

Argentina – Southern Right Whale, Sea lions, Elephant Seals, Penguins and Pumas.

11N/12D Highlights of Argentina Wildlife Tour

Accommodation: Lodge and hotels – comfortable but basic.

Photo guide: Paul McDougall

Trip Duration: 11nights and 12 days

Dates: 15th September to 26th September 2027

Maximum Participants 5

Trip Cost: £8750pp (No single supplement)

Private Trip Cost: Available on Request

ITINERARY AT GLANCE

Date	Location	Accommodation	Meal Plan	Activity
Day 1 15/9/2027	Pick up at Pick up at Trelew Airport (REL). Transfer to hotel in Puerto Madryn.	Hotel in Puerto Madryn	L,D	TRSF
Day 2 16/9/2027	Morning at leisure and then local excursions.	Hotel in Puerto Madryn	B L	LEI, WV
Day 3 17/9/2027	Morning whale-watching excursion. Continue to Punta Norte Reserve, home to one of the largest sea lion colonies on the peninsula. Late afternoon arrival at Estancia San Lorenzo Penguin Colony for a sunset visit and photography session among thousands of Magellanic penguins.	Hotel in Puerto Madryn	B L	H, WV, BT
Day 4 18/9/2027	Morning Commerson's dolphin-watching tour. Visit Punta Tombo Protected Area, home to one of the	Hotel in Puerto Madryn	B L	H, WV, BT

	biggest Magellanic penguin colonies. Late afternoon at Isla Escondida Beach, photographing southern elephant seals and the endemic White-headed Steamer Duck.			
Day 5 19/9/2027	Puerto Madryn & El Pedral private Ranch. Sunrise coastal whale watching at El Doradillo (subject to tide schedule) or visit to Punta Loma Protected Area, photographing sea lions and Magellanic cormorants in the first light of the day. Continue to Punta Ninfas, where dramatic Atlantic cliffs and coastal landscapes provide opportunities to photograph male southern elephant seals along the shoreline. Sunset photography session at El Pedral Ranch Penguin Colony, taking advantage of the warm evening light and intimate encounters with Magellanic penguins.	Hotel in Puerto Madryn	B L	H, WV,
Day 6 20/9/2027	Full-day transfer to Perito Moreno. Lunch stop on route. Check-in at Hotel Americano Free time to rest after the journey.	Hotel Americano or similar	B,L,	TRSF
Day 7 21/9/2027	Full-day puma tracking in Patagonia Park. Exploration of different sectors of the park each day, including remote and restricted-access areas. Photography opportunities focused on wild pumas and the rich Patagonian fauna, set against some of the most dramatic landscapes in Argentina. During these days, there is also the possibility of visiting Cueva de las Manos, a very	Hotel Americano or similar	B,L,	WV, H

	important archaeological site in the region, where you can see ancient rock art, including hundreds of hand stencils and other paintings created by Indigenous peoples thousands of years ago			
Day 8 22/9/2027	Puma Tracking as previous day	Hotel Americano or similar	B,L,	WV, H
Day 9 23/9/2027	Puma Tracking as previous day	Hotel Americano or similar	B,L,	WV, H
Day 10 24/9/2027	Puma Tracking as previous day	Hotel Americano or similar	B,L,	WV, H
Day 11 25/9/2027	Puma Tracking as previous day	Hotel Americano or similar	B,L,	WV, H
Day 12 26/9/2027	Transfer to Comodoro Rivadavia Airport (CRD) for your domestic flight to Buenos Aires (BUE).		B	TRSF

B – Breakfast, L – Lunch, D – Dinner, MG - Morning Game Drive, Drive, EG – Evening Game Drive, TRSF –Transfer, FG – Full Day Game Drive, ON – Overnight in hide, BT – Boat Trip, WV – Wildlife Viewing, H - Hiking

Please note accommodation may be altered to an equivalent option dependent on availability.

