canadian Electronic Travel Authorization (eTA) before travel (except for citizens of the USA, who will not require this). Citizens of the UK, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, most EU countries, South Korea and Japan are part of Canada’s Visa Waiver Scheme and are eligible to obtain an eTA. An eTA must be arranged online and in advance – please go to http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/visit/-- apply and pay the appropriate fee.

If you are not eligible for an eTA, then you will have to obtain a Temporary Resident Visa, and you will need to obtain it in advance. In this case it would be advisable to book flights that do not go via Canada. Please note that several Eastern European nationalities will need a visa.

Physical Preparation
Overland travelling can be demanding-long, rough travel days, dusty conditions can be challenging to some. You will need to be fit enough to help every day with the camp chores (cooking, washing up, general camp set up) as well as putting up and taking down your own tent. There are some long driving days and some early morning starts. The step up into the overland vehicle, while not overly high, can become tiring and you need to judge yourself to be physically fit enough to haul yourself up and down the step at least 8-10 times a day.

South America is a diverse continent, from high altitudes in the dry Andes, the steamy and humid Amazon, the cold moorlands of Patagonia, to the lush green pampas of northern Argentina. You should therefore be prepared for the full gambit of climates. There will be time for hiking and many other activities such as horse riding and white water rafting, and you will need to be reasonably fit to be able to participate in everything on offer.

By and large the South America trips have a good range of hotel accommodation mixed up with camping so that life is not too rough.
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Health
You need to be in good physical health in order to participate fully in our trips. When selecting your trip please make sure you have read through the itinerary carefully and assessed your ability to cope with our style of travel. We are always happy to give extra advice if you have additional concerns. Please note that if, in the opinion of our leader, you are unable to complete the itinerary without undue risk to yourself and/or the rest of the group, we reserve the right to exclude you from all or part of the trip without a refund.

You should consult your doctor for up-to-date medical travel information prior to travel, particularly if you have a pre-existing medical condition. We also advise you to declare any pre-existing medical conditions to your travel insurers upon purchase.

Altitude
Some pre-existing medical conditions are known to severely worsen at high altitude and be difficult to adequately treat on the ground, leading to more serious consequences. It is imperative that you discuss your pre-existing medical condition/s with your doctor. We understand certain medications are reported to aid acclimatising to high altitude; please discuss these options with your doctor. For trips that travel to areas of high altitude, the tour leader will issue you with a self-assessment altitude questionnaire which allows you to monitor how you are coping with the altitude and informs you of danger signals so that you can report these as soon as possible, either to the tour leader or a medical professional.

Yellow Fever
A valid international certificate of vaccination against Yellow Fever is required in many countries. You may need to present this on arrival at the airport or border crossing. Some countries will refuse entry if you are unable to present your certificate. It's also quite common for your home country to request a Yellow Fever certificate on your arrival back home. It is your responsibility to check with your doctor well in advance of leaving home about the Yellow Fever requirements for the countries you'll be visiting.

Malaria & other Mosquito-Borne Diseases
There is a risk of contracting malaria in some areas which we travel through. If your trip goes to a areas with malaria it is always best to get expert advice before travelling about the types of malaria pills available, whether they are recommended, and take any that are prescribed as instructed. Consult your GP or travel clinic for the most up-to-date requirements.

Other mosquito-borne diseases such as yellow fever, dengue fever, chikungunya and Zika are continuing to spread and are becoming a bigger problem around the world. Mosquito bite prevention is vital to avoid contracting any of these diseases, as there are no vaccines or specific treatments available. Health professionals have issued warnings for pregnant women travelling to areas affected by the Zika virus. For more information about Zika please visit:
  • WHO: www.who.int/en/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/zika-virus
  • Center for Disease Control and Prevention: www.cdc.gov/zika

The Anopheles mosquitoes that transmit malaria usually bite between the hours of dusk and dawn, whereas the Aedes mosquitoes that transmit yellow fever, dengue fever, chikungunya and Zika bite both during the day and the night. To prevent being bitten, it is recommended to cover up by wearing long-legged and long-sleeved clothing, preferably light-coloured and buttoned at the wrists. Do not sleep without closing your windows, tent door, etc. and use a mosquito net in hotels or if sleeping outside where there are mosquitoes present. Use mosquito repellent applied directly to your skin or soaked into your clothing. Treating clothes and mosquito nets with a Permethrin solution also provides significant protection. It should be available at most travel stores. Mosquito coils are useful on still nights and in hotel rooms, but cannot be used inside the tents. For more advice on how to avoid bites please see: www.travelhealthpro.org.uk/factsheet/38/insect-and-tick-bite-avoidance

Vaccinations
Recommended vaccinations and other health protections vary according to different regions and recent bulletins issued by health authorities. It is essential to get the latest specific health advice on the regions and countries you are planning to travel in, so please check with either your doctor or travel clinic in good time before you travel. The following websites are also a helpful resource: www.nathnac.net and www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk

Medical Assistance in Remote Areas
We will be travelling to areas in remote locations where medical assistance will not be available. If you have a medical condition such as a heart condition that would put you at risk, we would suggest that this is not the trip for you. Also, please be aware that should an emergency occur, there is likely to be a considerable delay in accessing medical care, and by joining our trip you accept this risk.

