

ADVANTAGE

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EMBRAER QUARTERLY
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Exploring Patagonia

The awe-inspiring majesty of
Mother Nature

Embraer Praetor 600

Praetor 600 granted its Type
Certificate by EASA and the FAA

Water.Shapes.Earth

Milan Radisics makes art from
our water-shaped planet

“ I pictured a low timber house with a shingled roof, caulked against storms, with blazing log fires inside and the walls lined with all the best books, somewhere to live when the rest of the world blew up. ”

Bruce Chatwin, “In Patagonia”

Awasi Patagonia is located in an isolated, bucolic setting with beautiful vistas

WORDS Nora Walsh, IMAGE © Awasi

LOST IN THE WILD

One of the world’s greatest expanses of wilderness, Patagonia’s towering summits, open plains and untouched nature make it one of the last frontiers for aspiring explorers

For centuries, Patagonia’s windswept peaks, glacial fjords and primeval forests have served as a lodestar for trailblazing explorers from Magellan to Darwin, and its allure has only grown stronger with time. Today, this remote South American region tops the bucket lists of travelers around the world, and for good reason: The vast, untamed landscapes offer a staggering array of inspiring adventures that unfailingly stir the soul.

Stretching across the southernmost reaches of Chile and Argentina, Patagonia encompasses nearly 400,000 square miles from the Pacific to Atlantic coasts, with the indomitable Andes mountains tracing a division between the two countries. When visiting this far-flung region, combining the iconic terrain of Torres del Paine National Park, a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve in Chile, and Argentina’s famed Los Glaciares National Park is a must. Travel designer Maita Barrenechea, owner of the Buenos Aires-based travel outfitter Mai 10, recommends starting Patagonian expeditions on the Chilean side to take advantage of direct flights from Santiago to Puerto Natales—a colorful port city that serves as a gateway to Torres del Paine National Park and its adjoining all-inclusive luxury lodges. The South American summer is the warmest and most popular season to visit Patagonia (December through February). However, Upscape travel specialist Jorge Swett suggests avoiding the crowds and strong winds by visiting in the spring when animals are giving birth (September through late October) or autumn to enjoy the spectacular foliage (late March through April).

To explore the park in style, travelers can check into Awasi Patagonia, a premier Relais & Châteaux lodge set on nearly 1,500 acres of dense native forest overlooking the commanding granite towers of Paine Massif and the glistening Lago Sarmiento. Each of the property’s 14 luxury villas comes with its own private guide and a 4x4 vehicle, allowing for wholly flexible itineraries based on a guest’s fitness level and varied interests like high-intensity trekking, birdwatching or photography. An extensive



EMBRAER TIP

Explore Patagonia and fly from Santiago to the colorful port city of Puerto Natales in the Phenom 300E, carrying up to 10 passengers. From there, reach Awasi Patagonia in a 1 hour 50 min drive.



IMAGES © Awasi

menu of full and half-day excursions, many exclusive to Awasi, takes guests off the beaten track to behold Patagonia’s breathtaking vistas in solitary bliss, cruise among shimmering glaciers and trek through ancient forests to summit jagged peaks. Back at the lodge, guests unwind over gourmet meals and in spacious villas featuring wood-burning stoves and hot tubs with front-row views of the rugged landscape.

Its most recent addition, the Awasi Puma Foundation, was founded by converting an 8,000-acre sheep farm neighboring the hotel into a private reserve to safeguard the endangered puma population. For years, pumas have been hunted by local ranchers to protect their livestock, pushing the species towards extinction. Guests of Awasi have the opportunity to roam the property’s expanded reserve in search of the elusive cats, as well as a large range of indigenous fauna including herds of guanacos, foxes, ñandus and soaring condors.

An hour drive south of Awasi Patagonia sits Tierra Patagonia Hotel & Spa, a high-design hotel on the shores of Lago Sarmiento, crafted to mimic a weathered fossil blending into the plains. The 40-room property carved out of

beautiful blond lenga wood gazes onto the sparkling lake and famous Paine Massif spires rising beyond. Inside, minimalist rooms and suites inspire solace and reflection with large picture windows framing postcard-perfect views, a sun-drenched dining room serving authentic Chilean cuisine paired with regional wines, and quiet lounge areas outfitted with handmade furnishings, woolen textiles and wicker swing chairs. Perhaps the most stunning is Tierra’s UMA spa, which houses a glass-walled indoor pool with a water massage circuit; sauna, steam and spa treatment rooms; and an outdoor Jacuzzi perfect for soaking weary muscles. The hotel subscribes to an adventure-spa philosophy, offering a wide array of activities including challenging treks to the base of Torres del Paine and its stunning cyan lagoon, kayaking the ice floes of Lago Grey and hiking along the unmarked ridge of the Cornices peak, an experience exclusive to Tierra Patagonia.

