

SOUTH AMERICA ROAD TRIP | 33 Days

Guided Self Drive Adventure



This epic road trip will cover over 9,000 km including 3 countries: Peru, Chile and Argentina. From the picturesque Spanish style town of Arequipa (Peru) we head south into Chile and Argentina and all the way to Ushuaia which has been nicknamed “the end of the world” as it is the world’s southernmost city. During our adventure we will visit some of South America’s most stunning scenery and remotest roads while staying in comfortable 3-star accommodation. We’ll experience coasts, deserts, salt flats, active geysers, intense blue lagoons mountains, vineyards, estancias, lakes, glaciers, ancient rock art, the animals and birds of the region and more...

Highlights include: Atacama Desert; valley of the moon; Argentina's Mendoza wine region and Lake's District; the southern pampas; ancient rock art; dinosaur fossils; Perito Moreno glacier; Torres del Paine National park; and Ushuaia the “end of the world”.

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Daily Itinerary

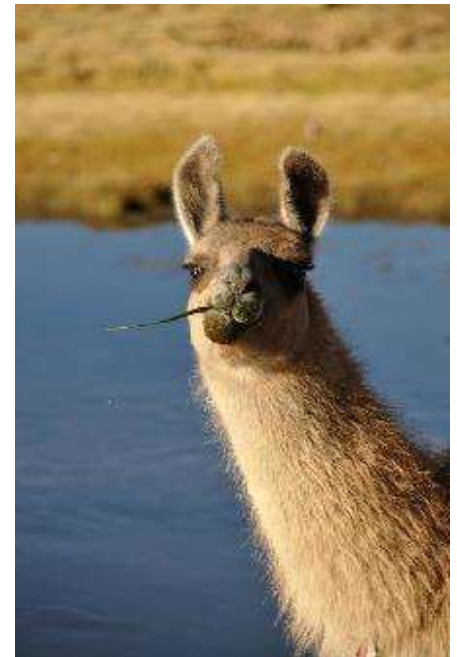
- D1:** Arrive in the picturesque town of **Arequipa** in the south of Peru. Transfer to your accommodation. Evening briefing and welcome dinner. *D included*
- D2:** Early start as we head straight into the Atacama Desert, one of the world's driest. Today travel along the Pan American Highway to the town of Tacna where we will drop our Peruvian cars and transfer 60 km to **Arica** just past the Chilean/Peru border. *B included, (approx. 400km drive + 60km transfer)*
- D3:** Morning transfer to collect our Chilean 4x4s and drive to the ocean city of **Iquique**. This one of the best drives you will ever experience. Our hotel is on the beach and we'll have time for a dip in Pacific Ocean or walk down the main boulevard. *B included, (approx. 300km)*
- D4:** Via an ocean road, we head up into the mountains to the small relaxed village of **San Pedro the Atacama**. This village is made of clay and 80% is "car free". The rest of the day can be spent in the Valle de la Luna (moon valley). *B included, (approx. 490km)*
- D5:** Day to explore the area. *B included, (approx. 60km)*
- D6:** From here it's all the way up to the border with Argentina, in the middle of nowhere. Then we join the famous "Ruta 40" to **San Antonio de los Cobres** a small town (population 5,500) at 3,775m making it one of the highest elevation towns in Argentina. *B included, (approx. 400km)*
- D7:** From San Antonio de los Cobres we start our climb to the highest pass of the tour, the Abra del Acay or "Acay Pass" (4,890m). This pass is the highest pass in the world on a national highway. It's an interesting "highway" being a narrow gravel road at the pass. After this we descend to the town of Cachi and onto the small town of Angastaco. **Angastaco** is a beauty, with spectacular views of the area. Lonely Planet describes it as "an oasis with vineyards, fields of anise and cumin, and the ruins of an ancient pucará (walled city)". *B included, (approx. 230km)*
- D8:** Today a total change of scenery from desert to the green mountains of **Tafi del Valle**. *B included, (approx. 200km)*
- D9:** We drive next into the La Rioja Province and today we have a lot of changes in scenery from the highlands into rainforest and onto the dry region and the village of **Aimogasta**. *B included, (approx. 420km)*
- D10:** We are now driving through areas that are included in the Dakar Rally. We will drive through the Parque Provincial Ischigualasto with its painted desert and visit the dinosaur fossils before arriving in the town of **El Chiflon**. *B included, (approx. 330km)*
- D11:** Today we travel through San Jose de Jachal on the Jachal river, then we arrive in famous wine and olive country in the large town of **Mendoza**. *B included, (approx. 450km)*
- D12:** Enjoy a day of rest and relaxation in this cool city and/or take a tour into the Uco Valley, considered one of Argentina's top wine regions. *B included*
- D13:** Ruta 40 is Argentina's equivalent to the USA's Route 66. We'll be on Ruta 40's paved and unpaved roads throughout the next week. We also travel along the eastern side of the Andes for the next few days. Today's destination is **Malargüe**, a small town at the foothills of these impressive mountains. *B included, (approx. 350km)*