Insurance
Comprehensive travel insurance with cover for medical expenses and emergency repatriation is compulsory for all our trips. You will not be allowed to start the trip without showing the trip leader evidence of valid travel insurance including the insurance company's 24-hour emergency contact number.

In the case of credit card travel insurance we will require details of the participating insurer, the insurance policy number and emergency contact number rather than just the bank's name and credit card details. Please contact your bank before travel to obtain these details. Also ensure that your credit card travel insurance policy has the cover you require, as many of these policies are not able to cope with adventure travel to remote areas and many are not valid for travelling outside your country of residence or outside the EU.

Make sure that your insurance policy:
  • is designed for adventure travel and that it covers any activity that you may wish to participate in (whether included or optional), such as white water rafting, trekking, horse-riding, etc.
  • has a 24-hour emergency assistance company that is experienced in handling situations in developing countries – for example, they should have the ability to arrange repatriation from remote areas such as white waters and the like.
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as the Sahara or if you were trekking in the Andes
• covers your age group (some policies have age limits)
• covers travel to high altitude if your trip goes
to altitude (e.g. if you’re climbing Kilimanjaro)
We recommend that any policy has a minimum medical (including repatriation) cover of £5,000,000. We recommend that any policy also has a minimum level of cover for Personal Liability of £2,000,000 and for Cancellation and Curtailment of £5,000 (or the full cost of your trip). Please note that you should be insured for trip postponement or cancellation purposes immediately upon paying a deposit.
Cover for loss of baggage, personal effects, money and other inclusions are down to personal choice although please bear in mind that personal effects are more likely to go missing whilst travelling and you should ensure that your policy is adequate to cover the value of your personal effects e.g. cameras, tablets, phones, iPods, etc. Please note that Dragoman is not responsible for your personal effects and is not insured for their loss.
Travel insurance can be arranged through the Dragoman website or by our team of travel consultants – please contact us for a quote.

Our Liability Insurance
Dragoman has comprehensive passenger vehicle liability protection and tour operator insurance. These policies have total indemnities of £5,000,000 and £10,000,000 per incident respectively. This is in addition to local vehicle insurance and your personal travel insurance.

Personal Spending
You know your spending habits better than we do, so please budget a sensible amount for things like drinks, shopping, optional activities, tipping and laundry. Remember to also budget for any visas to be obtained en route.

We appreciate that it’s hard to know exactly how much money you will need when you’re travelling through new countries and areas.
To make budgeting a little easier we have included some guidelines below. The Trip itinerary also gives approximate costs for some optional activities and by reading the itinerary thoroughly you will know what’s included and what isn’t. As a general rule, it’s always better to bring a little more than you think you’ll need!

Based on the range that previous travellers have spent on our South America trips, we recommend budgeting USD15-30 per day (this amount is normally lower in Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru but slightly higher elsewhere).

Cash or Card
We recommend bringing a sensible mix of cash and cards on your trip. A small amount of local currency can be handy when you first arrive to your destination but bear in mind that many countries have strict regulations about the amount of their own local currency you are allowed to import - if you are found with amounts in excess of the allowed amounts, it may well be confiscated. Traveller’s cheques have become increasingly difficult to change around the world. For this reason we no longer accept them on our trips and do not recommend that you bring them for your personal spending money.

More and more people are choosing to travel with prepaid travel cards or currency cards in addition to, or as an alternative to, debit or credit cards. This is a very secure way of carrying your money whilst travelling. You treat them exactly like an ATM card and draw out local currency from an ATM within each country. Please note that while ATMs are widely available in most areas, in more remote areas they are few and far between and in some countries you cannot use foreign cards at all. ATMs are also not always reliable and we therefore do not recommend that you rely on them as your only source of funds. Cards are accepted as payment in some major cities, but be prepared for high commission charges depending on your bank/card provider.

Cash can be changed in many places where ATMs are not available and you will sometimes get a better exchange rate as well. Make sure any USD and EUR notes are no more than 8 years old, clean and in good condition. Worn or damaged notes or any that have been written on are often refused by money changers. Please also bring a mix of denominations; the majority of the money you intend to change should be in large denominations (USD/EUR100 and 50 notes) as the exchange rate is often much better than for smaller notes. However, it is a good idea to have some smaller notes as well, as in more remote areas it can be hard to change amounts over USD/EUR50.

In South America we recommend you bring USD. Brazil can be difficult for changing money, so it’s handy to have a cash card as backup if you’re travelling through Brazil. Please note that due to a recent counterfeit scam central banks in several South American countries (Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia and Chile) have temporarily banned the circulation of USD100 notes bearing a series 2001 production date and a serial number starting with the letters CB or CF and ending in B2. The serial number is printed in green on the emblem.