An overland crossing from Chile to Argentina is an adventure in itself, but there’s also an opportunity to traverse the monolithic Andes by helicopter or private plane if the winds aren’t too strong. Alighting in gaucho country, travelers can choose from a clutch of authentic estancias near El Calafate and Los Glaciares



Left page
The Cordillera Paine is a mountain group in Torres del Paine National Park in Chilean Patagonia

Above
Each villa at Awasi Patagonia features hot tubs with sweeping views of the rugged landscape

Left
Awasi Patagonia is set on 1,400 acres of forest overlooking the Paine Massif and Lago Sarmiento



Left
Tierra Patagonia is woven into the landscape with subtle style

Right
EOLO is located on 10,000 acres of expansive Patagonian steppe

Below
Perito Moreno is an 18-mile-long ice field; a real playground for adventure seekers

IMAGES (left page) © Tierra Hotels, (right page above & below) © EOLO Patagonia



National Park home to the magnificent Perito Moreno glacier. EOLO, situated on roughly 10,000 acres of sweeping Patagonian steppe, is both a basecamp and a destination. Its rolling topography is a paradise for hiking, horseback riding, cycling and bird watching. Reminiscent of a cozy Swiss chalet decorated with antique furniture and homey alcoves, this inviting 17-room Relais & Châteaux lodge is the perfect place for a proverbial pause under cinematic sunsets.

Excursions take guests on immersive visits to nearby century-old rural sheep ranches including Estancia Cristina, accessible only by cruising Lago Argentino, and Nibepo Aike, where guests get hands-on wrangling experience from tried-and-true Argentine cowboys and dine on a traditionally prepared asado (barbecue). However, it is Los Glaciares National Park’s 250 impressive glaciers that steal the show in this sublime corner of Patagonia. Standouts include Upsala, Viedma and Spegazzini glaciers, which serve as a warm up to the park’s unmissable headlining act: Perito Moreno, an 18-mile-long ice field that’s a playground for adventure seekers. Travelers can strap on spiked footwear for ambitious treks atop the glacier or cruise Lago Argentino

to witness massive icebergs calve and collapse with the weight of a crashing building into the channel below.

Further north, the charming village of El Chaltén, which will soon welcome the new 20-room Explora hotel, is planted in the mighty shadow of Mount Fitz Roy, which draws mountaineers from across the globe to ascend its craggy peaks. The region’s most exclusive hotel, Aguas Arriba Lodge, is a five-room retreat perched on the shores of Lago del Desierto and can only be accessed by a 15-minute boat ride or a three-hour trek through the wilderness. Upon arrival, guests are rewarded with a 2,000-acre property packed with ice-melt lakes, centenarian forests, hanging glaciers and monumental mountains. Open November through March, the lodge serves up rustic luxury with wood-burning fireplaces, family recipes and a host of intrepid experiences for outdoor enthusiasts. Fly fishers are particularly drawn to Aguas Arriba to angle prize-worthy rainbow and brown trout found teeming in the area’s freshwater lakes. And it’s precisely these types of epic wilderness adventures that galvanize a traveler’s pioneering spirit and restore a sense of awe for the majesty of Mother Nature. ◀



TRAVEL TIPS

Top-tier Chile specialists **Upscape** and **Landed**, and leading Argentine travel outfitters **Mai 10** and **Lihue Expeditions**, all craft bespoke itineraries that take travelers off-the-beaten-path for unforgettable adventures in the wilds of Patagonia. upscapetravel.com, landedtravel.com, mai10.com.ar, lihue-expediciones.com.ar

HOTEL RECOMMENDATIONS

Awasi Patagonia
Fourteen stunning villas on a private reserve overlooking Torres del Paine National Park. awasipatagonia.com

Tierra Patagonia Hotel & Spa
Seamlessly blends into the landscape with views of magnificent mountains and Lake Sarmiento. tierrahotels.com

EOLO
Embodies the spirit of the region between the city of El Calafate and Los Glaciares National Park. eolopatagonia.com

Explora El Chaltén
A 20-room hotel for the adventurous at heart; perfect for exploring all the region has to offer. explora.com

Aguas Arriba Lodge
An intimate retreat with only five rooms, ideally located to discover Lago del Desierto and its environs. aguasarribalodge.com