The Valdes Peninsula

The Valdés Peninsula (Península Valdés), located on Argentina's Atlantic coast in the province of Chubut, is one of South America's most important wildlife sanctuaries and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Connected to the mainland by a narrow isthmus and surrounded by the waters of the South Atlantic, the peninsula covers a vast area of windswept Patagonian steppe, sheltered bays, salt flats, and dramatic coastal cliffs. Its remote setting and relatively untouched ecosystems have made it a refuge for some of the continent's most remarkable marine and terrestrial species.

The landscape of Península Valdés is defined by an intriguing combination of arid land and rich coastal waters. Inland, visitors encounter broad plains covered with low shrubs and hardy grasses adapted to Patagonia's dry, windy

climate. The coastline, by contrast, is characterized by steep cliffs, sandy beaches, and shallow gulfs, including Golfo Nuevo and Golfo San José. These protected bays create calm marine environments that provide ideal breeding and feeding grounds for a wide variety of wildlife.

Geologically, the peninsula is the product of millions of years of marine and tectonic processes. Much of the region consists of sedimentary deposits laid down when the area was submerged beneath ancient seas. The retreat of these seas left behind marine terraces, fossil-rich sediments, and extensive coastal formations. One of the peninsula's most unusual features is the large salt depression known as Salina Grande, which lies below sea level and reflects the area's long geological history of marine flooding and evaporation. Erosion by wind and waves continues to shape the landscape today, creating the rugged cliffs and coastal features that define the peninsula.

Península Valdés is most famous for its extraordinary wildlife. The surrounding waters host one of the world's best populations of southern right whales, which migrate to the sheltered gulfs each year to mate, calve, and nurse their young. Visitors often witness whales breaching, tail-slapping, or resting close to shore. The peninsula is also home to colonies of southern elephant seals and South American sea lions, which gather on beaches and rocky shores in impressive numbers.

The region's marine ecosystem supports an abundance of predators as well. Orcas are among the peninsula's most celebrated residents, particularly along the coast of Punta Norte, where they are known for their unique hunting behavior of intentionally stranding themselves on beaches to capture seal pups. Dolphins, penguins, and numerous seabird species also thrive in the nutrient-rich waters surrounding the peninsula.

On land, the Patagonian steppe provides habitat for guanacos, Patagonian maras, gray foxes, armadillos, and a variety of birds, including rheas and birds of prey. Guanacos are especially common and can often be seen grazing across the open plains. Together, the peninsula's terrestrial and marine environments create a remarkable biodiversity hotspot where the meeting of land, sea, and geological history has produced one of Argentina's most spectacular natural landscapes. Target species: Southern Right Whale, Orca, Commerson's dolphin, Southern elephant seal, Fur seal, Guanaco, Mara, Grey fox, Hairy Armadillo, Lesser guinea pig, Skunk, Wildcat, Grassland cat, Choique, Magellanic penguin, Black-necked cormorant, Imperial cormorant, Grey gull, South American tern,

White-headed quetro, Double-collared plover, Tufted martineta, Burrowing parrot, Antarctic pigeon, among others.



Parque Patagonia

Parque Patagonia, located in the remote province of Santa Cruz in southern Argentina, is one of the country's most remarkable conservation landscapes. Stretching across vast expanses of Patagonian steppe, rugged canyons, and the foothills of the Andes, the park protects a region of extraordinary ecological value. Once dominated by sheep ranching, much of the area has been restored through ambitious conservation efforts, transforming it into a sanctuary for native wildlife and a showcase for large-scale rewilding in South America.

The landscape of Parque Patagonia is characterized by a dramatic mix of windswept grasslands, volcanic plateaus, rocky escarpments, and glacially carved valleys. The park lies within the vast Patagonian steppe, a seemingly endless sea of golden grasses and low shrubs that changes color with the seasons and the shifting light. Towering mesas and jagged cliffs rise above the open plains, creating a sense of scale and solitude that is quintessentially Patagonian.