Contingency Emergency Fund
Sometimes, civil or political unrest, or reasons beyond our control (e.g. a natural disaster), can mean that an itinerary is disrupted and we have to make a contingency plan. This may involve hiring alternate transport or even the whole group flying over an area. Although we will help organise travel arrangements, in circumstances outside of our control you will be required to contribute the additional costs involved and therefore we ask you to bring the equivalent of USD400 as a contingency fund. In almost all cases trips run smoothly and this fund is therefore never used. We also recommend that you bring an internationally recognised credit or charge card with a decent limit in case of emergencies, such as medical treatment en route, or even the need to be repatriated; though these occurrences are rare. Remember that travel insurance policies in some instances only refund you for expenses after you have already paid out.

Luggage
Although you will not have to carry your main bag for long distances, you will need to help load and unload bags onto the truck. For
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this reason we recommend that you use a backpack or soft bag rather than a heavy suitcase. During your trip your main luggage will be kept in the truck's luggage locker which will be inaccessible during a drive day, so you will also need a small daypack. This can be used to carry your camera, water bottle and other personal effects for daily use. Please be aware that due to the constant dust and vibrations your luggage bag will be subject to extreme wear and tear.

The size of baggage that can be brought is limited by the locker space on the truck. We recommend that your bag be no larger than a large rucksack with a capacity of about 80 litres (approximately 70cm high, 40cm wide and 40cm deep). The weight limit for luggage on all trucks is a maximum of 20kg.

What to Pack?

Your clothes and equipment should be appropriate for the conditions you are travelling in, which will vary depending on which part of the world you're heading to. On our overland trips, all camping equipment is included apart from sleeping bags and ground mats, so you'll need to bring those with you if your trip includes camping nights.

Think about the climate and altitude of the areas you'll be travelling to - there's nothing worse than being cold at night so it's worth investing in a decent sleeping bag. And remember that even when it's warm during the day it can often get cold at night, particularly in desert regions.

Kit Lists

For a general idea of what you need, the lists below provide a guide. The lists are NOT exhaustive.

General

- Sleeping bag, sleeping bag liner, sleeping mat and small pillow – if your trip includes camping nights
- Sandals or flip flops
- Comfortable walking shoes
- Sun hat and sunglasses
- Waterproof jacket
- Warm sweater or fleece
- Swimwear
- Comfortable travelling clothes and a set of casual but smart clothes for evenings out
- If visiting places of worship on the trip, men should bring a pair of full length trousers and women should bring a skirt that covers their knees and a scarf
- Towel – quick dry, lightweight travel towels are best
- Toiletries including bio degradable wet wipes, sanitary products, hand gel, sun cream and insect repellent
- Day pack – essential for keeping things handy when on the truck, on short hikes, walking around cities, etc
- Assorted dry bags – to protect your kit from dust and damp
- Pouch or money belt
- Water bottle (at least 1 litre) – we carry drinking water on all of our trucks and actively encourage our customers to use the water supplied. Whilst away from the truck we encourage the use of a filter water bottle
- Head torch with spare batteries and bulbs
- Camera with spare battery and extra memory cards
- Electrical accessories such as charger, power bank, adapter, etc
- Carbon monoxide detector
- A good book, a diary or notebook and pen, a fun game for travel days
- Personal medical kit – see notes below

Cold weather

For trips going through mountainous areas, deserts, high altitude regions and Patagonia, you should be prepared for cold weather, especially at night. Ensure you bring:
- 3/4 or 4/5 season sleeping bag with liner – see note on sleeping bag ratings below
- Thermal base layers
- Winter jacket
- Hat, gloves and scarf
- Warm socks

Hot weather

For trips going through tropical areas you should be prepared for hot and humid weather. Ensure you bring:
- Loose fitting clothes with long sleeves and legs
- Mosquito repellent
- Mosquito net – not essential as our tents have mosquito netting but can be handy for hotels and hostels or sleeping under the stars

Trips with trekking

For trips including treks, ensure you bring:
- Lightweight walking clothes suitable for the general climate
- Waterproof trousers
- Sturdy walking boots
- Walking stick(s) – not essential but can help in steep terrain; sticks can generally be hired or purchased en route

Sleeping Bags

A sleeping bag’s rating typically indicates the lowest temperature at which it will keep the average sleeper warm enough to sustain them but not necessarily make them warm enough to feel comfortable. For example, with a 0°C bag, you should be able to stay in 0°C temperature but you will not necessarily be able to sleep comfortably.

For European sleeping bags there are the following standards:
- The upper limit is the highest temperature at which a ‘standard’ adult man is able to have a comfortable night’s sleep without excess sweating.
- The comfort rating is based on a ‘standard’ adult woman having a comfortable night’s sleep.
- The lower limit is based on the lowest temperature at which a ‘standard’ adult man is deemed to be able to have a comfortable night’s sleep.
- The extreme rating is a survival-only rating for a ‘standard’ adult man. This is an extreme survival rating only and it is not advisable to rely on this rating for general use.

The transition zone, in between the comfort and lower temperature, is usually considered as the best purchase guideline.