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- D14:** Today we will arrive in the pretty oasis town of Chos Malal. It was named by the Mapuche (the indigenous inhabitants of this region) for the yellow rock in the surrounding hills. *B included, (approx. 335km)*
- D15:** We will take a detour from our southern route on Ruta 40 to visit **Villa Pehuenia** on the shore of Aluminé Lake. We are now heading into the famous "Lakes District" of Argentina and Chile with its 7 lakes. This area is absolutely beautiful. *B included, (approx. 300km)*
- D16:** Continuing through the Lake's District to arrive at **San Martin de los Andes** on the shores of Lake Lácar. *B included, (approx. 210km)*
- D17:** Off to "Chocolate town", **Bariloche**. In winter this is the heart of the ski region of Argentina and has chocolate stores galore. Lucky for our waistlines we only have one night here. *B included, (approx. 210km)*
- D18:** Today we drive through Los Alerces National Park. Its western boundary coincides with the Chilean border. Successive glaciations have molded the landscape in the region creating spectacular features such as moraines, glacial cirques and clear-water lakes. We now begin to traverse the area known the world over as Patagonia. Patagonia has long been an adventure traveler's paradise and you won't be disappointed. You'll notice the change in scenery as the landscape opens up to the massive pampas. Be on the lookout for the traditional Gauchos. We will stay tonight in **Esquel**. *B included, (approx. 310km)*
- D19:** A stunning drive today. We'll be crossing into Chile and going through the world-famous town of Futaleufu – a mecca for kayaking, rafting and fly fishing. The road will be a mixture of tarmac and dirt and the scenery is spectacular. Our destination will be the picturesque little fishing village of **Puyuhuapi**. *B included, (approx. 265km)*
- D20:** We'll enjoy one of the most famous adventure travel roads in the world today – the Camino Austral. Camino Austral is one of the most beautiful roads you will ever drive. Still a gravel road it winds its way through spectacular scenery, beside beautiful coloured rivers, hanging glaciers and through ancient forests. This part of Chile is very remote and all the better for it. The town of **Coyhaique** is known as the gateway to remote Patagonia. The rocky Cerro McKay looms over the city. *B included, (approx. 235km)*
- D21:** Lonely Planet describes our destination today as: "Windy but damn-postcard-beautiful, **Puerto Guadal** is located at the southwest end of Lago General Carrera on the road to Chile Chico, 13km east of the Carretera Austral. The village appears to hold siesta at all hours, but cool accommodations, nearby fossil hikes and glaciers can keep a visitor very entertained." *B included, (approx. 275km)*
- D22:** Rest day in our lovely hotel on the lake. *B included*



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D23: Back into Argentina via the "Paso Roballos" known as one of the world's most spectacular roads and back onto the Ruta 40 to our destination of **Lago Posadas** on the southern edge of the Andes. *B included, (approx. 200km)*



D24: We'll pay a visit to the "Cueva de los Manos" – these are famous caves with paintings of hands which date from 13,000 to 9,000 years ago. All dirt today and through the real Patagonia. Wide open spaces, huge landscapes. A delicious treat in store for us tonight as we'll be staying on a genuine, working Argentinian Estancia, **Santa Thelma**. We'll enjoy our dinner in the barn with red wine (at own cost). *B included, (approx. 360km)*

D25: Today we drive long flat sections of Patagonia on the Ruta 40 to **El Calafate** the jumping off point for the Perito Moreno glacier. "Glaciares National Park" has the largest icefields on earth. *B included, (approx. 380km)*



D26: Out and back drive to the Perito Moreno glacier, a UNESCO World Heritage site and true wonder. Lonely Planet describes it, "Among Earth's most dynamic and accessible ice fields". Glacier Perito Moreno is truly breath-taking. Hearing the noise that the huge chunks of ice make as they shear off from the glacier and watching the bow wave create wash into shore is an experience not to be missed. *B included, (approx. 220km)*