One of the park's most striking features is the deep canyon of the Río Pinturas, whose colorful rock formations have been sculpted over millions of years by water and wind. The region is also famous for its archaeological heritage, most notably the nearby Cueva de las Manos, where ancient hunter-gatherers left thousands of hand stencils and paintings dating back thousands of years. Together, the area's natural and cultural treasures offer visitors a rare glimpse into both the geological and human history of Patagonia.

The diversity of habitats within Parque Patagonia supports an impressive array of wildlife. Herds of guanacos roam the grasslands, while lesser rheas, Andean condors, foxes, armadillos, and numerous bird species inhabit the park's varied environments. The restoration of native ecosystems has helped many species recover, reinforcing the park's role as a critical refuge in one of the world's most sparsely populated regions.

Among the park's most iconic inhabitants is the puma (*Puma concolor*), the largest terrestrial predator in Patagonia. Often called the "ghost of the Andes," pumas play a crucial ecological role as apex predators, helping regulate populations of guanacos, the wild camelids that dominate the Patagonian grasslands. By maintaining a balance between predator and prey, pumas contribute to the health and resilience of the entire ecosystem.

Parque Patagonia has emerged as one of the best places in Argentina to observe pumas in the wild. The abundance of guanacos provides a reliable food source, while the park's rugged terrain offers ideal cover for these elusive cats. As conservation measures have reduced human disturbance and restored natural habitats, puma populations have shown encouraging signs of recovery. Researchers, photographers, and wildlife enthusiasts increasingly visit the region in hopes of spotting these magnificent predators moving through the canyons and open plains.

The presence of healthy puma populations is a powerful symbol of the park's conservation success. Once persecuted because of conflicts with livestock ranching, pumas are now recognized as an essential component of Patagonia's natural heritage. Through scientific monitoring, habitat restoration, and community engagement, Parque Patagonia demonstrates how large carnivores and people can coexist. Today, the park stands not only as one of Argentina's most spectacular wilderness areas but also as a living example of how conservation can restore ecological processes and bring an entire landscape back to life.

Wildlife Opportunities

While pumas are the main focus of the experience, the region offers outstanding opportunities to observe and photograph a wide variety of Patagonian wildlife, including:

- Andean Condors
- Guanacos

- Lesser Rheas (Choiques)
- Grey Foxes
- Birds of prey (Black-chested Buzzard Eagle; Peregrine Falcon, White-throated Caracara; Southern Crested Caracara; Variable Hawk).
- Wolffsohn's Mountain Viscacha
- Other native Patagonian species

The Landscape

Parque Patagonia showcases some of the most spectacular and pristine scenery in Argentine Patagonia. The region features:

- Vast Patagonian steppe
- High basalt plateaus
- Volcanic cones
- Dramatic cliffs and rock formations
- Deep canyons
- Glacial valleys
- Vibrant-colored geological formations
- Pinturas River

Puma Sightings

It is important to note that puma sightings cannot be guaranteed. Wildlife searches may take several hours, and each encounter is unique. Some sightings may occur at relatively close distances, while others may be farther away or require access to more challenging terrain.

Our philosophy is based on patience, ethical wildlife observation, and respect for the natural behavior of the animals.

Physical Requirements

The required fitness level is moderate to low. However, participants should be prepared to walk between 2 and 5 kilometers (1–3 miles) per day, sometimes across uneven terrain and off-trail environments.

Responsible Wildlife Viewing

To ensure a safe and responsible experience, all visitors are required to maintain a safe distance from pumas. This helps minimize disturbance and protects both wildlife and guests. When encountering a female with cubs, the

recommended viewing distance is increased, as mothers with young offspring can be more defensive if approached too closely.