Electrical Equipment

Your vehicle will usually be equipped with a 12 Volt socket, so to charge your iPod, MP3 player, camera, laptop and mobile phone you will need a DC 12V adapter - the type that can be used from a cigarette lighter in your car. Please be aware that only one piece of equipment can be charged at a time and it
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will not be allowed if there is a risk of running the vehicle’s batteries low. Batteries may also be recharged from hotel room wall sockets and the majority of the campsites we stay at have electricity points, so please bring along your normal charging adapters as well. You will need to ensure that you have the correct country adapter for your specific charger.

For mobile phones, please note that most countries in the Americas operate at 850 MHz and 1900 MHz which is not the same frequencies used in Europe, Africa, Asia and Australia. Most modern tri-band and quad-band mobile phones will be able to operate on these frequencies but please check your mobile phone specifications before travelling to ensure that you’ll be able to use your phone in the Americas.

Personal Medical Kit
All of our trucks have a standard motorist’s first aid kit on board for use in emergency situations only. The first aid kit is in compliance with UK standards for first aid provision within motor vehicles, and contains supplies to treat road side injuries. We do not carry prescription medications, therefore in addition to this we recommend that you purchase your own personal medical kit.

In the UK we have teamed up with Nomad Travel Stores and Clinics to produce travel medical kits. They have been designed in conjunction with the truck kits and contain everything you would need for any minor incidents and health issues. To see their overland range go to http://www.nomadtravel.co.uk/overland-ready

Government Travel Advice
We follow the British Foreign Office Travel advice when deciding where and where we are unable to travel. We will base our decisions on itineraries and alterations to published routes based on their advice rather than the advice of other governments. We will advise you of any significant changes in advice before travel or whilst you are overseas. However, we recommend you check the latest travel advisories from your own government for the country you are travelling to before you book and prior to departure. If there are any travel warnings present for the region you will travel to, as well as considering whether you are happy to travel despite the warning you must also check to ensure that it is not invalidating your travel insurance.

Here are a few useful addresses:

- UK - www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice
- Australia - www.smarttraveller.gov.au
- New Zealand - www.safertravel.govt.nz
- United States – www.travel.state.gov
- Canada – www.travel.gc.ca

We also recommend that you check the UK Travel Aware website before you travel at https://travelaware.campaign.gov.uk/. This website offers straightforward travel advice, top tips, and up-to-date country information to help you plan a safe trip.

Safety Information and Tips
Your safety is of paramount importance to us and we will do our best to ensure that your travel is safe and trouble-free, but we do ask that you take that little bit of extra care whilst you are away and take some time to understand about the nature of this style of travel. Part of the enjoyment of travel is experiencing a different way of life and cultures but this may also mean experiencing different safety and hygiene standards than those you are normally used to. Therefore, please take note of the following safety tips and follow any local safety advice or briefings delivered by your crew and any third-party suppliers we use during your trip.

Transport safety
- Our own vehicles have fully-fitted seat belts; make sure you always belt up. If you find a safety belt inoperable or missing on one of our vehicles, please inform the crew immediately.
- Unfortunately, we cannot guarantee that other vehicles we may use or recommend in some countries will be fitted with seat belts on every seat as it is not a legal requirement in much of the world.
- Please remain seated on board vehicles at all times when the vehicle is in motion.
- Never place luggage in the aisles or foot wells.
- Ensure you know where your nearest emergency exit is; this may be a designated emergency exit, a window, a door, or a roof hatch.
- • Check the location of the fire extinguisher and first aid kit.
- • Follow any safety instructions provided by the crew/driver.
- • Some of our vehicles are fitted with roof seats which can be used in certain conditions, such as when driving at low speeds, off main tarmac roads, etc. The roof hatches can only be opened and the roof seats used with the express permission of the crew and you must never sit in the roof seats without seat belts.

Road safety
- • Traffic in some countries travels on the opposite side of the road to what you may be used to, so ensure you look both ways before crossing the road.
- • In many countries vehicles do not automatically stop at crossings and driving styles may be very unpredictable, so please remain very vigilant when near roads and vehicles.
- • Crash helmets are often not provided with mopeds and motorbikes overseas – we do not recommend you hire these vehicles.

Hostels/Hotels/Homestays safety
- • Ensure you know where your nearest fire exit is and check to ensure that it is operative.
- • Check the location of the nearest fire extinguisher.
- • Study the fire instructions in your room if available.
- • Identify how to raise the alarm if a fire occurs.
- • If a fire occurs, leave immediately; do not stop to collect your effects.
- • Proceed to an assembly point well away from the building.
- • Electricians in hotels in many of the places that we visit will not be up to the same standards as at home. Please ensure that you check rooms, especially bathrooms and are aware of any issues that look unsafe. If in doubt inform the crew who will endeavour to sort the situation out if possible.
- • Staircases and stairwells are often built to a very different design than under western building standards. There may be no guard rails, be excessively steep, have dangerous gaps between the stairs and the wall, etc.

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all times be aware and take appropriate and prudent care.
• We often stay in homestays and farmstays. As these are traditional homes, they may well not adhere to our western standards of safety and so it is important that you make yourself aware of potential risks.
• If in doubt please inform the crew of any safety issues with the hotels/hostels or homestays.