D27: On our way to Tierra del Fuego. We leave windy Patagonia behind when we cross the Strait of Magellan by ferry to **Cerro Sombrero** for the night. *B included, (approx. 470km)*

D28: Today we reach the southernmost city in the world, **Ushuaia**. *B included, (approx. 470km)*

D29: Our rest day can be spent visiting "The End of the World" park, or a boat trip to see penguins on the Beagle Canal. *B included*

D30: Time to head north and we'll spend the night in **Porvenir**. *B included, (approx. 450km)*



D31: We arrive in our final town for this epic adventure, the port town of **Puerto Natales**, but the adventure is not quite over yet. *B included, (approx. 450km)*

D32: Last, but not least is another spectacular National Park on the other side of the border in Chile: "Torres del Paine". Full day inside the park and returning to **Puerto Natales** where we say farewell to our 4x4s which will board the ferry tomorrow for their return trip to Peru. *B and farewell dinner included, (approx. 250km)*



D33: Depart from Puerto Natales airport (only 3 flights per week) or board your bus for a 3-hour ride to Punta Arenas airport.

Please Note: Itinerary Subject to Change

Please Read the "In the Know" section at the end of this itinerary for important information about this adventure.

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<p>Dates:</p> <p>14 Nov – 16 Dec 2019 -SOLD OUT</p> <p>12 Nov – 14 Dec 2020</p> <p><i>Please note these dates may change slightly if the dates of the ferry's departure in Puerto Natales changes. We will confirm closer to the dates of this adventure.</i></p>	<p>Inclusions:</p> <p>Arrival and departure transfers (bus ticket to is included for the 3 hour bus ride to Punta Arenas if your flight leaves from there not Puerto Natales at the end of the tour), vehicle hire (manual 4x4 – Nissan Navara, Toyota Hilux, Ford Ranger, Mazda BT50 or similar – the rental fleet changes often), vehicle insurance (standard), compulsory insurance for Peru, Chili and Argentina (for personal accidents the people in the car and 3rd persons involved in the accident - valid 60 days), vehicle relocation fee one way from Puerto Natales to Arequipa (this is approx. USD4,500 per vehicle), 1 GPS per vehicle, hand held two-way radio in vehicle, border crossing documentation, border crossing authorisation for 1 person per vehicle, accommodation (twin/double), meals as per itinerary (32 breakfasts and 2 dinners), 2 boat crossings of Strait of Magellan, support vehicle (with fridge), Self Drive Adventures escort and local English and Spanish speaking guide.</p>
<p>Prices:</p> <p><i>Please note that all prices below are inclusive of a vehicle relocation fee one way from Puerto Natales back to Arequipa which is approx. USD4,500 per vehicle.</i></p> <p>4 people per 4x4 (2 twin/double rooms): USD9,595*per person</p> <p>3 people per 4x4 (triple share room): USD10,165*per person</p> <p>3 people per 4x4 (1 twin/double & 1 single room): USD11,665*per person</p> <p>2 people per 4x4 (double/twin share room): USD13,495*per person</p> <p>Single accommodation surcharge: USD3,000 for tour (if not already included in prices above)</p> <p><i>*Prices assume a minimum of 5 vehicles (plus support vehicles) and 10 people (plus support staff), maximum of 7 vehicles (plus support vehicles). 2020 pricing is estimated only and will be confirmed in early 2019. Prices are subject to exchange rate fluctuations – please see terms and conditions for all booking conditions.</i></p>	<p>Exclusions:</p> <p>Airfares return to South America, fuel (approx. USD1,500/AUD2,200 per car), vehicle excess (excess is USD1,000 – this <u>cannot</u> be reduced by paying an additional daily amount), road tolls (approx. USD10/AUD15 per car), food other than listed in itinerary (approx. budget USD1,000/AUD1,450) per person excluding drinks), entrance fees to monuments and national parks (approx. USD135/AUD195 per person), border crossing authorisation for 2nd, 3rd of 4th person per vehicle (approx. USD100/USD145 per person), any pre-post tour accommodation requested, local tips (approx. USD300/AUD440), travel insurance (medical evacuation insurance highly recommended), visas (if required), vaccinations (if required), any other items of a personal nature and local tips.</p> <p>Car excess and car rental terms and conditions will be supplied separately.</p>
<p>Flights:</p> <p><i>Please do not book flights until you have been advised that we have received deposits from the minimum number of participants for this adventure.</i></p>	

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In the Know: *Peru-Chile-Argentina*

This “In the Know” fact sheet provides you important information about traveling in South America prior to booking this adventure. As always, if you have any other questions about joining this tour, please don’t hesitate to contact our knowledgeable team. If you’d like to speak with another traveller about this adventure, we can put you in touch with other guests that have travelled this route (or a similar one).