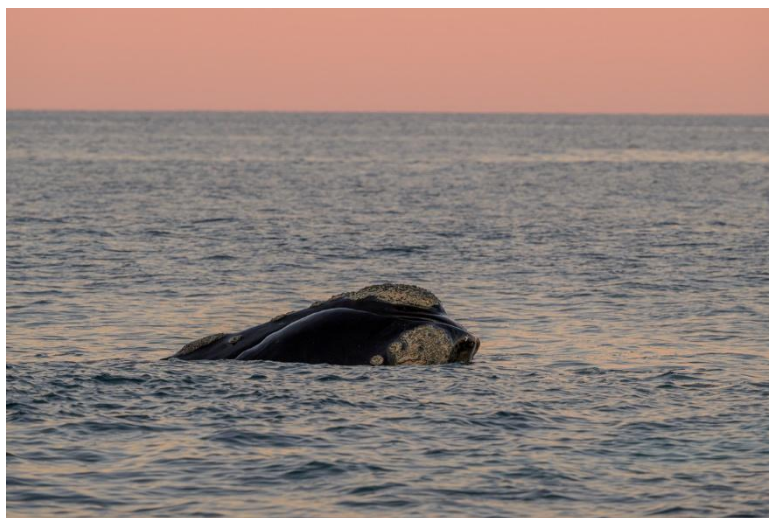


Small Group Photo Safari

DAY 1: Pick up at Trelew Airport (REL) and transfer to hotel in Puerto Madryn.

DAY 2: Shore based whale watching and Sea Lion Colony.

Morning at Leisure. Late Morning. Explore Punta Loma Protected Area, home to sea lions and Magellanic cormorants. Enjoy a sunset visit to El Doradillo, one of the best places for shore-based whale watching.



Day 3: Whale Boat Trip, Elephant Seals and Sea Lions

Begin your journey with a transfer to Puerto Pirámides, the gateway to the stunning Península Valdés Protected Natural Area (World Heritage Site). In the morning, embark on an unforgettable whale watching experience, where you'll have the chance to observe the

majestic Southern Right Whales in their natural habitat during their breeding season. We will be able to see impressive jumps, tails, mating groups, and very close encounters with these animals there. Afterward, transfer to Caleta Valdés for lunch. Take some time to explore the area with scenic walks, soaking in the breathtaking coastal views and unique landscapes. The fauna of the Patagonian steppe and seabirds will be the main attractions there.

Our next stop will be at the Punta Norte wildlife reserve, where we can observe a colony of South American Sea lions and different bird species from the Patagonian steppe (such as the Patagonian Mockingbird, Mourning Sierra-finch, Long-tailed Meadowlark, among others) as well as marine birds from the panoramic viewpoints (including Northern and Southern giant petrels, cormorants, oystercatchers, terns, and herons fishing in the intertidal zone, among others). In the parking area, we are often surprised by Hairy Armadillos that are attracted by the presence of visitors eating on site.

Our last stop will be a late afternoon arrival at Estancia San Lorenzo Penguin Colony for a sunset visit and photography session among thousands of Magellanic penguins.

Targets: Chilean Flamingo, Southern Right Whale, South American Sea Lion, Guanaco, Hairy Armadillo, Mara, Pampas Fox, Lesser Rhea, Elegant-crested Tinamou, Variable Hawk, Black-Chested Buzzard-Eagle, Southern Giant Petrel, South American Tern, Magellanic Cormorant, Magellanic Penguin, among others.







DAY 4: Dolphin Watching and Coastal Exploration

Start your day with a transfer to Playa Unión, located 75 km away, where we will embark on an Commerson's Dolphin watching adventure in the open Atlantic sea. Known for their striking black and white coloration, often referred to as the "pandas of the sea," these are one of the smallest dolphins in the world and you'll have the chance to observe them up close in their natural environment. We will always be on the lookout for the possible presence of other species, such as the Black-browed Albatross, Magellanic Penguin, South American Tern, and White-chinned Petrel, among others.

After our boat trip we will Visit Punta Tombo Protected Area, home to one of the biggest Magellanic penguin colonies. Late afternoon at Isla Escondida Beach, here, you'll search for the endemic White-headed Steamer Duck and photograph the Southern Elephant Seals. The stunning coastal cliffs of the Atlantic Patagonia provide a dramatic backdrop for your exploration.