Campsite fire safety
• Ensure you know where the nearest source of water or fire extinguisher is.
• Know how to raise the alarm.
• Extinguish all camping fires fully before retiring to bed.
• Observe any regulations regarding fires and bushfires in dry conditions.
• Identify how to raise the alarm if a fire occurs.
• If a fire occurs, leave immediately; do not stop to collect your effects.
• Proceed to an assembly point away from the tented accommodation/affected campsite.

Campsite safety & security
• Familiarise yourself with the campsite and any known hazards.
• Group the tents around our vehicle wherever possible.
• No open flames, smoking or flammable liquids in or near the tents.
• Ensure the cooking area is well away from the tents.
• Ensure all water for cooking and drinking is purified first.
• Ensure any soil toilets are a minimum of 50m away from the tents and the cooking area.
• All food waste should be burned or buried a minimum of 100m away from the site.
• Ensure local advice is followed concerning any wildlife in the area.
• Keep valuables locked in the vehicle.
• Be aware of any local security issues that might be important.
• Do not set out tents close to perimeter fences which may be a security risk.
• Be aware of the security arrangements and local guards for campsite and if in doubt ask them where and where not to pitch tents.
• If in doubt please inform the crew of any safety issues with campsite.
• When wild camping, ensure that you do not wander away from the camp alone. If you do leave camp, ensure that you have notified the leader or other members of the group.

Food safety
• Make sure your food has been thoroughly cooked.
• Hot food should be hot, cold food should be cold.
• Avoid any uncooked food, except fruit and vegetables (notably those you can peel or shell yourself).
• In many countries you should only drink bottled water or purified water and ensure any seal is intact when purchasing bottles.
• On the overland trucks we have a tank of drinking water that is kept purified by the crew.
• Avoid ice in drinks as this can cause upset stomachs in hot climates.
• Make sure you wash your hands in antibacterial product when preparing and/or eating food.
• Many of the restaurants that you will eat in, either as a group or as individuals, will NOT have the same standards of food hygiene as we have in the western world. Unfortunately this is a reality of life in these regions. Therefore please think carefully about where you eat, what food you order and be aware of the risks.

Personal safety
One of the real advantages of overland travel is that the vehicle provides a very real level of security when travelling. There is no doubt that a properly-equipped overland vehicle, with safes, fully lockable doors and windows is an obvious advantage when travelling in much of the world. Generally speaking, you will not be travelling on local public transport and will have the added security of travelling in a group with experienced crew on-hand to offer advice. We have come up with a few pointers that we recommend you follow:
• Follow the crew’s specific safety advice in each destination.
• Always remain aware and vigilant, and stay away from situations where you do not feel comfortable.
• Avoid carrying too much money.
• Always avoid carrying your passport, driving licence, air tickets, and other valuable items around with you unless this is essential. Instead, keep valuables such as this locked away in the truck’s safe, or the safety deposit box in the room or reception of the hotel/hostel.
• If you are carrying cash, cards or valuables, use a money belt or neck wallet which are more easily concealed and more difficult to pick pocket.
• Do not take any valuable jewellery, watches, etc. away with you in the first place.
• Avoid walking in poorly lit areas.
• If possible avoid walking around on your own; it is always safer to explore with others.
• Always try to walk with confidence and purpose, which will help you avoid looking like a lost tourist!
• Take special care when walking to avoid spraining or twisting your ankle on potholes, cobbles and uneven ground.

Activity Safety & Optional Activities
Optional activities are not included in the trip price or kitty, and do not form part of your contract with us. As such you accept that any assistance given by the crew members or local representatives in arranging optional activities does not render us liable for them in any way. The crew are assisting you in arranging these activities for your added enjoyment whilst on your trip. The operators of these services and optional extras are local suppliers who contract directly with the client ‘on the road’, subject to and in accordance with their own terms and conditions. We accept no liability for any action or activity undertaken by the client which is arranged independently of us while on tour. Crew may take part in an optional activity but do so as private individuals and not as company representatives.

Please use your own good judgement when selecting an activity in your free time, taking into account your physical ability to take part and making sure you are happy with the safety aspects of the activity. Ensure that you use the appropriate equipment on optional activities, including life jackets, helmets, etc. This is especially important on activities such as horse riding, white-water rafting, etc.
TRIP NOTES

Patagonia Adventurer Northbound

Always ensure that your travel medical insurance covers you for all included and optional activities that you wish to participate in.

Extra Accommodation & Transfers
We believe you should make the most of the places you visit, so if you would like to see more of the joining or finishing point cities, why not book additional accommodation to extend your stay? We can take away the hassle of time zones and language barriers by making the booking for you. This service is available for some hotels in joining and finishing cities, immediately before or after the trip you are travelling on.