Gallery: This is a general gallery on this region of South America, this itinerary may not go to all destinations pictured but this will give you a good idea of what to expect. <https://www.selfdriveadventures.com/gallery-bol-arg-chile>

Mindset: The mindset required on this adventure is one of patience and flexibility and don’t expect a luxury holiday. You need to understand that travelling some parts of South America does not always go smoothly, no matter how well planned. Things may not happen as quickly as you’d like but it’s all part of the adventure and your Self Drive Adventure’s escort will do their utmost to smooth out any hiccups during the journey.

Vehicle: The vehicle will be a manual 4x4 – Nissan Navara, Toyota Hilux, Ford Ranger, Mazda BT50 or similar – the rental supply conditions in South America often changes. These cars can easily take up to 4 people comfortably.

Driving Conditions: You drive on the right-hand side of the road (left hand drive 4x4). In and around towns the traffic will be busy, but once out of town the roads are not generally busy. We will drive on tar roads, dirt roads, very rough rocky 4x4 tracks. There could be some water crossings. Expect dust, sand and rough conditions to be normal on this adventure. There are some long days when we need to get between destinations.

Driving Ability: The skills required are a driver’s license and a good dollop of common sense. Some 4x4 or dirt/gravel road experience would be recommended.

Accommodation: This is not a 5-star holiday. It is an adventure. We are staying in 3-star accommodation and “best available” along the route.

Convoy Size: The minimum number of 4x4s in our convoy is 5 and the maximum is 7. This excludes support vehicles. Most vehicles tend to have just two guests, however, up to four can be accommodated. The convoy does travel together for the vast majority of the journey, so you need to be willing to be flexible to fit in with the determined start time each day, stops for breaks etc. We try to allow breaks for photos, toilet stops, sightseeing, lunch, morning and afternoon tea but road conditions and travel time for the day may affect how long or how many of these we may have.

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Escort & Local Guiding: On this adventure you will be joined by a Self Drive Adventures English speaking escort as well as a local guide who speaks English and Spanish. The decision of the Self Drive Adventure's escort is final on all matters likely to affect the safety or well-being of any person participating in the trip.

Food: See the itinerary inclusions for meals that are included. In general, the food is excellent in quality and variety. Breakfast will be included in the accommodation each morning. Lunch will sometimes be in restaurants or a "picnic lunch" on the road. Dinners will be in hotel and other restaurants in the towns we visit. Only breakfast and a welcome and farewell dinner are included.

Amenities and Toilet Breaks: All accommodation has private bathroom facilities. We will stop for toilet breaks and many of these will be a "bush toilet" stop where there may be cover of trees or bushes for privacy. Sometimes in the desert or on the plains of Patagonia the vehicles will need to spread out for privacy as no cover may be available.

Activity Level: We do recommend a good level of fitness to endure some of the rough tracks and long days of driving. This trip is not otherwise physically demanding as any walking required is usually a short distance.

Weather/Season: This is Summer in South America – but as we are travelling over 9,000km—it will range from cool to cold at night, 40-50F / 5-10C and from 70-95F / 20-35C during the day depending on the location. Rain and wind are more than likely to be encountered, especially the further south we head.

Flights: Before booking flights and other arrangements it is your responsibility to confirm with us that we have the minimum number of cars required for this adventure to depart.

Prices: Please review the inclusions and exclusions section of the itinerary. Here we have provided our best estimates for additional known costs over and above the inclusions of the adventure.

Risks & Health: By participating you acknowledge that the nature of the trip is adventurous, and participation involves a degree of personal risk. Health facilities in South America may not be on par with what may be expected in western countries. We will be very remote and at least a day's drive from the closest town on many occasions. Health risks such as altitude sickness, Hepatitis A&B, Yellow Fever, Rabies, Typhoid Fever, Dengue Fever, Diphtheria and other health risks affect this region. You should discuss the risks with your doctor before agreeing to join this trip.

There may be some wind...