Targets: Commerson's dolphin, South American Sea Lion, Black-Browed Albatross, Magellanic Oystercatcher, Blackish Oystercatcher, Great Grebe, Kelp Gull, Imperial Cormorant, Southern Crested Caracara, Chimango Caracara, Guanaco, Mara, Elegant-crested Tinamou, Patagonian Yellow-Finch, Patagonian Canastero, Band-tailed Earthcreeper, Dolphin Gull, White-headed Steamer Duck, Brown Skua, Two-banded Plover, among others.

If time permits, we will make a stop at the Ornithologist's Lagoon in Trelew, a wetland that is home to large populations of ducks, flamingos, grebes, coots, and other birds.





DAY 5: Puerto Madryn & El Pedral private Ranch.

Today begins with sunrise coastal whale watching at El Doradillo (subject to tide schedule) and then a visit to the Punta Loma Protected Area, just 15 km away, home to a lively colony of South American Sea Lions and Magellanic Cormorants. This location also offers opportunities to spot intriguing bird species such as the Snowy Sheathbill and the Dolphin Gull.

Next, head to the coastal intertidal zones of Puerto Madryn, where you can find a flock of Chilean flamingos feeding in the intertidal area down the town. We will also try to spot a couple of the endemic Magellanic Horned Owls that inhabit a coastal canyon.

Continue our journey to Punta Ninfas (95 km), the mouth of the Golfo Nuevo. Here, we will be treated to breathtaking views as the gulf meets the open waters of the Argentine Sea. Keep your eyes peeled for seabirds soaring overhead and the thrilling possibility of spotting

orcas patrolling the coastline as well as whales. We will also have opportunities to photograph southern elephant seals along the shoreline.

We will end our day with a sunset photography session at El Pedral Ranch Penguin Colony, taking advantage of the warm evening light and intimate encounters with Magellanic penguins.

Targets: Chilean Flamingo, Burrowing Parakeet, Magellanic Cormorant, South American Sea Lion, Snowy Sheathbill, Dolphin Gull, Crested Duck, Brown-hooded Gull, Lesser Rhea, Mara, Patagonian Mockingbird, Long-Tailed Meadowlark, Kelp Gull.





DAY 6: Check-out from the hotel in Puerto Madryn. Transfer to Perito Moreno

Full-day transfer to Perito Moreno. Lunch stop on route. Check-in at Hotel Americano

Free time to rest after the journey. This is a long travel day. There will be lots to see in the way of scenery and landscapes but there are no scheduled photography stops

Day 7: Full-day puma tracking in Patagonia Park.

Exploration of different sectors of the park each day, including remote and restricted-access areas. Photography opportunities focused on wild pumas and the rich Patagonian fauna, set against some of the most dramatic landscapes in Argentina. During these days, there is also the possibility of visiting Cueva de las Manos, a very important archaeological site in the region, where you can see ancient rock art, including hundreds of hand stencils and other paintings created by Indigenous peoples thousands of years ago



Day 8: Full-day puma tracking in Patagonia Park.

Same as Previous Day



Day 9: Full-day puma tracking in Patagonia Park.

Same as Previous Day



Day 10: Full-day puma tracking in Patagonia Park.

Same as Previous Day



Day 11: Full-day puma tracking in Patagonia Park.

Same as Previous Day



Day 12: Transfer to Comodoro Rivadavia

Transfer to Airport for flight to Buenos Aires

The price includes:

- 5 nights/days accommodation in Hotel in Puerto Madryn
- 6 nights/days accommodation at Hotel Americano or similar
- Breakfast, Lunch included
- Airport Transfers (as described)
- All boat trips as described
- All Reserve Entrance Fees as described
- All services from tour driver/guide.
- All services from photographic guide.
- No single supplement

The price excludes.

- Any flights
- Any accommodation required either side of the trip
- Tips and Gratuities
- Any drinks other than water.
- Travel Insurance. It is compulsory that you take Travel out a Travel Insurance Policy for the duration of your trip.

(Please Note accommodation options detailed above are subject to availability and may be changed). The order of the hides may also change based on availability.

Please Read the Full Terms and Conditions before Making Your Booking