While we are happy to assist with booking your pre and post trip accommodation, it is important that you understand that you may be able to book your own room at a cheaper rate directly through the hotel or on the internet. Our additional accommodation prices are based on the hotel’s rate plus an administration fee. Please note our rates do not reflect last minute walk-in rates or internet specials. We can also book airport transfers for you as long as we have your flight arrival details. These are normally payable in cash upon arrival; however we do have pre-paid transfers in a few destinations.

Please contact our reservations team for details of the accommodation and transfers that we can offer.

A Few Rules
It is one of our core values to treat all people we encounter with respect, including the local people who make our destinations so special. We have therefore set down a number of rules to which our travellers must adhere. Engaging in commercial or exploitative sexual activities, committing acts of violence or threatening violence towards local people, other group members or any member of our staff is not allowed. Any customer engaging in such activities will be required to leave the trip immediately with no refund of the trip price.

You must at all times comply with the laws, customs, foreign exchange and drug regulations of all countries visited and conduct yourself in accordance with our responsible travel policy. Any customer found contravening such laws or regulations will be required to leave the trip immediately with no refund of the trip price.

Although we are aware that in some parts of the world taking, carrying or selling drugs, carrying weapons, or engaging in commercial or exploitative sexual activities may be legal, it is not acceptable for our travellers and our tour leaders have the right to ask you to leave the trip immediately with no refund of the trip price if you are found to be engaging in such activities.

Argentine Country Guide

Argentina - Fact File
- Official Name: Argentine Republic
- Capital: Buenos Aires
- Population: 38 million
- Total Area: 2.8 million square kilometres
- Official Language: Spanish
- Religions: Roman Catholic 92% (less than 20% practicing), Protestant 2%, Jewish 2%, other 4%
- Voltage: 220 volts. Argentina has European type two-pinned round sockets in most old buildings and the Australian style three-pin flat sockets in most new buildings.
- Diailling Code: +54
- Time Difference: GMT/UTC -3
- Airport Departure Tax: US$18

Argentina - Visas
UK, Australian, Canadian, US, South African and New Zealand passport holders do not require a visa for entry into Argentina for up to 90 days.

For entry into Argentina you must:
- Hold a passport valid at least six months on entry with one blank visa page
- Hold proof of sufficient funds
- Hold proof of onward/return airline tickets
- Hold documents showing proof of purpose of trip
- Hold all documents required for the next destination

- Confirm with their airline that boarding will be permitted without a visa as these conditions are subject to change

Please be advised that visa requirements are subject to change and that visa procurement is the responsibility of the traveller and not On The Go Tours.

Argentina - Climate
The Argentine climate ranges from hot and humid in the north to cold and windy in the south. In northern Argentina, summer is hot and winter fairly mild while in contrast, Tierra del Fuego, at the southern tip of Argentina, is quite often cold with continual winds, rain at times and freezing winter temperatures.

Buenos Aires, due to its position in the central region, has a Mediterranean climate with well-defined seasons. Spring, between September and November is mild, which contributes to the flourishing green colour of the plants and trees in the lush parks. Summer, between December and February, is dry and hot and winter can be cold. It usually begins to rain in April and reaches its highest level during June and July, then decreases gradually to almost nothing in November.

Visit www.worldclimate.com to get an idea of what the weather will be like on your tour.

Argentina - Money
Important
In Latin America you will have problems changing the US$100 CB B2 2001 series notes and it is important you do not bring them. In some countries banks won’t even take them. The serial number is located in the top left hand corner and bottom right hand corner on the side with the President’s face. This serial number starts with CB and then a few more numbers and then directly under that B2. At the bottom of the note near the signature of the Treasurer it says which series of notes it is and it is there that it says 2001 series.

Local currency
The monetary unit in Argentina is the Argentine peso. For up-to-date exchange rates with your own currency visit www.xe.com.

This information has been compiled with care and good faith. They give an accurate illustration of the proposed arrangements for this holiday. Circumstances beyond our control such as changes in local conditions, inclement weather or other reasons could force us to make changes to this itinerary. Any costs shown are subject to change, though are an accurate reflection of costs at time of writing. Please also note that visa requirements are subject to change and are the responsibility of the traveller and not that of On The Go Tours.
Patagonia Adventurer Northbound

Changing money, credit cards & ATMs
We recommend that you bring cash/travellers cheques in US dollars only. Visa, Mastercard, Diners and American Express are the best credit cards to bring however there can be problems at times getting money out from ATMs, so make sure you have sufficient cash for emergencies.

There is no restriction on the amount of foreign currency that you may bring into Argentina, however very large sums should be declared on arrival. There is often a general lack of small change and we recommend maintaining a supply of small denomination notes and coins.

Argentina - Local Transport
Much of Buenos Aires can be visited on foot. Most sightseeing in Buenos Aires can be reached on foot from our hotel, with La Boca being the furthest at about an hour’s walk. There is also a good, if rather dated, underground metro system (called the “subte”) which has 5 lines and is very cheap at approx $0.30 per journey.

There are local buses called “colectivos”, which are also inexpensive, but you MUST have the right change (ask hotel reception for prices) as you have to drop the money into a machine. We recommend you use taxis (black & yellow) at night as they are fairly cheap and usually have meters fitted. Just make sure that the driver turns it on when you get in. Remember that you will pay more for taxis at night.

Argentina - Food & Drink
As a guideline a simple snack (e.g. a sandwich) can cost as little as US$1, a light meal will cost around $5–$6, and even a meal in one of the better restaurants in Buenos Aires costs very little in comparison to what you would expect to pay at home. Obviously this depends on what you order and if you have wine or other drinks, which will certainly increase the bill.

Your best bet is to try the ‘tender libre’ restaurants offer a fixed price buffet. These are usually very good value and you can eat as much as you like.

Vegetarians
If you are a strict vegetarian you may experience a distinct lack of variety in the food available, especially in small towns. However vegetarian alternatives are becoming more popular particularly in south Argentina. Our tour leaders will do their best to provide interesting vegetarian alternatives for included meals, but your patience and understanding is requested.

Drink
You should be wary of drinking the local tap water. Bottled water, carbonated soft drinks and fruit juices are widely available and much safer. Argentina also has some of the best coffee in the world.

In Argentina some of the hotels we use have bars or serve alcoholic drinks. If there is not a bar in the hotel then there is sure to be one within walking distance. Imported beers and spirits are available but local spirits tend to be cheaper. There is an array of rums, gins and brandy and the fabulous Argentine wines can be extremely cheap (from US$1 a bottle) There are also various brands of beers including Quilmes, Rubia, Negra Ahumada, and Negra Extra XXX.

Chile Country Guide

Chile - Fact File
• Official Name: Republic of Chile
• Capital: Santiago
• Population: 18 million
• Total Area: 756,102 square kilometres
• Official Language: Spanish
• Religions: Roman Catholics 77%, Protestants 16%
• Voltage: In Chile the standard voltage is 220 V and the frequency is 50 Hz. You can use your electric appliances in Chile, if the standard voltage in your country is in between 220 - 240 V (as is in the UK, Europe, Australia and most of Asia and Africa).
• Dialling Code: +56
• Time Difference: GMT/UTC -4 . For other time differences please visit www.timeanddate.com
• Airport Departure Tax:$30 USD
Patagonia Adventurer Northbound

Chile - Visas
Most nationals, including citizens of the EU, North American and Australasia do not need to acquire a visa in advance to enter Chile. However, some nationalities must pay an entry fee on arrival by air (e.g. United States $100, Canada $55 and Australia $34, these costs may change). Entry is granted on production of a passport valid for more than six months, a return air/bus ticket and proof of funds to support yourself for the duration of the stay. Most nationalities can enter for up to 90 days, although it's up to the immigration official to decide whether you're allocated 30, 60 or 90 days on arrival. Visa requirements do change periodically so you should check for the latest information on your specific visa requirements with your local Chilean Embassy or Consulate well in advance of your planned date of travel.

APIS and ESTA - important flight information: ESTA - if flying to the US, or via the US you will need to fill in your application to ESTA online. This costs $14 per person. This must be done by you personally.

Passports must also be machine-readable (MRP). Avoid locking suitcases if transiting the USA, as their customs authorities retain the right to break into them.

APIS - Many countries now oblige airlines to provide additional information about passengers prior to the flight departure. This Advance Passenger Information (APIS) must be supplied to us promptly in order to issue tickets and avoid fare increases. We will provide the airlines with the relevant details if we are booking your international flights. If the information is not provided you may be denied boarding.

Chile - Climate
Chile is very long and narrow (it is no more than 180 km wide at any point) and the Andes Mountains are a dominant feature running down the entire length of the country. Because of its length, Chile encompasses a variety of climates (the country contains both arid deserts and icebergs). There's no one time that's perfect to visit every part of the country, but it seldom rains during October to March, humidity is low, midday temperatures reach about 32°C and the nights are cool. It is colder and rains a lot in Santiago and in the south in May to August. A sweater (and, in the south, a heavy jacket) should be taken no matter when you go, as nights can be cool-to-cold nearly everywhere.

Santiago, due to its position in the central region, has a Mediterranean climate with well-defined seasons. Spring, between September and November is mild, which contributes to the flourishing green colour of the plants and trees. Summer, between December and February, is dry and hot although at night it cools down slightly, and on the coast this temperature drop can be much more extreme. Autumn is between March and May, and temperatures decrease gradually. Daytime winter temperatures are reasonable but mornings can be very cold.

Visit www.worldclimate.com to get an idea of what the weather will be like on your tour.

Chile - Money
Important In Latin America you will have problems changing the US$100 CB B2 2001 series notes and it is important you do not to bring them. In some countries banks won't even take them. The serial number is located in the top left hand corner and bottom right hand corner on the side with the President's face. This serial number starts with CB and then a few more numbers and then directly under that B2. At the bottom of the note near the signature of the Treasurer it says which series of notes it is and it is there that it says 2001 series.

Local currency
The monetary unit in Chile is the Chilean peso, which is divided into 100 centavos. For up-to-date exchange rates with your own currency visit www.xe.com.

Changing money, credit cards & ATMs
We recommend that you bring cash/travellers cheques in US dollars only. Visa, Mastercard, Diners and American Express are the best credit cards to bring however there can be problems at times getting money out from ATMs, so make sure you have sufficient cash for emergencies. Travellers cheques must be changed before 12pm except at ‘casas de cambio’ (which do tend to offer better rates than banks anyway).

There is no restriction on the amount of foreign currency that you may bring into Chile, however very large sums should be declared on arrival. There is often a general lack of small change and we recommend maintaining a supply of small denomination notes and coins. When arriving at the Santiago International Airport we suggest that you get some Pesos at one of the little banks just inside the luggage hall or use one of the ATMs outside the terminal. Change enough money to see you through the first few days of your trip – particularly if it is a weekend.

Chile - Local Transport
Much of Santiago can be visited on foot. There is a very good underground metro system which has three lines and is very cheap at US $0.40-$0.60 per journey. You can also buy a 10 journey card for about US$4. The last trains are at around 10pm. There are local buses called micros, which are also cheap, but you should try to have the right change (ask at the hotel reception for prices). They also have ‘colectivos’ (shared taxis on fixed routes). We recommend the use of taxis at night as they are fairly cheap and usually have meters - just make sure that the driver turns it on when you get in. Remember that you will pay more for taxis at night.

Chile - Food & Drink
All meals are included when camping and lunch is included on travelling days in the truck. When staying in hotels all meals are at your own expense. As a guideline a simple snack (e.g. a sandwich) can cost as little as US$1.50, a light meal will cost around US$5-8, and a meal in one of the better restaurants in Santiago will compare with developed countries in the west. Obviously this does depend on what you order and if you have wine or other drinks which will certainly increase the bill. In cheaper restaurants where Chileans and backpackers eat, you can get meals for as little as US$3 if you shop around.

Your tour leader will be able to recommend restaurants.

Food
In Chile the basic diet focuses around chicken, beef or seafood, mostly with french fries or rice (or both) and sometimes salad. Compared to countries further north, Chile’s cuisine is quite creative and tasty. ‘Cazuela de ave’ is a stew of large chunks of chicken, potatoes, rice, onions with green peppers and ‘pastel de choclo’ is a casserole of beef, onions and olives topped with a maize mash baked in an earthenware bowl. ‘Parillada’, a mixed grill of meats, offal and intestines served at your table in a charcoal brazier (miniature barbecue) is popular here as in all the southern countries. Other favourite dishes include ‘lomo ala pimiento’ (pepper steak) and ‘humitas’ (mashed corn mixed with spices and butter baked in a maize leaf).

Seafood is the basis for many of Chile’s favourite dishes and the ‘congrio’ is their national fish. One of the most popular ways to serve it is ‘caldillo de congrio’ (a soup with large pieces of the fish with onions and potato balls). Other delicious fish include ‘corvina’ (bass), ‘albacore’ (swordfish) and ‘cojinoa’ (no translation). Try a ‘paila choncha’ (a bouillabaisse type dish with heaps of flavour) or a ‘parillada de mariscos’ a mixed seafood grill. There is a whole host of other seafood available including clams (almejas), mussels (choritos/cholgas), sea-urchin (erizo), barnacles (picorocos) and seaweed.

Typical snacks are ‘emanadas de pino’ (pasties with onions, raisins, olives meat and peppers) and ‘prieta’, a blood sausage (black pudding) stuffed with cabbage.

Vegetarians
If you are a strict vegetarian you may experience a distinct lack of variety in the food available, especially in small towns. However vegetarian alternatives are becoming more popular you will just have to search a little harder for the restaurants that cater to your tastes. Our tour leaders will do their best to provide interesting vegetarian alternatives when arranging group meals in the campsite, but your patience and understanding is requested.

Drink
All drinks such as water, soft or alcoholic drinks are at your own expense at all times.

The following is a guideline for drinks bought in a shop in the street. Prices in restaurants and hotels can sometimes be more than double the prices specified below:

- 1 litre of water US$1.50
- 30cl bottle of soft drink US$1
- 30cl bottle of beer US$1.50
- 50cl bottle of beer US$3

You should be wary of drinking the local tap water (especially outside of Santiago). Bottled water, carbonated soft drinks and fruit juices are widely available and much safer. However fruit juices are sometimes made from unboiled tap water, so could upset your stomach. An easy way around this is to order the juice ‘con leche’ with milk instead. For decent coffee try one of the cafe chains: Cafe Haiti, Tio Pepe or Cafe Brasil.

In Chile some of the hotels we use have bars or serve alcoholic drinks. If there is not a bar in the hotel then there is sure to be one within walking distance. In more up-market hotels, imported beers and spirits are available, but tend to be expensive. Alternatively there is an array of local rums, gins, brandy available and the fabulous Chilean wines which can be extremely cheap (from US$1.50 a bottle). There are various brands of beers including Cristal, Escudo, Austral, Heineken and Royal Guard (light), there is also a brown ale type beer from the south called Malta. Please note that many places will charge a refundable deposit for the bottles.